FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024





The BFX trailer on display at the Farm Progress Show in Boone this summer.

MADE IN STORM LAKE, IOWA

BFX Hunting and Camping Trailer promises adventure

Dustin Friesen: "We know how to build things out of steel really well"

BY DOLORES CULLEN arvest International is known chiefly for its custom planting and tillage equipment, but one of the latest products from the Storm Lake manufacturer is something completely new.

The "Built for Xtreme hunting and camping trailer" is the only camper of its kind. We spoke with Dustin

DUSTIN FRIESEN

the rear endgate. The trailer itself has a large nose storage compartment. It comes standard with a Blackstone grill, 40-gallon water tank, a hot water on demand converter and handy 220 and 110 hookups for campgrounds or generators. Other features are TV brackets, a rod holder for anglers, an attached ax, shovel and spare tire, plus the optional awning and tent. For potential interested customers, the base price is around \$25,000.

Friesen's dad Gary is co-owner of Harvest International along with his cousin, Byron Friesen, president of the company.

The first BFX trailers came out in April. Now they are being tested, in an effort to refine the product. Next season marketing will begin in earnest and dealers to carry it will be secured.

With Harvest International's reputation for heavy duty manufacturing for the ag sector, the BFX trailer will be "very tough and durable," said Friesen. "We know how to building things out of steel really well."

Readers may remember Friesen as a photographer and graphic artist. Nice shots of his appeared in the Storm Lake Times. Today his creative outlet is the Harvest International media, including brochures, video and photography. Washington state to Pennsylvania is a challenge Friesen embraces, to be of service to the growing family business. Harvest International has extended its product offerings "It was the brainchild of across the globe. In August the

Byron and Gary," said Friesen. company spotlighted one of its customized planters in Kazakhstan. There are customers in Ukraine and Canada. Harvest International equipment ran in field demos at Penn State's Ag Progress Show earlier this summer.

Although most adventure trailers are manufactured out west, the BFX is completely made in Storm Lake except for some components and options added to it.

Friesen looks forward to being closer to home in the near future. He and his family are moving from Indianapolis, where they've lived for eight years, to Des Moines. "We are planning to grow that office,' he said.

Displayed alongside Harvest International's planting equipment at the Iowa Farm Progress Show in Boone this summer, the BFX trailer turned heads. Feedback from hardcore Managing sales from hunters will be forthcoming and perhaps in the next few years, we'll see much more of this unique adventurethemed trailer.









Friesen, Storm Lake High School Class of 2007, and sales manager for the family business.

"There are adventure trailers kind of like this, but we wanted to develop this for the hunting market," he said. "Most guys just have a standard utility trailer."

The BFX trailer's attached jib crane can be used to dress out a deer or lift a carcass. Cutting boards are mounted on

Nick Heppner, formerly of Laurens, now a local of Sheffield, shows off features of the BFX trailer.

A complete video walkthrough of the BFX trailer: https://voutu.be/OJxvptNbUEo?si=FsHZvK-ep5kxdBng

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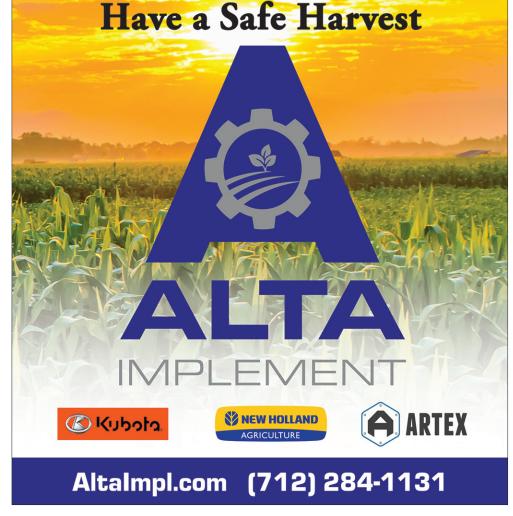




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Its not just October, it's Porktober!



The BV Pork royalty brought adorable little piglets for the classroom to pet.

he Buena Vista County Pork Producers are celebrating October — pork month — in lots of ways.

"It's been a fun month," said pork producer Michelle Ehlers. She credited the Iowa Pork Producers, who have helped support the local Porktober promotions. Five hundred dollars of pork coupons are being given away. Recipes and "Porktober facts" are being shared on social media.

Get your Hog Wings!

BV County Pork Producers have teamed up with the Cobb Tavern in Lakeside offering \$2 off pork and pickle pizza, "Bacon Me Crazy" pizza and "Hog Wings."

Of course hogs don't have wings, but in the spirit of creative new ways to serve pork, and to capitalize on the popularity of chicken wings, the hog wing – or pork wing – was born.

It's made from a trimmed and partially deboned pork shank.

The meat is smoke-braised until tender and the cooking process pulls the meat away from the bone so you can hold



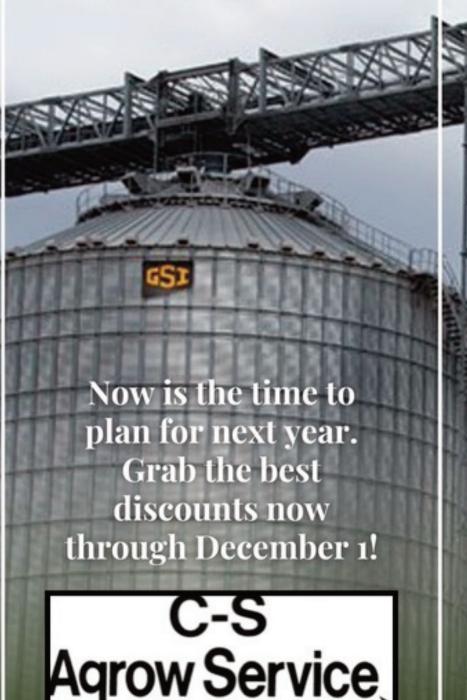
BV County pork royalty are visiting classrooms to educate young people on pork and pork production. BV County Pork Queen April Meyer and BV County Little Miss Pigtail Emri Sievers with Newell-Fonda second graders on Monday morning. TIMES PILOT photo by MEGAN MOLSEED

the bone and eat the meat off of it.

They come plain with sauce on the side in barbecue, hot honey and buffalo

"Customers and even kids love them," says Natalie Schumann of the Cobb Tavern.





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Combining beans near Aurelia. TIMES PILOT photo by DOLORES CULLEN

NW Iowa Harvest 2024 BV, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux Counties

Bean yields 5-10 bushels per acre below last year, **Corn good/better** than expected

BY CHAD HUSMAN Stalcup AgService

eptember was the driest on record for this area, and so far, October has also been mostly hot, dry, and windy at times.

These conditions have quickly dropped the grain moisture percent of corn and soybeans in the field. Harvest progress has been impressive over the past two weeks and is now ahead of schedule.

The long-term forecast remains dry. It will be important to start rebuilding soil moisture this fall before the ground freezes. The weather extremes this season have been dramatic, from the record high rain amounts this spring to the ongoing record dry spell we are currently stuck in.

Corn and soybeans would have benefited from additional rain and lower temperatures in late August and September.

Soybean harvest is nearly complete in this area. There are more beans to harvest in far northwest Iowa. The hot weather rapidly dried the soybeans to below 10% moisture which is not ideal. When beans get too dry, shatter losses at the combine occur and lost water weight (anything under 13% moisture) adds up to yield reductions.

The soybean yield results were mostly below expectations. The poorly drained areas were damaged in the beans were harvested and spring from too much rain

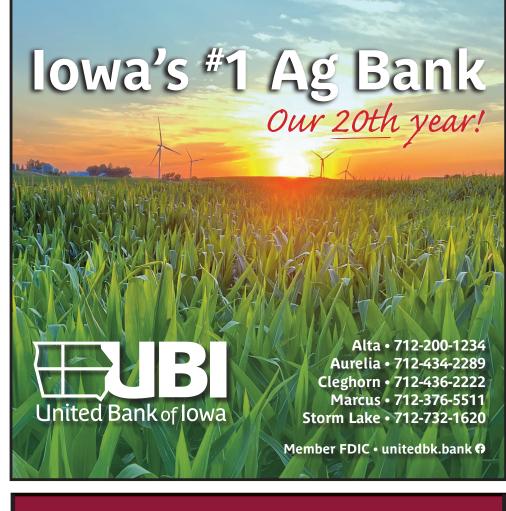
and the well-drained areas were capped by late summer dryness. On average, bean yields in this territory are 5 to 10 bushels per acre below last year's yields.

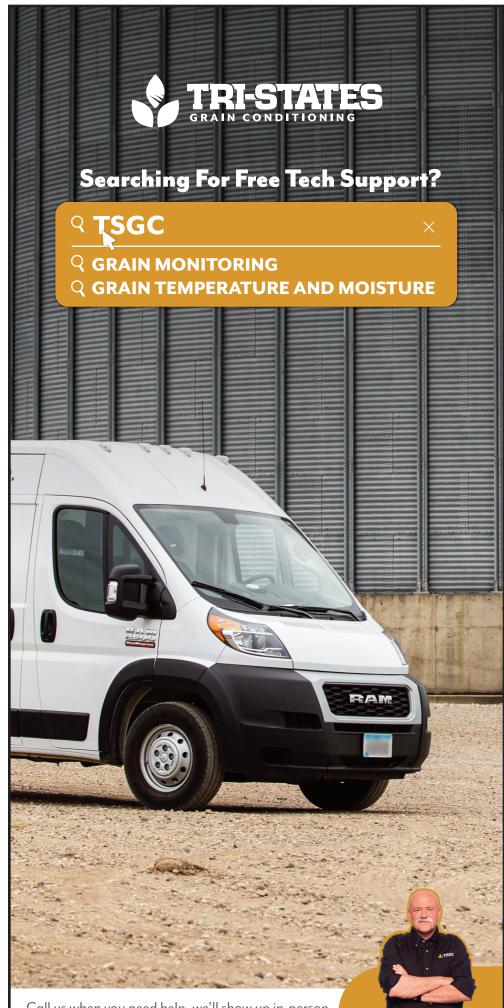
Corn harvest has started on many farms, the bulk of corn will be done over the next two weeks. The early to mid-maturity corn is dry especially on hilly farms on the south or west side of this territory.

Some of the corn is too dry already below 13% moisture. Dry corn in the field will reduce drying costs this fall, but it also increases the potential for harvest losses and wind damage.

The late-summer stress didn't seem to affect the corn crop as much as it did soybeans. The early yield reports on corn have been as good or better than expected.

As of Oct. 9, 85% of soy-15% of corn.



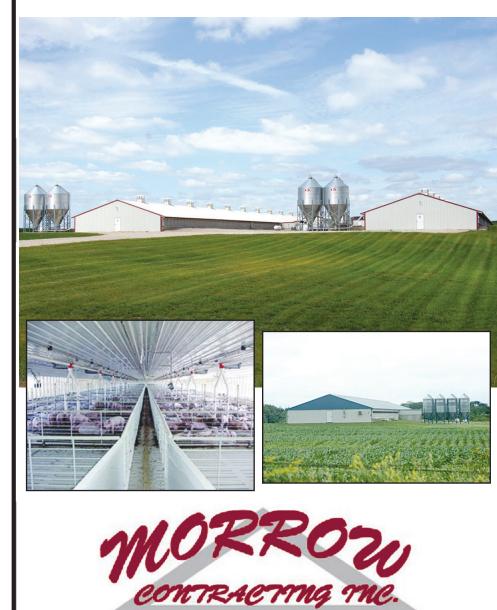


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