

The MI Farm Brief #034

Monday July 6, 2026, Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen

MI Farm AI

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For internal review

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For Mark Matuska, Milford, Iowa (Dickinson County)

Monday, July 6, 2026. Filed by The MI Farm AI Desk.

Weather, Milford, IA

Today: High **86F**. Sunny.

Tonight: Low **65F**. Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain Showers.

What this means for today: Sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Source: NOAA National Weather Service point forecast for Milford, IA, pulled this morning.

Hour by Hour, the day ahead

Hour	Temp	Rain	Wind	Sky
4 AM	63F	n/a	N 0 mph	Fog/Mist
5 AM	61F	0%	NW 3 mph	Fog
6 AM	64F	0%	N 0 mph	Partly Cloudy
7 AM	70F	1%	N 0 mph	Clear
8 AM	73F	0%	SSW 5 mph	Clear
9 AM	79F	0%	SSW 8 mph	Clear
10 AM	81F	0%	S 8 mph	Partly Cloudy
11 AM	82F	0%	S 7 mph	Mostly Clear
12 PM	82F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
1 PM	84F	0%	S 5 mph	Sunny
2 PM	86F	0%	S 10 mph	Sunny
3 PM	87F	0%	S 10 mph	Sunny
4 PM	88F	0%	SSE 10 mph	Sunny
5 PM	89F	0%	SSE 10 mph	Sunny
6 PM	87F	0%	S 10 mph	Clear
7 PM	86F	0%	S 10 mph	Mostly Clear
8 PM	84F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
9 PM	80F	0%	SSE 5 mph	Mostly Clear
10 PM	77F	5%	SSE 10 mph	Partly Cloudy
11 PM	75F	10%	SSE 10 mph	Partly Cloudy
12 AM	73F	15%	SE 10 mph	Slight Chance Rain Showers

Source: NOAA National Weather Service hourly forecast and station observations, pulled this morning.

Rain & Spray Window

What actually fell on you today: none. This is the rain your own ground caught, measured at your field, not the county radar total.

No rain at your field in the past 24 hours. The spray window is open.

Rain expected at your field:

Next 24 hours: 0.03 inches expected Next 48 hours: 0.30 inches expected Next 72 hours: 0.47 inches expected

Source: NOAA National Weather Service forecast and NOAA radar rainfall estimates, pulled this morning.

Grain and Livestock, corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle

Corn (Jul 2026)	\$4.3925/bu +0.1425
Corn (Dec 2026)	\$4.5775/bu +0.1625
Soy (Jul 2026)	\$11.8250/bu +0.5075
Soy (Nov 2026)	\$11.9375/bu +0.4600
Wheat (Jul 2026)	\$6.0375/bu +0.1325
Live Cattle (CME)	\$239.93/cwt +0.3%
Lean Hogs (CME)	\$98.82/cwt +5.3%

Source: Chicago Board of Trade.

Cal's Market Read

Overnight, corn added about 14 cents; beans added about 51 cents; and wheat added about 13 cents.

Recent trend, over the last 5 sessions, corn has firmed and beans have chopped sideways. That is the backdrop your cash bid is moving against.

Here is our read on why the board pushed higher overnight, and honestly our allowed headlines do not point to one clean cause, so we will name the two likeliest. Above average heat and humidity moving in around the Fourth of July weekend, flagged by Morning Ag Clips, tends to put a weather premium into the beans especially. The other piece is building insect pressure, with Brownfield noting Corteva urging corn growers to scout hard for rootworms and other pests. Take this as our read, not a sure thing.

Stocks point higher into the open, S&P; futures up about 0.6 percent. A firmer tape eases the borrowing and input-cost mood your lender watches, though it does not move your cash bid by itself.

Cal

Wall Street, Thursday's close

Dow Jones	52,913 +0.0%
S&P; 500	7,530 +0.6%
Nasdaq	26,107 +1.1%
Russell 2000	3,020 +0.8%

Decision Delivered

Your decisions for today and the week ahead:

- Paperwork: FSA crop acreage reporting is due July 15 for spring planted crops. That is in 9 days, so prep now, get your planted acres by field, planting dates, and any prevented planting ready for your county Farm Service Agency office now, a late certification can put your farm program payments and crop insurance at risk.
- Reminder: Corn is moving through V5-V8 on seasonal normals, the rapid-growth, nitrogen-demand window. If you split-applied N, this is the sidedress window.
- Reminder, still on your list: Hot, dry stretches raise spider-mite pressure on field edges. Scout the south and west borders of soybeans and corn.

Farm context: Founder Edition, Milford, Iowa (Dickinson County). Per-farm Decision Delivered ships when Phase 2 has live intake.

What to Watch Today

- Field window: any rain risk eases by 12 PM, then the working day looks dry enough for field passes. Check the wind first.
- Market watch: corn up about 14 cents, beans up about 51 cents going into the day. Wheat up about 13 cents. Watch the cash bid at your elevator.
- On the wire: Daybreak July 6: Key reports due out this week (see Cal's News Desk below).

From Cal's News Desk

The 10 stories that moved across the wires since yesterday's Brief, sourced, dated, and verifiable. Each one carries Cal's review, the same one the news page shows, with a link to read it straight from the source.

1. Daybreak July 6: Key reports due out this week

This week brings two market movers, the Federal Reserve meeting minutes on Wednesday that will hint at interest rate direction just as many farmers head into lender talks, and USDA's July WASDE report that will reveal fresh corn and soybean demand signals against the fourth-highest corn acreage since 1944. Wheat is the shocker, with USDA projecting just 32.1 million harvested acres, which Zaner Ag analyst Karen Braun calls a 149-year low, the smallest since 1877. On the policy front, the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association is fighting a California rule blocking E15 sales that could save drivers 20 cents per gallon and open a market for 250 million more bushels of corn, while USDA and the SBA signed an agreement to help farmers fight regulatory "lawfare." Meanwhile screwworm cases are spreading in Texas, and your July 4th cookout for 10 cost \$73.82 this year, up 4 percent, though potato salad got cheaper as egg prices fell.

[Read the full article.](#) Agri-Pulse, Mon Jul 6, 2026 8:13 AM CT

2. Hoffman works to share community

David Hoffmann has stepped into a leading role as chairman of the Lee Enterprises Board, the parent company behind Agri-View and the rest of the Lee Agri-Media publications. He recently backed that position by investing heavily in the company, signaling real confidence in its future and its farm focused readership. For folks who rely on Agri-View for market and community news, a committed leader with money on the line is worth paying attention to. The full piece digs into how Hoffmann wants to share and strengthen the farming community, so it is worth a read to see what he has planned.

[Read the full article.](#) Tri-State Neighbor, Mon Jul 6, 2026 11:00 AM CT

3. Proactive Management of Livestock Critical Before and During Heat Events

With above-average heat and humidity expected to hit around the Fourth of July weekend, NDSU Extension specialists are urging ranchers to plan ahead before their cattle start suffering. Watch the temperature-humidity index closely, since animals hit moderate stress at 82 to 83, severe at 84 to 86, and extreme at 87 or higher, and free tools like NDAWN's Cattle Comfort Index map can tell you if you are in a danger zone. Specialist Rachel Gibbs stresses water above all, at least 2 inches of trough space per animal (400 inches for a 200 head pen) with needs often

doubling in the heat, and she warns that thirsty livestock allowed to gulp water after going without can die from salt toxicity or brain swelling unless rehydrated slowly with a vet's help. Veterinarian Dr. Jake Galbreath adds that shade of at least 20 feet per animal, good airflow, wetted or bedded pens, sprinklers with large droplets, and handling only before 10 a.m. can keep your herd alive through the worst of it.

[Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Mon Jul 6, 2026 10:44 AM CT

4. Identifying Pest Pressure

Corteva Agriscience Market Development Specialist Jeff Moon is urging corn growers to keep a close eye on their fields as insect threats build through the season. He points to a long list of suspects worth scouting for, including rootworms, armyworms, earworms, and cutworms, each capable of chewing into your yield if they go unnoticed. Moon told Brownfield that knowing which pest you are dealing with is the first step, since correct identification drives the right control decision at the right time. For anyone protecting a corn crop this summer, this is a timely reminder that regular scouting can mean the difference between catching a problem early and paying for it at harvest.

[Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Mon Jul 6, 2026 9:55 AM CT

5. Build cows that stay: Smarter heifer development for long-term productivity

Keeping replacement heifers in the herd for the long haul comes down to far more than getting them bred the first time. The real goal is developing females that keep producing year after year within your own operation's limits, meaning your forage supply, your local climate, and how you manage the herd. Push heifers too hard or ignore those constraints, and you end up with cows that fall out early, costing you the payback you were counting on. This piece lays out a smarter approach to heifer development that builds cows that stay, so read on if you want replacements that earn their keep for seasons to come.

[Read the full article](#). Beef Magazine, Mon Jul 6, 2026 9:00 AM CT

6. Prosecutors to detail case against alleged Charlie Kirk assassin

Tyler Robinson, a 23 year old accused of gunning down conservative activist Charlie Kirk last September, is heading to a Utah courtroom this week for a critical five day preliminary hearing. State prosecutors will lay out some of their evidence for the first time, trying to convince District Judge Tony Graf that they have enough to put Robinson on trial. The stakes are high, as this hearing determines whether the murder case against him moves forward. Anyone following the fallout from Kirk's killing will want the full story, because this is the first real look at what prosecutors claim they can prove.

[Read the full article](#). The Hill, Mon Jul 6, 2026 10:13 AM CT

7. OPEC+ companies slightly boosting production as oil prices slide

Seven OPEC+ members, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Iraq, have agreed to raise their combined output goals by 188,000 barrels per day. The other participating countries are Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman. This bump comes even though oil prices are already sitting on the low side, which makes the timing worth watching. For anyone tracking diesel and fuel costs on the farm, more crude flowing into the market could keep a lid on what you pay at the pump this season.

[Read the full article](#). The Hill, Mon Jul 6, 2026 10:05 AM CT

8. Most grain is sold, but market worries remain for Minnesota grower

Tim Waibel, who farms corn and soybeans near Courtland in south-central Minnesota, has already priced most of his crop and has less than 10 percent left to sell. He tells Brownfield he feels good about his marketing this year, saying he did pretty well overall. Waibel worries that another bumper yield, on top of all the corn still sitting in nearby commercials, could really weigh on prices. He also points to a weak local basis of about 50 cents under, far worse than the usual 30 under for this time of year, as a sign of the pressure ahead.

[Read the full article](#). Brownfield Ag News, Mon Jul 6, 2026 10:50 AM CT

9. SDSU Extension Directory of Local Foods Resources Helps Grow Connections Across State

SDSU Extension has released a free online directory that maps out the organizations, efforts and initiatives making up South Dakota's local food system, and any farmer can view it on the extension website. The two year project was researched and written by Blake Pulse, a doctoral research assistant, who found that local food work across the state was happening in isolated pockets, disconnected from one another and badly in need of coordination. Drawing on 30 interviews and eight focus groups, Pulse and supervising professor Kristine Lang sorted the players into six clusters, including food sovereignty, producer support, local food markets, youth education and government support. It matters because this map is meant to help producers, consumers and communities find each other and build new partnerships that get more South Dakota grown and raised food onto local tables.

[Read the full article](#). Morning Ag Clips, Mon Jul 6, 2026 10:37 AM CT

10. Help your dog through firework anxiety with these tips

Fresh off the nation's 250th Fourth of July celebration near Lake Madison, veterinarian Lainie Kringen-Scholtz of True North Veterinary Health in Wentworth, South Dakota, turns her column toward a problem many farm families know well, dogs that panic when the fireworks start. Her own dog, Russel, copes by hiding under the truck bed cover in the back of her pickup, proof that even a vet's household deals with the same anxiety. The piece lays out practical tips to help your dog stay calm through the noise, from creating safe hiding spots to easing the fear before it takes hold. If you have a nervous pup come summer holidays or storm season, this is a quick, useful read worth your time.

[Read the full article](#). Tri-State Neighbor, Mon Jul 6, 2026 9:55 AM CT

Cal's Receipt

Cal's Receipt is the running ledger of every call this desk made for your farm, what was at stake, whether you followed it, and what it actually saved (or cost). Append-only, and every dollar cites its source. You will find it on your farm Dashboard, on the Farm Services desk. Open the Dashboard from the button at the bottom of this Brief.

Today in Farm Safety

Match the pesticide label's personal protective equipment (PPE) to the job, every time. Chemical-resistant gloves go on before mixing, and you wash them off before taking them off. The label is the law, if it lists a respirator, do not spray without one. Source: EPA Worker Protection Standard; National Pesticide Information Center.

Cal

Local Obituaries

We note the passing of neighbors across your area, gathered from the local papers this morning. Our thoughts are with their families.

Frank Edmunds, Dickinson County News obituaries. [Read the full obituary](#).

Donald W. Happe, Dickinson County News obituaries. [Read the full obituary](#).

Curtis Rottunda, Dickinson County News obituaries. [Read the full obituary](#).

Kaiya Joy Wright, Dickinson County News obituaries. [Read the full obituary](#).

James Anderson, Dickinson County News obituaries. [Read the full obituary](#).

Fay 'Buzz' Mann Jr., Dickinson County News obituaries. [Read the full obituary](#).

The Coffee Shop

Today in Farm History, Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation 1935

On October 4, 1935, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation began buying surplus farm products and donating them to school lunch and relief programs, the original federal food-aid line that became today's school lunch program (1946) and SNAP. Farm price support and child nutrition have been linked ever since. Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service history.

Cal's Quiz

Bordeaux mixture, discovered in 1882 in France, is a combination of what two ingredients?

- (a) Sulfur and water
- (b) Copper sulfate and lime
- (c) Vinegar and salt
- (d) Lead arsenate and oil

Answer at the bottom of the Brief.

Cal's Joke of the Day

The elevator scale is calibrated every January. The farmer said, "Once a year is enough?" The manager said, "Once a year is a habit. Twice a year is a panic. We're not panicking."

The MI Farm AI Desk

Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen, your AI Agronomist and Editor in Chief

Quiz Answer

(b) Copper sulfate and lime. French botanist Pierre-Marie-Alexis Millardet noticed grapevines sprayed blue along Bordeaux roads (to deter thieves) were free of downy mildew. It is still used in organic apple and grape production today. Source: USDA Agricultural Research Service plant pathology history.

Your data stays yours. We sell nothing you buy. Your farm data is never sold, shared, or used to train outside models. It lives on hardware we control, not the public cloud. Loyalty in writing.

The MI Farm Brief is the independent daily farm intelligence brief that earns zero when you buy inputs. Cal "Corn-Bread" Halvorsen is the editorial persona of the MI Farm AI desk, the AI-orchestrated production team that produces this Brief every working morning. The Monthly Receipt is signed by the Founder, MI Farm AI. Honest. Independent. Loyal. Transparent. The HILT Covenant.