

How Mud Affects Livestock

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Spring often brings welcome warmer weather, but it also brings something far less welcome on livestock farms: mud. While it might seem like just a messy inconvenience, mud can have serious effects on cattle health, growth, and overall productivity.

Why Mud Matters

When cattle have to walk through deep, heavy mud, they use significantly more energy—sometimes up to 30% more.

That extra effort burns calories the animals would otherwise use for growth, milk production, or maintaining body condition.

In addition, cattle will often avoid walking through muddy areas to reach feed, which leads to reduced intake and slower gains.

Mud also creates health challenges, especially for young calves. Wet, dirty conditions make it harder for animals to regulate their body temperature. Mud sticks to the hair coat, keeping them chilled, and the damp environment becomes a breeding ground for bacteria. This can lead to issues like foot rot, other lameness problems, and increased exposure of newborn calves to harmful pathogens.

Nursing calves are especially vulnerable if udders become contaminated with mud and manure.

Five Ways to Reduce Mud Problems

As spring arrives and frost disappears, farmers can take steps to limit the impact of muddy conditions on their herds.

1. Reduce the Number of Animals in Muddy Areas

Giving cattle more space can help decrease mud depth and improve conditions. Instead of turning cows out on early pastures—which can damage grass and hurt forage production—consider using crop fields or other firm ground until things dry out.

2. Improve Pen Drainage

Good drainage is one of the most effective tools for preventing mud. Removing snow early, cleaning feeding areas, and maintaining mounds can help moisture run off instead

of pooling. In severe mud situations, adding crushed limestone or another aggregate can restore footing and access.

3. Provide Plenty of Bedding

Cornstalks are often the bedding of choice in Iowa because they're bulky and widely available. They help keep animals dry by allowing moisture to settle underneath. As a general guideline:

- Feedlots and yearlings: 1 pound of bedding per day per inch of mud per head
- Cow-calf pairs: 4 pounds of bedding per day per inch of mud per pair
- Heavy bred cows fall somewhere between those two needs.

4. Manage Bedding Strategically

Place bedding areas away from feed and water sources to prevent animals from gathering—and creating deeper mud—around bunks. Remove soiled bedding often, especially with cow-calf pairs, and rotate where you bed to keep pathogens from building up. For deep bed packs, keep adding clean bedding to maintain a dry top layer.

5. Build a Feeding Pad for Long Term Relief

Although it's a bigger investment, a feeding pad made from packed gravel, lime, or concrete can greatly reduce mud problems. Concrete pads are easier to clean and help capture manure nutrients for later use in crop fields. Both gravel and concrete pads can reduce feed waste and improve cattle comfort.

Fun Fact

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are the **best-selling candy** in the U.S., with \$2.84 billion in sales, and stocked in 97% of grocery stores and 89% of convenience chain stores. Skittles follow with \$1.91 billion in sales, as do Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bars with \$1.76 billion. M&Ms, Starburst, Snickers, and Twizzlers also have high sales.

Source: www.alibaba.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Aurelia Electric Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Aurelia City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Johnson at 4:00 p.m. with roll call as follows:

Present: Johnson, Weathers, Ballantyne, Langschwager, Galvin
Absent:
Also, Present: Cedar, Kai, Alli Svendsen

Motion to approve consent agenda and bills was made by Johnson, second by Langschwager. All members present voting "aye," motion carried. Approved by consent: minutes of previous meetings, financial reports, February receipts of \$82,703.29 and January monthly disbursements of \$105,718.14 and bills payable as follows:

- AgState diesel, gas 313.14
- Aurelia Development Corp park project pledge 5,000.00
- Aurelia Electric January utilities 397.70
- Bomgaars main street light bulbs-flag parts-gloves 161.84
- Cherokee Chronicle Times publish meeting minutes - January 54.74
- Cherokee County Solid Waste commercial garbage landfill charges 583.20
- City of Aurelia February billing (water/sewer/sanitation) 58,560.08
- Elan Financial IAMU workshop-diesel-hotel/meals 856.56
- FP Mailing Solution postage meter monthly fees 55.42
- First Net-AT&T cell phone 50.58
- IAMU 2026-2027 member dues 3,194.00
- Iowa Department of Revenue WET excise tax due 1,970.12
- Iowa Department of Revenue Sales tax + goods consumed tax due 1,601.70

MidAmerican gas service 357.09
Nelson Electric load control installations 795.34
Nuvera phone,fax,internet,long distance 280.51

One Office Solutions paper-envelopes 48.59
Phipps, Bob mini split rebate 377.26
Plunketts pest control at shop 54.91
Verizon Wireless cell phone 38.48
Visual Edge IT copier contract payment 71.96
WIMECA February purchased power 56,494.04
Payroll February payroll 18,088.02
Delinquent accounts were reviewed, and line loss was (.04).

Randy Galvin has been appointed by Aurelia City Council to be a board member of Aurelia Electric Board of Trustees to finish out the term of Roger Redig.

Alli Svendsen, Aurelia Day Care board member, was present to give us updates on the current enrollment, fundraising, donations, planned updates, and financial status of the day care.

Motion to renew our annual sponsorship of Aurelia Golf course with a sign displayed on the course for \$125.00 was made by Ballantyne, second by Weathers. All members present voting "aye," motion carried.

Superintendent Report:
Will be getting a quote for boring to install a new loop by the golf course and bore a new line for a service. We need to hire a new part-time garbage employee and will start advertising for the position.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.
(CT03-20/L#90)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed CHEROKEE Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		
Location of Public Hearing: CWHS Library 600 W. Bluff St. Cherokee, IA 51012	Date of Public Hearing: 4/7/2026	Time of Public Hearing: 05:30 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: csd.k12.ia.us		

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present oral or written objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed budget.

	Current Year Final Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Dollar Levy (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2027
General Fund Levy	3,275,949	3,275,949	3,601,336
Instructional Support Levy	282,208	282,208	270,924
Management	419,614	419,614	394,777
Amana Library	0	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	325,929	325,929	346,586
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	126,537	126,537	134,557
Reorganization Equalization	0	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	0	0	0
Debt Service	382,985	382,985	395,944
Grand Total	4,813,222	4,813,222	5,144,124
	Current Year Final Property Tax Rate FY 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Rate (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Rate FY 2027
Grand Total Levy Rate	12.68982	11.98573	12.81202
	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000/\$110,000	602	628	4.32
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$300,000/\$330,000	2,616	2,932	12.08

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at 150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
Due to low funding increases from the state and mandated special education services, our special education deficit has grown and is paid entirely with property taxes.

(CT03-20/L#20ci)

LEGAL NOTICE

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 with Bryan Petersen, Cheryl Ellis, Dave Skou, Ray Mullins II and Shane Bellefy present. There were no representatives from the press. Jodi Mongan, Colin Paulsen, Phoenix Kerns, Derek Scott, Brian Filkeid, Becky Bloom, Kellen Ludvigson, Stephanie Henrich, Karin Cedar, Sam Boothby, Kelly Puhmann, Maria Schueder and Stu Hogg were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Mullins, Ellis, Bellefy, Skou, Petersen; Nays – one; Abstentions – none.

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Bellefy to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Ellis to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Bellefy to approve the claims for payment as presented. Motion carried. A complete listing is available for review in the County Auditor's office.

Claims Approved March 10, 2026:

- AgState Fuel 2,011.47
- Alliant Energy Serv 2,012.04
- Emily C Ankenman Serv 72.00
- Ascendace Trucks Midwest LLC Parts 1,705.10
- Aurelia Historical Society Approp 625.00
- Aurelia Library Approp 2,392.50
- Aurelia Lumber Co Inc. Supp 581.14
- Aurelia Municipal Utility Serv 169.56
- Jessica D Baker Reimb 35.00
- Barco Municipal Products Inc Supp 1,725.83
- The Barns Horse Drawn Museum Approp 625.00
- Blaine's Culligan Supp 194.60
- Bomgaars Supp 48.41
- CAASA Approp 1,750.00
- Cherokee Area Economic Develop Approp 41,875.00
- Calhoun Burns Associates, Inc Serv 13,204.50
- Campbell Supply Co Parts 803.30
- Central Bank Supp 2,615.33
- Cherokee Chronicle Times Publ 517.34
- Cherokee Co Emergency Services Approp 30,000.00
- Cherokee County EMS Assoc Approp 2,500.00
- Cherokee County Fair Approp 6,250.00
- Cherokee County Hazmat Approp 3,089.50
- Cherokee County Secondary Road Fuel 1,553.67
- Cherokee County Solid Waste Approp 22,688.33
- Cherokee Fire Department Serv 120.00
- Cherokee Library Approp 3,850.00
- Cherokee Regional Medical CTR Approp 140,960.62
- Cherokee Rural Water Serv 218.65
- Cherokee State Bank Flex/Merp Flex/Self Fund 6,034.28
- Cintas Supp 40.82
- City of Aurelia Serv 600.00
- City of Marcus Serv 26.83
- City of Meriden Serv 35.00
- City of Quimby Serv 66.00
- Cleghorn Library Approp 2,392.50
- CML Telephone Coop Assn Serv 2,641.48
- Connections Area Agency Approp 500.00
- Kimberly Dierenfeld Reimb 175.00
- Elan Financial Services Supp 1,298.08

Family Crisis Centers Approp 1,250.00
Fareway Groceries 3,945.31
Fareway Commissary Supp 212.62
Brian Filkeid Serv 2,580.00
FORCE America Distributing,LLC Parts 393.37

Adam Glienke Per Diem 20.00
Gordon Flesch Company Serv 91.78
GovConnection, Inc Supp 473.11
Grand Meadow Heritage Approp 625.00

H & S Electric Serv 150.00
Interstate Battery System Parts 743.10
Iowa Department of Revenue Sales Tax 66.00

Iowa DOT Training 100.00
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Serv 300.00

Jack's Uniforms & Equip Clothing 477.60
Kapp's Fire Extinguisher Sales Serv 149.30

Kaseya US, LLC Serv 11,493.75
Laurens House of Print LTD Supp 443.35

Loffler Companies, Inc. Supp 54.34
Jeff Lundquist Per Diem 20.00

Marcus Ambulance Fund Approp 8,500.00
Marcus Community Fair Approp 1,600.00

Marcus Historical Society Approp 625.00
Marcus Library Approp 2,392.50

Marcus News Inc Publ 320.51
Matheson Tri-Gas Inc Supp 1,258.04
Mid American Energy Serv 2,515.00

MOCIC Mid-States Organized Dues 100.00
Modern Heating & Cooling, Inc Serv 135.62

Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co Parts 398.21
Northside Tire Serv 425.75

Northwest Iowa Assessor's Dues 275.00
Nuvera Serv 65.00

NW Iowa Yes Center Shelter 1,199.30
O'Reilly Auto Parts Supp 49.52

Kent Ohlson Per Diem 25.00
One Office Solution Supp 23.49
Point C Health COE Caf Admin Fees 75.00

Prestox Serv 211.54
Professional Office Services Serv 7.00

Quimby Library Approp 2,392.50
Rees Mack Sales & Service Parts 124.93

Sanitary Services Inc Serv 480.40
SEAT Treasurer Dues & Training Fees 575.00

Secretary of State Notary Dues 30.00
Cody Simonsen Per Diem 20.00

Sioux Valley Family Health Serv 140.00
Siouxland Regional Transit Approp 7,670.25

Snap On Credit LLC Subscription 94.00
Solutions Inc Harris Serv 2,060.82

Barb Steward Serv 300.00
T Mobile Serv 920.51
Triple C Pest Control Serv 80.00

Valley Glass & Framing Co Serv 397.90
Veestra & Kimm Inc Serv 1,043.00

Verizon Wireless Serv 555.69
Vestis Uniforms 86.80
Visual Edge IT VEIT, LLC Serv 275.6

Visual Edge IT INC Serv 294.12
WahlTek Serv 3,750.00
Washta Library Approp 2,392.50

Western Iowa Tech Community Fee 20.00
WHKS & Co Serv 8,869.07

Ziegler Inc Supp 4,999.01
Grand Total 379,118.05

There were no comments from the public.

Kelly Puhmann, County Engineer, presented documents drafted by the county attorney for leasing tillable acres owned by the county and discussed activities in the Secondary Roads Department including staffing needs.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Bellefy to authorize the County Engineer to fill an additional operator position subject to confirmation of a pending resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Bellefy to approve #2026-08 Resolution of Desire to Lease Real Property "WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors for Cherokee County, Iowa, desire to enter into a three (3) year farm lease for the following described real property:

A parcel of land described as being a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE ¼ NW ¼) and a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE ¼ SW ¼) both in Section thirty (30), Township Ninety-three (93) North, Range Thirty-nine (39) West of the 5th P.M., Cherokee County, Iowa, further described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 30; thence South 00°08'20" West on the East line of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 30, a distance of 1321.55 feet to the Southeast corner of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 30, also being a point on the Centerline of a Local County Road; thence South 35°03'54" West on said Centerline, a distance of 379.63 feet to the point of curvature of tangent curve, concave to the Northwest, having a radius of 2399.50 feet and a central angle of 11°28'34"; thence Southwesterly along said curve and said Centerline, a distance of 480.61 feet; thence North 00°08'20" East, a distance 2001.36 feet to a point on the North line of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 30; thence South 89°21'53" East on said North line, a distance of 530.02 feet to the Point of Beginning; said described Parcel A contains a total of 20.51 acres, inclusive of a Public Roadway Easement of 0.66 acres. Said Parcel A is also subject to any and all other Easements of Record.

For the purpose of this Survey, the East line of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 30 is assumed to bear South 00°08'20" West. Said real estate has 18.91 tillable acres.

WHEREAS, Cherokee County Board of Supervisors intends to lease the property to Mike Mummert in the amount of \$285.00 per acre. The lease amount will be subject to an annual review and any potential increase of mining on the property. Any annual lease amount will be reduced by and reduction of the number of acres to be leased, and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County Board of Supervisors believe said lease to be in the best interest of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors for Cherokee County, Iowa, hereby resolves to enter into a three (3) year farm lease of the above-described real estate to Mike Mummert under the terms and conditions listed above.

Further, the Board of Supervisors for Cherokee County resolve that said lease should occur following published

notice as provided in Iowa Code Section 331.305."

Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Skou to set a Public Hearing for Lease of Real Estate in S30-T93-R39 on Tuesday, May 31, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Mullins to approve #2026-09 Resolution of Desire to Lease Real Property

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors for Cherokee County, Iowa, desire to enter into a three (3) year farm (pasture) lease the following described real property:

Parcel "B", a parcel of land described as being a part of Parcel "A" (Doc. #2018-1108, Cherokee County Recorder's Office) of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter (N ½ NW ¼) of Section Fifteen (15), Township Ninety (90) North, Range Forty-one (41) West of the 5th P.M., Cherokee County, Iowa, further described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of said Section Fifteen (15), also being the Northeast corner of said Parcel "A" (the following nine courses are common to said Parcel "A"); thence South 03°28'39" West on the East line of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE ¼ NW ¼) of said Section Fifteen (15), a distance of 1338.33 feet to the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE ¼ NW ¼) of said Section Fifteen (15); thence South 88°01'10" West on the South line of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter (N ½ NW ¼) of said Section Fifteen (15), a distance of 1668.10 feet; thence North 25°54'54" East, a distance of 579.38 feet; thence North 87°41'13" East, a distance of 324.62 feet; thence North 03°59'46" East, a distance of 279.10 feet; thence South 86°53'34" East, a distance of 87.24 feet; thence North 41°46'38" East, a distance of 77.37 feet; thence North 13°01'45" East, a distance of 551.80 feet to a point on the North line of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE ¼ NW ¼) of said Section Fifteen (15); thence South 89°22'32" East on said North line a distance of 3.13 feet; thence South 07°13'51" West, a distance of 374.66 feet; thence South 83°52'32" East, a distance of 290.13 feet; thence South 00°19'49" East, a distance of 129.23 feet; thence South 87°04'32" East, a distance of 455.01 feet; thence North 44°22'52" East, a distance of 159.66 feet; thence North 04°11'23" East, a distance of 432.97 feet to a point on the North line of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE ¼ NW ¼) of said Section Fifteen (15); thence South 89°22'32" East on said North line, a distance of 45.29 feet to the Point of Beginning; said described Parcel "B" contains 28.26 acres and is subject to any and all Easements of record or not.

WHEREAS, Cherokee County Board of Supervisors intends to lease the property to Nathaniel Morgan for a period of three (3) years in the amount of \$50.00 per acre. The lease amount will be subject to annual review and any potential increase of mining on the property. Any annual lease amount will be reduced by any reduction of the number acres to be leased.

WHEREAS, Cherokee County Board of Supervisors believe said

lease to be in the best interest of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors for Cherokee County, Iowa, hereby resolves to enter into a three (3) year farm lease of the above-described real estate to Nathaniel Morgan under the terms and conditions listed above.

Further, the Board of Supervisors for Cherokee County resolve that said lease should occur following published notice as provided in Iowa Code Section 331.305.

Roll call vote: Mullins-aye, Ellis-aye, Bellefy-aye, Skou-aye, Petersen-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Mullins, seconded by Ellis to set a Public Hearing for Lease of Real Estate in S15-T90-R41 on Tuesday, May 31, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Bellefy to authorize the county engineer to hire one temporary seasonal general labor position for 2026 summer projects. Motion carried.

Puhmann reported on construction projects and discussed activities in the Secondary Roads Department.

Derek Scott, County Sheriff, presented a wage authorization for consideration and requested an exception to the county personnel policy.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Skou to approve a \$34.00 per hour wage authorization for Isaiah Isaacs, Full-Time Deputy, effective March 10, 2026 with a benefit exception as follows: 1.) Isaacs will be given 40 hours (1 week) of vacation upon hire date of March 10, 2026 and will not accrue vacation hours per pay period as stated in the employee handbook. 2.) On his first anniversary (3/10/2027), Isaacs shall be given 40 hours (1 week) of vacation and will thereafter follow the vacation schedule as stated in the employee handbook. Motion carried.

Jodi Mongan, County Treasurer, presented a wage authorization and request for abatement of fees on a mobile home.

Motion by Ellis seconded by Skou to approve a \$21.50 per hour wage authorization for Ashley Hault, Treasurer Clerk, effective March 26, 2026 (pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical capacity test) including a wage adjustment on July 1, 2026 to \$22.00 per hour wage. Motion carried.

Motion by Skou, seconded by Mullins to abate accrued interest and penalties on a property located at 1825 530th Street - Lot 71, Cherokee, Iowa (parcel #0580035818) as requested by Colin Paulsen and Phoenix Kerns. Motion carried.

Brian Filkeid, Aurelia/Marcus Chief of Police, and Stephanie Henrich, CAASA Executive Director, presented a proclamation for the board's consideration.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Skou to approve the 2026 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation "WHEREAS, sexual assault can affect all regardless of sex, age, race, cultural, or economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional cost, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can be devastating not only to the survivor,

but also for the family, friends, and community of