



The tenth week of the legislative session kicked off towards the last major legislative deadline. The final “funnel” deadline is this week, narrowing our focus on any legislation that will be considered the rest of this legislative session. This deadline brought a lot of activity within various subcommittees and committees as we worked through the proposals being considered in each chamber.

This week was National Agriculture Week—an annual, week-long event in the United States designed to recognize and celebrate the impact of the agricultural industry on daily life. Farming is the foundation of Iowa’s economy, identity, and infrastructure. Agriculture and related industries account for over 22 percent of Iowa’s total economic output. Iowa is the number one pork and corn producer in the country. In coordination with National Agriculture Week, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association had their Day on the Hill on Wednesday, and we had the opportunity to talk with members about important bills and priorities at the Capitol this year.

The Iowa Cattlemen’s Association (ICA) operates with a core mission to grow Iowa’s beef cattle business through three primary pillars: advocacy, leadership, and education. The programs outlined are designed to improve the profitability and competitiveness of Iowa’s producers by focusing on genetic quality, market transparency, and professional development. Overall, the ICA’s mission is executed through a “gate-to-plate” strategy. By combining high-tech market tools with traditional performance testing and leadership training, the association aims to ensure Iowa remains a premier destination for cattle feeding and production. As we know, Iowa’s agricultural production is diverse, and all aspects play an important role in our economy.

As we worked toward the next legislative deadline, we also had some debate this week. One of the bills we passed was Senate File 2379. This is a bill by our Attorney General, Brenna Bird, and allows victim counselors to share information with law enforcement when there is an immediate risk of serious harm or death to the victim or someone else. It also allows prosecutors and victims to seek no-contact order extensions against people convicted of sex offenses for as long as needed, including for the victim’s lifetime. Additionally, it requires registered sex offenders to notify the sheriff in three days, rather than five, of any change in residence, employment, or vehicle use.

The bill preserves sexual assault examination kits without charge for 20 years, or the lifetime of the victim if the victim is a minor. It ensures prosecutors have tools to keep the public safe if a defendant is found not competent to stand trial nor likely to be restored to competence. The Senate has always been focused on protecting victims, and this bill is one more way we can help support victims as they try to move forward with their lives.

With this additional deadline behind us, the focus now shifts to reconciling these bills between the House and Senate. While the “funnel” narrowed the field, there are still a number of big priorities to find consensus at the Capitol so we can send them to the governor’s desk. If you have questions about activity in the Capitol, about bills that passed or did not, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I rely on your input because everything we do as a General Assembly affects you personally. You can email me at lynn.evans@legis.iowa.gov to voice your support or concerns on upcoming legislation. Visit the legislative website for information about bills important to you or to follow the work of the legislature: www.Legis.Iowa.Gov.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive these weekly updates electronically, please visit <https://iowasenatepublicans.com/senators/lynn-evans/> to sign up for my weekly newsletter.

Upcoming Forums:

- Spencer City Council Chambers
March 28th 9:00am-10:30am
- Storm Lake King’s Pointe Resort
March 28th 11:30am-12:30pm
- April 18th 10:00am-11:00am
- Cherokee Farm Bureau Office
April 11th 10:00am-11:00am

USDA promotes new, voluntary “Product of USA” label

Washington, D.C. – Today, on National Agriculture Day, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the launch of a national public awareness campaign to inform meat, poultry, and egg producers of the “Product of USA” voluntary labeling standard which went into effect on January 1, 2026, and increases consumer understanding of what the label means.

“Our great patriot ranchers and producers grow, raise, and harvest the world’s safest, most affordable, and abundant food supply. American consumers want to support America by buying American and this label will strengthen our food supply chain through transparency, fairness, and trust,” said USDA Secretary Rollins. “This new standard policy ensures producers who invest in a fully American supply chain can compete fairly, and it gives consumers the confidence they deserve about the food they bring home.”

“When we choose to purchase from American produc-

ers, we get a superior product while supporting the hardworking family farms who put it all on the line every day to feed, clothe, and fuel our nation,” said SBA Administrator Loeffler. “Amid President Trump’s work to end years of unfair competition and eliminate the massive red tape that has crushed domestic agriculture, Made in America is finally making a comeback. Today, on National Agriculture Day, I urge all Americans to join me in support of the hardworking farmers and ranchers who anchor the U.S. food supply chain that is so vital to keeping our nation strong, safe, and healthy.”

“Our farmers and ranchers are essential to putting real food back at the center of the American plate and delivering on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” said HHS Secretary Kennedy. “Product of the USA’ labeling puts American producers first, gives families clear, honest information, and empowers them to choose food raised right here at home.”

“U.S. producers are the best

in the world, and produce the highest-quality products,” said North Dakota Senator Hoeven. “A ‘Product of USA’ label benefits our ranchers and provides transparency and confidence for consumers. We appreciate Secretary Rollins and the Trump administration for their efforts to support our farmers, ranchers and rural communities.”

Under this standard, the “Product of USA” label is reserved exclusively for meat, poultry, and egg products from animals that were born, raised, harvested, and processed in the United States.

The claim is voluntary, but companies using it must meet this transparent and verifiable requirement. This ends the prior practice which allowed imported products to carry the claim after minimal processing and strengthens consumer confidence by aligning with what Americans expect and demand.

Since 2017, the United States has lost over 17% of family farms, more than 100,000 operations over the last decade. The national herd is at a 75-year low while consumer demand for beef has grown 9% over the past decade.

In October 2025, Secretary Rollins released the USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry that focuses on rebuilding domestic capacity, improving transparency across the supply chain, and ensuring U.S. ranchers can compete on a level playing field.

Today’s announcement on enforcement and promotion of the strengthened “Product of USA” label is a key deliverable under this initiative, advancing the Trump Administration’s priorities of fairness, competition, and consumer trust.

Learn more at productofusa.gov.

Get ready for summer grilling at pork bbq class

AMES, Iowa- With warmer temperatures on the way, Iowans are dusting off their grills and preparing for summer barbecue season. The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University Meats Laboratory are partnering to offer a pork barbecue class for participants to learn the basics of barbecuing and grilling pork. The hands-on course will be Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kildee Hall in Ames, Iowa.

The pork barbecue class will cover several barbecue techniques, including how to marinate, spice, and prepare various cuts of pork. Participants will also learn basic grill maintenance and practice grilling with guidance from ISU Extension and Outreach experts.

The class is open to anyone 18 years of age or older interested in learning more about grilling and cooking barbecue pork. Throughout the day, participants will sample different products and have the option to take home their cooked pork.

To attend, online pre-registration is required by April 17. The registration fee is \$20 per person and includes all supplies for the course. Registration is limited to 30 participants.

For more information, contact the Iowa Pork Industry Center at 515-294-4103 or email Laura Greiner at greinerl@iastate.edu.



In support of National Ag Week

The following poem by Angie Bodzislaw was shared by the Cherokee County Farm Bureau in support of National Ag Week. The poem is published with permission of the author. Bodzislaw is a dairy farmer from Shell Lake, Wisconsin.

“Gambler”

Calloused hands, muddy boots
Tractors, fields and family roots
Weathered, tethered to the land
The life of a gambling man
More than a job,
An identity
Roots run deep
a family tree
Frozen lashes, ripped jeans
Silos, feed and family dreams
Dirt-lined nails and untamed curls
The life of a gambling girl
Dust and dirt,
A passion that hurts
Every season a roll of the die
Seeds planted, eyes to the sky
They risk it all, as others fall
The Life of a gambler



Be around for countless memories to come!

Get FREE screenings for breast & cervical cancer
Learn more at hhs.iowa.gov/cfy

IOWA | Health and Human Services
Public Health

Internship available at the Sanford Museum and Planetarium

The Sanford Museum and Planetarium is accepting applications for the Tiel Sanford Legacy Internship.

Expand your horizons and fill your resume by spending the summer interning for the Sanford Museum and Planetarium in Cherokee, Iowa.

Museum Education
Public Programming
Exhibit Design

Benefits include:
Paid \$2500 for summer internship
A stipend for housing.
Flexible hours

Requirements:
Must complete a total of 320 hours over the summer months.
Be an undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree in anthropology, ar-

cheology, History, Museum studies, or related fields.

To apply:
Email a cover letter and resume/CV to archeologist@sanfordmuseum.org by the deadline of April 22nd, 2026. Awards will be made on April 27th.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF MERIDEN NOTICE OF HEARING OF PROPOSED PROPERTY SALE
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council, City of Meriden, Iowa, proposes to enter into a Purchase Agreement regarding the following legally described property:
Lot 4, Block 2, Town of Hazard, now called Meriden, Iowa.
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that April 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. has been fixed as the time, and the Coun-

cil Chambers of the Meriden City Hall at 113 Eagle St., Meriden, Iowa, has been fixed as the place, for a public hearing on the proposed property sale, at which time interested parties may appear and be heard for or against the proposed sale. A proposed resolution authorizing property sale and copy of the purchase agreement is available for public inspection at the Meriden City Hall.
CITY OF MERIDEN, IOWA
By: Michael Loetz, City Clerk
(CT03-27/L#27)

LEGAL NOTICE

Washta City Council met in special session Wednesday, March 23th at 6:45 pm. in the City Hall for city budget discussion. The following Council was present: Patterson, Joy, Riggs, and Wahner, also present, Sue Ritts.
Mayor Stieneke called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.
Putnam moved to approve the agenda; Riggs seconded. Motion car-

ried 4/0.
Motion by Riggs to approve a liquor license for the Fire Dept. Wahner seconded. Motion carried 4/0.
There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Riggs; seconded by Wahner. Motion carried 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.
Signed: Bryan Stieneke, Mayor
ATTEST: Barbara Connor, Clerk
(CT03-27/L#20)

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LEGAL NOTICE

CITY NAME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF CLEGHORN - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY
CLEGHORN Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 **CITY #:** 18-155

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/13/2026 Meeting Time: 06:45 PM Meeting Location: Cleghorn Community Center
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available)

City Telephone Number
(712) 436-2474

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2025 - 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2026 - 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2026 - 2027
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	7,298,628	7,612,768	7,612,768
Consolidated General Fund	58,354	58,354	59,672
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	12,195	12,195	12,942
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (Ifat General Fund Limit)	6,469	6,469	7,263
Other Employee Benefits	0	0	0
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	10,389,417	11,205,117	11,205,117
Debt Service	0	0	0
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX	77,018	77,018	79,877
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE	10.55226	10.11695	10.49259
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	64,427	66,104	66,104
Ag Land	194	194	199
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE	3.00375	2.93477	3.00375

Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed	Current Year Certified 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed 2026/2027	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000			
City Regular Residential	501	514	2.59
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000			
City Regular Commercial	2,175	2,401	10.39

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 through \$150,000 of actual/assessed valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
Increases in insurance rates as well as IPERS

(CT03-27/22.4ci)