

## Editor's Notebook



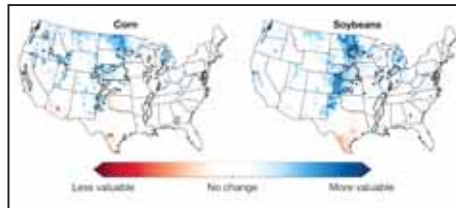
**Scott Geyer**  
Editor & Publisher

subscription for those who don't want to pay a price increase for printed and mailed copies.

The ladies working in the office faced an all-new system for orders and subscriptions with just a few days' notice and little to no time for formal training. They jumped in and took care of subscribers like nothing had happened.

Our new system allows subscribers to log in and see the number of issues left, renew, auto-renew and read digital editions. We also have a new storefront selling our books and back issues on DVD or USB.

Yes, our rates increased on January 1 to cover postage, but there isn't much we can do about printing and mailing costs. We appreciate every reader and subscriber to FARM SHOW. Want to help us keep a good thing going? Tell a friend or consider giving a gift subscription if you're able. Thanks, Scott



**U.S. map of projected changes in the value of crop irrigation for corn and soybeans by the middle of the 21st century, with currently irrigated areas outlined in black.**

## Study Finds More Irrigation Needed

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Rising temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns increase the potential for drought and the need for more irrigation, according to a study led by Trevor Partridge, a postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth University and a research hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Mission Area.

The study identified a need for more irrigation throughout the Midwest, from Michigan and Ohio to North and South Dakota and south to Kentucky and Oklahoma. It found that the benefits of irrigation in those areas that are currently rain-fed outweigh the costs of installation and operation.

"Our work essentially creates a U.S. map of where it'll make the most sense to install and use irrigation equipment for corn and soybean crops in the future," says Partridge.

Study participants ran model crop growth simulations under various global climate projections under fully irrigated or rain-fed conditions. Each scenario was run for corn and soybean crops across all cultivated areas of the U.S. The simulations were run under moderate and high greenhouse gas scenarios. They calculated the additional crop yield and market value expected relative to the irrigation costs.

The team looked at where and when irrigation would pay and whether the area had sufficient water for irrigation.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. 03755 (tpartridge@usgs.gov; https://home.dartmouth.edu/news/2023/08/study-finds-more-us-crops-require-irrigation).



**All legal commodities are insurable in the U.S., and GreenStone works with many clients in Michigan and the Midwest who grow everything from cut flowers to cherries, as well as U-Pick orchards and diverse farm stands.**

## Crop Insurance For Specialty Crops

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

You don't need to grow commodity crops to get crop insurance. Since 2022, the USDA Risk Management Agency has offered small and specialty crop farmers insurance through the Micro Farm Program.

"There was a big market segment that was being underserved. Micro Farm Crop Insurance was developed to

provide coverage for smaller, diverse operations that sell to local markets," says Cory Blumerick, specialty crop manager for GreenStone® Farm Credit Services.

It's designed for farmers with operations of all sizes, whether they grow an acre of grapes that grosses \$3,000 in allowable crop revenue annually or a combination of products that earn up to \$350,000 (or \$400,000 after the first year).

The Micro Farm Program is more streamlined and requires less paperwork than the Whole Farm Revenue Protection insurance policy, which started in 2015.

"They're looking at total consolidated allowable revenue instead of breaking it out by each commodity," Blumerick says, which makes it simpler. That's helpful for organic or farmers market growers with a variety of crops, as well as someone who grows a crop such as lavender and sells soaps and lotions made from it.

Applicants provide consolidated sales records and three to five years of Schedule F tax returns, depending on how long they've been farming. The cost to the client for the insurance premium is reasonable, at 2 1/2 percent. For example, for \$100,000 in crop/crop product liability, the producers' share of the premium would be \$2,500. The government subsidizes 80 percent of the cost, while the producer is responsible for 20 percent.

The insurance covers natural market decline, weather-related events and naturally occurring unavoidable events. It does not cover the lack of a market or lack of labor.

"Essentially, if the insured revenue falls below the guaranteed liability due to insurable causes of loss, they're in a claim situation," Blumerick says.

All legal commodities are insurable in the U.S., and GreenStone works with many clients in Michigan and the Midwest who grow everything from cut flowers to cherries, as well as U-Pick orchards and diverse farm stands.

The closing date is April 15, but Blumerick suggests starting the application process early. Coverage starts 10 days after an approved application. He adds that additional subsidies for veterans and beginning farmers cut premiums in half for 10 years; three years of Schedule F returns are still required.

Agents are on the USDA website ([www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)) under the "Find an Agent" link.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, 3515 West Rd., East Lansing, Mich. 48823 (ph 231-944-6697; [cory.blumerick@greenstonefcs.com](mailto:cory.blumerick@greenstonefcs.com); [www.greenstonefcs.com](http://www.greenstonefcs.com)).

## Liberty Quotes

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future" *John F. Kennedy*

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." *Walt Disney*

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." *Vince Lombardi*

"I'm proud to pay taxes in the United States; the only thing is, I could be just as proud for half the money." *Arthur Godfrey*

"Bad weather always looks worse through a window." *Tom Lehrer*

"We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up." *Phyllis Diller*

**Ole and Sven go ice fishing.** Ole pulls out his new thermos and Sven says to him, "Ole, whatcha got der?"

Ole says, "Well Sven, dis here's a thermos. It keeps hot tings hot, and it keeps cold tings cold."

After a while, Sven gets curious and says, "Vell Ole, whatcha got in dat der thermos?"

Ole says, "Vell Sven, I got a popsicle and two cups a coffee."

**Sven and Ole are visiting a relative in Texas.** Walking along the street, they see a sign on a store front which reads:

- Suits \$5.00 each
- Shirts \$2.00 each
- Trousers \$2.50 per pair

Sven says to his pal, "Hey Ole! LOOK! We could buy a whole lot of dem, and ven ve get back to Minnesota, ve could make a fortune. Now ven ve go into da shop, you be quiet, okay? Yust let me do all da talkin' cause if dey hear our Minnesota accent dey might tink ve are dumb Norwegians and try to raise da price. But, I can speak with a perfect Texas drawl."

They go in and Sven draws out an order for 50 suits at \$5.00 each, 100 shirts at \$2.00 each and 50 pairs of trousers at \$2.50 each.

The owner of the shop says, "You're Norwegians from Minnesota, aren't you?"

"Uff da!" says a surprised Sven. "How'd you know dat?" The owner says, "Cause this is a dry-cleaners."



## Where Have All The 4020s Gone?

Jason Aldean recently opened his 4th restaurant and bar in the City Center area of Las Vegas.

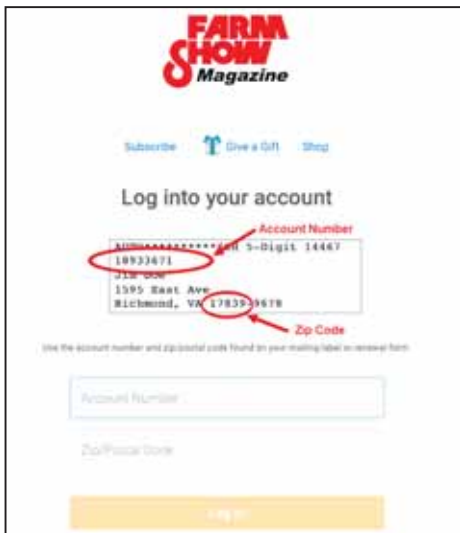
In tradition with his other locations, the bar in Las Vegas features a Deere 4020 diesel in the middle of the bar.

Each of his bars features a tractor as a nod to his song "Big Green Tractor."

Other locations are in Nashville, Pittsburgh and Gatlinburg.

If he keeps opening new locations, 4020s will be harder to find and buy.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jason Aldean's Kitchen + Rooftop Bar ([www.jasonaldeansbar.com](http://www.jasonaldeansbar.com)).



## Change Is Good, Right?

They say change is good. Most of us only change when we are forced to. Such was the case here at FARM SHOW. In November, our system for tracking accounts, orders and subscriptions failed, and we were not able to repair it due to the age of the software and computers used to run it.

If you check the label on this issue of FARM SHOW, you might notice you have a new account number. Our new system offers some upgrades over the old one, but the last system was specifically written for FARM SHOW, so it fit our needs very well.

We'll rely more on email to notify you when your subscription is up for renewal. We're now offering a digital-only