



Newsletter



Land Locked

With the ag economy entering its third year of falling returns and lenders tightening working capital requirements, many people have expected the land market to soften. Interestingly, that hasn't been the case.

The sale prices we hear about remain surprisingly strong given today's economic challenges. A few reasons why:

- **Limited land sales.** The number of farms changing hands is historically low, keeping values steady.
- **High cattle prices.** Ranch land values have strengthened, which supports broader farmland values.
- **Strong land rents.** Many landlords are holding firm on rental rates, which stabilize the market through ROI.

- **Long-term optimism.** While interest rates remain high, many buyers believe rates will improve in the coming years, keeping demand up.

Those who already own real estate are in a position of strength, as it continues to be the best hedge against inflation. And while interest rates and some policy changes may look challenging now, farmland continues to prove its value as a long-term investment.

The markets may shift, but one thing remains true—well-managed farmland is an asset that stands the test of time.

- **Mark**

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Celebrating 10 Years of Farming and Family

Last year marked **ten years** since we started our journey together. Raising six children while running a farming operation has been both a challenge and a blessing. Every year brings new lessons, but our love for farming—and each other—remains as strong as ever.

We are grateful for the opportunities the Rogers' family farm has provided for our family and look forward to many more years of hard work and success.



Going Green

If you drive by one of our farms this season and notice some big color changes, don't be surprised—we've made the decision to transition entirely to **John Deere equipment**.

While we've had years of success with CAT machinery, our evolving business needs and the proximity of local John Deere dealerships made this shift a smart move for long-term efficiency. The learning curve has

been steep, and we'll admit there's a mix of excitement and nerves about operating new technology. However, we're confident this upgrade will improve efficiency, precision, and overall farm performance.

With spring planting just around the corner, we're eager to put this new fleet to work. Stay tuned for updates on how this transition enhances our farm operations!

“People who have a lot of food, have a lot of problems.
People who have no food, have one problem.”

– Mike Naig, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Inflation is Crappy



Pardon the pun, but this article is on the topic of manure. Rising input costs continue to challenge farmers, and we are always looking for cost-effective and sustainable solutions. This year, we've decided to **optimize our manure management strategy** by emptying our hog building pits not only in the fall, as usual, but also in the spring.

Manure is a highly valuable natural fertilizer, offering significant cost savings compared to commercial alternatives. By making this adjustment, we maximize its benefits for soil health and yield potential. Several factors aligned to make this decision more strategic, including:

- Proximity of fields going to corn, reducing transportation costs.
- Higher-than-usual manure volume due to the current age of our livestock.
- Strategic crop rotation planning for 2026, transitioning close fields to soybeans.

While this move deviates from our typical approach, it positions us to break even on corn with even a modest summer rally. Soybeans, however, remain a different story—only a significant price increase will result in a break-even. As always, we remain adaptable and focused on smart decision-making for long-term sustainability.



Fun Fact: Studies show that properly managed manure can increase corn yields by up to **15%** compared to synthetic fertilizers.



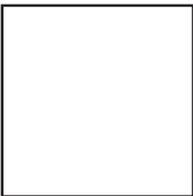
Prioritizing Health:

A New Approach After Harvest

Farming is a demanding lifestyle, and maintaining health is just as critical as maintaining equipment. Over the years, we've noticed that weight gained during harvest doesn't come off as easily as it used to. This past winter, we took a different approach—**intermittent fasting and a post-harvest detox.**

The results? Increased energy, improved focus, and a few pounds shed. Committing to health isn't always easy, but we know that taking care of ourselves is essential for the future of our family and our farm.

- Kimberly



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We want to hear from you. We love to talk farming, and we're always open to new opportunities. Please reach out if you have questions, ideas or just want to chat!



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A Flexible Favorite: Granola Fruit Pizza

Our oldest daughter, Madison, loves making this **Granola Fruit Pizza**, a delicious and nutritious treat that has become a staple in our home. Perfect for any time of day, this simple recipe is a great way to enjoy healthy whole grains and whatever fresh fruit is in season.



Ingredients:

- 5 c. Oats
- 2 c. Almond flour
- 1/2 c. Ground flaxseed
- 1 ¾ c. Honey
- 8 T. Coconut oil, melted
- 3/4 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 5-6 oz. Vanilla yogurt
- Fresh fruit of your choice

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients and press into an 11x16 pan.
2. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes.
3. Cool completely, then top with vanilla yogurt and fresh fruit.
4. Store in the refrigerator and enjoy!

Food brings people together, and we love sharing our family favorites with you.