



The **Fall** *Renville County* **Farmer**

Inside this section:

- Pg. 2** **Soil pH may affect tree growth**
Pg. 4 **Secretary of Ag at Farmfest**
Pg. 5 **Local farmer shares history of Birch Coulee**
Pg. 13 **Ag outlook: Biofuels and crop markets**

**Thank you to all of our customers who supported
this special issue through their advertising!**

Pg	Customer	Pg	Customer	Pg	Customer
14	212 Seed & Ag	9	Farm Bureau	6	Larkin Tree
10	A+ Insurance	2	Farmer's Co-op Oil - Renville	16	Litzau Tiling
14	ADM	6	Finish Line Seeds	4	Marcus Well Drilling
11	AgCountry	3	Fladeboe Land	3	Minnwest Bank
12	Auto Value	11	FM BANK	5	Nelson Salvage
11	BASS Hybrid	14	Greater Community Credit Union	9	Nissen Slabjacking
10	Beck's Hybrids	11	Harder Construction	6	Northern Services
4	BI Hawk Creek Mutual Insurance	13	Harmoning Ins.	5	Olivia Machine Shop
2	Central United Cooperative	13	Hebrink WM	4	Olivia Pet Clinic
10	Citizen's Alliance Bank	7	Henslin	9	Olivia Liquor Store
6	Creative Details	6	Hertz Farm Mgmt	12	Palmyra Insurance
4	Dahlberg Boot & Trailers	6	HomeTown Bank	10	RC Corn & Soybean Growers
4	Danube Upholstery	13	Jeff Huseby Ins, LLC	14	Saunders Mertens Schmitz
2	Dooley's Petroleum	5	Johannes Agency	9	Schweiss Doors
8	Elite Systems	2	K&S Electric	6	Sullivan Electric
3	Enestvedt Seed	12	Keith Scott Agency	13	Today's Fireplace
14	F&M Insurance	3	Kraft Walser Law Office	14	Willmar Aerial Spraying

Soil's pH may be starving out your trees

By Scott Tedrick
Editor

On a late-summer walk through his yard Matt Baumgartner, stops at a sugar maple and turns a leaf in his hand. The veins are still green, but the tissue between them looks absent the same vitality, the area fad-



Maple tree in Olivia with iron chlorosis.

ing to a malevolent mustard yellow. "That is a dead giveaway," he said. "It is iron chlorosis." Baumgartner is an Olivia City Councilman and trained soil scientist, whose name's etymology literally means "tree gardener." Recently, the avid environmentalist stumbled upon an area of causation impacting the health of trees throughout the Olivia area community and beyond that traces the problem back to the soil's pH.

"The soil is not running out of iron. The iron is in the ground. It's just that the trees cannot get at it," he said.

Iron chlorosis is not a disease in the usual sense. There's no bacteria, virus, parasite or living entity to contend with. Instead, it has to do with the changing environment the plant is being subjected to—and how that can impact development.

As it is, iron is required for a plant to make chlorophyll, and chlorophyll is how a leaf turns sunlight into

sugar. Without enough iron, a tree begins to starve in place.

"Each leaf is like a little solar panel for sugar," Baumgartner said. "When it doesn't have iron, it'll starve to death."

The diagnostic pattern of green veins surrounded in yellow flesh will show up first on new growth. Old leaves may still hold some color because the tree is mining what little iron it already has. In fall, trees pull nutrients back into the roots for spring. If the cupboard is bare, the next flush of leaves comes out pale. Branches die from the tips. A tree that looks only "off" this year can be functionally finished in a decade.

"Without treatment, that tree is done," Baumgartner said, points at a maple whose new leaves had failed to fill out. "It'll take ten years, but it can't pull out of it. Its DNA doesn't allow it to."

He has seen the same pattern on a hydrangea, on shrubs that had looked poor since the family moved in, on a neighbor's maple, on a young tree he planted himself, and, he said, on maples and other ornamentals all over town. One pine near Sunrise Park, in his telling, is already a pale yellow and "functionally dead." A pin oak in his own yard did not make it.

University of Minnesota Extension describes the same condition in high-pH soils across western Minnesota and the Red River Valley: lemon-yellow leaves, dark green veins, maples among the most likely to show it. Iron is present. However, at a pH of above roughly 7.5, it becomes insoluble and unavailable—chemically locked.

Baumgartner's soil tests put his yard near 8.0 to 8.3. After a modest sulfur application around one tree last year, a follow-up test came back at 7.7 in the treated zone. He spent \$220 this year sampling more thoroughly after seeing a jump from about 7.5 to 8. The change was large enough that he briefly wondered whether the lab had drifted. Then he saw the same num-

bers across the property. As it is, metals dissolve in acid. They do not dissolve in a base. At a pH around 8, iron, manganese and other micronutrients drop out of the soil solution. Plants that evolved on high-pH ground have workarounds: they acidify the zone around their roots, or they partner with fungi. Maples, pin oaks, many ornamental shrubs and young pines often do not.

Farmers are well acquainted with the concept. Baumgartner said it was two or three years ago that a friend conveyed to him the need of fields to start requiring infusions of sulfur, as the chemical was becoming depleted and causing the pH to rise as a result.

"It's a well known issue," he said. "But nobody came to town, it seems, to tell people that we needed to start adding sulfur to the soils here."

Soil pH
Turn to page 9

K&S
ELECTRIC
OLIVIA, MN.

For all your electrical needs!!
Good Old Fashion Service!

- Home
- Farm
- Industrial
- Commercial

Dan Smith Greg Seidl
(320) 583-3412 (320) 492-6274

CALL: 320-523-1458



CENTRAL UNITED
COOPERATIVE

705 E 4th Street
Winthrop, MN 55396
507-232-1000



FARMERS CO-OP OIL CO.
OLD FASHIONED SERVICE...

Farmers Co-op Oil in Renville & Olivia carries Premium Diesel Fuel and Bulk Lube Oils On Sale Sept. 14 - Oct. 30



Renville Office
P.O. Box 250
Renville, MN
(320) 329-8351



Quality Diesel Fuel

Serving the following locations in Minnesota:
Danube, Redwood Falls, Olivia, Renville, Lamberton, Wabasso, Mayer, New Germany, Winthrop, Gaylord, Lafayette, Green Isle, Gibbon, New Auburn, Arlington, Walnut Grove

SERVING MINNESOTA AG FAMILIES WITH SUPERIOR SERVICE SINCE 1956

DOOLEY'S
PETROLEUM, INC.

365.4525 | DOOLEYPETRO.COM





Kraft Walser

Law Office



Dan Honsey Chris Kleiman Sene Zupke

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP
lawoffice@kraftwalser.com • www.kraftwalser.com

- Farm Law • Business Law
- Estate Planning • Probate
- Real Estate
- Family Law/Divorce

Olivia 320-523-1322 | Hutchinson 320-587-8150
Cokato 320-286-2396

200 Oak Street, Danube
(320) 826-2525
www.minnwestbank.com



MINNWEST BANK



FARM LOANS

- Operating Loans
- Livestock Loans
- Machinery Loans
- Real Estate Loans

**Contact Ben Hendrickson
for more information.**



Member **FDIC**



Enestvedt Seed Company

Take the road to Enestvedts...
"The way to better yields"
Established in 1900

**Producers and Processors of
Certified Hybrid Seed Corn**
(Conventional, RR, VT2ProRIB and SSPRO Varieties)

Enlist - E3 Soybeans

QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR A REASONABLE PRICE



Contact
Enestvedt Seed Company
75802 Co. Rd. 12, Sacred Heart, MN 56285
320-765-2728
or one of our dealers



www.enestvedtseeds.com



Before opening a bag of seed, be sure to read, understand and accept the stewardship requirements, including applicable refuge requirements for insect resistance management, for the Monsanto Technology/Stewardship Agreement that you sign. By opening and using a bag of seed, you are reaffirming your obligation to comply with the most recent stewardship requirements.



FLADEBOE LAND

Our Family Serving Families for Over 48 Years!
Farmland Professionals Since 1978

Services We Offer:

Auctions • Listings • Private Sale Negotiations
Complimentary Consultations • Appraisals



For more Information call:
Kristine:
320-212-9379
Glen:
651-208-3262
Dale:
320-894-9392

For more information go to FladeboeLand.com

SECRETARY OF AG AT FARMFEST

By Lisa Rau
Staff Writer

This summer’s Farmfest was graced with the presence of current Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, who spoke about the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and accomplishments made by the department since her appointment. Rollins’ enthusiasm for the policies enacted by the department was infectious and the crowd responded positively to her comments.

Rollins is only the second woman to hold the office, preceded by Ann Veneman who served from 2001-2005 under George Bush. Rollins hails from Glen Rose, Texas but has roots in Minnesota. Her interest in farming and agriculture began as a child where her family raised livestock and she participated in 4H and FFA. She later received her bachelor’s degree in agricultural development from Texas A & M in 1994 and went on to practice law and enact public policy before being appointed as the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture.

Rollins was introduced at the event by Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau. A third-generation farmer from Georgia, Duvall has been working with government leaders to secure a fair tax code for farmers and finding new market opportunities domestically and abroad. Rollins is the third Secretary of Agriculture he’s worked with and says “she’s hit the ground running supporting farmers.”

The Secretary began her address by detailing her background in the state of Minnesota saying her family has a farm in Clear Lake they’ve farmed for four generations. She states, “fighting for our farms and our farmers and our ranchers every day is the greatest honor of my life.” With nearly half the state of Minnesota being

used for agriculture, she discussed the necessity of opening markets around the world to export commodities.

Rollins details how she and President Trump have worked together since she took office 18 months ago to make good on promises made to the farming community. One of these ways was the inception of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act also known as the Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTCA). Designed to benefit the farming community in a number of ways, Rollins claims it provided a tax cut to 97% of Americans who filed taxes last year, improved crop insurance by enhancing coverage, increasing reference prices, and investing 50 billion dollars into rural health.

Rollins states that the WFTCA also expanded markets abroad. Minnesota exports approximately one third of what it produces, so reducing tariffs and opening supply lines is important. Rollins says, “we have to empower our farmers to compete on the world stage,” adding that the USDA has secured 20 new trade deals in the 1.5 years she’s been in office, a vast improvement to the previous administration that made 0 new deals between 2021 and early 2025.

The secretary went on to discuss the Making America Healthy Again movement and their goal of reducing ultra-processed foods. She cites that her partnership with Bobby Kennedy Jr, US Secretary of Health and Human Services, has generated great strides in getting nutritious, farm raised food on the tables. Due to their efforts, stores that accept SNAP benefits must stock 28 healthy food options as opposed to the previous requirements of just 11. The increase creates more room

for local farmers to stock their products and she adds, “there is no make America healthy again without our agriculture producers and our great American farmers and ranchers.”

Rollins then addressed some of the areas of focus in the upcoming months saying that she is working with President Trump on finding ways to reduce the cost of inputs for farmers, such as fertilizer, insurance, machinery and pesticides. Acknowledging the conflict with Iran is creating issues with costs right now, she talked about developments domestically that she hopes will help farmers. This fall, the largest ammonia plant in the world is slated to open its doors in Louisiana with another new plant opening soon in Indiana. “We’ve got dozens and dozens and dozens of projects around this country so we can reshore fertilizer and bring it closer to you and you” you’ll begin to see as we build that greater input independence the costs come down.”

She concluded on a strong note

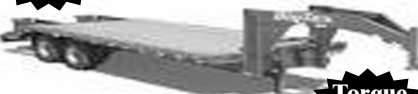
with her final message to the Farmfest crowd being: “Everything I’ve talked about today is all in support of the same mission, and that is keeping our farmers in control of their farms, their futures, their children’s and grandchildren’s futures. What you represent today is freedom for all Americans, because if our food supply and our farms are not secure, our national security and our very way of life is compromised, and it all begins on your farms.”



GN Tandem Dual Flatbed Trailers

Check Our Prices Before You Buy!

Low Pro



Torque Tube

25', 28', 32' & 36' in Stock
Stock, Horse, Dump, Cargo,
Tow Dollies, Utility, Flatbed,
Boots, Western Wear

DAHLBERG BOOT & TRAILER SALES
E. Hwy. 12 Willmar • 320-235-4180



Classic Car & Street Rod Interiors

Danube Upholstery & Shoe Repair

- Cars • Boats • Trucks
- Farm Seats
- Convertible Tops

**MINNETONKA MOCCASIN**

**RED WING SHOES**
EST. 1905

320-826-2150 • Danube, MN

Hours: M-F: 8 am-5:30 pm
Saturday: 9 am-noon



MARCUS

WELL DRILLING INC.

- Well Drilling • Well Sealing
- Pump Repair • Water Lines
- Constant Pressure Systems

Farm and Residential

320-329-3319 or 320-329-3562

Renville, MN

Professional & Experienced Staff

Olivia Pet Clinic

Where we treat your pet like family

Bobbi L. Kopel, DVM



1605 W. Lincoln Ave.
320-523-5550

Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

WISHING YOU A HEALTHY AND SAFE HARVEST SEASON!





Bird Island Hawk Creek Mutual insurance company

Contact your local agent today for a review of your farm coverages. Ensure you have the appropriate protection in place before beginning your fall harvest.

Remember, having peace of mind from a trusted source is always the best approach.

 Call Us
320.365.3546

 Visit Our Website
www.bihcm.com

 Our Location
351 Hwy 212 Bird Island MN

Local farmer shares history of Birch Coulee

By Pat Buschette
Contributing Writer

For Jerry Weldy of Franklin, Minnesota, history is not a philosophical study of the past, but a matter of heritage.

“I went to a little rural school down the hill from Fort Ridgely Park near Fairfax,” Jerry explained. “In the fall and spring, we would sometimes walk right through Fort Ridgely. I was eight or nine years old and if I didn’t have anything to do on Saturday

or Sunday the staff would have me pick up bottles.”

“There were crowds on weekends,” he explained as he told of families coming to the fort to tour and have a picnic. “I knew many of the families, many who would share their lunch with me. Some days I would go home with a buck and a half from picking up bottles.”

Jerry grew up in a family deeply entrenched in agriculture “I grew up knowing that farming was what I wanted to do.”

At graduation there wasn’t a place in the farming operation for him so he went to the University of Minnesota with the goal of being an ag teacher.

“Before the end of my freshman year I transferred to dairy husbandry earning a Bachelor of Science. Still there was no opportunity for me to farm, so I applied for an assistantship in the graduate department. It came down between me and another guy. The other guy got the job so I took graduate courses.”

An opportunity came in the form of an offer of a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at Beltsville, Maryland. Although he really wanted to farm, he accepted the position, and earned his Master’s Degree.

Three years later he received a letter from his mother, telling him that there would be a place in the farming operation for him. “I didn’t write back – I called,” he said. “The answer was ‘Definitely.’” He returned in 1963 and finished off the year working for his dad and making plans.”

Jerry lives on a farm site that has been in the family for many years. “I knew this would be the farm,” he said as he told of the development of his operation. Because of the buildings in existence, a proposed dairy farm became a hog operation. “Not one building that was here when I started farming exists,” he explained.

“I was always interested in the ruins at Fort Ridgely,” he said. “I don’t know that I really understood a great deal of family history.”

It was about the time I came back from the east coast that I got interested in history,” he explained. “My mother wanted to find her mother’s gravesite and explored many cemeteries until she was successful.”

Jerry didn’t get greatly involved until 12 years ago. “I had collected items of his-

toric interest. They were put on display in New Ulm in 2012. They learned that I was a direct descendant of Joseph LaFramboise, of mixed heritage, the son of Joseph LaFramboise, Sr., a well-known trader.

“I have done bus tours of Fort Ridgely and Birch Coulee for them. I have also done cemetery tours including the pioneer section of the Brown County Cemetery.”

“Most people don’t understand what Birch Coulee was all about,” he said. “Native Americans had two plans; one group to go to Hutchinson and other group to the south side of the river and sack New Ulm. The two groups would then meet in the Sibley County area and cut off supplies to Sibley and the troops.

The group on the south side of the river spotted dust and forgot about New Ulm. “They were more interested in horses and wagons. They attacked at Birch Coulee, a battle that began in the predawn darkness of September 2, 1862 the siege lasting 36 hours. In addition to the loss of human life, 90 horses were killed on the battlefield. When I give my presentation on Birch Coulee, I sometimes subtitle it as “The battle that saved New Ulm.”

“Had they entered into New Ulm, they would have burned the town and taken anything they wanted,” he said. The thought of such a tragic consequence was clear in the solemnity of his account.

Two of Joseph’s half-breed sons were scouts for Sibley. “My grandfather, William Robert LaFramboise, was a boy 15 years at time of battle. He was injured in New Ulm when a stairway broke, requiring him to wear a brace for the rest of his life.”



Photo submitted

Jerry Weldy is pictured here with the museum personnel. Left to right: Darla Gebhard, Research Librarian, Brown County Historical Society; Jerry Weldy; Nicole Elzenga, Executive Director, Renville County Historical Society.

Birch Coulee
Turn to page 12

Buying your Farm Scrap

Scrap Iron, Tin, Wire, Cars, Trucks, Combines, Tractors

ANY FARM EQUIPMENT

Also...Aluminum Cans, Copper, Brass, Aluminum, Radiators, Electric Motors, Batteries **ALMOST EVERYTHING!**

Nelson's Salvage and Towing, Inc.

30806 360th St. Charles W. Nelson
Redwood Falls, MN 1-507-641-3061

Monday thru Friday 8-5
Running Late...Just Give a Call!

Pick Up & Containers Available

INSURE YOUR FARM

Paul Johannes
Licensed Agent

Visit us at
www.johannesagency.com

Alanna Dean - Kalenberg
Licensed Agent

Johannes Agency, Inc.

127 9th St. S., Olivia, MN 56277
Phone: 320-523-1150

OLIVIA MACHINE SHOP INC.
EST. 1956

South on Hwy 71
Olivia, MN
Ph: (320) 523-1681

- Steel
 - Aluminum & Stainless
- Bearings
- PTO Components
- Torches & Tanks
- Pipe Fittings
- Cable
- Hydraulic Hoses & Adapters
- Bolts – By the Pound
- Roller Chain & Sprockets

- Welding Supplies
- Hydraulic Adapters
- PVC Plastic Pipe & Fittings
- Log Chain, Hooks & Binders
- Welding & Repair
 - Steel
 - Stainless Steel
 - Aluminum
 - Portable Welding
 - CNC Plasma capabilities

Larkin Tree Care & Landscaping, Inc.



- Tree & Shrub Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Landscape
- Design/Installation
- Pavers, Retaining Walls
- Emerald Ash Borer Injections

Insured - Licensed

Doug Larkin
Arborist

Christa Larkin
Designer

(320) 329-3855

Renville, MN

Larkintreelandscape.com

Service 24/7

For all your **Electrical** needs!

Sullivan's Electric



320-329-3830

Jim Sullivan

82535 County Road 6

Renville, MN 56284

Fax: 320-329-3210

Email:
sullivanselectric@yahoo.com



- Automobile Accessories
- Full Upholstery Shop
- Signs & Lettering

Hours-M-F • 8 - 5:00

SAT - by Appt.

320-826-2535

Danube, MN



Finish Line
S E E D, Inc.

76374 380th St.

Bird Island, MN 55310

320-365-3674

www.finishlineseed.com



HomeTown
BANK

LOCAL PEOPLE.

LOCAL SERVICE.

Home Loans | Auto Loans

Ag Loans | Commercial Loans

Call today! (320) 523-2040 | Visit us! 1115 W Lincoln Avenue, Olivia MN 56277

myHT.BANK FDIC

HARVEST COMES FIRST.



LEAVE THE PLUMBING & HEATING TO US.

\$50 OFF

ANY SERVICE

*Applies to Services over \$250

*Restrictions Apply. Expires 11/30/2026

Connect With Land Experts
Who Care As Much As You Do.

Hertz Farm Management, Inc. has partnered with farmland owners for over 80 years. Combining **local, personal attention** with proven farmland real estate, appraisal, & farm management services, Hertz helps you make confident, informed decisions.

507-345-LAND (5263)

151 Saint Andrews Ct, Suite #1310
Mankato MN 56001





www.Hertz.ag

Don't let home and shop repairs get in the way of a successful harvest.
We have you covered!

NORTHERN SERVICES



PLUMBING - HEATING - COOLING - DRAIN CLEANING

(320) 523-5862

WWW.NORTHERNSERVICESTODAY.COM

CONSIDERING
AN AUCTION?

Contact us today!

ALLEN HENSLIN
(320) 979-1808

LADON HENSLIN
(320) 894-5959



WE SPECIALIZE IN FARMLAND & EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS!

For upcoming farmland & equipment auctions
visit: www.henslinauctioneers.com



Let Us Take Care of Your HARVEST REPAIRS

Full Millwright Repair Service



- Fabrication Shop
- Metal Sales
- Portable Welding

Motor, Gearbox , Bearing, and Leg Belt Repair and More!



*Call us for all your 2027 New
Construction and Repair Projects*
320-552-2749
Equipment Financing Available

Elite Ag Systems, Inc. | 54312 County Rd. 11 | Buffalo Lake, MN. 55314
www.eliteagsystems.com | chad@eliteagsystems.com

The Renville County Shopper and
Register are now online at
RCRegister.com

Soil pH: Changing the pH balance of your soil may be the key to saving your trees Continued from page 2

Baumgartner’s working theory is that the town was getting a free, invisible supplement for decades. Sulfur in diesel and other fuels left the tailpipe, washed out of the air, and supplied a thin, steady layer of acidification — enough, he believes, to keep yard soils from fully reverting to their high-calcium default. After sulfur was stripped from fuels to clean the air, the pH level began to rise. Farmers addressed it with fertilizer. City trees did not.

The larger fact underneath that idea is not controversial. Atmospheric sulfur deposition in the Midwest has fallen sharply as power-plant and vehicle emissions were controlled. Across much of the Corn Belt, fertilizer sulfur has risen as the free fallout disappeared. In other landscapes, researchers have documented soil pH drifting upward as sulfur deposition declined.

While the aforementioned is considered settled science, Baumgartner’s leap in logic

certainly makes sense, but is not exactly peer reviewed. Still, he is confident enough with his own analysis and subsequent sulfur application trials, that he’s ready to spread the word on how to save scores of community trees.

“I’ll say my pH is eight to some of the older farmers, and they’ll exclaim, ‘What?’ in disbelief,” he said, adding: That’s because it never was that high in the past.”

Treatment, in Baumgartner’s view, has two speeds.

The long play is elemental sulfur. Soil bacteria oxidize it and produce acid. Presently, he has applied some 1,600 pounds per acre — about \$160 of sulfur across 11,100 square feet — aiming to pull the top six inches from roughly 8 down toward 7. Most of a tree’s nutrition, he notes, comes from that shallow layer. High-calcium ground will keep trying to go back. Re-treatment will be needed.

The short play is chelated iron, specifically the EDDHA form that stays available in alkaline soil. He mixes a teaspoon to a gallon, waters it in, and also sprays foliage. A \$25 canister has covered his lot and his aunt’s. He would not call it expensive. The product is rust-red, as iron should be. Within a season he has watched yellow shrubs go green, white

leaves pick up color, and new growth come in darker after a heavy bout of rain.

Baumgartner said he waited to talk publicly until he was able to try the solution himself. “I’m seeing a result, no question. Now I’m comfortable sharing it.”

Aquiring soil pH test kits, the Olivia councilman said he ran experiments at both his home along with the a pair of maples at his aunts house. Hydrangeas, sensitive enough that pH can turn their blooms from pink toward blue, was another scorecard. Grass, he suspects, is hungry for the same reason.

As for what individuals should do, the University of Minnesota Extension’s advice and Baumgartner’s backyard experiment point to the same sequence.

First, confirm the pattern: yellow tissue, green veins, worst on new growth. Other problems yellow a tree differently.

Second, test the soil. pH is the question that matters. If it is north of 7.5, ordinary iron products and the wrong chelates will disappoint.

Third, choose plants that tolerate alkaline, calcareous soil when starting over. Saving a sick maple is possible. Pretending every catalog tree belongs here is how the problem repeats.

Fourth, if the tree is worth the work, use EDDHA chelated iron for a fast response — soil drench at the dripline, foliar spray as a supplement — and elemental sulfur if the goal is to change the chemistry rather than only feed the symptom. Foliar green-up can be quick. New leaves that emerge later will fade again un-

less the soil changes. Sulfur is slow. Bacteria have to eat it. Baumgartner figures a year or more before the acidification fully shows.

While none of this is a cure for Dutch elm disease or emerald ash borer, it does offer a solution for many otherwise viable trees.

“If there are other people like me that would like to save trees, that’s what’s going on,” said Baumgartner. “I would hate to lose more tree coverage in the city.”



Hydrangea leaf with moderate iron chlorosis.



Maple leaf with severe iron chlorosis.

SCHWEISS

DOORS

HYDRAULIC —OR— BIFOLD

ONE-PIECE DOORS STRAP LIFT DOORS

507-575-4999

AG DOORS SHOP DOORS

SCHWEISSDOORS.COM

Free Estimates
(320) 796-0686

NISSEN

SLABJACKING INC.

CONCRETE
RAISING
& SEALING

NISSENSLABJACKING.COM

OLIVIA

LIQUOR STORE

Hours:
Mondays - Thursdays, 9:30am - 9pm
Fridays & Saturdays, 9:30am - 10pm
Sundays, 11am - 4pm

802 E. Lincoln Avenue
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2730

DAILY SPECIALS:

Monday - Senior Day 60+, 10% off
Tuesday - Double Points
Wednesday - Wine Wednesday, 10% off all wine
Thursday - Military Day, 10% off
Friday - 10% off all 375's

"We're on your way home!"

PROUD.
PASSIONATE.
PROTECTED.

At Farm Bureau we believe strong working relationships should be rewarded. That's why, when you switch to our coverage, you could be eligible for the **Ag Advantage and Ag + Rewards** discounts that can continue to grow over time.

Contact us today to get started on a customized plan for your ag operation.

Scott Fransen*, Agent
Scott.Fransen@fbfs.com

Whitney Stock, Sales Associate
Whitney.Stock@fbfs.com

Sheree Halvorson, Sales Associate
Sheree.Halvorson@fbfs.com

Jacob Backlund, Sales Associate
Jacob.Backlund@fbfs.com

800 E. DePue, Ste. A, Olivia, MN | 320.523.2722

FARM BUREAU
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company,** Western Agricultural Insurance Company,** Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company**/West Des Moines, IA. Individual must be a registered representative of FBL Marketing Services, LLC to discuss securities products. Individual must be licensed with issuing company to offer insurance products. *Affiliates. **Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-AG-A(3-24)



Jon, Nate & Jeff Ammermann

Renville & Grove City
320-329-3267



BECK'S

We at Beck's Hybrids would like to wish all the area farmers a **SAFE and **SUCCESSFUL** Harvest!**





GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES, SEASON AFTER SEASON.

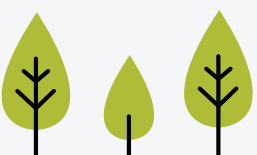
Harvest is a time to look ahead. We're proud to support the families, farms, and businesses that keep our communities strong.

Call or visit one of our convenient branch locations or visit citizensalliancebank.com.



KEEP SAFETY A PRIORITY ON YOUR FARM.

Together, let's make sure we all stay safe as farmers work to deliver another harvest.





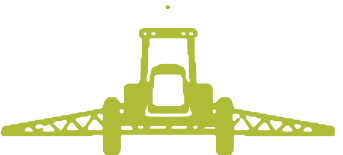
Be aware when operating farm equipment.



Be aware of silo gas when placing or chopping corn silage.



Go over important rules to help keep kids safe.



Take care as you travel on rural roads.



Know your PTO: Never step across a rotating power shaft.



Take breaks and get the right amount of rest.

Get the Building You've Always Wanted



MH

MARK & MICHELL
HARDER CONSTRUCTION

Wick

Buildings

Authorized Wick Builder

Mark and Michell Harder Construction

(320) 522-1695

<https://harder-construction.com/>

Residential & Commercial Construction

License #BC807988

GO *UN* CONVENTIONAL



BASS

Baumgartner
Agricultural
Science & Service

UN

CONVENTIONAL HYBRIDS

Better tolerance to
heat and water
stress

Better staygreen

Biology-friendly

Native insect
tolerance

Suitable for use
with cover crops

www.BASShybrids.com

STRENGTH
FOR *every*
SEASON

AgCountry Farm Credit Services provides operating loans, rural home loans, real estate financing and equipment loans and lease as well as services for tax planning and preparation, farm accounting, appraisal, crop insurance and succession and retirement planning.



Olivia, MN

320-523-1216

or 800-450-1216



AgCountry
Farm Credit Services

www.agcountry.com • Follow us on social media

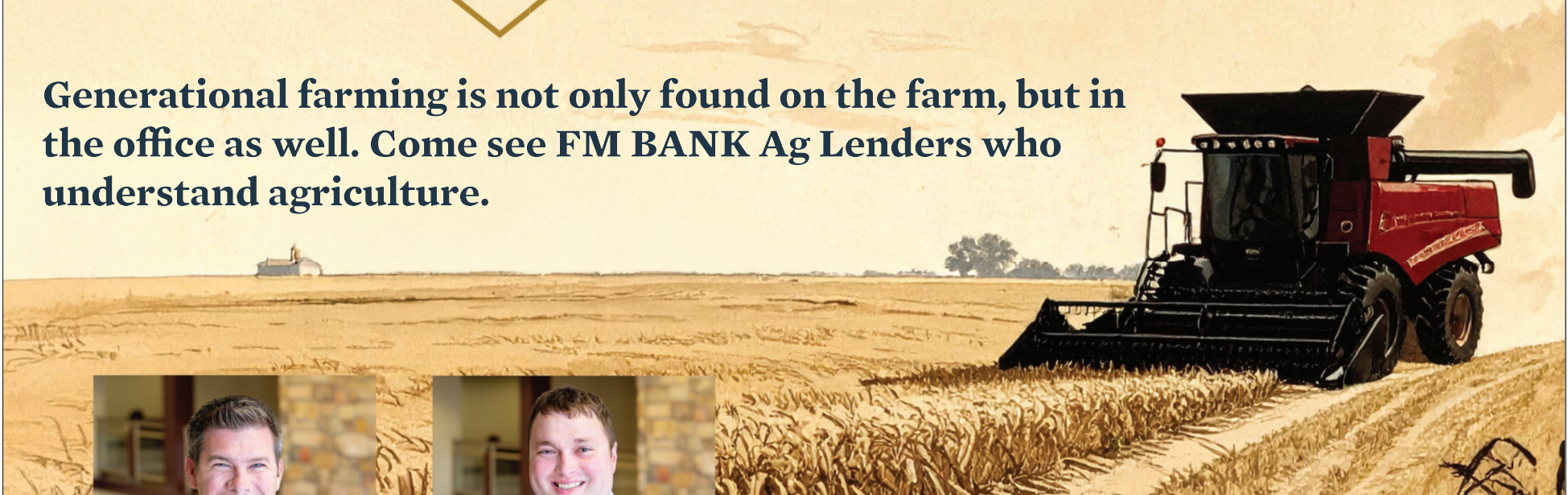


FMB

FM BANK

Experience the Advantage®

Generational farming is not only found on the farm, but in the office as well. Come see FM BANK Ag Lenders who understand agriculture.





Erik Peterson
President



Matt Aarons
Assistant Vice President

Olivia 320-523-1111 / MYBANKFM.COM



Birch Coulee: The history behind Fort Ridgely and the battle at Birch Coulee Continued from page 5

Unfortunately, the \$71,000 in gold and silver that was intended to fulfill the treaties, but now late, arrived the next morning. Weldy said a stagecoach arrived with \$71,000 in gold and silver annuity payments that were stored in a lower part of the large stone barracks. Ultimately the funds, intended for Native Americans were used to pay deprecation claims of which there were hundreds. These claims were made by settlers and merchants for lost supplies, or horses and wagons sold to troops.

The siege of Fort Ridgely and battles for New Ulm became the turning point of the war. After those battles, the Dakota suffered several defeats and many were either killed or captured.

There are many issues of timing and judgment that could have made an enormous impact on the tragic outcome. Because of the close interpersonal connection with the Native Americans, it is believed that the tragedy could have been alleviated.

When Joseph was 12 years of age, his mother took him to Montreal to be educated. He, in turn arranged for the education of his children at Traverse de Sioux at St. Peter. When letters went back and forth between Sibley and Little Crow, Julia, daughter of Joseph, translated both letters. Later, when Sibley came to Camp Release where captives were held, he asked who did the translations. When told it was Julia, he said, "I should have known it was her, because Joseph was so well educated. "While Joseph wrote primarily in French, he spoke English, Ojibwe, Dakota and French," Jerry said. Julia died at age 29 from tuberculosis.

The LaFramboise family was deeply involved with the combatants on both sides of the war. Joseph LaFramboise, who died in 1856 was instrumental in negotiating treaties, and Chief Sleepy Eye, also respected and not afraid to speak his mind, died in 1857. The 1858 treaty was a regrettable decision in which Dakota elders that gave up the northern half of their lands. If both leaders were alive at the time the treaty of 1858 was signed, the result may well have been more productive.

Jerry's contribution to the knowledge of Minnesota history is considerable as he volunteers at the Nicollet County Historical Society in St. Peter, The Renville County Historical Society in Morton, the Brown County Historical Society in New Ulm, the Fairfax, Minnesota Depot Museum, and the Fairfax Cardinals Museum located on the grounds of Memorial Park in Fairfax.

Renville County Historical Society's Executive Director, Nicole Elzenga referred to him as a "fount of knowledge." "If he doesn't know something he will find out," she said. "Every time I talk with him I learn something - I wish I could download his knowledge." Not only a generous benefactor, he has provided programming including presentations and tours to Birch Coulee and Fort Ridgely.

Darla Gebhard, Research Historian at Brown County Historical Society is effusive in her praise for the knowledge and many contributions Jerry makes to the understanding of history. "He works in the

archives when needed, does walking tours, is on a rotation schedule of the archives, is a docent on the third floor of the museum, participates in a series called "Lunch and a Bite of History" where he has spoken on several topics, and does historical bus tours."

As Research Historian, Gebhard went on to express her appreciation for the impact of the LaFramboise family.

"During the fur trade of the 1830-1850, settlers were trying to determine where to site a settlement." She said. "Joseph advised them to choose a site where the Cottonwood River flows into the Minnesota River. That is why New Ulm is located where it is," she said acknowledging the many ways in which the LaFramboise family shaped the early days of Minnesota and their assistance during the Dakota war.

Jerry's concern for the preservation of history has become focused. "Collecting artifacts is important, but the written word is far more important. It is important to learn from both sides of the issue. Some of the best things I have seen are what Native American or mixed blood people wrote after the war."

Fort Ridgely remains an important part of Jerry's family and of his lifetime experience. His great grandfather was the treasurer on the Board of Directors of the privately owned cemetery. He follows the tradition, and is now the treasurer. Fort Ridgely Cemetery will be his final resting place.



Photo by Pat Buschette

Jerry Weldy's great grandparents, William R. and Harriet LaFramboise

**PALMYRA FARMERS
MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

**Palmyra provides coverage for the
FARM and HOME to area residents and
surrounding communities**

Our independent insurance agents can assist you in
developing an insurance policy tailored
to you specific needs and concerns.

**Whether purchasing a home, moving, introducing
new assets to your farming operation
or simply to ask a question:**

**Contact a Palmyra Farmers Mutual Insurance agent today
- because if it matter to you, it matters to us.**

**507-557-2221
1-800-662-2252**

**373 2nd Ave E
P.O. Box 128
Franklin, MN 55333**



**WIX
FILTERS**

**FALL FARM/FLEET
FILTER SALE**

SEPTEMBER 14-30th, 2026



BEST PRICES OF THE SEASON ON PREMIUM WIX FILTERS!
Stop in, check us out and grab a flyer for specials on all kinds of popular
items for your vehicles & equipment to help make the fall harvest season
go as smoothly as possible.

BIRD ISLAND AUTO VALUE

**620 Highway Avenue, Bird Island, MN
(320) 365 3871**



**WEATHERING
THE STORMS
SINCE 1893.**

More than four generations of farmers have trusted Farmers Mutual Hail.
That's just one reason we're the respected leader in the industry.
Want more reasons? Call your local Farmers Mutual Hail agent.

Keith L. Scott Agency

**Keith Scott • Andrea Swenson • Kristina Walker
130 S. 8th St • Bird Island, MN 55310
320-365-3400 • 1-320-579-0552**

LOOK FOR THE CLOUD
FARMERS MUTUAL HAIL INSURANCE COMPANY

Ag Outlook: Biofuels and crop markets

By Ross Okins
Staff Writer

The current condition of the farming economy, federal agricultural legislation and the future of biofuels were among the topics discussed during the 2026 Minnesota Farmfest Ag Outlook panel.

The panel featured Dr. Frayne Olson, an agricultural economist and crop marketing specialist out of North Dakota State University; Dr. Faith Parum, an economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation; Brian Werner, executive director of the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association; and Mark Schultz, a senior marketing analyst with North Star Commodities.

During the opening of the forum, Dr. Olson described the current farm economy as a "tale of two cities," with grain producers facing tighter margins while portions of the livestock industry, particularly cattle producers, remain in a stronger financial position. He noted that industry averages do not always show which producers are experiencing the greatest financial strain.

According to Dr. Olson, some agricultural lenders needed to use creative financing or restructure existing debt to provide operating loans during the spring.

Producers who recently completed a major expansion and farms currently undergoing a transition between generations may be among the most vulnerable heading out of 2026 and into 2027.

Young farmers can also fall into that category because they frequently begin with a limited asset base and must take on debt while establishing their operations. Farm transitions can create similar concerns because many transition plans were created under stronger market conditions and may now need to be reconsidered.

Production expenses remain another concern for crop producers. Dr. Olson estimated that approximately half of a farm's expenses may be tied to overhead costs such as land and machinery, which can be difficult to reduce.

Other expenses include seed, fertilizer and chemicals, although reducing those expenses too significantly can lower a farm's yield potential.

Dr. Olson and Dr. Parum both stated that they did not expect fertilizer prices to decline significantly before the next growing season.

Olson said fall fertilizer prices may remain similar to current levels, while prices could increase again by spring. Federal legislation was also a major portion of the

panel's discussion.

Dr. Parum said portions of the agricultural safety net were addressed through previously approved legislation, including increased reference prices and changes to crop insurance. However, Farm Bill provisions involving agricultural research, loan limits and conservation programs still needed to be completed.

Trade policy also remains important to the agricultural economy. With Canada and Mexico remaining the two largest agricultural trading partners for the United States, Parum said the upcoming review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement would need to preserve agricultural access to those markets.

Schultz said additional trade agreements would benefit corn and soybean markets. Export demand remains important, although weather and production levels in the United States, South America and Europe will continue to influence prices.

Schultz said the crop he observed while traveling through Iowa and Minnesota was among the most uniform he had seen during his 35 years of attending Farmfest.

However, he cautioned that a strong-looking crop can still lose yield if rainfall ends too early. Conditions were noted to be less favorable farther west, particularly in portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Schultz noted that agricultural markets remain cyclical and said better prices could follow, although weather, crop size and trade activity will determine how quickly the market improves.

The expansion of biofuel demand was viewed as another opportunity to support corn and soybean producers. Werner said corn use for ethanol increased during the summer due to strong production margins, export demand and volatility within international energy markets.

E15, commonly marketed as Unleaded 88, contains 15 percent ethanol and has been approved for passenger vehicles from model year 2001 and newer. Werner said the fuel is currently available at 556 Minnesota retailers.

Federal regulations continue to restrict E15 sales during portions of the summer. Werner said permanent year-round sales would not require retailers to offer E15 or motorists to purchase it.

Instead, the legislation would allow retailers to sell the fuel throughout the year and provide consumers with an additional

choice.

The U.S. House had already approved legislation allowing permanent year-round E15 sales prior to the forum.

Werner said the Minnesota House delegation unanimously supported the measure and noted that similar language had been included in the Senate's Farm Bill proposal.

However, oil industry disagreements involving small refinery exemptions have prevented the proposal from receiving final approval.

A survey completed for the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association found that 68 percent of Minnesotans supported permanent year-round E15 sales.

Werner said approval would provide additional demand for Minnesota corn, support rural jobs and allow more money spent on fuel to remain within the Midwest.

Future biofuel demand may also extend to maritime shipping and sustainable aviation fuel. Olson said corn and soybeans will increasingly be viewed as both feed and fuel crops, although additional infrastructure will be needed before those markets reach their full potential.

The possible effect of artificial intelligence on family farms was also raised during the panel. Olson said he did not believe AI would lead to the end of the family farm. Current agricultural equipment already uses artificial intelligence to identify weeds and determine where herbicide should be applied.

Olson described adoption of the technology as an evolution rather than a sudden revolution.

As the panel concluded, Parum encouraged farmers to contact federal lawmakers about the Farm Bill and permanent year-

round E15 legislation. Werner summarized his closing message with the statement, "E15 now," while Schultz said producers should remember that agricultural markets move through cycles.

Olson closed by encouraging corn and soybean producers to remain patient while managing the current financial pressure.

"Hang in there," Olson said. "Things will get better. Better times are coming. You've got to make sure that you get through this low spot."

Even with challenges facing the agricultural industry, one thing was made clear by the expert panel, Minnesota's growing conditions continue to be one of the best in the nation, and a bright future will be led by those who take care of the land and animals.

Join the crowd

**Jeff Huseby
Insurance, LLC**

**Farm, Fire, Wind, Liability,
Hail, Multi Peril, Auto,
Commerical**

 **GRINNELL
MUTUAL.**

**Sacred Heart
320-765-2909**



*Every Farm is
Different.*

SO IS OUR COVERAGE.

We offer farm insurance from multiple providers so it fits your operation. Contact us and you'll understand exactly what you're buying.

**HarmoningAgency.com/Farm
(507) 557-7000**



HARMONING AGENCY
A FARMERS UNION AGENCY

*Celebrating
26 Years*

**Joel Harmoning - Agent, Certified Insurance Counselor
Shylyn Lothert - Agent, Office Manager**

Harvest Is Just Around the Corner
Make sure all your investments are in order
before the busy season starts
Stop in for a visit!

**H HEBRINK
M WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Cory A. Hebrink
Registered Rep.
320-523-5124



828 East Lincoln Avenue, Olivia, MN 56277
(320) 523-5124 ♦ Fax (320) 523-5973 ♦ Cell 320-894-7203
www.hebrinkwmm.com ♦ Email cory@hebrinkwealth.com

Securities and investment advisory services offered through **Osaic Wealth, Inc.** Member FINRA/SIPC **Osaic Wealth** is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of **Osaic Wealth**.

Give us a call for all your Seed needs!



212
SEED & AG, INC.

Kirk, Jason,
Dana
& Tyler



PIONEER



CORTEVA

Sacred Heart & Bird Island
320-979-5168



**Willmar
Aerial
Spraying,
Inc.**

Professional Crop Care Done by Air

Richard Sigurdson

Office Cell

320-523-2186 320-979-8326

P.O. Box 169
Olivia, MN 56277



F&M
Insurance
EXPERIENCE THE ADVANTAGE®
Complete Insurance Services
www.fminsmn.com

**We offer a full line of Farm Ag
Products & Services!**

Heidi Mack ~ Heidi@fminsmn.com
Jammie Schneider ~ Jammie@fminsmn.com
Olivia • 320-523-1694



Saunders Mertens Schmitz, PA
Accountants and Advisers

Laurie Schmitz Dawn Mertens
Rachel Dahl Kelly Hagen

320-365-4620
Bird Island, MN

***Diversify your Farm
with Navy & Black
Beans!***



ADM

Contact our Olivia Plant
for Navy & Black Bean
Seed & Contract
Information
Robb Zenk
320-523-1637



**YOUR PARTNER IN AGRICULTURE
EVERY SEASON, EVERY REASON**

At Greater Community Credit Union we understand the hard work, dedication, and passion it takes to keep our farms thriving. From planting to harvest and every step in between, we're here with the financial tools and support you need to grow your future.

RENVILLE
208 N MAIN ST.
320-329-3152
GREATERCCU.COM

Federally Insured by
NCUA 



**Greater
Community
CREDIT UNION**

Stop by our Showroom to get ideas for your home!



Gas Inserts
Gas Fireplaces
Gas & Wood Stoves

Brick & Stone
Mantels
Outdoor Fireplaces

Gas Firepits
Wood Fireplaces
Installation



Now is the time to prepare for Winter !
Call 507-337-3473 to make an appointment



TODAY'S
FIREPLACE & SPA
Recipient of 2023 Kozy Heat Excellence Award

511 S. Hwy 23 • Marshall, MN 56258
507.337.3473

LITZAU

FARM DRAINAGE & DIRECTIONAL BORING



WE LAY PIPE... No Job too big or too small.

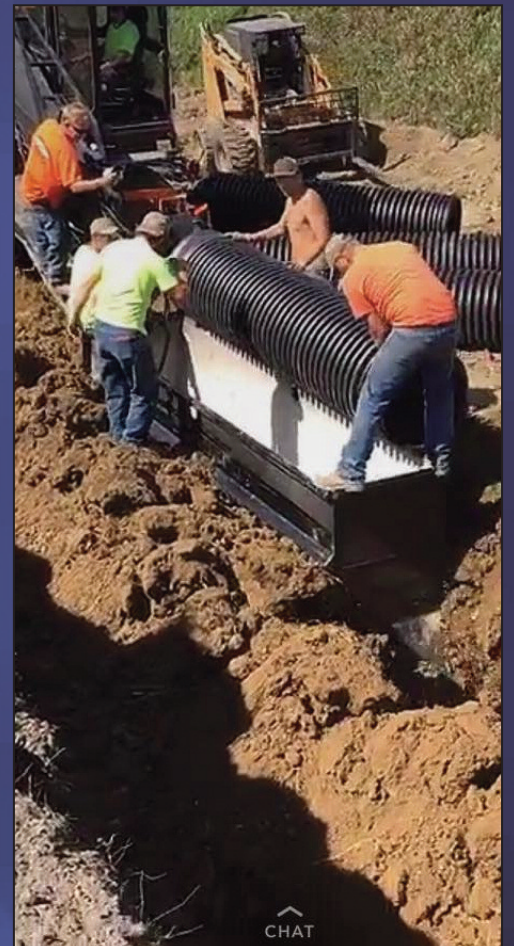


FARM DRAINAGE Since 1972

- Water Management
- Tiling Fields
- Roads & Parking lots
- 3"-24" boots
- Plowing hdpe pipe
- Lagoons
- Best equipment to do the best job!
- Repair crew

DIRECTIONAL BORING

- Geothermal
- Waterline
- Electric line
- Boring roads
- Boring hdpe pipe
- On grade specializing
- Bore from 4" and up
- Anywhere you don't want to dig!



WE WORK 7 DAYS A WEEK WHEN YOU NEED US!

**14101 60th Ave SE
Atwater, MN 56209
320-905-8645**



The **Fall** *Renville County* **Farmer**

Inside this section:

- Pg. 2 Soil pH may affect tree growth**
Pg. 4 Secretary of Ag at Farmfest
Pg. 5 Local farmer shares history of Birch Coulee
Pg. 13 Ag outlook: Biofuels and crop markets

**Thank you to all of our customers who supported
this special issue through their advertising!**

Pg	Customer	Pg	Customer	Pg	Customer
14	212 Seed & Ag	9	Farm Bureau	6	Larkin Tree
10	A+ Insurance	2	Farmer's Co-op Oil - Renville	16	Litzau Tiling
14	ADM	6	Finish Line Seeds	4	Marcus Well Drilling
11	AgCountry	3	Fladeboe Land	3	Minnwest Bank
12	Auto Value	11	FM BANK	5	Nelson Salvage
11	BASS Hybrid	14	Greater Community Credit Union	9	Nissen Slabjacking
10	Beck's Hybrids	11	Harder Construction	6	Northern Services
4	BI Hawk Creek Mutual Insurance	13	Harmoning Ins.	5	Olivia Machine Shop
2	Central United Cooperative	13	Hebrink WM	4	Olivia Pet Clinic
10	Citizen's Alliance Bank	7	Henslin	9	Olivia Liquor Store
6	Creative Details	6	Hertz Farm Mgmt	12	Palmyra Insurance
4	Dahlberg Boot & Trailers	6	HomeTown Bank	10	RC Corn & Soybean Growers
4	Danube Upholstery	13	Jeff Huseby Ins, LLC	14	Saunders Mertens Schmitz
2	Dooley's Petroleum	5	Johannes Agency	9	Schweiss Doors
8	Elite Systems	2	K&S Electric	6	Sullivan Electric
3	Enestvedt Seed	12	Keith Scott Agency	13	Today's Fireplace
14	F&M Insurance	3	Kraft Walser Law Office	14	Willmar Aerial Spraying

Soil's pH may be starving out your trees

By Scott Tedrick
Editor

On a late-summer walk through his yard Matt Baumgartner, stops at a sugar maple and turns a leaf in his hand. The veins are still green, but the tissue between them looks absent the same vitality, the area fad-



Photo by Matt Baumgartner

Maple tree in Olivia with iron chlorosis.

ing to a malevolent mustard yellow. "That is a dead giveaway," he said. "It is iron chlorosis." Baumgartner is an Olivia City Councilman and trained soil scientist, whose name's etymology literally means "tree gardener." Recently, the avid environmentalist stumbled upon an area of causation impacting the health of trees throughout the Olivia area community and beyond that traces the problem back to the soil's pH.

"The soil is not running out of iron. The iron is in the ground. It's just that the trees cannot get at it," he said. Iron chlorosis is not a disease in the usual sense. There's no bacteria, virus, parasite or living entity to contend with. Instead, it has to do with changing environment the plant is being subjected to—and how that can impact development.

As it is, iron is required for a plant to make chlorophyll, and chlorophyll is how a leaf turns sunlight into

sugar. Without enough iron, a tree begins to starve in place.

"Each leaf is like a little solar panel for sugar," Baumgartner said. "When it doesn't have iron, it'll starve to death."

The diagnostic pattern of green veins surrounded in yellow flesh will show up first on new growth. Old leaves may still hold some color because the tree is mining what little iron it already has. In fall, trees pull nutrients back into the roots for spring. If the cupboard is bare, the next flush of leaves comes out pale. Branches die from the tips. A tree that looks only "off" this year can be functionally finished in a decade.

"Without treatment, that tree is done," Baumgartner said, points at a maple whose new leaves had failed to fill out. "It'll take ten years, but it can't pull out of it. Its DNA doesn't allow it to."

He has seen the same pattern on a hydrangea, on shrubs that had looked poor since the family moved in, on a neighbor's maple, on a young tree he planted himself, and, he said, on maples and other ornamentals all over town. One pine near Sunrise Park, in his telling, is already a pale yellow and "functionally dead." A pin oak in his own yard did not make it.

University of Minnesota Extension describes the same condition in high-pH soils across western Minnesota and the Red River Valley: lemon-yellow leaves, dark green veins, maples among the most likely to show it. Iron is present. However, at a pH of above roughly 7.5, it becomes insoluble and unavailable—chemically locked.

Baumgartner's soil tests put his yard near 8.0 to 8.3. After a modest sulfur application around one tree last year, a follow-up test came back at 7.7 in the treated zone. He spent \$220 this year sampling more thoroughly after seeing a jump from about 7.5 to 8. The change was large enough that he briefly wondered whether the lab had drifted. Then he saw the same num-

bers across the property.

As it is, metals dissolve in acid. They do not dissolve in a base. At a pH around 8, iron, manganese and other micronutrients drop out of the soil solution. Plants that evolved on high-pH ground have workarounds: they acidify the zone around their roots, or they partner with fungi. Maples, pin oaks, many ornamental shrubs and young pines often do not.

Farmers are well acquainted with the concept. Baumgartner said it was two or three years ago that a friend conveyed to him the need of fields to start requiring infusions of sulfur, as the chemical was becoming depleted and causing the pH to rise as a result.

"It's a well known issue," he said. "But nobody came to town, it seems, to tell people that we needed to start adding sulfur to the soils here."

Soil pH
Turn to page 9

K&S
ELECTRIC
OLIVIA, MN.

**For all your
electrical needs!!
Good Old Fashion Service!**

- Home
- Farm
- Industrial
- Commercial

Dan Smith Greg Seidl
(320) 583-3412 (320) 492-6274

CALL: 320-523-1458



CENTRAL UNITED
COOPERATIVE

705 E 4th Street
Winthrop, MN 55396
507-232-1000



FARMERS CO-OP OIL CO.
OLD FASHIONED SERVICE...

Farmers Co-op Oil in Renville & Olivia carries Premium Diesel Fuel and Bulk Lube Oils On Sale Sept. 14 - Oct. 30



Renville Office
P.O. Box 250
Renville, MN
(320) 329-8351



Quality Diesel Fuel

Serving the following locations in Minnesota:
Danube, Redwood Falls, Olivia, Renville, Lamberton, Wabasso, Mayer, New Germany, Winthrop, Gaylord, Lafayette, Green Isle, Gibbon, New Auburn, Arlington, Walnut Grove

SERVING MINNESOTA AG FAMILIES WITH SUPERIOR SERVICE SINCE 1956

DOOLEY'S
PETROLEUM, INC.

365.4525 | DOOLEYPETRO.COM





Kraft Walser

Law Office



Dan Honsey Chris Kleiman Sene Zupke

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP
lawoffice@kraftwalser.com • www.kraftwalser.com

- Farm Law • Business Law
- Estate Planning • Probate
- Real Estate
- Family Law/Divorce

Olivia 320-523-1322 | Hutchinson 320-587-8150
Cokato 320-286-2396

200 Oak Street, Danube
(320) 826-2525
www.minnwestbank.com



MINNWEST BANK



FARM LOANS

- Operating Loans
- Livestock Loans
- Machinery Loans
- Real Estate Loans

**Contact Ben Hendrickson
for more information.**



Member **FDIC**



Enestvedt Seed Company

Take the road to Enestvedts...
"The way to better yields"
Established in 1900

**Producers and Processors of
Certified Hybrid Seed Corn**
(Conventional, RR, VT2ProRIB and SSPRO Varieties)

Enlist - E3 Soybeans

QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR A REASONABLE PRICE



Contact
Enestvedt Seed Company
75802 Co. Rd. 12, Sacred Heart, MN 56285
320-765-2728
or one of our dealers
www.enestvedtseeds.com





Before opening a bag of seed, be sure to read, understand and accept the stewardship requirements, including applicable refuge requirements for insect resistance management, for the Monsanto Technology/Stewardship Agreement that you sign. By opening and using a bag of seed, you are reaffirming your obligation to comply with the most recent stewardship requirements.



FLADEBOE LAND

Our Family Serving Families for Over 48 Years!
Farmland Professionals Since 1978

Services We Offer:

Auctions • Listings • Private Sale Negotiations
Complimentary Consultations • Appraisals



For more Information call:
Kristine:
320-212-9379
Glen:
651-208-3262
Dale:
320-894-9392

For more information go to FladeboeLand.com

SECRETARY OF AG AT FARMFEST

By Lisa Rau
Staff Writer

This summer's Farmfest was graced with the presence of current Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, who spoke about the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and accomplishments made by the department since her appointment. Rollins' enthusiasm for the policies enacted by the department was infectious and the crowd responded positively to her comments.

Rollins is only the second woman to hold the office, preceded by Ann Veneman who served from 2001-2005 under George Bush. Rollins hails from Glen Rose, Texas but has roots in Minnesota. Her interest in farming and agriculture began as a child where her family raised livestock and she participated in 4H and FFA. She later received her bachelor's degree in agricultural development from Texas A & M in 1994 and went on to practice law and enact public policy before being appointed as the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture.

Rollins was introduced at the event by Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau. A third-generation farmer from Georgia, Duvall has been working with government leaders to secure a fair tax code for farmers and finding new market opportunities domestically and abroad. Rollins is the third Secretary of Agriculture he's worked with and says "she's hit the ground running supporting farmers."

The Secretary began her address by detailing her background in the state of Minnesota saying her family has a farm in Clear Lake they've farmed for four generations. She states, "fighting for our farms and our farmers and our ranchers every day is the greatest honor of my life." With nearly half the state of Minnesota being

used for agriculture, she discussed the necessity of opening markets around the world to export commodities.

Rollins details how she and President Trump have worked together since she took office 18 months ago to make good on promises made to the farming community. One of these ways was the inception of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act also known as the Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTCA). Designed to benefit the farming community in a number of ways, Rollins claims it provided a tax cut to 97% of Americans who filed taxes last year, improved crop insurance by enhancing coverage, increasing reference prices, and investing 50 billion dollars into rural health.

Rollins states that the WFTCA also expanded markets abroad. Minnesota exports approximately one third of what it produces, so reducing tariffs and opening supply lines is important. Rollins says, "we have to empower our farmers to compete on the world stage," adding that the USDA has secured 20 new trade deals in the 1.5 years she's been in office, a vast improvement to the previous administration that made 0 new deals between 2021 and early 2025.

The secretary went on to discuss the Making America Healthy Again movement and their goal of reducing ultra-processed foods. She cites that her partnership with Bobby Kennedy Jr, US Secretary of Health and Human Services, has generated great strides in getting nutritious, farm raised food on the tables. Due to their efforts, stores that accept SNAP benefits must stock 28 healthy food options as opposed to the previous requirements of just 11. The increase creates more room

for local farmers to stock their products and she adds, "there is no make America healthy again without our agriculture producers and our great American farmers and ranchers."

Rollins then addressed some of the areas of focus in the upcoming months saying that she is working with President Trump on finding ways to reduce the cost of inputs for farmers, such as fertilizer, insurance, machinery and pesticides. Acknowledging the conflict with Iran is creating issues with costs right now, she talked about developments domestically that she hopes will help farmers. This fall, the largest ammonia plant in the world is slated to open its doors in Louisiana with another new plant opening soon in Indiana. "We've got dozens and dozens and dozens of projects around this country so we can reshore fertilizer and bring it closer to you and you'll begin to see as we build that greater input independence the costs come down."

She concluded on a strong note

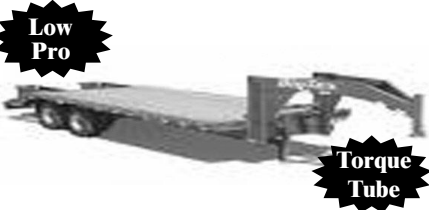
with her final message to the Farmfest crowd being, "Everything I've talked about today is all in support of the same mission, and that is keeping our farmers in control of their farms, their futures, their children's and grandchildren's futures. What you represent today is freedom for all Americans, because if our food supply and our farms are not secure, our national security and our very way of life is compromised, and it all begins on your farms."



Photo by Lisa Rau

GN Tandem Dual Flatbed Trailers

Check Our Prices Before You Buy!



25', 28', 32' & 36' in Stock
Stock, Horse, Dump, Cargo,
Tow Dollies, Utility, Flatbed,
Boots, Western Wear

DAHLBERG BOOT & TRAILER SALES
E. Hwy. 12 Willmar • 320-235-4180

Classic Car & Street Rod Interiors



Danube Upholstery & Shoe Repair

- Cars • Boats • Trucks
- Farm Seats
- Convertible Tops



320-826-2150 • Danube, MN

Hours: M-F: 8 am-5:30 pm
Saturday: 9 am-noon

WISHING YOU A HEALTHY AND SAFE HARVEST SEASON!





Bird Island Hawk Creek Mutual insurance company

Contact your local agent today for a review of your farm coverages. Ensure you have the appropriate protection in place before beginning your fall harvest.

Remember, having peace of mind from a trusted source is always the best approach.

 Call Us
320.365.3546

 Visit Our Website
www.bihcm.com

 Our Location
351 Hwy 212 Bird Island MN



MARCUS WELL DRILLING INC.

- Well Drilling • Well Sealing
- Pump Repair • Water Lines
- Constant Pressure Systems

Farm and Residential

320-329-3319 or 320-329-3562

Renville, MN

Professional & Experienced Staff

Olivia Pet Clinic

Where we treat your pet like family

Bobbi L. Kopel, DVM



1605 W. Lincoln Ave.
320-523-5550

Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Local farmer shares history of Birch Coulee

By Pat Buschette
Contributing Writer

For Jerry Weldy of Franklin, Minnesota, history is not a philosophical study of the past, but a matter of heritage.

“I went to a little rural school down the hill from Fort Ridgely Park near Fairfax,” Jerry explained. “In the fall and spring, we would sometimes walk right through Fort Ridgely. I was eight or nine years old and if I didn’t have anything to do on Saturday

or Sunday the staff would have me pick up bottles.”

“There were crowds on weekends,” he explained as he told of families coming to the fort to tour and have a picnic. “I knew many of the families, many who would share their lunch with me. Some days I would go home with a buck and a half from picking up bottles.”

Jerry grew up in a family deeply entrenched in agriculture “I grew up knowing that farming was what I wanted to do.”

At graduation there wasn’t a place in the farming operation for him so he went to the University of Minnesota with the goal of being an ag teacher.

“Before the end of my freshman year I transferred to dairy husbandry earning a Bachelor of Science. Still there was no opportunity for me to farm, so I applied for an assistantship in the graduate department. It came down between me and another guy. The other guy got the job so I took graduate courses.”

An opportunity came in the form of an offer of a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at Beltsville, Maryland. Although he really wanted to farm, he accepted the position, and earned his Master’s Degree.

Three years later he received a letter from his mother, telling him that there would be a place in the farming operation for him. “I didn’t write back – I called,” he said. “The answer was ‘Definitely.’” He returned in 1963 and finished off the year working for his dad and making plans.”

Jerry lives on a farm site that has been in the family for many years. “I knew this would be the farm,” he said as he told of the development of his operation. Because of the buildings in existence, a proposed dairy farm became a hog operation. “Not one building that was here when I started farming exists,” he explained.

“I was always interested in the ruins at Fort Ridgely,” he said. “I don’t know that I really understood a great deal of family history.”

It was about the time I came back from the east coast that I got interested in history,” he explained. “My mother wanted to find her mother’s gravesite and explored many cemeteries until she was successful.”

Jerry didn’t get greatly involved until 12 years ago. “I had collected items of his-

toric interest. They were put on display in New Ulm in 2012. They learned that I was a direct descendant of Joseph LaFramboise, of mixed heritage, the son of Joseph LaFramboise, Sr., a well-known trader.

“I have done bus tours of Fort Ridgely and Birch Coulee for them. I have also done cemetery tours including the pioneer section of the Brown County Cemetery.”

“Most people don’t understand what Birch Coulee was all about,” he said. “Native Americans had two plans; one group to go to Hutchinson and other group to the south side of the river and sack New Ulm. The two groups would then meet in the Sibley County area and cut off supplies to Sibley and the troops.

The group on the south side of the river spotted dust and forgot about New Ulm. “They were more interested in horses and wagons. They attacked at Birch Coulee, a battle that began in the predawn darkness of September 2, 1862 the siege lasting 36 hours. In addition to the loss of human life, 90 horses were killed on the battlefield. When I give my presentation on Birch Coulee, I sometimes subtitle it as “The battle that saved New Ulm.”

“Had they entered into New Ulm, they would have burned the town and taken anything they wanted,” he said. The thought of such a tragic consequence was clear in the solemnity of his account.

Two of Joseph’s half-breed sons were scouts for Sibley. “My grandfather, William Robert LaFramboise, was a boy 15 years at time of battle. He was injured in New Ulm when a stairway broke, requiring him to wear a brace for the rest of his life.”



Photo submitted

Jerry Weldy is pictured here with the museum personnel. Left to right: Darla Gebhard, Research Librarian, Brown County Historical Society; Jerry Weldy; Nicole Elzenga, Executive Director, Renville County Historical Society.

Birch Coulee
Turn to page 12

Buying your Farm Scrap

Scrap Iron, Tin, Wire, Cars, Trucks, Combines, Tractors

Pick Up & Containers Available

ANY FARM EQUIPMENT

Also...Aluminum Cans, Copper, Brass, Aluminum, Radiators, Electric Motors, Batteries **ALMOST EVERYTHING!**



Nelson's Salvage and Towing, Inc.

30806 360th St. Charles W. Nelson
Redwood Falls, MN 1-507-641-3061

Monday thru Friday 8-5
Running Late...Just Give a Call!



South on Hwy 71 Olivia, MN

Ph: (320) 523-1681

- Steel
- Aluminum & Stainless
- Bearings
- PTO Components
- Torches & Tanks
- Pipe Fittings
- Cable
- Hydraulic Hoses & Adapters
- Bolts – By the Pound
- Roller Chain & Sprockets

- Welding Supplies
- Hydraulic Adapters
- PVC Plastic Pipe & Fittings
- Log Chain, Hooks & Binders
- Welding & Repair
 - Steel
 - Stainless Steel
 - Aluminum
 - Portable Welding
 - CNC Plasma capabilities



INSURE YOUR FARM



Paul Johannes
Licensed Agent



Visit us at
www.johannesagency.com



Alanna Dean - Kalenberg
Licensed Agent

Johannes Agency, Inc.

127 9th St. S., Olivia, MN 56277
Phone: 320-523-1150

Larkin Tree Care & Landscaping, Inc.



- Tree & Shrub Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Landscape
- Design/Installation
- Pavers, Retaining Walls
- Emerald Ash Borer Injections

Insured - Licensed

Doug Larkin
Arborist

Christa Larkin
Designer

(320) 329-3855

Renville, MN

Larkintreelandscape.com

Service 24/7

For all your **Electrical** needs!

Sullivan's Electric



320-329-3830

Jim Sullivan

82535 County Road 6

Renville, MN 56284

Fax: 320-329-3210

Email:

sullivanselectric@yahoo.com



- Automobile Accessories
- Full Upholstery Shop
- Signs & Lettering

Hours-M-F • 8 - 5:00

SAT - by Appt.

320-826-2535

Danube, MN



Finish Line
S E E D, Inc.

76374 380th St.

Bird Island, MN 55310

320-365-3674

www.finishlineseed.com



HOME TOWN
BANK

LOCAL PEOPLE.

LOCAL SERVICE.

Home Loans | Auto Loans

Ag Loans | Commercial Loans

Call today! (320) 523-2040 | Visit us! 1115 W Lincoln Avenue, Olivia MN 56277

myHT.BANK FDIC

HARVEST COMES FIRST.



LEAVE THE PLUMBING & HEATING TO US.

\$50 OFF ANY SERVICE

*Applies to Services over \$250

*Restrictions Apply. Expires 11/30/2026

Connect With Land Experts Who Care As Much As You Do.

Hertz Farm Management, Inc. has partnered with farmland owners for over 80 years. Combining **local, personal attention** with proven farmland real estate, appraisal, & farm management services, Hertz helps you make confident, informed decisions.

507-345-LAND (5263)

151 Saint Andrews Ct, Suite #1310

Mankato MN 56001



Hertz
Farm Management, Inc.



www.Hertz.ag

Don't let home and shop repairs get in the way of a successful harvest. We have you covered!

NORTHERN SERVICES



PLUMBING - HEATING - COOLING - DRAIN CLEANING

(320) 523-5862

WWW.NORTHERNSERVICESTODAY.COM

CONSIDERING
AN AUCTION?

Contact us today!

ALLEN HENSLIN
(320) 979-1808

LADON HENSLIN
(320) 894-5959



WE SPECIALIZE IN FARMLAND & EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS!

For upcoming farmland & equipment auctions
visit: www.henslinauctioneers.com



Let Us Take Care of Your HARVEST REPAIRS

Full Millwright Repair Service



- Fabrication Shop
- Metal Sales
- Portable Welding

Motor, Gearbox , Bearing, and Leg Belt Repair and More!



*Call us for all your 2027 New
Construction and Repair Projects*

320-552-2749

Equipment Financing Available

Elite Ag Systems, Inc. | 54312 County Rd. 11 | Buffalo Lake, MN. 55314
www.eliteagsystems.com | chad@eliteagsystems.com

The Renville County Shopper and
Register are now online at
RCRegister.com

Soil pH: Changing the pH balance of your soil may be the key to saving your trees Continued from page 2

Baumgartner’s working theory is that the town was getting a free, invisible supplement for decades. Sulfur in diesel and other fuels left the tailpipe, washed out of the air, and supplied a thin, steady layer of acidification — enough, he believes, to keep yard soils from fully reverting to their high-calcium default. After sulfur was stripped from fuels to clean the air, the pH level began to rise. Farmers addressed it with fertilizer. City trees did not.

The larger fact underneath that idea is not controversial. Atmospheric sulfur deposition in the Midwest has fallen sharply as power-plant and vehicle emissions were controlled. Across much of the Corn Belt, fertilizer sulfur has risen as the free fallout disappeared. In other landscapes, researchers have documented soil pH drifting upward as sulfur deposition declined.

While the aforementioned is considered settled science, Baumgartner’s leap in logic

certainly makes sense, but is not exactly peer reviewed. Still, he is confident enough with his own analysis and subsequent sulfur application trials, that he’s ready to spread the word on how to save scores of community trees.

“I’ll say my pH is eight to some of the older farmers, and they’ll exclaim, ‘What?’ in disbelief,” he said, adding: That’s because it never was that high in the past.”

Treatment, in Baumgartner’s view, has two speeds.

The long play is elemental sulfur. Soil bacteria oxidize it and produce acid. Presently, he has applied some 1,600 pounds per acre — about \$160 of sulfur across 11,100 square feet — aiming to pull the top six inches from roughly 8 down toward 7. Most of a tree’s nutrition, he notes, comes from that shallow layer. High-calcium ground will keep trying to go back. Re-treatment will be needed.

The short play is chelated iron, specifically the EDDHA form that stays available in alkaline soil. He mixes a teaspoon to a gallon, waters it in, and also sprays foliage. A \$25 canister has covered his lot and his aunt’s. He would not call it expensive. The product is rust-red, as iron should be. Within a season he has watched yellow shrubs go green, white

leaves pick up color, and new growth come in darker after a heavy bout of rain.

Baumgartner said he waited to talk publicly until he was able to try the solution himself. “I’m seeing a result, no question. Now I’m comfortable sharing it.”

Aquiring soil pH test kits, the Olivia councilman said he ran experiments at both his home along with the a pair of maples at his aunts house. Hydrangeas, sensitive enough that pH can turn their blooms from pink toward blue, was another scorecard. Grass, he suspects, is hungry for the same reason.

As for what individuals should do, the University of Minnesota Extension’s advice and Baumgartner’s backyard experiment point to the same sequence.

First, confirm the pattern: yellow tissue, green veins, worst on new growth. Other problems yellow a tree differently.

Second, test the soil. pH is the question that matters. If it is north of 7.5, ordinary iron products and the wrong chelates will disappoint.

Third, choose plants that tolerate alkaline, calcareous soil when starting over. Saving a sick maple is possible. Pretending every catalog tree belongs here is how the problem repeats.

Fourth, if the tree is worth the work, use EDDHA chelated iron for a fast response — soil drench at the dripline, foliar spray as a supplement — and elemental sulfur if the goal is to change the chemistry rather than only feed the symptom. Foliar green-up can be quick. New leaves that emerge later will fade again unless

the soil changes. Sulfur is slow. Bacteria have to eat it. Baumgartner figures a year or more before the acidification fully shows.

While none of this is a cure for Dutch elm disease or emerald ash borer, it does offer a solution for many otherwise viable trees.

“If there are other people like me that would like to save trees, that’s what’s going on,” said Baumgartner. “I would hate to lose more tree coverage in the city.”



Hydrangea leaf with moderate iron chlorosis.



Photos by Matt Baumgartner
Maple leaf with severe iron chlorosis.

SCHWEISS

DOORS

HYDRAULIC —OR— BIFOLD

ONE-PIECE DOORS STRAP LIFT DOORS

507-575-4999

AG DOORS SHOP DOORS

SCHWEISSDOORS.COM

Free Estimates
(320) 796-0686

NISSEN

SLABJACKING INC.

CONCRETE
RAISING
& SEALING

NISSENSLABJACKING.COM

PROUD.
PASSIONATE.
PROTECTED.

At Farm Bureau we believe strong working relationships should be rewarded. That’s why, when you switch to our coverage, you could be eligible for the **Ag Advantage and Ag + Rewards** discounts that can continue to grow over time.

Contact us today to get started on a customized plan for your ag operation.

Scott Fransen*, Agent
Scott.Fransen@fbfs.com

Whitney Stock, Sales Associate
Whitney.Stock@fbfs.com

Sheree Halvorson, Sales Associate
Sheree.Halvorson@fbfs.com

Jacob Backlund, Sales Associate
Jacob.Backlund@fbfs.com

800 E. DePue, Ste. A, Olivia, MN | 320.523.2722

FARM BUREAU
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company,** Western Agricultural Insurance Company,** Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company**/West Des Moines, IA. Individual must be a registered representative of FBL Marketing Services, LLC to discuss securities products. Individual must be licensed with issuing company to offer insurance products. *Affiliates. **Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-AG-A(3-24)

OLIVIA

LIQUOR STORE

Hours:
Mondays - Thursdays, 9:30am - 9pm
Fridays & Saturdays, 9:30am - 10pm
Sundays, 11am - 4pm

802 E. Lincoln Avenue
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2730

DAILY SPECIALS:

Monday - Senior Day 60+, 10% off
Tuesday - Double Points
Wednesday - Wine Wednesday, 10% off all wine
Thursday - Military Day, 10% off
Friday - 10% off all 375's

"We're on your way home!"



Jon, Nate & Jeff Ammermann

Renville & Grove City
320-329-3267



BECK'S

We at Beck's Hybrids would like to wish all the area farmers a **SAFE and **SUCCESSFUL** Harvest!**





GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES, SEASON AFTER SEASON.

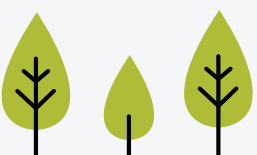
Harvest is a time to look ahead. We're proud to support the families, farms, and businesses that keep our communities strong.

Call or visit one of our convenient branch locations or visit citizensalliancebank.com.



KEEP SAFETY A PRIORITY ON YOUR FARM.

Together, let's make sure we all stay safe as farmers work to deliver another harvest.





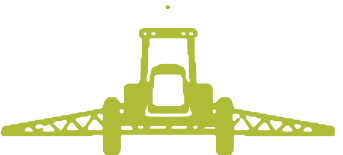
Be aware when operating farm equipment.



Be aware of silo gas when placing or chopping corn silage.



Go over important rules to help keep kids safe.



Take care as you travel on rural roads.



Know your PTO: Never step across a rotating power shaft.



Take breaks and get the right amount of rest.

Get the Building You've Always Wanted





Mark and Michell Harder Construction
(320) 522-1695
<https://harder-construction.com/>
Residential & Commercial Construction
License #BC807988

GO UN CONVENTIONAL



BASS CONVENTIONAL HYBRIDS

www.BASShybrids.com

Better tolerance to heat and water stress
Better staygreen
Biology-friendly
Native insect tolerance
Suitable for use with cover crops

STRENGTH FOR every SEASON

AgCountry Farm Credit Services provides operating loans, rural home loans, real estate financing and equipment loans and lease as well as services for tax planning and preparation, farm accounting, appraisal, crop insurance and succession and retirement planning.



Olivia, MN
320-523-1216
or 800-450-1216



AgCountry
Farm Credit Services

www.agcountry.com • Follow us on social media





FM BANK

Experience the Advantage®

Generational farming is not only found on the farm, but in the office as well. Come see FM BANK Ag Lenders who understand agriculture.





Erik Peterson
President



Matt Aarons
Assistant Vice President

Olivia 320-523-1111 / MYBANKFM.COM



Birch Coulee: The history behind Fort Ridgely and the battle at Birch Coulee Continued from page 5

Unfortunately, the \$71,000 in gold and silver that was intended to fulfill the treaties, but now late, arrived the next morning. Weldy said a stagecoach arrived with \$71,000 in gold and silver annuity payments that were stored in a lower part of the large stone barracks. Ultimately the funds, intended for Native Americans were used to pay deprecation claims of which there were hundreds. These claims were made by settlers and merchants for lost supplies, or horses and wagons sold to troops.

The siege of Fort Ridgely and battles for New Ulm became the turning point of the war. After those battles, the Dakota suffered several defeats and many were either killed or captured.

There are many issues of timing and judgment that could have made an enormous impact on the tragic outcome. Because of the close interpersonal connection with the Native Americans, it is believed that the tragedy could have been alleviated.

When Joseph was 12 years of age, his mother took him to Montreal to be educated. He, in turn arranged for the education of his children at Traverse de Sioux at St. Peter. When letters went back and forth between Sibley and Little Crow, Julia, daughter of Joseph, translated both letters.. Later, when Sibley came to Camp Release where captives were held, he asked who did the translations. When told it was Julia, he said, "I should have known it was her, because Joseph was so well educated. "While Joseph wrote primarily in French, he spoke English, Ojibwe, Dakota and French," Jerry said. Julia died at age 29 from tuberculosis.

The LaFramboise family was deeply involved with the combatants on both sides of the war. Joseph LaFramboise, who died in 1856 was instrumental in negotiating treaties, and Chief Sleepy Eye, also respected and not afraid to speak his mind, died in 1857. The 1858 treaty was a regrettable decision in which Dakota elders that gave up the northern half of their lands. If both leaders were alive at the time the treaty of 1858 was signed, the result may well have been more productive.

Jerry's contribution to the knowledge of Minnesota history is considerable as he volunteers at the Nicollet County Historical Society in St. Peter, The Renville County Historical Society in Morton, the Brown County Historical Society in New Ulm, the Fairfax, Minnesota Depot Museum, and the Fairfax Cardinals Museum located on the grounds of Memorial Park in Fairfax.

Renville County Historical Society's Executive Director, Nicole Elzenga referred to him as a "fount of knowledge." "If he doesn't know something he will find out," she said. "Every time I talk with him I learn something – I wish I could download his knowledge." Not only a generous benefactor, he has provided programming including presentations and tours to Birch Coulee and Fort Ridgely.

Darla Gebhard, Research Historian at Brown County Historical Society is effusive in her praise for the knowledge and many contributions Jerry makes to the understanding of history. "He works in the

archives when needed, does walking tours, is on a rotation schedule of the archives, is a docent on the third floor of the museum, participates in a series called "Lunch and a Bite of History" where he has spoken on several topics, and does historical bus tours."

As Research Historian, Gebhard went on to express her appreciation for the impact of the LaFramboise family.

"During the fur trade of the 1830-1850, settlers were trying to determine where to site a settlement." She said. "Joseph advised them to choose a site where the Cottonwood River flows into the Minnesota River. That is why New Ulm is located where it is," she said acknowledging the many ways in which the LaFramboise family shaped the early days of Minnesota and their assistance during the Dakota war.

Jerry's concern for the preservation of history has become focused. "Collecting artifacts is important, but the written word is far more important. It is important to learn from both sides of the issue. Some of the best things I have seen are what Native American or mixed blood people wrote after the war."

Fort Ridgely remains an important part of Jerry's family and of his lifetime experience. His great grandfather was the treasurer on the Board of Directors of the privately owned cemetery. He follows the tradition, and is now the treasurer. Fort Ridgely Cemetery will be his final resting place.



Photo by Pat Buschette

Jerry Weldy's great grandparents, William R. and Harriet LaFramboise

**PALMYRA FARMERS
MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

**Palmyra provides coverage for the
FARM and HOME to area residents and
surrounding communities**

Our independent insurance agents can assist you in
developing an insurance policy tailored
to you specific needs and concerns.

**Whether purchasing a home, moving, introducing
new assets to your farming operation
or simply to ask a question:**

**Contact a Palmyra Farmers Mutual Insurance agent today
– because if it matter to you, it matters to us.**

**507-557-2221
1-800-662-2252**

**373 2nd Ave E
P.O. Box 128
Franklin, MN 55333**



**WIX
FILTERS**

**FALL FARM/FLEET
FILTER SALE**

SEPTEMBER 14-30th, 2026



BEST PRICES OF THE SEASON ON PREMIUM WIX FILTERS!

Stop in, check us out and grab a flyer for specials on all kinds of popular
items for your vehicles & equipment to help make the fall harvest season
go as smoothly as possible.

BIRD ISLAND AUTO VALUE

**620 Highway Avenue, Bird Island, MN
(320) 365 3871**



**WEATHERING
THE STORMS
SINCE 1893.**

More than four generations of farmers have trusted Farmers Mutual Hail.
That's just one reason we're the respected leader in the industry.
Want more reasons? Call your local Farmers Mutual Hail agent.

Keith L. Scott Agency

**Keith Scott • Andrea Swenson • Kristina Walker
130 S. 8th St • Bird Island, MN 55310
320-365-3400 • 1-320-579-0552**

LOOK FOR THE CLOUD
FARMERS MUTUAL HAIL INSURANCE COMPANY

Ag Outlook: Biofuels and crop markets

By Ross Okins
Staff Writer

The current condition of the farming economy, federal agricultural legislation and the future of biofuels were among the topics discussed during the 2026 Minnesota Farmfest Ag Outlook panel.

The panel featured Dr. Frayne Olson, an agricultural economist and crop marketing specialist out of North Dakota State University; Dr. Faith Parum, an economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation; Brian Werner, executive director of the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association; and Mark Schultz, a senior marketing analyst with North Star Commodities.

During the opening of the forum, Dr. Olson described the current farm economy as a "tale of two cities," with grain producers facing tighter margins while portions of the livestock industry, particularly cattle producers, remain in a stronger financial position. He noted that industry averages do not always show which producers are experiencing the greatest financial strain.

According to Dr. Olson, some agricultural lenders needed to use creative financing or restructure existing debt to provide operating loans during the spring.

Producers who recently completed a major expansion and farms currently undergoing a transition between generations may be among the most vulnerable heading out of 2026 and into 2027.

Young farmers can also fall into that category because they frequently begin with a limited asset base and must take on debt while establishing their operations. Farm transitions can create similar concerns because many transition plans were created under stronger market conditions and may now need to be reconsidered.

Production expenses remain another concern for crop producers. Dr. Olson estimated that approximately half of a farm's expenses may be tied to overhead costs such as land and machinery, which can be difficult to reduce.

Other expenses include seed, fertilizer and chemicals, although reducing those expenses too significantly can lower a farm's yield potential.

Dr. Olson and Dr. Parum both stated that they did not expect fertilizer prices to decline significantly before the next growing season.

Olson said fall fertilizer prices may remain similar to current levels, while prices could increase again by spring. Federal legislation was also a major portion of the

panel's discussion.

Dr. Parum said portions of the agricultural safety net were addressed through previously approved legislation, including increased reference prices and changes to crop insurance. However, Farm Bill provisions involving agricultural research, loan limits and conservation programs still needed to be completed.

Trade policy also remains important to the agricultural economy. With Canada and Mexico remaining the two largest agricultural trading partners for the United States, Parum said the upcoming review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement would need to preserve agricultural access to those markets.

Schultz said additional trade agreements would benefit corn and soybean markets. Export demand remains important, although weather and production levels in the United States, South America and Europe will continue to influence prices.

Schultz said the crop he observed while traveling through Iowa and Minnesota was among the most uniform he had seen during his 35 years of attending Farmfest.

However, he cautioned that a strong-looking crop can still lose yield if rainfall ends too early. Conditions were noted to be less favorable farther west, particularly in portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Schultz noted that agricultural markets remain cyclical and said better prices could follow, although weather, crop size and trade activity will determine how quickly the market improves.

The expansion of biofuel demand was viewed as another opportunity to support corn and soybean producers. Werner said corn use for ethanol increased during the summer due to strong production margins, export demand and volatility within international energy markets.

E15, commonly marketed as Unleaded 88, contains 15 percent ethanol and has been approved for passenger vehicles from model year 2001 and newer. Werner said the fuel is currently available at 556 Minnesota retailers.

Federal regulations continue to restrict E15 sales during portions of the summer. Werner said permanent year-round sales would not require retailers to offer E15 or motorists to purchase it.

Instead, the legislation would allow retailers to sell the fuel throughout the year and provide consumers with an additional

choice.

The U.S. House had already approved legislation allowing permanent year-round E15 sales prior to the forum.

Werner said the Minnesota House delegation unanimously supported the measure and noted that similar language had been included in the Senate's Farm Bill proposal.

However, oil industry disagreements involving small refinery exemptions have prevented the proposal from receiving final approval.

A survey completed for the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association found that 68 percent of Minnesotans supported permanent year-round E15 sales.

Werner said approval would provide additional demand for Minnesota corn, support rural jobs and allow more money spent on fuel to remain within the Midwest.

Future biofuel demand may also extend to maritime shipping and sustainable aviation fuel. Olson said corn and soybeans will increasingly be viewed as both feed and fuel crops, although additional infrastructure will be needed before those markets reach their full potential.

The possible effect of artificial intelligence on family farms was also raised during the panel. Olson said he did not believe AI would lead to the end of the family farm. Current agricultural equipment already uses artificial intelligence to identify weeds and determine where herbicide should be applied.

Olson described adoption of the technology as an evolution rather than a sudden revolution.

As the panel concluded, Parum encouraged farmers to contact federal lawmakers about the Farm Bill and permanent year-

round E15 legislation. Werner summarized his closing message with the statement, "E15 now," while Schultz said producers should remember that agricultural markets move through cycles.

Olson closed by encouraging corn and soybean producers to remain patient while managing the current financial pressure.

"Hang in there," Olson said. "Things will get better. Better times are coming. You've got to make sure that you get through this low spot."

Even with challenges facing the agricultural industry, one thing was made clear by the expert panel, Minnesota's growing conditions continue to be one of the best in the nation, and a bright future will be led by those who take care of the land and animals.

Join the crowd

**Jeff Huseby
Insurance, LLC**

**Farm, Fire, Wind, Liability,
Hail, Multi Peril, Auto,
Commerical**

 **GRINNELL
MUTUAL**

**Sacred Heart
320-765-2909**



*Every Farm is
Different.*

SO IS OUR COVERAGE.

We offer farm insurance from multiple providers so it fits your operation. Contact us and you'll understand exactly what you're buying.

**HarmoningAgency.com/Farm
(507) 557-7000**



HARMONING AGENCY
A FARMERS UNION AGENCY

*Celebrating
26 Years*

**Joel Harmoning - Agent, Certified Insurance Counselor
Shylyn Lothert - Agent, Office Manager**

Harvest Is Just Around the Corner
Make sure all your investments are in order
before the busy season starts
Stop in for a visit!

**H HEBRINK
M WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Cory A. Hebrink
Registered Rep.
320-523-5124



828 East Lincoln Avenue, Olivia, MN 56277
(320) 523-5124 ♦ Fax (320) 523-5973 ♦ Cell 320-894-7203
www.hebrinkwmm.com ♦ Email cory@hebrinkwealth.com

Securities and investment advisory services offered through **Osaic Wealth, Inc.** Member FINRA/SIPC **Osaic Wealth** is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of **Osaic Wealth**.

Give us a call for all your Seed needs!



212
SEED & AG, INC.

Kirk, Jason,
Dana
& Tyler



PIONEER



CORTEVA

Sacred Heart & Bird Island
320-979-5168



**Willmar
Aerial
Spraying,
Inc.**

Professional Crop Care Done by Air

Richard Sigurdson

Office Cell

320-523-2186 320-979-8326

P.O. Box 169
Olivia, MN 56277



F&M
Insurance
EXPERIENCE THE ADVANTAGE®
Complete Insurance Services

www.fminsmn.com

**We offer a full line of Farm Ag
Products & Services!**

Heidi Mack ~ Heidi@fminsmn.com
Jammie Schneider ~ Jammie@fminsmn.com
Olivia • 320-523-1694



Saunders Mertens Schmitz, PA
Accountants and Advisers

Laurie Schmitz Dawn Mertens
Rachel Dahl Kelly Hagen

320-365-4620
Bird Island, MN

**Diversify your Farm
with Navy & Black
Beans!**





ADM

Contact our Olivia Plant
for Navy & Black Bean
Seed & Contract
Information
Robb Zenk
320-523-1637



**YOUR PARTNER IN AGRICULTURE
EVERY SEASON, EVERY REASON**

At Greater Community Credit Union we understand the hard work, dedication, and passion it takes to keep our farms thriving. From planting to harvest and every step in between, we're here with the financial tools and support you need to grow your future.

RENVILLE
208 N MAIN ST.
320-329-3152
GREATERCCU.COM



**Greater
Community
CREDIT UNION**

Federally Insured by
NCUA 

Stop by our Showroom to get ideas for your home!



Gas Inserts
Gas Fireplaces
Gas & Wood Stoves

Brick & Stone
Mantels
Outdoor Fireplaces

Gas Firepits
Wood Fireplaces
Installation



Now is the time to prepare for Winter !
Call 507-337-3473 to make an appointment



TODAY'S
FIREPLACE & SPA
Recipient of 2023 Kozy Heat Excellence Award

511 S. Hwy 23 • Marshall, MN 56258
507.337.3473

LITZAU

FARM DRAINAGE & DIRECTIONAL BORING



WE LAY PIPE... No Job too big or too small.

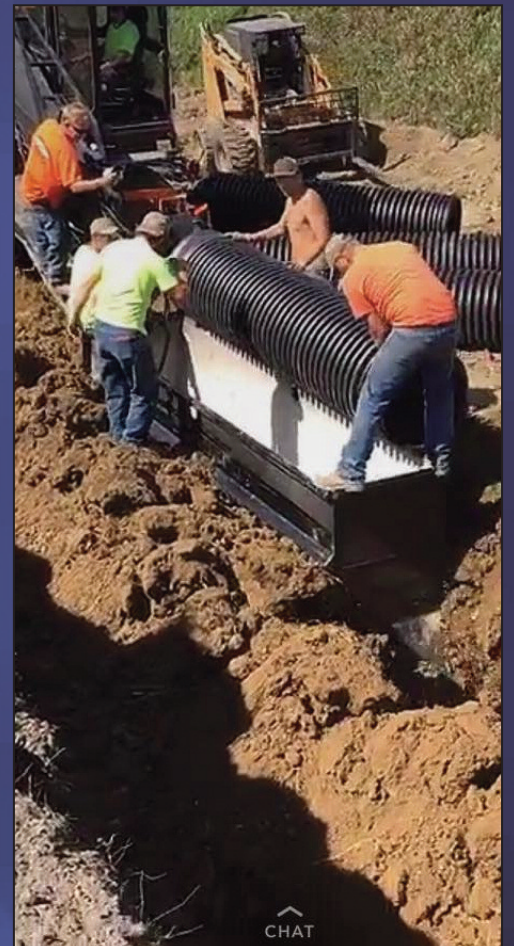


FARM DRAINAGE Since 1972

- Water Management
- Tiling Fields
- Roads & Parking lots
- 3"-24" boots
- Plowing hdpe pipe
- Lagoons
- Best equipment to do the best job!
- Repair crew

DIRECTIONAL BORING

- Geothermal
- Waterline
- Electric line
- Boring roads
- Boring hdpe pipe
- On grade specializing
- Bore from 4" and up
- Anywhere you don't want to dig!



WE WORK 7 DAYS A WEEK WHEN YOU NEED US!

**14101 60th Ave SE
Atwater, MN 56209
320-905-8645**