

AGBRIEFS

AgState Announces Agronomy Warehouse Expansions

CHEROKEE, Iowa - AgState is excited to announce the expansion of its Emmetsburg and Fonda agronomy businesses with the addition of new seed and chemical storage warehouses. This investment underscores AgState’s long-term commitment to strengthening our agronomy services, supporting local communities, and building value for our member-owners.

Groundbreaking at both locations is scheduled for the summer of 2025, with estimated project completion by the end of the calendar year. “These expansions are about more than just added storage—they’re about preparing for the future,” said Sara Meadows, VP of Agronomy for AgState. The new warehouses will increase efficiency and capacity, allowing AgState to deliver products and services more effectively during peak agronomy seasons. The improvements also represent a reinvestment into the local economy and into the long-term strength of the cooperative.

Improve Vegetable System Weed Management with Tarping

New resource from ISU Extension and Outreach outlines using tarps in vegetable growing

AMES, Iowa – Managing weeds is one of the greatest challenges for vegetable growers, accounting for significant yield loss each year. While cultivation and herbicide use can combat weed growth, over time, these methods can cause soil erosion issues and human health concerns.

A new resource from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offers guidance on an excellent weed management alternative: tarping.

“Tarping to Improve Weed Management and Reduce Tillage in Vegetable Systems” outlines methods of tarping use and provides information on tarp implementation and installation. Publication co-author and graduate research assistant in the ISU Department of Horticulture, Carly Strauser, noted its benefits.

“Tarps can provide many of the same functions tillage does, such as killing weeds or decomposing cover crops, making it great for no-till systems. They are a great investment for growers and are relatively inexpensive because they are multifunctional and can be used for multiple years,” she said.

The resource also demonstrates the effectiveness of two tarping processes: occlusion and solarization.

Occlusion aims to kill weeds by blocking access to sunlight with a black and white tarp, which prevents weeds from photosynthesizing. Solarization uses a clear tarp to create a warm environment, killing weeds due to excess heat.

Ajay Nair, professor and chair of the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University, shared the findings of the study in the resource.

“Spring temperatures in the north central United States are typically not warm enough to terminate weeds via solarization,” he said. “Clear tarp treatments and no-tarp control treatments required cultivation to terminate weeds prior to planting the cash crop, whereas black and white tarps did not.”

The four-page publication is available for download through the ISU Extension Store.



Two tarping processes, occlusion and solarization, use black, white, and clear tarps to control and eliminate weeds.

Update for Veterinarians Program to Be Held June 26

The 2025 Update for Veterinarians program will take place on June 26 at the McNay Research Farm near Chariton. The annual Iowa State University Extension and Outreach program offers timely information and education for large and mixed animal veterinarians with a focus on beef cattle production. Practitioners who work with cattle will hear from Iowa State University experts on vitamins, heifer development, colostrum, dung beetles and parasitology according to Chris Clark, beef field specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach and program organizer.

The morning session will begin with a presentation from Garland Dahlke, nutritionist and research scientist with the Iowa Beef Center and Department of Animal Science at Iowa State.

Randie Culbertson, assistant professor and cow-calf specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will follow with a session on heifer development, highlighting a recent ISU research project. Megan Hindman, clinical associate professor in the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, will present on colostrum and share a recent ISU research project on dung beetles. Lastly, Matt Brewer, associate professor in the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, will discuss topics in parasitology.

View and download the Vet Update brochure for a complete agenda and registration information. Preregistration is open until June 20 at a cost of \$50 per person. On-site registrants are welcome and can pay \$70 beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the event. The price of registration includes admission to the full program, copies of presentation slides and lunch.

Please mail the registration form found in the brochure, along with payment, to the ISU Extension and Outreach Lucas County Office in Chariton. Alternatively, registration can be completed by calling the Lucas County Extension Office at 641-774-2016. Five and a half hours of continuing education credits have been requested through the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine. For more information, contact Chris Clark by phone at 712-250-0070 or by email at c.clark@iastate.edu.

Pasture Walk features tips for successful grazing

by Helen Parks, Marketing Coordinor at ISU

Orange City, Iowa —Pasture is a longtime and significant part of Iowa agriculture and is a critical component of the state’s agricultural landscape. To help producers make the most of these essential resources, ISU Extension and Outreach offers pasture walks that provide an invaluable opportunity to explore real-world examples of pasture management in action. These events provide a hands-on learning experience where livestock producers can assess pasture health, exchange ideas, and discover innovative practices that enhance productivity and animal well-being.

Northwest Iowa cow-calf and stocker operators are invited to a Pasture Walk on July 10 at the Justin Boersma farm, 4347 390th St., Hospers, IA. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper, followed by a program from 6:00- 8:45 p.m. featuring how to get started and manage grazing as well as a first-hand look at how Boersma grazes 30 head of stocker cattle on 16 acres of mixed grasses.

“Successful grazing involves careful planning and timely management,” said Beth Doran, beef specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “It’s more than just turning the cows out.”

The Pasture Walk will feature knowledgeable speakers discussing the following topics:

- Setting up a watering system –Erik Scott, Cobett Waterers
- Establishing fencing for grazing – Brad Ketchum, Gallagher Fencing
- Determining grazing capacity – Andrew Koehlmoos, USDA NRCS – O’Brien County
- Restoring over-grazed pastures – Patrick Corey, USDA NRCS – Crawford County
- USDA pasture improvement funding – Troy Davelaar, USDA NRCS – Lyon County
- Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance – Farm Bureau Financial Services

There is no charge for the Pasture Walk thanks to support from ISU Extension and Outreach and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Lyon, O’Brien, Osceola, and Sioux County.

Learn more at go.iastate.edu/PASTUREWALK. Register by July 2 by calling Sioux County Extension at 712-737-4230 or emailing doranb@iastate.edu. Participants should bring a lawn chair and dress for the outdoors and pasture walking.

Cybersecurity initiative protects Iowa farmers, rural businesses

AMES, Iowa – In an era when cyber threats are becoming increasingly sophisticated, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach launched the Cybersecurity for Iowa Farmers and Rural Businesses project to help protect rural communities’ digital infrastructure.

The initiative was dedicated to educating farmers and others on best practices to safeguard digital assets, financial records and sensitive farm data.

Farming operations now rely heavily on technology, from precision agriculture tools and automated equipment to online financial transactions and cloud-based management software. However, these advances also expose rural businesses to cyber threats, including data breaches, phishing attacks and ransomware. Farmers can learn more about ways to protect their farm business by visiting Ag Decision Maker.

Through a unique partnership with the ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Team and Iowa State’s Center for Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach, the Cybersecurity for Iowa Farmers and Rural Businesses project team aimed to:

- Raise awareness about cybersecurity risks in agriculture.
- Provide practical training and resources for farmers and rural businesses.
- Offer workshops, webinars and informational guides on data protection.
- Promote best practices such as strong password management, regular software updates and recognizing phishing attempts.

In total, the project reached 2,631 farmers through 133 programs and online resources. The project was supported by USDA/NIFA and the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center under Award Number 2021-70027-34694.

Topics that resonated with participants were the importance of using complex passwords, back-up systems and other cyber safety measures to make themselves a hard target, as well as having a plan for when, not if, the farm experiences a cyber event.

The on-site workshops and online resources had a significant impact by raising awareness and sharing proactive measures farmers can take to strengthen cybersecurity. A total of 1,203 farmers attended farmland leasing meetings, and half of the 215 survey respondents planned to implement cybersecurity measures. Courses for Annie’s Project had 61 participants in total. In a follow-up, 90% of surveyed women discussed cybersecurity with their families, and 60% took action to increase cyber safety. Half accessed online resources after the workshop.

One participant began sending a small dollar amount to test online wire transfers before sending larger amounts for loads of cattle. She also began using multi-factor authentication for all online accounts. “Those issues are really important for us, so we don’t have dollars going somewhere they’re not supposed to be,” she commented.

The project has already been recognized nationally for its impact. At the 2025 National Extension Risk Management Education Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, the initiative received the Outstanding Project Award for the North Central Region.

The award was presented to Madeline Schultz, Alexis Stevens and the ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Team, in recognition of their commitment to strengthening cybersecurity awareness across Iowa’s agricultural sector.

Iowa farmers are moving toward more smart farming systems that rely on internet-based systems. This connectivity sets them up for potential cybercrimes that can impact livestock and crop production systems. In addition, there were six Presidential Disaster Declarations in Iowa over the last five years due to severe weather. Power outages and system damage can shut down smart farming infrastructure.

Seeing a continuous need for cybersecurity education, a new project, Crisis Management for Smart Farming Systems on Iowa Farms, aims to address these issues. The grant project is also supported by USDA/NIFA and the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center. The team will support farmers in reducing economic losses due to disruptions of internet-based systems, no matter the cause. Programs will give producers opportunities to practice managing a cyber emergency and provide checklists and other tools to create an emergency preparedness plan for their farm business. For more information, contact Madeline Schultz at schultz@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-0588.

www.chronicletimes.com

LEGAL NOTICE

CHEROKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MAY 19, 2025
The Cherokee Community School District Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025. The meeting was held in the CWSH Library, 600 W. Bluff St., Cherokee, IA.
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.
The Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement were recited.
Moved by Mullins, seconded by Barkley to approve the agenda. All Ayes
Roll call of board members was taken. Present were Brian Freed, Jocelyn Riggert, Jodi Thomas, Jared Barkley, Ray E. Mullins II
Visitors were welcomed. Thomas referenced board policy 213, Public Participation in Board Meetings.
Moved by Freed, seconded by Mullins to approve the consent agenda with the correction noted. All Ayes
•Minutes of the public hearing/regular meeting – 4/21/25 – Correction to the regular meeting minutes removing Madison Probst from the Consent Agenda.
•Monthly Bills
•Financial Statements
•Resignations –Jennifer Marshall - CES Para; Jessica Brees - CWSH Success Coach/Spanish Teacher-Kathy Jochims - School Social Worker; Garrett Hill - Strength & Conditioning Coordinator; Alex Jacobo - IT Assistant; Allie Kruse - CMS Para; Sophia Mujica - CWSH Para; Sara Cargin - CES Para
•Retirements - Cindy Gravenish - CWSH Food Service; Cheryl Peterson - CWSH Guidance Office Secretary; Melissa Wilkie - Food Service
•Internal Transfers – Anna Blankers – CES Secretary to CES Para
•Contract Extensions – Madison Probst - ECLC Preschool Teacher; McKenna Massman - CWSH Social Studies Teacher; Lincoln Seifert - CWSH Social Studies Teacher; Evan

Mattioda - CWSH/CMS Spanish Teacher; 2025-2026 Extra Curricular Contracts
Principal and Superintendent reports were given.
Moved by Mullins, seconded by Freed to affirm policies 305 - Administrator Code of Ethics; 306 - Succession of Authority to the Superintendent; 400 - Role of and Guiding Principles for Employees; 401.1 - Equal Employment Opportunity; Employee Conflict of Interest; 401.3 - Nepotism; 401.4 - Employee Complaints; 401.5 - Employee Records; 401.5R1 - Employee Records - Regulation; 401.6 - Limitation to Employment References. All Ayes
Shauna Henke shared information concerning Live School; a platform that allows middle school teachers to track behaviors, motivate students and help promote a positive culture.
May is school board appreciation month. The board was thanked for their time, dedication and service to the school district.
The board was given information regarding SIMBLI board management software. The software will help aid in efficiency and organization in preparing and distributing board packet materials as well as updating policies. The board will discuss the SIMBLI software at the June board meeting.
Certified and Support Staff Employee Handbooks were shared with the board and will be on the June agenda for approval.
The Activities Handbook was shared with the board and will be on the June agenda for approval.
The board entered into exempt session at 6:06 P.M. to discuss collective bargaining issues.
The board resumed in open session at 6:33 P.M.
Moved by Freed, seconded by Riggert to approve the contract for Tom Ryherd with a 2.8% total package increase with an additional \$3500, year 1 of 3. All Ayes
Moved by Freed, seconded by Mullins to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 P.M.

All Ayes
Regular Meeting – June 16, 5:30 P.M.
President, Board of Education
Cherokee Community School District Secretary, Board of Education
Cherokee Community School District
Cherokee Community School GENERAL FUND
360 Custom Designs, 300.00, Coaches Shirts
Access Systems, 202.50, Tech Service
Ahlers and Cooney, PC, 461.00, Legal Services
American Playground Company, 135.20, Playground Repair
Benson's Sanitation, LLC, 165.00, Garbage
Blaine's Culligan, 1,063.49, Rental/Softner Salt
Blick Art Materials, 219.98, Instr Supplies
Bomgaars Supply, 2,077.85, Supplies
Bringle, Dan, 34.74, Tech Supplies
C-M-L Telephone Cooperative Assoc, 1,095.08, Internet/Phone
Carolina Biological Supply Co, 73.73, Supplies
Catering 2 You, 1,295.00, Climate and Culture
Central Lyon Community School District, 100.00, Conference Application
Champion Electric, 357.79, Outside Labor
Cherokee Candy and Cream Shop, L.L.C., 600.00, Climate and Culture
Cherokee Chronicle Times, 390.44, Publication Expense
Cornwall, Avery, Bjornstad & Scott, 2,050.00, Legal Services
Country Tire and Service Inc., 997.14, Repair Parts/Labor
Creative Services, 1,221.32, Senior Banners
De Vos, James, 68.67, Grad Speech Tryouts
Diamond Vogel, 343.68, Paint
Donovan Group I, 1,000.00, Comm Services-April 2025
Emmettsburg HS Speech, 40.00, Coaches Meeting
Feld Fire, 249.00, Quarterly Alarm Monitoring

Fifty-Nine Grind, LLC, 503.00, Climate/Culture
Hundertmark, 402.66, Supplies
Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc, 238.96, Instr Supplies
Iowa Central Community College, 458.00, Tuition & Fees
Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,338.24, Medicaid
ISFIS, Inc., 42.00, Background Search
Kennedy, Hallie, 106.88, Outside Labor
Lickiss, Becky, 415.00, Pianist
Lundsgaard, Joyce, 482.00, Mileage
Regional Mtg
Marcus Lumber, 296.49, Instructional Supplies
MARTIN BROS. DISTRIBUTING CO., INC., 190.12, Supplies
Medical Enterprises, Inc., 200.00, Transportation & Drug & Alcohol Training
MidAmerican Energy Company, 8,330.33, Electricity
MidBell Music, Inc., 1,836.30, Instr Materials
Midwest Lubricants, Inc., 107.50, Bulk DEF
Midwestern Mechanical, Inc, 395.00, Sprinkler System
MODERN HEATING INC, 100.00, Outside Labor
Motor Parts Sales, 308.47, Transportation Supplies
OABCIG Community School District, 5,000.00, Acoustical Shells
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, 143.00, Zoo trip
One Office Solution, 229.00, Office Supplies
Paulsen, Julie, 86.59, Recertification
Pilot Rock Signs, 936.00, Senior Banners
Plunkett's Pest Control, Inc, 175.00, Pest Control
Quadient Finance USA, Inc., 15.78, Postage
Quadient Leasing USA, Inc, 491.25, Postage Machine Lease
Ron's Repair, Inc., 548.38, Parts & Labor
Sampson, Lisa, 49.96, Book Club Snacks
Sanitary Services, Inc., 2,274.30, Gar-

bage Collection
Schuknecht, Dakota, 343.00, Transportation Mileage
Staples, 1,010.80, Paper Order
Timberline Billing Service LLC, 2,317.98, Medicaid Billing Fee
Time Management Systems, 823.65, Time & Attendance
Valley Glass Co, 1,658.00, Outside Labor
Verizon Wireless, 659.50, Cell Phone Service
VESTIS, 273.87, Mop Service
Western Governors University, 4,025.00, Tuition & Fees
Winona Controls, Inc., 124.00, Equipment Repair
Fund Total, 58,477.62
SELF-INSURANCE FUND
Point C, 3,775.00, Admin Fees
Fund Total, 3,775.00
PHYSICAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT
Access Systems Leasing, 1,001.53, Copier Leases
BigSprinkler.com, 3,360.00, Sprinkler & Shipping
Burke Engineering Sales Co., 190.00, CMS Doors
Midwest Technology Services, LLC, 2,400.00, CMS Doors
One Office Solution, 5,075.00, Library Tables
Plains Boiler Service, 6,905.00, Chill Tower at CMS
Fund Total, 18,931.53
STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND
American Popcorn Co., 192.00, Popcorn & Oil
Anderson, Curt, 200.00, Girls Tomahawk
Awards Unlimited, Inc., 171.39, Tomahawk Relays
Botanicals by Katie, LLC, 445.00, Prom/Tomahawk Royalty
BSN Sports, LLC, 22,158.39, FB Uniforms
CENTER SPORTS, INC, 126.00, Softball Pitching Plates
Chesterman Company, 147.00, CMS Concessions
Creative Services, 289.78, Awards and Plaques
Deer Run Golf Course, 55.00, Girls District golf

DENISON HIGH SCHOOL, 230.00, Track Meet Fees
Emerald Hills Golf Course, 212.00, District golf
Fareway Stores, Inc., 249.91, Prom Supplies
Fry, Mike, 200.00, Official
Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc, 180.29, FFA Supplies
Hy-Vee Pharmacy, 510.40, CMS Flowers
Marcus Lumber, 57.98, Prom Supplies
MARTIN BROS. DISTRIBUTING CO., INC., 374.29, Concessions
MOC/FV Community School, 100.00, MS Track Meet
On Deck Sports, 3,180.42, Baseball fencing
Pilot Rock Signs, 600.00, CMS shirts
Pro Tuff Decals Co Inc, 140.63, Stick-ers Helmets
Puettmann, Katie, 18.36, Prom Supplies
Riddell All American Sports Corp., 1,981.75, Football helmets
Shea, Mark, 200.00, Official
Sibley-Ocheyedan CSD, 240.00, Track Meet Fees
Sones, Linda, 375.00, Girls Tomahawk
Spencer Golf & Country Club, 240.00, Boys Golf Meet
Tesch, Shannon, 800.00, Timer Lynn Jolly Relays
Thompson Propane & Supplies Inc., 65.42, Concession Supplies
Trophies Plus, Inc., 2,753.93, Tomahawk/Co Ed Relays Medals
Fund Total, 36,494.94
SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND
Cherokee Comm School District, 97,908.61, Salary/Benefits
Chesterman Company, 2,655.05, Food Purchases
East Side Jersey Dairy ESJD, 3,774.38, CMS Milk
MARTIN BROS. DISTRIBUTING CO., INC., 26,380.01, Purchased Food
Fund Total, 130,718.05
NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS
Dordt University & Megan Courtwright, 500.00, Burkhardt & Dawson Scholarship
Fund Total, 500.00
(CT06-06/L#3210