

# Huge hay event hits Iowa in June

By FRANK HOLDMEYER

**T**HE nation's largest two-day hay and forage event, the Farm Progress Hay Expo, will be staged near Ossian in northeast Iowa on June 25-26. This event is for anyone interested in the latest technology and equipment for producing high-quality forage.

For two decades, companies specializing in hay and forage equipment have counted on the Hay Expo to bring serious buyers and sellers together.

More than 130 acres of alfalfa demonstrations will feature mowing, conditioning and baling at the event. A 10-acre exhibit field will include displays with balers, hay dryers, baggers, tedders, rakes, telehandlers, bale stackers and more. In the Haying Industries Tent, visitors will find additional products and services.

The Hay Expo provides the opportunity for you to observe and evaluate what's new. You can talk to exhibitors about seed, hay marketing, crop protection, production, conservation and more.

Educational exhibitors include Iowa State University Extension, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council, and others. Food will be provided by Winneshiek County beef and pork producers.

Hosts for the 2008 expo are the

### Key Points

- The nation's largest outdoor hay show will be in northeast Iowa in June.
- Hay Expo is a unique opportunity to learn what's new in forage production.
- Field demonstrations feature side-by-side comparisons.

Knutson and Winkler families. The Knutsons and Winklers are neighbors and have worked together on many farm-related projects through the years. They bring that experienced teamwork to their latest project, hosting this year's Farm Progress Hay Expo.

### Typical dairy farms

Clarence and Becky Winkler farm 240 acres, milk 60 registered Holsteins and manage a small beef herd.

Three of the five Knutson siblings (Mark, Chuck and Ron) farm together. The brothers milk 220 cows, farm 1,400 acres of row crops and feed 500 calves. They also operate a custom forage harvesting business, covering about 5,000 acres in northeast Iowa each year.

"These host families are really great to work with," notes Matt Jungmann, Farm Progress national shows manager. "They are excited to have this project on their farms, and we really appreciate them opening up their farms for this event."

Jungmann adds this year's Hay Expo

cial management specialist. "The 2007 state yield was 16 bushels above the 2007 trend yield, but 5 bushels below the 180-bushel record-setting yield of 2004. Exceptional yields in northern and central Illinois were offset by lower yields in southern Illinois, causing a record not to be set."

In 2007, northern and central Illinois experienced exceptional yields, with most counties having yields at least 20 bushels above trend. Forty-four of the state's 102 counties had their highest yields ever in 2007.

Schnitkey notes that farms with yields averaging more than 200 bushels per acre were common last year.

"Woodford County's yield of 204 bushels per acre was the highest in the state," Schnitkey says. "Seven counties had yields above 195 bushels per acre: DeKalb (197), Logan (197), McLean (196), Menard (199), Sangamon (199), Warren (198) and Woodford (204)."

In southern Illinois, yields were below average. Perry County had the lowest yield with 79 bushels, which was 23 bushels below trend.

Fourteen other counties had yields five bushels or more below trend: Bond (116), Edwards (113), Hamilton (110), Hardin (112), Jefferson (95), Macoupin (157), Madison (127), Monroe (128), Perry (79), Pike (156), Richland (110), St. Clair (123), Wabash (130) and Washington (105).



**BALER LINEUP:** Competing baler manufacturers will exhibit their equipment's capabilities in a side-by-side demonstration at the 2008 Farm Progress Hay Expo.

site is a bit different than recent expos. "This site is more representative of a typical northeast Iowa dairy farm — rolling hills, etc."

Exhibit hours are from 9 a.m. to

4 p.m. Admission is free; parking is \$7 per vehicle. The public is welcome.

For more show information, visit [www.hayexpo.com](http://www.hayexpo.com). Click on "Where to stay" for show-area hotel information.

## Directions to the show



**T**HE 2008 Hay Expo show site is located south and east of Ossian in Winneshiek County, Iowa.

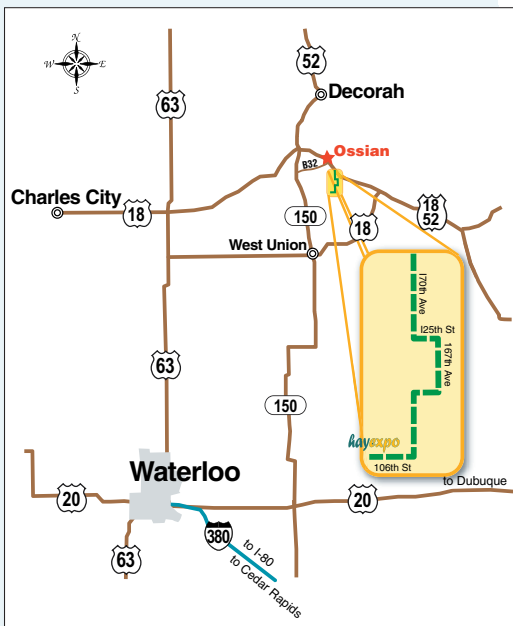
**From the north:** Take Highway 52 south through Ossian. One mile east of Ossian, turn right (south) on 170th Avenue. Follow 170th for about a mile; follow the curve left (east) and 170th Avenue becomes 125th Street. Take an immediate right (south) on 167th Avenue. After about a mile and a half, 167th curves to the right (west) and becomes 106th Street. Follow signs to the show site, on the left.

**From the south:** Take Highway 150 north to Festina. At Festina, turn right (east) on B32. In Ossian, B32 merges with Highway 52. Take Highway 52 through Ossian. One mile east of Ossian, turn right (south) on 170th Avenue. Follow 170th for about a mile;

follow the curve left (east) and 170th Avenue becomes 125th Street. Take an immediate right (south) on 167th Avenue. After about a mile and a half, 167th curves to the right (west) and becomes 106th Street. Follow signs to the show site, on the left.

**From the west:** Take Highway 18 east to just south of New Hampton; turn left (east) on Highway 24. Take Highway 24 to Calmar and then continue east on Highway 52. Take Highway 52 through Ossian. One mile east of Ossian, turn right (south) on 170th Avenue. Follow 170th for about a mile; follow the curve left (east) and 170th Avenue becomes 125th Street. Take an immediate right (south) on 167th Avenue. After about a mile and a half, 167th curves to the right (west) and becomes 106th Street. Follow signs to the show site, located on the left (south).

**From the east:** Cross the Mississippi River on Highway 18 west. Highway 18 merges with Highway 52. Continue on Highway 52 heading west. Approximately two and a half miles after Castalia, turn left (south) on 170th Avenue. Follow 170th for about a mile; follow the curve left (east) and 170th Avenue becomes 125th Street. Take an immediate right (south) on 167th Avenue. After about a mile and a half, 167th curves to the right (west) and becomes 106th Street. Follow signs to the show site, located on the left (south).



## Illinois earns Corn Belt high for 2007 crop

**W**ITH seven counties averaging more than 195 bushels per acre, 2007 was an exceptional corn year for northern and central Illinois.

The complete statistics were published in a new study by the University of Illinois Extension. The report, "2007 Corn Yields in Perspective," is available online at [www.PrairieFarmer.com](http://www.PrairieFarmer.com).

The study is based on data from the Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association and the National Agricultural Statistical Service.

"Overall, Illinois' state average yield in 2007 was 175 bushels," says Gary Schnitkey, U of I Extension farm finan-

### Yields across the Corn Belt

State	2007 Avg. Yield	Above/below trend
Illinois	175 bushels	+16 bushels
Iowa	171 bushels	+7 bushels
Nebraska	160 bushels	+5 bushels
Indiana	155 bushels	+2 bushels
Ohio	150 bushels	+3 bushels
Minnesota	146 bushels	-12 bushels