

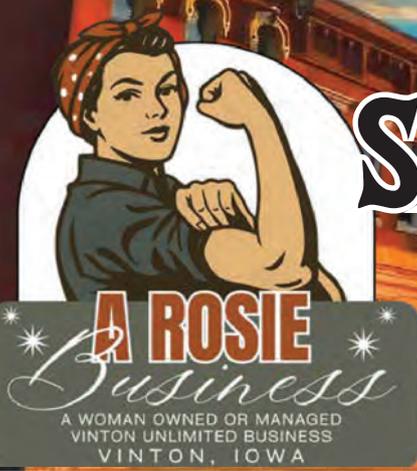
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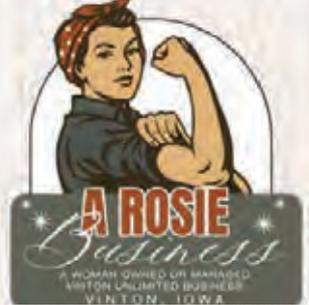
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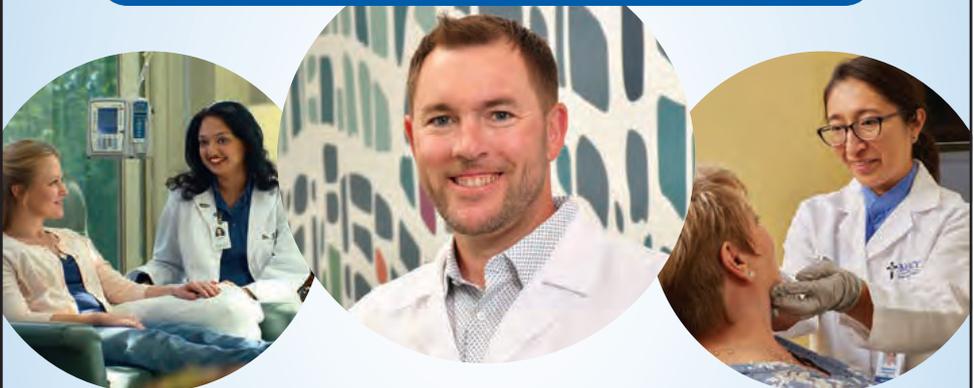
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Ag Safety for the Next Generation

By **AMY STOURAC**
NEWS@VINTONNEWSPAPERS.COM

VINTON — Ag Safety is important to Benton County farmers and educators, and two separate events each year give area students the opportunity for some real hands-on farm safety experience. The Annual 3rd Grade Ag Day is typically held near the end of April or the beginning of May at the Benton County fairgrounds, and the Annual Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day is held each year in September, also at the fairgrounds.

Greg Walston, who just retired from his position as Benton County ISU Extension Program Director, has helped with many Ag Safety Days over the years and explained the intent behind the events.

“The coolest thing I think is that we teach kids that the farm isn’t a playground. On

a working farm there’s lots of moving parts. There’s lots of machinery, there’s lots of dangers. So our goal is, if we can stop one accident, we’ve done good, or maybe even saved a life. We’ll never really know,” Walston said.

The Annual 3rd Grade Ag Day is sponsored each year by the Benton County Extension Office. This longstanding tradition in Benton County is for Benton Community students from Keystone and Atkins, along with students from Belle Plaine Elementary, Central Lutheran School, and Vinton-Shellsburg students from both Shellsburg Elementary and Tilford Elementary. The event also includes students in the Home School Association Program (HSAP).

Students from the seven participating schools rotate through eight different stations where they learn about several agricultural topics in-

cluding: swine, horses, dairy, beef, poultry and rabbits, sheep and goats, corn and soybeans, and farm equipment and safety.

There are typically several displays from places like Benton County Conservation, Benton County Soil Conservation, 4-H, REC Electric, as well as a display of honeybees. Students also receive a bag of “fun things” to take home.

In addition to rotating through the stations, the third-graders and all their helpers are treated with lunch by the area commodity groups which consists of a grilled hamburger or pork burger on a bun, served with chips, milk and ice cream.

In addition to the teachers and associates from all the schools, help comes each year from Benton County Farm Bureau; Benton County ISU Extension & Outreach; FFA Members from Belle

Plaine, Benton Community, and Vinton-Shellsburg; Benton County Pork Producers; and Benton County Cattlemen. Last year, two representatives from Iowa State University—Ag Engineer Kapil Arora and Field Extension Agronomist Terry Bassol—came to assist with the day.

The second event held each year in Benton County is the Annual Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day. The most recent event on Saturday, Sept. 20, was the 30th year for this event, but sadly, the first one without long-time Progressive Ag Coordinator Safety Coordinator, the late Duane Fisher.

Mr. Fisher, who was an ag teacher in Vinton for 37 years, helped with each Ag Safety Day since it first began and was instrumental in the



PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

PICTURED (L-R): Volunteer Kelby Robb, 2025 Safety Day Coordinator Greg Walston, and Shelby McDonald—Benton County ISU Extension and Outreach County Youth Coordinator.

decision to invite all of the schools in Benton County to the event. Although the Safety Day must continue, no doubt Mr. Fisher will always be missed.

The event is for all Benton County students in grades third through sixth grades. Benton County Extension

SEE Safety: Page A6

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National Agriculture Week

SAFETY: Continued from Page A5

Program Director, Greg Walston said the event is the result of a combined effort between the Benton County ISU Extension, Progressive Ag, Farm Bureau, representatives from local law enforcement and area fire departments, and several other local organizations. In addition, FFA members from the Vinton-Shellsburg, Belle Plaine, and Benton Community help out each year, as well as Benton County beef, pork and dairy commodity groups. Volunteers this past year also included folks from CPU FFA, and IOWA CORN, as well as several Benton County community members.

According to Greg Walston, who served as Safety Day Coordinator for the September 2025 event said,



PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

Gary Albert, a farmer from Brandon, demonstrates how dangerous moving gears can be with a dowel-stuffed hot dog at the Progressive AG Farm Safety Day in September, 2023.

"children often see farm and livestock operations as a fun and exciting playground that can provide endless hours of fun and adventure. Unfortunately, these farms and the livestock and equipment

found there can set the stage for tragedy. Many serious injuries and 6 fatalities have occurred as recent as this summer to children in Iowa under 16. In fact, the highest rate of farm injuries occurs to children ages 5 to 14."

Walston also shared that safety days sponsored by Progressive Agriculture, in cooperation with local groups, are held throughout the state, nation and the world to teach children how to reduce and prevent injuries. "During the event, children will participate in



PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

Area students learn about combine safety.

activities and be trained to recognize the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions. They will be encouraged to follow safety rules, listen to adults who supervise them and share safety rules with their family and friends."

Students rotate in groups through several stations focusing on elements of farm safety. Each year the sessions vary slightly, with different topics rotated in so there's always something new to

learn. "We rotate our stations so they're not exactly the same stations every year. The key ones that we leave in each year are First Aid, 911 Call, and ATV Safety. Those are the three that we feel are

very important, so we have them every year," Walston said.

Topics presented at the 2025 Ag Safety Day in Benton

SEE Safety: Page A9

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PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

Garrison Fire Fighters demonstrate rescue equipment designed to rescue farmers who get trapped in a grain bin or wagon.

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Belle Plaine FFA Earns First Place in "National Ag Challenge"

By **AMY STOURAC**
NEWS@VINTONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BELLE PLAINE — In February, some Belle Plaine FFA members visited Kansas City and earned "First Place" in

the "National Ag Challenge" during the Western Farm Show at the American Royal Complex.

The students returned home with the honor of

a first place title, along with some additional prizes, including hand tools, custom belt buckles, a Top Team banner to hang up in the classroom, as well as \$1000

Grand Prize.

The Belle Plaine School District posted about the event in a Facebook post on February, 21.

"Special shoutout to Zaden Cox for placing as the high individual of the Component ID portion of the contest! Thank you to the following sponsors that made this contest possible: National FFA Organization, AGCO, Stanley Black & Decker, BTC Bank and John Deere! Also a special thanks to Schmidt and Son's Dealership in Winfield, KS for helping these students prepare by teaching them about Massey Ferguson tractors."



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Above Right: Lane Osgood, Emmett Lawless, Zack Atkerson, Zaden Cox.
At right: Component ID test.



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Students receiving technician training at Schmidt and Son's in Winfield, KS.

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Matt Johnson



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SAFETY: Continued from Page A6

County event included: ATV safety, Combine safety, lawn mower safety, 911 emergency, first aid, PTO/Pinch point safety, chemical safety, sun safety, accident survivor and grain safety.

Cory Chapman from the Garrison Fire Department brought along the equipment needed to rescue someone from a grain bin or grain wagon accident. In his demonstration, he showed how a metal tube is built around the person trapped in the grain, and then a small auger attached to a handheld drill removes the grain from around the person. During this same session, V/S FFA members shared a model of a grain wagon which demonstrates how quickly someone can get trapped under moving grain.

Benton County Deputy Fairbanks taught the session on ATV and Golf Cart Safety. Anna Demuth, with North Benton Ambulance, gave tours of an ambulance. Virginia Gay Hospital taught the session on First Aid, while Benton County Health edu-

cated kids on sun safety.

Walston said session content changes by the year, except for the topics of First Aid and ATV Safety. "We do a First Aid and ATV session every year, because there's so many first aid situations and so many ATV accidents. The other stations rotate, so the kids can come back year after year and not have the same subject," Walston said.

Beef Producers and Pork Producers take turns each year providing the lunch served after students complete all the sessions. This fall, Benton County Farm Bureau grilled 120 pork burgers donated by the Pork Producers and students ate together on the bleachers of the show arena. Farm Bureau president Michael Hopper said he used to attend when he was a kid, and now he's serving the burgers to the students. "It's a good program for the kids. Good, practical education that can be used for a lifetime," Hopper said.

Before departing for the day, students are given a participation t-shirt and a good-

ie bag along with a course evaluation. The goodie bags and the t-shirts are provided by Progressive Ag.

According to their website, "Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF) is a 501©(3) charitable organization with the mission to

provide education, training, and resources to make farm, ranch, and rural life safer and healthier for all children and their communities. Our mission is to provide education, training and resources to make farm, ranch and rural life safer and healthier for

children and their communities. Our vision is that no child would become ill, injured or die from farm, ranch and rural activities. Since the inception of the Foundation's program in 1995, more than 1.8 million individuals - and counting - have

been reached in 45 states, two territories, and nine Canadian provinces. For more information about PAF and its programs, visit: www.progressiveag.org"

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OPEN HOUSE • Sunday, March 22nd • 12-1:30PM

103 Walnut St., Van Horne
 Quick possession of 3 br, 2 bath ranch, 4 car garage with large lot
\$249,000

OPEN HOUSE • Sunday, March 22 • 2-3:30PM

201 Grove St NW Shellsburg
 Numerous updates: Windows, siding, roof, floor coverings, etc. 3 season room, garage.
\$189,900

SALE PENDING!
405 D Ave., Atkins
 Spacious 3 br, 3 bath ranch with 2 non-conforming br in LL. Gas fireplace, 3 season room, 2 car garage. **\$349,900**

NEW LISTING:
Farmland 31st Ave., Shellsburg
 240 acres m/l. Hard Surface. Potential to split acres. Call for more details
\$8500 an acre.

NEW LISTING
2356 Hwy 21, Dysart
 5.8 acres with 3 br 2 bath 1.5 story home. 30x50 steel machine shed, 24x26 heated business, 30x32 heated shop and 15x20 livestock shed. Rural water.
\$305,000

LOT LISTINGS
 1598 Hwy 20, Belle Plaine **SOLD**
 3127 61st Ln., Shellsburg **SOLD**
 5555 Troy Mills Rd., Walker **SOLD**

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NEW LISTING!! 309 W 6th St., Vinton
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NEW LISTING!! 1008 Wilson St., Dysart
 This 1.5 story, 3 to 4 bedroom home comes with a nice two stall garage, newer furnace & AC, a newer roof & updated vinyl siding. Located close to schools & daycare. **SOLD**

NEW LISTING!! 317 Main St Clutier
 This is a great opportunity to own a duplex that has potential for very good return. There is a main floor apartment that has two bedrooms and one bath. There is an upstairs apartment that could have 3 bedrooms and one bath. There is also a garage that can be rented. Could use some paint, floor coverings and a few updates and then would make 2 nice rentals. Should give a buyer a nice ROI. Only **\$69,500!!**

NEW LISTING!! 401 Carter St., Clutier
 This nice bungalow would make a great home for anyone or could make a nice investment as a rental property. **SOLD**
PRICE REDUCED! 702 S Main St., Dysart
 Beautiful Historic Brick Home that has just been renovated and updated from top to bottom. Everything from walls refurbished, to new electrical and light fixtures, to flooring, plus much more! 3 bedroom, 1.75 baths & main floor laundry. Very nice original woodwork with ceiling beams, built-in china hutch, sun-room with French doors and leaded glass windows. 2 stall garage plus a carport, almost a 1/2 acre corner lot, located next to city park. **Exterior trim & woodwork freshly painted!!** Move-in Condition!! **\$288,000!! PRICE REDUCED \$284,000**

ACREAGE - PRICE REDUCED! 2975 275th St., Clutier
 10.68 Acres This is a beautiful county setting with a 1.5 story, 4 bedroom home. **SOLD**
NEW ACREAGE LISTING!! 6639 14th Ave, Keystone
 This 3.2 acre acreage has a 4 bedroom, 1.5 story home that has the potential to be a great place for someone. It does need some updating work. There is an eat-in kitchen, a fireplace, a pump for additional heat and AC. **SOLD**
 There is the possibility of a little more land. With a little work, move to the country at an affordable price! **\$175,000!!**

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JEFF GEIGER'S Farm Machinery Consignment Auction SATURDAY APRIL 11th, 2026 @ 10am

The time has come to complete our story; this auction will be our final chapter. It's been nearly 30 years of hosting our Farm Machinery Consignment Auctions. It's been a great experience, and we would like to say thank you to everyone who has been a part of these auctions over the years and that have helped make these auctions successful: all our Staff, Sellers, Buyers, Visitors, Advertisers and Community. A special thank you to the Urbana Lions Club for loyally and faithfully hosting their lunch stand and delicious food to all our Auction Attendees.

WANTED

WE ARE STRICTLY KEEPING THIS TO FARM ITEMS ONLY!

Accepting Farm Consignments beginning:

Saturday April 4th: 8am to 5pm

Sunday April 5th: 10am to 4pm

Monday April 6th to Thursday April 9th: 8am to 6pm

Friday April 10th: 8am to NOON!

Note: Call ahead with questions or to confirm your items. We cannot accept junk tires, household contents, doors/windows, sinks, bicycles, toys, yard décor, loose shingles, or siding.

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AUCTION THURSDAY MARCH 26 AT 5:30 PM

Public viewing Tuesday March 24, 4-7 pm

Pick up time Saturday March 28, 8 am till 12:30 pm

IH 104 riding mower with blade and snow blower, lawn cart, Ariens snow blower, like new push mower, woodworking tools, table saw, scroll saw, drill press, ladders, many, many hand tools, tool boxes, space heaters, shovels, rakes, etc., **ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLES:** child sleds, baskets, metal lawn chairs, child's wagon, water cans, minnow buckets, oil and gas cans, wash tubs, garden plow, egg baskets, crocks, milk can, cross cut saws, hand axes, paper roller, Tonka trucks, Maytag wringer washer, carnival glass, egg crates, many salt and peppers, China and glass pcs., trunks, spinning wheel, mantel clocks, advertising pcs., wall phone, silverware, display cabinet, dressers, grandfather clock, drop frnt. desk, radio in cabinet and much more, **APPLIANCES/HOUSEHOLD:** Estate upright refrig./ freezer, Kenmore dryer, Whirlpool stove and a few more, bedroom sets, small kitchen items and much more.

Go to the website for pictures and info. Owner: Ron Steffen Estate

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2 Day Equipment Consignment Auction Saturday, March 28th @ 9:00 AM- Live & Internet Bidding w/Equipment Facts

Sunday, March 29th, 2026

@ Noon-Online Only Bidding

5675 Hwy 13, Coggon, IA 52218 Call/Text: Andy 319-435-2302

Accepting Equipment till Wednesday, March 25th

Tractors: '14 JD 6150R MFWD, w/H360 ldr, 3200 hrs (pre def), power quad w/E range; '91 JD 8760 4WD, 8300hrs, 4SVS, LED lights; JD 6300, 2 WD, open station, 6500hrs; JD 1025R, diesel, 4x4, 60" deck, cab w/heat, 400 hrs; JD 2210, Diesel, 4x4, 62" deck, 475 hrs; Case IH MX275, MFWD, 7K hrs; Kubota BX2230 Diesel, hydro, 4x4, cab/heat, 60" deck, 1450 hrs; '63 JD 4010D, WF, synchro, 6600 hrs; '68 JD 2030G, WF, PS, 7K hrs; '64 JD 3020G, non runner; '66 JD 10202G, non runner; '72 IH 574, non runner; Minneapolis Moline Z tractor, non runner

Tillage: IH 4800 FC, 24ft; Kent soil finisher, 23'; Case IH 4800 FC, 28'; Great Plains 4000 turbo till. Series 2, 40ft, few acres on new blades & bearings; JD 210 disk, 13.5ft; JD 960 FC, 30ft 3 bar coil tine; JD 235 disk, cone blades, 18ft; Several IH plows from Estate; H14 Phoenix harrow, 40ft; JD 724 SF, 17.5ft, 3 bar coil tine; 10ft, 3pt FC w/harrow; IH 60, 9 shank consertill disk chisel; Krause Landsman TL6200 SF w/harrow & rolling bskt, 36" new shovels; Glenco soil finisher, 20ft; Case IH 4600 vibra shank FC, 30ft, 3 bar coil tine, new sweeps; Brillion10ft cultmulcher

Livestock Equipment: Knight 252 manure spreader; Kuhn Knight 3130 Reel Auggie Feed wagon, new augers & knives, scale; Case IH 1250 grinder mixer, all hyd; Luck Now 2420 VT w/scale; NI 3626 manure spreader, sharp; (2) -14ft forage wagons; For-Most crowding tub- like new; NH 352 grinder mixer; IH 2250 LDR w/valve & universal mount; Westendorf WL42 w/mts no bkt; Several gates, posts, etc; H&S 310 manure spreader; Knight 7712 slinger spreader; Like new cattle working chute w/power lock; Henke roller mill; Richie cattle waters

Construction: '95 Case 721B wheel loader, shows 7800 hrs; '01 Deere 310SG TLB, extendahoe; '14 Volvo G946C motor grader 9500 hrs; '10 Volvo G946 motor grader, 11k hrs; '03 Deere 772CH motor grader, 11k hrs; NH 575E TLB, extendahoe, aux hyd, 4x4, 6350 hrs; Bobcat T770, CAH, 1400hrs; Bobcat S650, CAH, 2K hrs; Bobcat 773, 3100 hrs; Bobcat 530 skid steer; Bobcat S185, 5200 hrs; NH C238, 1800 hrs; NH L228, 5K hrs; '03 NH LS160 skid steer, 3100hrs, ORPS; Skidsteer mt, backhoe attach; Future skid steer mt, mulcher, FT-72pro; Set of new rubber tracks 450x88x715; JD T60 tooth bucket, 5ft; (2) CFG min excavator, gas; Garfield 850 scraper w/hyd eject

Plating/Spraying: Landoll 5531-40X10 drill, pneumatic down pressure; '15 Tru Ag 16x30 NH 3 bar, Yetter Magnum disk applicators, John Blue piston pump, Raven heat exchanger; JD 7200 Max Merge 4x38 planter; 3pt 2x30 food plot planter; JD 7000 6x30, corn & bean planter; 2500 gal poly tank; JD 7 section harrow on cart, JD sections; Case IH 5100 drill, 12ft, GS, DDO, 7" spacing; JD B drill, 12ft, GS, DDO; '04 JD 1750 6x30 planter, finger p/u, 350 monitor, LF; Century 500 gal, 2pt sprayer, no pump; Bestway 500 gal sprayer, 60ft, Raven flow control

Hay & Forage: '12 NH 7230 disc bine; NH 489 haybine; 20ft bale conveyor; '08 JD 946 disc bine w/impellers; Heston PT-10 haybine; NI 486 rnd baler; JD 640 rake; MacDon 4000 haybine; Woods brushbull extreme BB84 3pt rotary mower; 8x14 hay rack;

Ford NH 451, 3pt sickle mower, 9ft; Rhino FM10 rotary mower
Harvest: Brent 974 grain cart on tracks, tarp & scale; JD 4420 combine, 1785 hrs; JD platform & 4 row CH from JD4420; J&M 350 GW on JD 1065A gear; Spring Land 48ft bin sweep; Brage box on JD 1065 gear; Several gravity wagons

Trucks /Trailer: '18 Kenworth T680, 600k, Paccar 450, 10 spd auto; '07 Sterling LT7500 dump truck, 226k; '07 Load Pro GN trailer, 30ft w/beaver tail & ramps, 2- 10K axles; '21 Chaparral 7x20 GN livestock trailer, fiberglass floor; 7x20 Chaparral, GN alum. Livestock trailer; '26 (new) Big tex 7x14 BH dump trailer; '12 Texas Pride BH 7x14 dump trailer; '98 Kidron 28' S/A Van Trailer set up for spray tender, 1600 gal tank, 4 chem inductors, transfer pump; '92 Trailet, BH 2 horse straight trailer w/tack room; '98 Chaparral BH livestock trailer, 6x16; Wilson 45' alum pot belly; '13 Chevy Silverado 1500, 120K; '09 Chevy Silverado 1500, 245K; '09 Chevy Colorado, 92K; '86 Chevy Kodiak straight truck, 3208 CAT; 25K air tag axle

Misc: (2) 40ft multi door containers; (4) floater tires & rims, off Rogator; New wood bars, tables & planters; Wood working tools; Front fenders for JD tractor; Fence row sprayer boom; (4) 18.4x38 JD dbl veer rims; New ratchet straps; Cat 1 wt box; Demco 12 ton running gear; Several new doors, cabinets, vanity's; Several pallets, new cement board; Arctic Cat 400 4 wheeler; Timber wolf log splitter; JD 115, 3pt blade, 8'; Sandwich 2.5hp Hit n Miss engine; JD 47 snowblower, fits X500 series; (2) 550 gal fuel barrels w/containment; (4) 20ft containers; New lumber; 10 bolt dual spacers; Bin sweeps for 18 & 24ft bins

Local Retirement: Case Farmall 65A w/L610 loader, MFWD, only 250 hrs; Case IH 5140 MFWD, 4600 hrs; Case SV300 SL, CAH, 2 speed, 3600 hrs; Case IH 685D, MFWD, 5400hrs; Kuhn/Knight Pro Spread 1140 manure spreader; Knight Reel Auggie 3025 feed wagon w/scale; (2) Westfield Augers; 31ft rolling chopper, unused; Case IH Magnum 290, MFWD, 220 hrs

2 Local Estates: Like New '20 Gravelly SX5, Only 5.7 MILES, power dump, cab w/heat, crank windows; JD Gator SX5, 4x2, 1100 hrs; Ford 1920 Diesel, 4x4, 450 hrs; Vermeer V-434 trencher; JD 14T baler; JD 332 lawn mower, 48"; Mitsubishi/Satoh S-470 diesel lawn tractor; JD 70 project tractor; Heider box; '13 Chevy K1500 pickup 4x4, 183K; '69 JD 3020D, NF 10K hrs; JD 953 running gear; Gehl 4625 skid steer, Diesel, bkt & forks; (4) 35ft steel I beams; Rhino 8ft, 3pt blade; '04 Bass tracker fishing boat, 16ft, 60hp, Merc, sharp; '00 GMC 2500, gas, 230K; Small flare & gravity wagons; '17 Chaparral GN tilt trailer, 6/17 tilt, 23' overall; NH 56 rake

Side by Sides: Kawasaki Teryx, KRX1000, 1800 miles; '23 CanAm defender HD9XT, cab w/heat, power windows, tip out glass, 9400hrs; '23 CF Moto U-Force 1000 EPS, cab w/heat, tip out windshield, 8600 miles; '15 Polaris Ranger 900 XPLE EPS 7900 miles; '18 Polaris Ranger XPI1000 Premium cab w/heat, 9K miles; '16 Polaris Ranger XP, Camo, OROPS, 8600 miles; Kubota RTV 1100, diesel, CAH, 4500 miles

Auctioneer Notes: Running-2 rings Saturday with live & internet bidding. Sunday will be pallet row items online only at noon. It's always a good idea to call if you are coming from a long distance away for a certain piece of equipment to make sure it showed up at the sale lot. Check the website often for updates on equipment arrival. We will update as items come in. Many more consignments are expected. Load out available. All items must be in the sale yard by Wednesday, March 25th @ 5:00PM Terms: Payment must be received by Friday, April 3rd. Cash, Check, ACH in US only, wire transfer \$10.00 fee, or Credit/Debit Card (with additional 4% fee). No invoices exceeding \$1,500.00 can be paid for with a credit card. Nothing removed until settled for. ID required to get a bidding number. Everything sold as is with no warranty. All announcements made on sale day take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents, theft, or weather-related damage. Lunch & Restroom on site.

Call 319-435-2303 or go to hogauctioneering.com for more details

Walker Sale Barn SPECIAL CATTLE SALE SATURDAY MARCH 21ST

Market Cows/bulls at 1030am Bred cows at 11am Feeders at 1230pm

Early Listings:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10 Blk Bred Cows | 18 calves 550-700# 2rds LTW |
| Spring calvings bred simtal | 10 calves 500-600# P.C. LTW (REP) |
| 3 BrahmaX bred Heifers due any day | 9 calves 400-600# 2rd LTW |
| 30 calves 550-800# 1rd LTW (REP) | 7 calves 550-600# P.C. LTW |
| 30 calves 500-650# 2rds LTW | 6 calves 650-700# 2rds LTW |
| 25 calves 500-900# P.C. LTW (REP) | 4 calves 400-600# 2rds LTW |
| 20 calves 650-900# 2rds LTW | |

More cattle by sale time!
 Keep checking in for updates on social media under Walker Salebarn or the website on walkersalebarn.com!

Our upcoming cattle sales will be on the third Saturday

REGULAR SALES 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS at 6pm

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