

Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23, 2023, 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM
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Nashua

REPORTER

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17 November 2023

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Bob Fenske/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School students in grades K-2, under the direction of Rebecca Marty, sing “Twinkle, Twinkle 50 Stars” during “Our Heroes, Our Veterans,” the school’s annual Veterans Day program that was held last Friday.

GRATITUDE FOR THE THANK YOUS!

GUEST SPEAKER SHARES HIS STORY, EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR RESPECT SHOWN BY NASHUA-PLAINFIELD STUDENTS

Denny Hull (right) talks with students at a Veterans Day program, where Luke Paplow and Hayden Munn (below) perform “Taps.”

SEE VETERANS DAY, 2

By BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

Veterans Day has always had a special meaning to Denny Hull; after all, throughout his life, Nov. 11 has been a red-letter day for the U.S. Army veteran who delivered the keynote address at last week’s Veterans Day program at Nashua-Plainfield High School.

The Charles City High School graduate was inducted into the Army on Veterans Day 1970, he spent Veterans Day 1971 in Vietnam, and 19 years later, on Nov. 11, 1990, he landed in Saudi Arabia as part of the American forces that took part in Operation Desert Storm that freed Kuwait from Iraqi forces.

And on Veterans Day 2023, Hull shared his story — one that saw him go from Northeast Iowa to the jungles of Southeast Asia to the deserts of the Middle East — on a day when both Nashua-Plainfield schools honored the men and women who have served and who are continuing to serve their country.

“I love this country, I love God,” Hull told high school and middle school students during his address, “and I’m thankful that I am still alive. ... My dearest friends are the ones who answered the call, and I’m proud of you because you’re honoring them today.”

In Vietnam, Hull was part of the Army’s “river patrol,” where he learned to water ski.

“We learned pretty quickly, though, that you never knew what was around the next bend,” Hull said. “Water skiing when they’re firing at you ... trust me, it’s not a fun experience.”

He turned serious when he talked about one of his fellow soldiers, James A. Loux. While on patrol, the boat struck a mine, engulfing the boats in flames.

Chamber’s flower-pot contest builds up Christmas spirit

Nashua residents will have a to vote for their favorite decorated pot; ‘Christmas in Nashua,’ ‘Christmas on Main’ to be held on the same day

By BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas in downtown Nashua these days thanks to a contest sponsored by the Big 4 Chamber of Commerce.

That’s because the 20 or so flower pots that are part of the Main Street landscape have a Christmas theme, and starting next week, residents can weigh in on which one they think is the best.

“We gave up the flower pots a few years ago,” Big 4 Chamber of Commerce President Val Johnson said, “but the person who took it over is no longer in town so when we got it back, we thought, ‘Let’s try something new.’”

And the results are downright Christmassy as 20 businesses, organizations and families were asked to decorate the flower pots with a Christmas theme.

So the Main Street flower pots offer up a variety of Christmas trees and ornaments, along with presents, snowmen and a nativity scene or two.

And the pots are a reminder that — despite the recent very un-November-like weather — that Christmas is just around the proverbial corner.

Christmas in Nashua and Plainfield’s Christmas in Main are two weeks from this Saturday, on Dec. 2, to be exact.

This will mark the first time in recent memory that both towns will hold their Christmas celebrations on the same day. In the past, Nashua’s event was on Saturday while Plainfield held its celebration on Sunday.

“We’re mostly in the morning here in Nashua, and Plainfield is mostly in the evening,” Johnson said. “It’ll be

Bob Fenske/Reporter

Flower pots on Nashua’s Main Street are getting area residents into the Christmas spirit.

SEE CHRISTMAS, 4

Public Health wary about Heritage move

Board members say they want to know cost before making decision

By BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors on Monday moved ahead with getting an estimated cost on moving Public Health and Homecare Services from its current location at the Community Services Building to the Heritage Center.

The action came despite concerns expressed by the department’s director, assistant director and Board of Health member.

Board members, though, reached consensus to get an estimate on how much it would cost to move one of the county’s biggest departments to the old county home just south of New Hampton.

“We’ve already paid money, we might as well see what the costs will be,” Board Chairman Matt Kuhn said, referring to the fact that the consultant contract the county has already paid for will cover the cost of coming up with an estimate.

Board of Health member Jeremy McGrath said he felt supervisors could have more clearly communicated the reasons for proposing the move.

“As a board member,” he said, “I wished someone would have come down and said, ‘Hey, this is what we’re going to look at doing. We’re going to spend \$10,000 or whatever it was on this study to do this. What’s your guys’ thoughts?’ That didn’t happen.”

Also at Monday’s meeting were Public Health Director Lisa Welter and her assistant, Ann Knutson, and the latter expressed her opposition to moving the department.

“I don’t think it’s the right place to put us because there are too many people who walk to our clinics, who walk to WIC and stroll their kids in,” Knutson said. “I know it’s for the whole county, but the people who live outside of town are going to drive anyway, but we have a lot of people that don’t. And them [state legislators] talking about regionalizing us, it would be a waste of money.”

McGrath said that with the number of potential projects on the county docket, he questioned the need for the move.

“To me, we’re trying to spend money before we got it,” he said. “As a taxpayer, I don’t know if

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SEE SUPERVISORS, 4



Area hospital celebrates remodeling

By BOB STEENSON
 bsteenson@charlescitypress.com

The newly remodeled Radiology Department and Emergency Department were on display for an afternoon open house at the Floyd County Medical Center last week.

Other departments were also featured, offering information, an opportunity for visitors to ask questions and visit with personnel, along with snacks and goodie bags.

FCMC staff took visitors on tours of the remodeled facilities. Todd Fails, the director of facilities and materials management, led some of the groups.

Fails also talked about some of the changes to the hospital that will continue to follow through with a

SEE HOSPITAL, 5



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Members of the VFW Ralph Nicholson Post 6794 Firing Squad (above) conduct the “salute” at the end of the Veterans Day program at the high school while elementary students Warner Huck and Alexis Folkerts (right) present part of the program at their school in front of the “Empty Table” that signifies veterans and their families who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Veterans appreciate Nashua-Plainfield students of all ages

VETERANS DAY: FROM 1

“Those boats were made of fiberglass and when we hit the mine, it blew everywhere,” Hull said, “but there was James Loux, continuing to fire and taking out two machine nests despite being severely burned. He saved a lot of lives that day.”

Two days later, Loux died from his wounds, and he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, third-highest military decoration for valor in combat given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Following the program that also featured the Nashua-Plainfield Concert Band and Concert Choir, Hull said it was meaningful to him to see students so respectful during the program.

“All the veterans who were here, trust me, they appreciate it,” he said. “All of us gave up things — birthdays, family celebrations, things like that — to be in the military, whether we were in combat or not. The best gift to us is the thank yous. It means a lot.”

For the veterans honored on their day, it was a busy Friday morning.

They met at the elementary school for



coffee and doughnuts and then were honored during the school’s annual Veterans Day program that was, in a few words, cute and meaningful as music teacher Rebecca Marty led her students in songs like “Twinkle, Twinkle 50 Stars,” “How to Tell a Veteran Thank You” and “American

Heart.” And students like Trey Gentry, Joel Paplow, Alexis Folkerts and Warner Huck shared patriotic facts with their peers.

“They always do such a nice job for us,” VFW Ralph Nicholson Post 6792 Quartermaster Dan Bilharz said, “and they always bring a smile to our faces.”



Nashua-Plainfield Concert Band member Lyla Burrichter (left) plays her trumpet during the high school program while Trey Gentry and Joel Paplow (above) speak at the elementary school Veterans Day program.



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Army veterans (above) are recognized during the “Armed Forces Medley” at the elementary school while the Nashua-Plainfield High School Concert Choir (below) performs during the high school program.



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Huskies gear up for weight class changes

Frost says boys should have ‘pretty solid lineup,’ although new classifications may mean team may have to cut more weight

By Kelly Terpstra
Of the Reporter

Change is inevitable. It's usually just a matter of time before it takes place. Well, it happened this summer and in the prep wrestling world – it's a big deal. Alterations were made across the board and throughout the nation as every high school grappling squad will have to adhere to new weight class changes that were implemented by The National Federation of State High Schools Associations (NFHS). That means there's plenty of movement in Iowa's 14 weight classes. Nashua-Plainfield head coach Al Frost, who officially started his 34th year as Husky frontman of his perennial-power program this past Monday, gave his take on the first change to weight classes on the high school level in the sport of wrestling since 2010-2011. Asked point blank on whether or not he's in favor of the changes that will take effect this winter to half of the 14 weight divisions in all classes and Frost had this to say. "Not this year – the way our team's set up as far as our size," said Frost. "That basically kind of put us at a disadvantage." That's not exactly a ringing endorsement of the changes that will affect hundreds of schools in the state that will vie for spots at the dual and traditional state tournaments in February. "I don't think it really helped us this year with the team we got," said Frost. "Probably, to make it to the best of our advantage it's going to have to have our guys cut more weight." N-P has 29 wrestlers out this

year and is poised to once again "storm the gates" at Wells Fargo Arena and bring home another big trophy at the traditional state tournament. "That's the most we've had out in a few years," said Frost. The Huskies reeled in a third-place state finish in Class 1A at the "Well" and did the same a few weeks earlier at the state dual tournament held in Coralville. That means Frost's wrestlers will have to adapt to the weight class changes and continue to work hard in order to replicate or exceed last season's banner campaign. Winning out on the mat is never easy – even when it looks effortless. "On Monday, I said that's gonna be the best these guys are going to feel probably for most of the season," said Frost. Frost is alluding to cutting weight – which the Huskies will have to do a lot of this season in order to fill out N-P's lineup where the coaching staff wants it. Twenty-nine wrestlers is more than a decent-sized roster in terms of numbers out for a small-school class wrestling squad. "My goal is to keep 'em out. We've already put the pencil to it as far as what kind of lineup we should have. It looks like a pretty solid lineup," said Frost. So here's the brass tax on the weight class changes. Iowa was given the option of choosing 12, 13 or 14 weight classes. The Hawkeye State chose the latter – which was the same amount it's been for decades. So lower weight classes – 106, 113, 120, 126, 132 and 138 – remain the same. The

SEE WRESTLING, 9



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Getting ready for a winter of hoops

Nashua-Plainfield boys basketball coach Matt Mueller (above) talks with his Huskies during a break in practice, the Huskies' Ava Kirk (below left) looks for an open teammate during a drill in practice and Gavin Wayne (below right) puts up a shot in traffic. The Huskies open the girls basketball season with a game at Tripoli on Tuesday while Mueller's boys begin their season a week later with a Top of Iowa Conference East Division game at Rockford.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Members of the Nashua-Plainfield boys wrestling team get a jog in before practice begins on Wednesday afternoon.

ON TAP FOR OUR NASHUA-PLAINFIELD HUSKIES

SATURDAY

Varsity football vs. South Winneshiek, homecoming, 7 p.m.
Girls wrestling at Decorah Invitational, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY

Girls varsity basketball at Tripoli, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 28

Girls wrestling at Central Elkader tournament, 5 p.m.
Boys basketball at Rockford, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

Boys wrestling Mason City Newman, Lake Mills and Garner-Hayfield-Ventura at Newman, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

Basketball vs. Northwood-Kensett, boys JV at 5 p.m., girls varsity at 6:15 p.m., boys varsity at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

Boys wrestling at Wapsie Valley Invitational, JV at 8:15 a.m., varsity at 10 a.m.

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Bob Fenske/Reporter

Chickasaw County Public Health and Homecare Services Administrator Lisa Welter (center) makes a point to the Board of Supervisors Monday as her assistant, Ann Knutson (left), and Board of Health member Jeremy McGrath listen.

Board will take bids on Heritage water project

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

I like that idea.” Supervisor Jacob Hackman, though, said he felt the county needed to consider moving Public Health — pointing out it would give the department more space and give Public Health access to a backup generator that is located at the former county home. He also said that if Public Health moves, the building that currently houses the county attorney and the Emergency Management Agency on New Hampton’s south side could be sold.

Fellow Supervisor Travis Suckow also believes that Public Health would “fit in” with the other county agencies and non-profit offices that have taken up residence in the Heritage during the past year.

“I’m going to say this flat out,” Suckow said. “I think all them offices that are down there already, they all come of work together. It would be kind of like a one stop.”

Among the other projects that the county is considering is adding living quarters to the Chickasaw County EMS building in New Hampton and paying the construction costs to extend city of New Hampton water lines to the Heritage, which is not within

city limits.

During the more than 20 minutes of discussion, board members not only looked over the plans the county would submit to get an estimate, but they also discussed where the county’s Emergency Operations Center would be located if Public Health moves to the Heritage.

“EOC is one of those things, [during the] COVID pandemic, it worked great having it in public health, but in a natural disaster, it’s going to work better having it in Jeff’s area,” McGrath said, referring to EMA Director Jeff Bernatz.

Welter also pointed out that if the county needs to do what she called a “mass clinic,” like it did during the pandemic, the Heritage wouldn’t be as convenient for her staff if that clinic was held at the Chickasaw Event Center, which is located just across the street from the Community Services Building.

“That worked well because we just walked across the parking lot,” she said, “but we’d be running back and forth across town.”

Still, only one supervisor appeared willing to hit the brakes on moving Public Health.

“I’m not in favor,” Steve Breitbach said. “I don’t think it’s the right thing to do this at this time, but that’s just my opinion.”

But as Kuhn stated, getting an estimate on a cost to move Public Health won’t cost the county any more than it already has spent so the board moved ahead.

.....

Board members also voted 5-0 on Monday to seek bids on the water project at the Heritage despite the fact that the New Hampton City Council last week did not back off from having the county use a bigger line than county officials say they need.

The county said it would pay for a six-inch line for a project that would cost around \$213,500, but city officials said they would proceed with the project only if the county agreed to pay for an eight-inch line and an auto-flusher.

Kuhn said Monday morning that the two items would cost the county somewhere between \$20,000 and \$22,000.

However, the Board of Supervisors members decided that they will call for bids on the project. That doesn’t necessarily mean city water will be going to the Heritage, because the county can reserve the right to reject the bids.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, or at least winter, along Nashua’s Main Street thanks to a flower-pot contest begin put on by the Big 4 Chamber of Commerce.

Nashua, Plainfield gear up for Christmas events

CHRISTMAS: FROM 1

a busy day, that’s for sure, and it’s a chance for everyone to see what great businesses and communities we have.”

The Christmas in Nashua schedule is, in a word hectic.

Among the events planned on the first Saturday of December are:

- Compass Outreach silent auction from 9 a.m. to noon.
- VFW Craft and Vendor Show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Gateway to Northeast Iowa Welcome Center Craft and Vendor Show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Graphic Apparel Husky Holiday Open House will be held from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Santa’s Workshop at the Nashua Public Library will begin at 10 a.m.
- Santa Mini Sessions at the B will run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- The Nashua Park Board will hold S’mores on Main from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The Boy Scouts Soup Lunch will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the welcome center.
- The Nashua Garden Club will hold its annual soup supper at the welcome center from 5 to 7 p.m.
- The Pizza Puzzle will begin at 6 p.m. at the B.



Throw in the Christmas on Main activities in Plainfield from 5 to 7:30 p.m., and it’s going to be quite a day for the two communities to show off all they have to offer.

And if anyone needs reminding that the Christmas season is upon us, all they need to do is drive down Nashua’s Main Street.

“We’ve been really happy with how many people stepped up for the contest,” Johnson said. “Not all of us are done quite yet, but the ones that are ... well, you can see they’re really going to get people in the spirit of the season.”

Briefs

‘Remembering the Apron’ program to be held at library Saturday

The Nashua Public Library will take a nostalgic look at the apron this Saturday morning when it holds a program put on by Sheila Craig.

The program will run from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Craig will have on hand a portion of her collection of aprons, which numbers 400.

She will show off the fabrics, styles and the many different ways they were used by the people from our past, and she doesn’t leave out the men, either, as she’ll have examples for them as well.

Last call registration for commercial applicators continuing ed

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office will require all applicators that still need a Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators to call for a reshew date as soon as possible.

Reshows will not be offered after Friday, Dec. 15 for this calendar year.

To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC’s, contact Lynn Bruess at the ISU Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office at 641-394-2174.

Additional information and registration forms for all courses offered through PSEP can be accessed at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep/>.

New Hampton church to serve community dinner on Thanksgiving

Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hampton will put on its annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner next week.

A full turkey and ham dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church’s Fellowship Hall, and no reservations are required.

The annual dinner takes a freewill donation, and all proceeds from the meal will go to the Chickasaw County Food Pantry.

The church is located at 223 S. Water Ave.

Iowa PBS begins annual Fall Festival fundraising campaing today

Tour some of the iconic structures in Mason City and Clear Lake, take an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the setting for the Hotel Portofino series, enjoy clips and behind-the-scenes memories of the Christmas finale episodes of All Creatures Great and Small, and revel in music from the Everly Brothers, Steve & Eydie, The Highwaymen, Barbra Streisand and more during Fall Festival 2023.

The festival begins today and runs through Sunday and then begins anew Nov. 23-29, and this year’s event is filled with music, history, drama, Iowa architecture and more.

During the pledge drive, viewers will have the opportunity to support the programming and services they enjoy all year long, ensuring that Iowa PBS continues to educate, inform, enrich and inspire Iowans across the state.

Program for those going through grief during holidays set for Monday

On Monday, Nov. 20 Prairie Lakes Church in New Hampton will host a “warm and caring” event designed to help anyone dealing with the intense pain of grief during the holidays.

The charge is \$7 per person for the event, which runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Those interested may sign up at griefshare.org.

ISU Extension to offer pest control instruction on Dec. 6

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office will host a Pest Control Operators Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is the Chickasaw County Extension Office at 115 N. Broadway Ave, New Hampton, IA. Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. Walk-ins on the day of the program will only be admitted if room allows. The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$70 on or before Nov. 23 and \$80 after Nov. 23. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Lynn Bruess at the ISU Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office at 641-394-2174.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 7A (General Household Pest), 7B (Termite), 8 (Public Health), and new this year 7D (Community Insect).

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered through PSEP can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP.

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HOURS ARE 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

JANUARY 1, 2024	NEW YEAR’S DAY (MONDAY)
FEBRUARY 19, 2024	PRESIDENTS’ DAY (MONDAY)
MARCH 29, 2024	CLOSE AT NOON FOR GOOD FRIDAY
MAY 27, 2024	MEMORIAL DAY (MONDAY)
JULY 4, 2024	INDEPENDENCE DAY (THURSDAY)
SEPTEMBER 2, 2024	LABOR DAY (MONDAY)
NOVEMBER 11, 2024	VETERANS DAY (MONDAY)
NOVEMBER 28, 2024	THANKSGIVING (THURSDAY)
NOVEMBER 29, 2024	DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING (FRIDAY)
DECEMBER 24, 2024	CHRISTMAS EVE DAY (TUESDAY)
DECEMBER 25, 2024	CHRISTMAS DAY (WEDNESDAY)

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

According to Nashua-Plainfield 1st Graders



How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Dad will get the turkey from the farm. He puts it in the car. We then put the turkey in the microwave for 5 or 4 minutes. Mom then cuts it up. We then eat the turkey.

Reagan F.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, I put some salt and pepper on it. Then, Mom would probably put it in the oven. She cooks it for 10 minutes. She takes it out of the oven and we eat it.

josie M.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, put the turkey in the oven. Cook it for 21 minutes and on middle heat. Then put the ingredients on and it is ready to eat.

Knox L.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

I can go to the store and get a turkey. I will get the turkey and go home. I will set the table up. I will cook the turkey in the oven for 1/2 minute. Then, put the turkey on a plate and put it in the middle of the table. I will sit down and eat.

Justin H.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, I catch the turkey. Warm it up in a pan. I cut it. I put salt on it and then I eat it.

Brinley M.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, buy the turkey from my grandma's house. You cook it in the oven. Dad cooks the turkey for 50 minutes. Then warm it up and then you can eat it.

oliver P.

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, I flat the turkey. I get the turkey from the turkey store. Then, start the stove, put the pan on and then put the turkey in the pan. We start cooking it for 20 hours. When it is done, then we put it on the plates. My dad gets a sharp knife and knifes the turkey. So you then eat the turkey off the plate with a fork. We save some turkey for breakfast and lunch.

Noah H.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Dad is going to go hunting for the turkey. Then he comes home and we clean off the blood, if there is blood. We cook it in the microwave for 26 minutes. Then we put some salt on it. Then we eat the turkey.

EVERSON S.



Smoke Sizzle & Sear

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Get the turkey from Sam's Club. Put the turkey in the oven. Put the turkey in the middle of the oven for 10 minutes. Then, put it on the plate. Put the juice on the turkey, Make sure you squirt the juice over the turkey. Put the turkey on the table and eat it.

Aria H.

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, get the turkey from the farm, if they have one. Clean it, cook it in the microwave or air fryer for 15 minutes. Brush the dirty stuff off. Then eat the turkey.

Nelson Z.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

I get the turkey from Dollar General. We bring it home. We pull off the feathers. We cut it up. We put it in the oven for 10 minutes at 5 degrees. We then eat the turkey.

ANNALESE G.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Dad and me go out and kill the turkey. We will bring it home. We will cook it at my house in the kitchen. Put the turkey in the oven for 15 minutes and put the oven on high. Take it out of the oven. Cut the turkey up and then eat it. Put it in the fridge and throw the plates away.

Austin C.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Dad is going to shoot the turkey in the field. Then we pull off the feathers. Then we cook it at my grandma's house in the oven. Cook it for like an hour and turn it on to the very top. Then we get to eat it.

Gregory B.



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By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First, Daddy needs to kill the turkey somewhere in the forest. Then we bring it home and then pull the feathers off. We pull the skin off, too. Put it in the microwave or oven for 5 minutes, then check it to see if it is ready. Then we eat it.

Jacelynn B.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

We probably will catch the turkey first. Then we have to bake it. Bake it at your house in the oven. Cook the turkey for 20 minutes. When it is done, you can eat it.

Hudson B.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Chester's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Buy a killed turkey. Cook the turkey in the smoker. Cook the turkey for 20 minutes. Then, eat the turkey.

Mackenzie B.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First I need to get my turkey at Wal-Mart. I bring it home and then mom puts it in the fridge. Then she cooks it. After that she makes lots of stuff and we eat the turkey with it all.

Joella S.



SUBWAY

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First take it out of the package. Then you cook it in the oven for 5 min. Next I eat it.

Hunter M.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First season it with seasoning. Next put it in the oven for 2 min. at 20°. After that you eat it with forks.

Easton L.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

You put a turkey in the oven then cook it up. Then take it out after 7 min. you cut it up and put it on plates. It's ready to eat.

Nicholas G.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First you shoot a turkey. Then bring it home so mom can cook it. She cooks it for 70 minutes at 50°. We let it cool and eat it.

Abby S.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

You put it in the oven for 5 minutes at 6°. After that you eat it.

Ryker. E.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First my mom gets the turkey from the farm. Next she kills it. My dad twists neck. Then we put it in a bucket in the car. Dad puts it in the oven for an hour at 85°. Then we put spices on it, let it cool and eat it.

Maren M.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

We put it in our smoker after we hunt it. My dad makes it. Everybody comes over to eat it.

ANNA B.



Smoke Sizzle & Sear

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

First take off the head. Then take off its foot. Take off the wings and feathers. It's kind of like a peacock. Then take the fur off. You cook it for 6 mins. in the oven. Last, eat it!

Aurora B.



Smoke Sizzle & Sear

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Shoot the turkey and bring it home. Then cook it in the oven for 4 mins. at 15°. Take it out and cut it. Now you can eat it.

Kael. H.

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Go get a turkey from somewhere. Then cut it up and put it in the oven for 15°. Make it really hot. After that you eat it.

Alexis H.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Hunt for a turkey. Then put it in the oven. You need to season it. Cook it for 10 sec. at 100°. Put it on your plate and eat it.

Christopher L.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Buy your turkey at the store. Put it in the oven for 20 minutes at 30°. Take it out and cut it. Then you eat it.

Presley L.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

I don't know where to get a turkey. I don't know how to cook it.

Lewis M.



Smoke Sizzle & Sear

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Get a turkey at the store. We cook it on the oven for 38 minutes. Then we eat it with forks.

paisley M.

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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

Get one at the store or from my Papa. Someone else cooks it for us and we eat it.

Aubrey R.



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How to cook a Thanksgiving Turkey

By Mrs. Moore's Class
Nashua-Plainfield First Grade Class

I get it at the store. My dad cooks it in the oven for 30 mins. He puts salt and pepper on it. Then we eat it at the dinner table.

Carter C.



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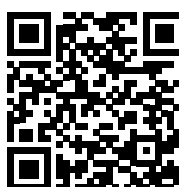
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Huskies welcome back plenty of talent

WRESTLING: FROM 3

changes come in the middle and upper weights. Those new weights are 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190 and 215. The heavyweight class (285 pounds) also remains unchanged.

“They take a survey across the U.S. and then they average it out and see where the kids – what weight class they’re more prone to be around,” said Frost. “I think the philosophy is there’s going to be more kids around those new weight classes than the old weight classes. I don’t know if it’s going to promote the fact that it’s going to get more kids out for wrestling. I can’t see that as an advantage at all.”

Here’s where the problem lies for N-P.

“We’ve got some kids that gained some weight in the upper weights and yet for the most part they dropped five to six weight pounds in every weight classes in the upper part,” said Frost.

That means there’s no time to waste as far as Frost’s Huskies watching what they eat, training hard to lose weight and staying mentally sharp in anticipation of the season opener at Mason City Newman on Thursday, Nov. 30. Frost said his team will conduct body-fat testing Wednesday morning. The

first official wrestling practice allowed by the state was this past Monday, Nov. 13.

“They’ve gotta get right in the weight-cutting mode right now,” said Frost. “We gotta be pretty close down to weight within one or two pounds because the following week we got competition.”

N-P sported a mark of 28-4 in dual competition in 2022-2023 and qualified 13 wrestlers out of the 14 weight classes last year, which broke a school record.

The Huskies are ranked third according to IAwrestle’s preseason dual rankings. N-P returns eight state qualifiers – headlined by junior Jayden Rinken.

Rinken won his first state title last year as a sophomore at 106 and will bump up to 120 pounds this year.

Also back for more state success is junior Nic Brase (113) and senior Titus Evans (170). Brase and Evans each placed fifth last year at state.

Frost has nine varsity wrestlers returning and eight seniors.

“Not everyone of those guys are gonna be in the lineup,” said Frost about his seniors.

Also returning this year are state qualifiers Hayden Munn (120), Jackson Carey (152), Eli Kalainoff

(160), Tate White (182) and Aiden Sullivan (195). Sullivan picked up three pins last year at the traditional state tournament, but did not place. A prime example of just how tough it is to place at state – especially after the state bumped up state qualifiers in each weight bracket by eight wrestlers to 24.

Frost graduated two-time state champ Garret Rinken. Rinken now wrestles for the University of Northern Iowa and was the most decorated Husky wrestler in program history (209-4). Three of Rinken’s losses came in his freshman season at 106 pounds when he placed third. His only loss after his freshman season was a stunning upset at the hands of fellow UNI Panther teammate Brandon Paez of Lisbon in the state finals his junior year at 120 pounds.

Kendrick Huck – a three-time state place winner in his terrific Husky career – also graduated. Huck placed eighth at state last year at 132 pounds.

N-P also graduated state qualifiers from a year ago in Kaden Wilken (138), Jackson Zwanziger (220) and Landon Pratt (285).

The N-P quad on Nov. 30 at Newman includes the host Knights, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura and Lake

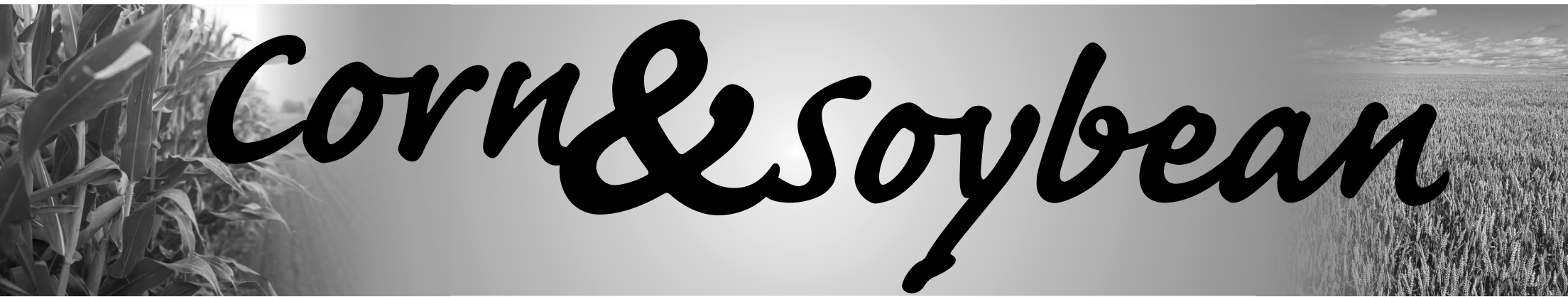


Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua-Plainfield wrestler Aiden Gelner shows off his athleticism during practice on Wednesday.

Mills.

The N-P girls wrestling squad opens the season at Decorah on Saturday. The Huskies are again coached by N-P alum Reece Reams.

Reams has seven girls out this winter according to N-P’s roster posted on trackwrestling.com. Those Huskies are Elexa O’Neill (135), Lily Jones (170), Nevaeh Bloker (170), Emerson Franzen (170), Jesse Trevino (190), Eden Lamborn (235) and Amberley Gerholdt, who wrestled at 115 pounds last year.



A primer on Iowa Corn!

SWEET CORN VS. FIELD CORN

Only one percent of corn planted in the United States is sweet corn.

99 percent of corn grown in Iowa is “Field Corn”. When Iowa’s corn farmers deliver corn from the field, it’s “Field Corn”. Not the delicious sweet corn you might enjoy on the cob or in a can.

Field corn is the classic big ears of yellow dented corn you see dried and harvested in the fall. It’s called “dent corn” because of the distinctive dent that forms on the kernel as the corn dries.

While a small portion of “Field Corn” is processed for use as corn cereal, corn starch, corn oil and corn syrup for human consumption, it is primarily used for livestock feed, ethanol production and manufactured goods. It’s considered a grain.

Sweet corn is what people purchase fresh, frozen or canned for eating. It’s consumed as a vegetable. Unlike “Field Corn”, which is harvested when the kernels are dry and fully mature, sweet corn is picked when immature.

WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Iowa leads the nation in ethanol production, with 57 percent (1.5 billion bushels) of the corn grown in Iowa going to create nearly 27 percent of all American ethanol.

960 million bushels or 42 percent of Iowa Corn went directly into livestock feed. In livestock feeding, one bushel of corn converts to about 8 pounds of beef, 15.6 pounds of pork, or 21.6 pounds of chicken. Learn more.

One bushel of corn produces 17 pounds of DDGS as well as 2.8 gallons of ethanol. Learn more.

1.494 billion bushels of Iowa corn in the 2018/19 marketing year went into corn processing used in the wet mill industry for food and industrials usage. Learn more.

14 percent or 2.065 billion bushels of Iowa corn was exported out of the state in the 2018/19 marketing year. In an average year, Iowa produces more corn than most countries. Learn more.

Corn is in more than 4,000 grocery store items a few examples include: shampoo, toothpaste, chewing gum, marshmallows, crayons and paper. Learn more.

DEBUNKING FOOD & FUEL MYTHS

Many products depend on corn as well, from paper goods and cardboard packaging, to all the meat, milk, eggs, poultry and other protein products that come from corn-fed animals.

Farmers and ranchers that provide our meat, milk and eggs depend on genetically enhanced crops as critical components in production of their animals’ feed. Livestock in the U.S. have been fed genetically modified crops since they were first introduced in 1996.

Humans have also been consuming genetically modified (GMO) foods since 1996 also. Hundreds of scientific studies have confirmed the safety of these biotechnology products. In fact in the United States, alone, 9 billion food-producing animals are produced annually, with 95 percent of them consuming feed that contains genetically engineered ingredients meaning consumers come in contact with GMO’s on a daily basis.

Oil, not corn, has been driving up global food prices. The World Bank conducted research determining crude oil as the number one determinant of global food prices. The cost of energy from oil is integral to so much of the 84 percent of what makes up grocery costs. When the price of oil goes up, so does food prices.

The great thing about corn is that it provides:

- A renewable, environmentally-friendly fuel source (Ethanol)
- Animal feed for livestock which is important to our food supply
- Exports supplying the world with corn and corn products which boosts our economy
- Food ingredients necessary for preparing many of our favorite meals
- Bio-based, renewable materials for industrial uses such as bioplastics

OTHER FUN CORN FACTS

- Corn can be produced in various colors including blackish, bluish-gray, purple, green, red and white but the most common color grown is yellow
- There is one silk for every kernel that grows in an ear of corn
- The number of kernels per ear can vary from 500 to about 1,200, but a typical ear would have 800 kernels in 16 rows
- Corn is grown in every continent except Antarctica
- One acre of corn is about the size of a football field
- A bushel of corn is 56 pounds, about the weight of a large bag of dog food.
- A single corn bushel can sweeten about 400 cans of soda pop.

SOURCE: iowacorn.org

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Corn & Soybean

India, the quiet giant, offers opportunity for Iowa soy

By KRISS NELSON
Iowa Soybean Association

Earlier this year, India surpassed China as the world's most populous country, reaching more than 1.4 billion people. And the country is only showing signs of growth. China's population, meanwhile, is declining.

"China is in significant demographic decline, which they will not be coming out of anytime soon," says Frank Kelly, founder and managing partner of Fulcrum Macro Advisors. By the year 2100, China's population could be as small as 500 million.

Although China will remain a critical market for U.S. exports, including soy, Kelly believes little attention has been paid to the "quiet giant" of the globe, India.

Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) President-elect Brent Swart thinks market diversification when he hears about growth in a country, especially one that's not a significant soybean buyer.

According to Trade Data Monitor, India imported more than 160,000 metric tons of soy products (primarily whole soybeans) from the U.S. in 2022. China meanwhile, was the U.S.'s largest export destination, importing nearly 30 million tons of soy products (primarily whole soybeans) from the U.S.

"It's exciting to be able to diversify our exports by having the potential to bring our product into a developing country like India," says Swart, who grows soybeans and corn near Spencer in Clay County.

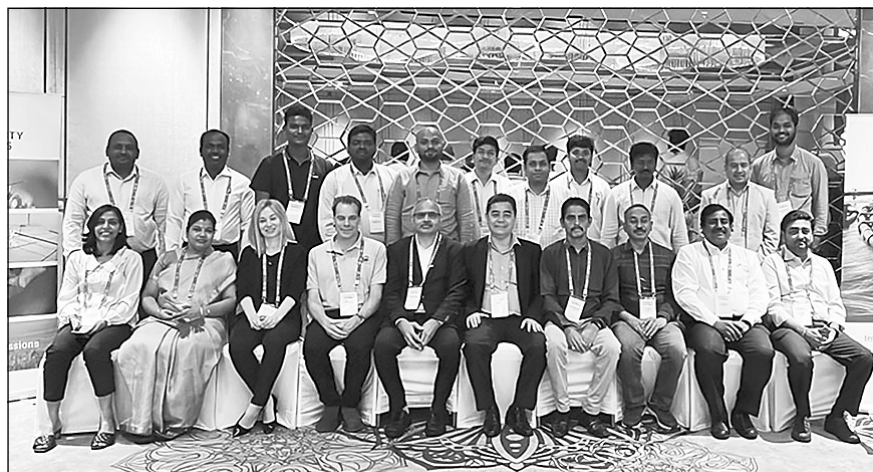
A reliable soy supplier

India is the world's largest vegetable oil importer — with 75% of its sunflower seed oil coming from Ukraine. Sourcing a majority of their oil from a country engaged in war is risky, Kelly notes.

"I don't know what India's appetite is for soybeans, but going to where the market is safe and secure, like the United States, you would think, is going to be a huge factor moving forward," says Kelly.

The U.S. has credibility in being a reliable supplier in recent years, says Mac Marshall, vice president of market intelligence for the United Soybean Board.

"During the 2021-22 marketing year, when there were disruptions to the global supply of vegetable oils, India turned to the United States for a couple of large spot orders of soybean oil," says Marshall. "When other sup-



U.S. Soybean Export Council
American soy farmers pose for a photo during a meeting held in India late last month.

plies became less available, the U.S. became a reliable and critical customer."

When soybean meal became less available to India in 2021, the U.S. again stepped up with available shipments.

"When you combine this reliability with the potential of the market from an animal productivity standpoint, there are opportunities," Marshall notes.

Growing protein markets

More people to feed means more demand for protein, Swart notes. "That presents a lot of opportunities for us as soybean farmers," he says.

How much demand for soy? It depends on the growth in various markets, including the animal sector and its need for soy-based feed.

"Anytime we talk about markets where there is population growth and economic potential, we talk about increased protein consumption and what that means for soy, which is a critical piece for making animal protein," says Marshall.

India is one of the largest shrimp producers, and has a rapidly expanding aquaculture industry.

"The aquaculture industry is a growing sector that is going to demand increasing amounts of soybean meal in the years to come for many reasons," says Marshall. "Not only will they be seeking a high protein, high-quality soybean meal, but fish meal is perpetually getting harder to source, so soybean meal plays an important role in that aquaculture space."

Soybean meal could also find its place in the terrestrial animal market.

Although there are cultural limita-

tions to India's protein consumption, poultry is increasingly becoming a part of the diet. Still below the world poultry consumption per capita, India's poultry consumption has increased by nearly 40% in the last decade.

"These markets take time to develop, but the metrics around the trajectory we see on poultry consumption are encouraging in the future," says Marshall.

A quarter of the world's dairy cows are in India. Although the country's dairy growers face challenges in efficiency, and their milk production pales in comparison to the United States, the inclusion of soybeans in dairy rations could heighten demand for U.S. soy. Research funded by the soybean checkoff is looking at the use of full-fat, high oleic soybeans in dairy rations and the potential to improve milk production.

"Here is a value-added channel we have for high oleic soybeans, and a market with a key trading partner that has underproduction of milk on a per-animal basis," Marshall says. "There could be an opportunity there."

Market headwinds

Kirk Leeds, chief executive officer for ISA, isn't as optimistic about the India market. He's seen the poverty while on a trade mission to India. He's aware of the challenges as they relate to food security, consumer perceptions of food and feed production technologies, and the restrictions in place as they relate to trade.

"I wish I could be more optimistic about India, but it is not going to be a large market anytime soon," says Leeds, who has worked with and for soybean farmers at ISA for more than

30 years. "However, that doesn't mean we shouldn't work to seize opportunities to export U.S. soybeans to India when they arise. They are in desperate need of increasing the protein in their diets."

In September 2023, India, the largest world exporter of rice, began restricting rice exports to tame domestic prices.

"The people of India are worried about their agriculture and having to feed themselves. They are hoarding," says Kelly, the founder at Fulcrum, the political and regulatory risk advisory firm in Washington, D.C. "A lot of this goes to the Ukraine War with the Black Sea Grain Initiative being broken by Russians actively attacking Ukraine grain shipments."

Work continues in India and globally in sharing the attributes of using genetically modified technologies in food and feed production, Marshall says.

ISA Senior Director of Market Development Grant Kimberley shares Leeds' sentiment on India.

"There may be small windows of exports, but in order for U.S. soy sales to grow in India, the country must continue to relax their regulations and trade barriers, which could happen if they experience more food shortages," says Kimberley, adding he is more optimistic about trade opportunities in other areas of South Asia including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

"As more customers experience the attributes of U.S. soy meal, the hope is other markets will look more to the U.S. as a critical provider in the years to come," Marshall says.

Is progress being made?

India is working on reducing trade restrictions and developing deeper relationships with the United States, Australia, Europe and Japan.

"There have been more free market agreements, more sales and building tremendous relationships between the United States and India," says Kelly. Although India faces challenges to its infrastructure and markets, the country is rapidly evolving with the development of a large middle class, Kelly says.

With the potential of increased availability of U.S. soybean meal, now is the time to look at more global markets, including India.

"There is potential for economic growth on the heels of a very large population in India," says Marshall. "As we think about the increasing

Opportunities for U.S. soy in India

AQUACULTURE

In the world of aquaculture, India is one of the top five largest producers of feed. While U.S. soy is currently not used in making aquafeed, the opportunities are endless. USSEC has consistently worked on capacity-building and knowledge sharing through events like regional animal production courses, In-Pond Raceway System workshops, on-site and in-classroom training, and more.

FEED INDUSTRY

In 2021, Indian poultry farmers were at a crossroads where they needed to feed the birds, but the feed cost was too high. The demand for feed outpaced local production. Soybean meal prices rallied to nearly \$1,203 per metric ton at the benchmark location of Indore. The poultry, shrimp and feed milling industry, especially in the south, were compelled to petition the government for relief. Their petition pleas were answered with India allowing the importation of genetically modified soybean (GM) meal on August 24, 2021, for the first time in its history. This was a significant milestone for U.S. soy, and India imported around 800,000 metric tons of GM soybean meal, allowing new market access to U.S. soy.

EDIBLE OIL

Whether it's frying samosas or cooking dosas, food is an important part of Indian culture. Hence, it is no surprise that India is the second largest consumer and largest vegetable oil importer globally. Edible oil is also the sixth most significant import in India. It is estimated that by 2026, India's need for edible oil will be 26-27 million metric tons (mmt). While India historically has imported soybean oil from Argentina and Brazil, in 2022, the droughts in South America led the Indians to turn to U.S. soy. India imported a record 180,000 metric tons of U.S. soybean oil.

demand for soy meal from the poultry and aquaculture space, there could be a great opportunity for customers in India to enjoy U.S. origin soy meal."

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YIELDS: FROM 12

Sobolik also said farming practices have changed over the years in that fields have better internal drainage and plants have better rooting capability. He pointed out that area growers took advantage of an earlier planting window this spring, which gave corn and soybeans a fighting chance to battle the drought.

"The earlier maturities, I think, helped carry this year's crop," he said. "Guys are getting planted earlier when they can, helping pollination, and even though we kept saying it, it turned out they didn't need the last rainfall because for a lot of guys, it never came."

Sobolik has been around farming for decades, and he remembers droughts like those that occurred in 1988 and 2012, and he said if anyone doubts genetics, he has a rebuttal.

"I talked with one farmer who took 12 bushels of corn an acre out of a field during a drought years ago," he said. "This year, he was in the 170s. That's mind-blowing to see how far we've come."

IF THERE WAS a positive to the drought, at least for farmers, it was the fact that drying costs this past fall were minimal.

"There was a lot of corn that did not get dried at all," Sobolik said. "The guys who took their corn to the ethanol plant, they could take it with 18 or 19 percent and they'd take it."

For many area growers, though, it was a frustrating, worrisome growing season, especially when they saw their



A farmer takes out a bean field in Chickasaw County last month, when Mother Nature finally gave area growers a gift by providing almost perfect harvest weather.

neighbors get rainfall and their fields didn't get a drop.

"Around New Hampton, especially east of New Hampton, was pretty good," Sobolik said, "but then you get over by Nashua, and it was like someone forgot to turn the tap on. ... It was true this year. It might rain here and a half-mile away, there would be nothing."

According to the National Weather Service's La Crosse, Wisconsin, office, the reporting station at New Hampton has recorded 26.56 inches of rain in 2023 while Nashua has seen just 19.62 inches of precipitation this year, which is just 55 percent of the normal rainfall the city receives through the first 13 days of

November.

Either way, though, late fall and early spring rains are important as the U.S. Drought Monitor's latest report shows that all of Chickasaw, Howard, Fayette and Bremer counties are still experiencing "extreme drought" conditions.

"We're definitely depleted, I don't think anyone's going to disagree with that," Sobolik said. "I do think more moisture late this fall and early next spring is going to be critical."

And rain is better than snow, Sobolik said.

"I'm not saying a snowy winter doesn't help a little but once the ground freezes, most of the moisture runs off

and doesn't soak into the ground."

But the Five Star agronomist is also quick to point out that things can change in a hurry as he hearkened back to the severe drought that affected the area throughout 2012.

"And then 2013 came and we had one of the wettest springs we've ever had and were scrambling to get fields planted," he said. "It can change on a dime, and every single farmer will tell you that."

He paused for a moment and chuckled before turning serious again.

"You know, I think after this year, Mother Nature owes us a stress-free 2024," he said.

"All in all we had a decent 2023, but man, it was nerve-wracking the whole way through, that much is for sure."

Iowa farm facts

Farming in Iowa is a family affair – and very diversified, or different.

Farmers raise many different kinds of crops and animals on farms in Iowa. More than 85 percent of Iowa's land is farmed.

Take a drive around the state and you'll see their handiwork out every window. Fields of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa wave in the wind.

The barns and buildings you see dotting the countryside are used to care for animals including cattle, hogs, turkeys, sheep, dairy cows, meat goats, and poultry.

Here are some interesting facts about farming in Iowa:

- 35.7 million: Acres of land in Iowa
- 30,622,731: Acres farmed in Iowa
- 26,256,347: Acres devoted to cropland in Iowa
- 1,294,425: Acres of pastureland in Iowa
- 88,637: Number of farms in Iowa
- 345 acres: Average farm size

Iowa's has ranked No. 1 in the United States in producing these crops and farm products:

- Soybean production
- Corn production
- Pork production
- Egg production

And did you know that one acre is about the size of a football field. Can you imagine 30 million football fields, all being used to grow crops and raise animals?

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Overcoming A Challenging Season

Despite prolonged extreme drought, area farmers bring in decent corn, soybean yields

By Bob Fenske
Of the Reporter

Bob Sobolik will be the first to admit that as reports of corn and soybean yields came into his office at Five Star Cooperative this fall, he was surprised.

In a good way, too. "I would definitely say it was better than expected, in some places, way better," said Sobolik, an agronomist at the New Hampton-based farmer-owned cooperative that has 18 locations in 14 counties throughout northern Iowa. "The way things looked like in late August and early September, farmers were worried and they



Sobolik

had reasons to be nervous."

But now that the harvest is virtually complete, those fretting farmers can take a deep sigh of relief.

Sure, 2023 wasn't one of those bin-busting, record years, but all in all, considering the drought that plagued farmers the entire growing season, it turned out to be a solid year for most of the men and women who make their living in the myriad of corn and soybean fields.

Sobolik estimated that the average yields in the area were between the "upper 40s and low 50s" for soybeans and the "upper 190s to low 200s" for corn.

Considering those same fields endured the "Drought of 2023," those are numbers that farmers could live with this fall.

"I think with a cooler, earlier start to the planting season



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Despite the drought (below) that has afflicted Iowa for much of 2023, farmers (above) were still able to bring in a decent crop of corn and soybeans this year.

and the dryer, earlier start to the growing season," Sobolik said, "that was a key. ... The crop started well this year, the plants were able to establish deep roots and really tap into

that subsurface moisture. And it was able to hang in there a lot longer."

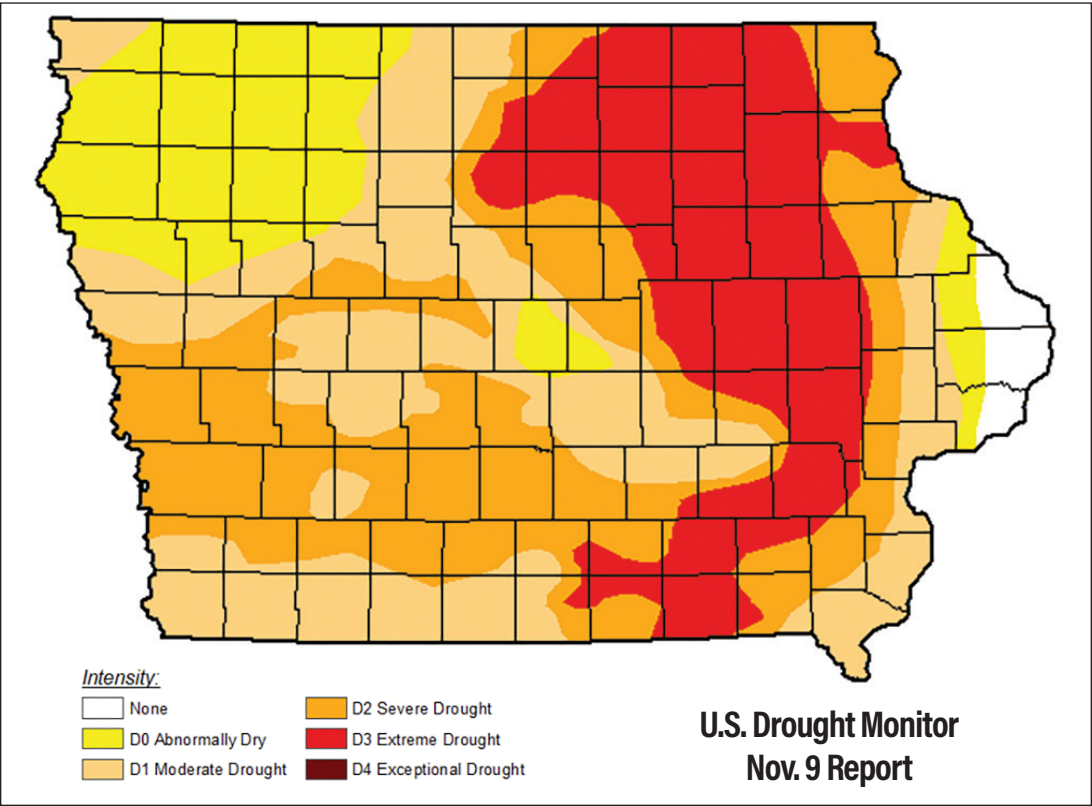
For sure, there were pockets that suffered, especially fields with lighter, sandier soils, but all in all, 2023 wasn't the nightmare that some growers feared during a summer when the skies were mostly blue and

little, if any rain, fell.

AGRONOMISTS LIKE Sobolik and Terry Basol, who works for ISU Extension and is based at the Northeast Iowa Research Farm near Nashua, say the differences between this drought and past ones are many.

"The genetics that we have today," Basol said earlier this fall, "are absolutely amazing. The seeds we're putting into the ground can withstand a lot more than the ones we planted when I was a kid or even 10, 15 years ago."

SEE YIELDS, 11



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