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Inside

HARVEST helpers

Stories of neighbors helping, statewide food drives and FFA ingenuity fill this Thanksgiving week issue

Page 3

Yield REPORT

Find the FIRST field trial yield reports in this issue, with more information on 2021 conditions here

Page 16

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SHORT supply

Supply chain issues hit farmers, with no end in sight

By Gene Lucht

Iowa Farmer Today

MILO, Iowa — Duane and Mary Jo Ohnemus stand by a John Deere tractor as they take a break from the fall harvest.

“It’s really just starting to hit us,” Duane says of the supply chain problems that have been affecting many industries lately, pushing prices higher for some items and making others difficult to obtain. “It hasn’t been that much of an issue until now.”

But Ohnemus is finding that getting spare parts for his machinery is starting to become a challenge. That has been exacerbated by the strike at Deere. Getting a tire when one goes bad, or getting a metal gate when one breaks, or trying to line up fertilizer applications or buy fuel are all becoming just a little bit more difficult and pricey.

“This year has been profitable, but...” He leaves the word hanging in the air. If fertilizer prices continue to shoot up or if other

See page 8: **Chain** ▶



Duane and Mary Jo Ohnemus are struggling to find spare parts and to make any type of reasonable business plan for the next year. They have been dealing with supply and delivery issues this fall on their Iowa farm.

IFT photo by Gene Lucht