

# *Nebraska Department of Agriculture* **Ag Update – November 30, 2016**

## Nebraska Beef Arrives In Israel

(Ag View) Lt. Governor Mike Foley and Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Assistant Director Mat Habrock are in Israel this week to promote the state's agriculture industry and attend a special dinner reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence featuring beef from Nebraska.

The dinner celebrates the arrival of the first shipment from the WR Reserve processing plant in Hastings, Nebraska, the only Israeli-approved kosher beef facility in the United States. Business leaders, politicians and members of the news media will be in attendance at the Ambassador's dinner to commemorate the arrival of U.S. beef to the newly-opened market.

For more on this story, please visit: <http://www.agview.net/articles/livestock/2016-11-29-nebraska-beef-arrives-in-israel>

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## New renewable fuel numbers cut favorable path for ethanol

(Omaha World Herald) The Nebraska and Iowa ethanol industries see an open field ahead, with beneficial new EPA requirements, a revival in gasoline demand from motorists and a presidential administration with favorable views of the corn-based motor fuel.

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set quotas on the level of renewables such as ethanol and diesel made from soybeans or recycled cooking oil that refiners must mix into the nation's motor fuel supply. The agency settled on 19.28 billion gallons for 2017, including up to 15 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol. The quotas are higher than initial proposals released in May and also above last year's overall requirements of 181. billion gallons of renewables from all sources.

For more on this story, please visit: [http://www.omaha.com/money/new-renewable-fuel-numbers-cut-favorable-path-for-ethanol/article\\_a3dbe38e-e256-582b-8bf5-772bb006867d.html](http://www.omaha.com/money/new-renewable-fuel-numbers-cut-favorable-path-for-ethanol/article_a3dbe38e-e256-582b-8bf5-772bb006867d.html)

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# Farmers pledge to be squeaky wheel in Obamacare repeal debate

(Lincoln Journal Star) With the fall harvest done and his John Deere combine back in the barn south of Minden, Joel Grams planned to head to his local Nebraska Farm Bureau office Wednesday afternoon to talk about health insurance. His current health insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, announced earlier this year it would not sell individual health plans on the Affordable Care Act exchange for Nebraska next year. So he has to find a new option.

Jordan Dux, the Nebraska Farm Bureau's national affairs director, said the focus needs to be on bringing costs down.

"Any option we can find to bring down costs and make health care affordable, if I can use that word, is something we're going to be pushing for extremely hard over the next several months," Dux said. "This is an opportunity for us to be very loud in our thoughts on the topic."

For more on this story, please visit: [http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/farmers-pledge-to-be-squeaky-wheel-in-obamacare-repeal-debate/article\\_c38d5797-b873-50c6-8784-411343aa56fd.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/farmers-pledge-to-be-squeaky-wheel-in-obamacare-repeal-debate/article_c38d5797-b873-50c6-8784-411343aa56fd.html)

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# Nebraska's cash rent for farmland among highest in USA

(Nebraska Radio Network) A federal report ranks Nebraska sixth in the nation in average cash rent for farmland at \$196 per acre. Nebraska Farm Bureau senior economist Jay Rempe says he was surprised which region of the state had the highest levels.

"Northeast Nebraska came out on top in terms of the levels of both irrigated ground and non-irrigated ground for cash rental values," Rempe says. "Several of them on the irrigated side exceeded \$300 per acre and on the non-irrigated side, up at \$260-270, around that level."

The report from the USDA National Ag Statistics Service says Cedar County topped the list for irrigated land at \$324 an acre, while Dakota County led the way for non-irrigated land at \$271 an acre.

For more on this story, please visit: <http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/category/agriculture/>

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# USDA Forecasts 2016 Grocery Store Food Price Decline

(KRVN) Food-at-home (supermarket) prices are now forecast to decrease between 1.25% and .25% in 2016, the first year since 1967 that grocery store food prices could reflect annual deflation, according to an updated forecast from USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS).

"Recent declines in prices for beef and veal, poultry, and eggs" are behind the now-lower forecast, ERS noted. "Lower transportation costs due to deflated oil prices as well as the strength of the US dollar have placed additional downward pressure on food prices in the first half of 2016. A strong U.S. dollar makes U.S. goods less desirable to foreign markets, leaving more potential exports on the domestic market. Comparing the 2015 average price level with the 2016 level to date, the CPI for food-at-home is down 1.1%."

The reduction in grocery store prices also lowered the overall food price increase to a range of 0.25% to 1.25%, putting the rise in line with the lowest level seen since at least 1974 of an increase of 0.8% seen in 2010.

For more on this story, please visit: <http://krvn.com/agricultural/usda-forecasts-2016-grocery-store-food-price-decline/>

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Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 94947  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
<http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/>