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by Larry A. Quinn



BOSOLD LEADS FARMER TOUR TO UNITED KINGDOM – Bob Bosold (WAXX/WAYY, Altoona, WI) is shown with Wisconsin farmers at a Wales farm. He is the third person from the right on the back row in the blue jacket.

“Low commodity prices and too many rules and regulations aren’t specific to U.S. farmers and ranchers. Farmers in England, Wales and Scotland are also looking at finding creative ways to make their bottom lines more black than red, and in many cases it’s not happening. That’s what we found during a recent farm tour to Great Britain with a group of farmers and a few city folks from western and southern Wisconsin,” **Bob Bosold** reports. “While visiting farms and farmers is always a highlight of our tours, the sites and history we enjoyed were awesome. One of the highlights of our first three days in London was a visit to the Churchill War Rooms, the bunker where the Prime Minister ran England’s war effort for about four or five years. The network of underground command centers and living quarters was home to many military experts, secretaries, support staff and Mr. and Mrs. Churchill in their efforts to fight off the Nazi threat.

Even during the ongoing nightly bombing of London the bunker remained safe as an effective nerve center for England's war effort," Bob said.

"Our group also had the chance to tour Buckingham Palace, the home of the Queen. As you might expect, it was worthy of a queen with all the artwork, sculptures, elaborate furnishings and other accoutrements not found in many other places. London also gave us the chance to see Westminster Abbey, the tower of Big Ben, which is only the bell by the way, not the tower itself, Kensington Palace, the home of William and Kate, Scotland Yard, the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels, the Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square and the most unbelievable department store imaginable, *Harrod's*. That was just in London," Bob emphasizes.

"On our way to Wales and the Lakes Region, we found out that **Chevy Chase** didn't destroy a World Heritage site because Stonehenge is still there," Bob mused. "Located in the middle of sheep and cattle pastures, it truly is a man-made wonder. The only problem is that it was created before man used the written word so no one has the exact explanation of what it really means. It is a must-visit site."



Our first farm visit was **Will Prichard's** dairy and beef operation in Wales. He is a third generation farm operator who also does a weekly farm radio program that airs across the country. The dairy milks 1,300 cows in a double 44 herringbone parlor, currently the second largest parlor in the United Kingdom. He also has 1,000 head of young stock on his 2,000-acre operation that is grazed 12 months a year. During the summer, when he has a flush of grass he puts up baleage in black plastic bags that generate more heat for better feed quality for supplemental feeding during the cloudier, cooler months when the grass growth slows down. Will and his family, including his father who is still active in the operation, run the farm with 15 employees, milking cows on four separate milking units. But a new "profit center" for the farm is the addition of a herd of Wagyu cattle, the breed from Japan known for its high quality beef. Will started with two cows implanted with Wagyu embryos and now he is up to 250 head of cows and bulls with a goal of getting to 500 in the next few years. The animals are completely grass fed and are ready to go to the abattoir at 30 months with a marbling score of five. Prichard admits he was taking a chance on the breed, but after exploring marketing options, he came up with a very willing partner in Whole Foods stores in the London area. He said they sell all he can provide to them, and they are constantly asking for more supply. Will said they sell the meat at a very premium price. "As for Brexit, Will feels the same as all the farmers we talked with—It's time for Great Britain to go it alone. They feel there are too many restrictions on their production levels and too many



regulations to deal with that make it too hard to make decisions that could help their farms. They are not afraid of the future without the European Union,” Bob explains. “Another farmer we visited also came up with a unique enterprise to increase the bottom line on his family farm. North of Edinburgh in Scotland, we visited the Hilton wild boar farm of **Andy Johnston** and his family.” After college, Johnston said he knew he wanted to come home to farm but needed to find a

way to provide income for his young family as part of his multi-generational farm that grows barley for malting and distilling as well as peas and turnips for the commercial market. Before coming home, he traveled to many parts of the world looking for ideas. He said he stumbled onto the idea of commercially raising wild hogs as he found there are markets around the world looking for that kind of specialized pork. He started with a few sows from the London Zoo, which had seen its herd grow too large and had to do some culling. From there, he has increased his herd over the past 20 years to more than 350 animals. He now markets the meat as specialty pork at a specialty price to customers in Asia and India. He direct ships the meat overnight to buyers who have now become regular customers, and he says his client list is getting bigger all the time, Bob explained.

“Another farm we visited in the Lakes Region of England took us all back to our childhoods. It was *Hilltop Farm*, the home of **Beatrix Potter** who brought us *Peter Rabbit*, *Flopsy*, *Mopsy*, *Cottontail* and so many other kids’ classics. Her farm, along with a lot of other rural property she owned, has been donated to the National Trust and is now a popular destination for visitors. Included on her farm is a flock of her beloved *Herdwick* sheep which are being cared for by the Trust and improved through money she left behind specifically to enhance the breed. Many of



the illustrations in her books can be seen around her farm and the small village of Hawkshead. It really brought her stories to life. As a special treat, curators recently found an unpublished manuscript that she wrote more than 100 years ago. It was printed as a new book and released to the public the day of our visit to the farm. Naturally, being able to get a copy from her farm, it has become one of my special souvenirs from the trip,” Bob said.

“Maybe the highlight of the trip for someone in my age group, the *baby boomers*, was a visit to Liverpool to see where the **Beatles** got their start. We had a chance to see each of their boyhood homes,

some of the clubs where they played on their way to the top, places in the city that inspired some of their hits, and how they got together.”



KEN MORGAN WINS NORTH DAKOTA’S TEDDY AWARD – On September 1, The North Dakota Broadcaster’s Association presented their *Teddy Awards* for radio and television and covering news, promotions, public service and online/digital presence of broadcast outlets in the state. **Ken Morgan (Duane Hagen)** said, “To my surprise, one of the stations I work with submitted a report that I did with Extension Meteorologist **Daryl Richison**. That report landed me a *Teddy*. I was even more surprised to see the inscription on the award: ‘For the 2016 best radio reporter in the state.’” He added, “I have to thank all of those who allow me to tell their stories, and also the people who air the programming I produce. Without them, this would not have been possible. They all get a big thank you! I currently am working with 11 radio stations and do custom-fit programming for all of them, generating between 80 and 100 audio files daily.” In January of this year, he began producing an hour-long weekend program. “It pays to keep an eye on the future! Stations I work with include six with Simmons Multi-Media in northeast North Dakota, three iHeart stations in western and southwestern North Dakota, and two Eureka Broadcasting stations on the north coast of California.” Ken’s radio adventure started in 1971 and keeps on rolling, from being a DJ, to a newscaster, to a sportscaster, and for the last 16 years as a farm broadcaster. He says being a farm broadcaster “has been by far the most interesting part of my career.”



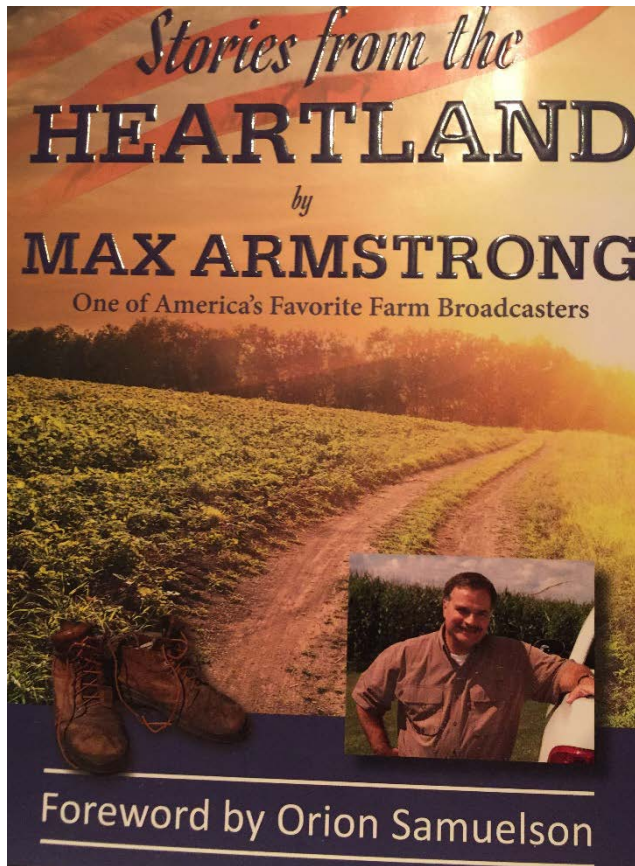
HARKER COVERS GLOBAL NEWS CONFERENCE – **Julie Harker** (Brownfield Ag News, Jefferson City, MO) had the opportunity in early September to cover the BASF global news conference in Mannheim/Ludwigshafen, Germany. She was one of five U.S. ag journalists there and the only U.S. radio reporter. “Sitting in a room with more than 100 ag journalists from 25 countries is a great experience. In 2014, I attended Bayer’s global news conference in Dusseldorf Germany, where I interacted with international ag reporters for the first time in my career. With the help of



translators, we are able to hear questions asked and agriculture concerns raised from different countries. Many are the same and some are different than what's facing farmers in the U.S. The news conferences themselves are conducted in English. This event was right before the Bayer/Monsanto merger announcement – so it was a great opportunity to ask BASF officials how the merger/consolidation environment would affect them,” Julie said. “We toured the main headquarters of BASF and learned about the long history of this company that began with the



manufacture of dyes. Part of the huge operation, which has more than 30,000 workers (who ride red bicycles on-site) was destroyed during World War II and rebuilt. We got to see how they apply seed treatments in the BASF lab and saw things growing on plant samples in the biologics lab.” Julie concluded, “I enjoy learning about the different ag companies, which gives me a broader base of information to share with our listeners.”

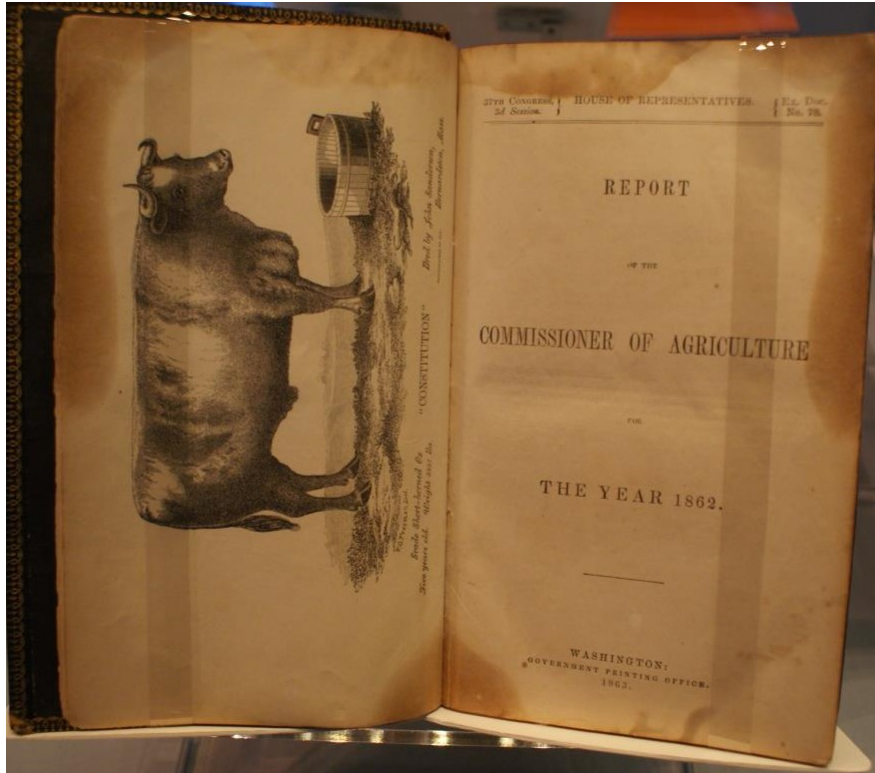


MAX ARMSTRONG PUBLISHES BOOK – *Stories from the Heartland* is the title of a book authored by **Max Armstrong** (WGN, Chicago, IL). “I like to say that it is my story of thanksgiving...deep appreciation for the people with whom I have worked and others I have been able to meet while originating broadcasts from every state in America and some 35 different nations. It is also a story of profound appreciation for the family and community in which I grew up.” He notes, “One of my favorite stories is about the Indiana farmer, who despite being paralyzed from his shoulders down in a fall more than 25 years ago, has not only continued to farm but has watched his farm grow and thrive. His story was so good at the time that **Paul Harvey** picked up my report and quoted me. But if Paul could see this farmer today, he'd love sharing ‘The rest of the story.’ Some others deserved their own chapters I felt. I wrote about former Secretary **Clayton**

Yeutter, as well as **Edward Telling**, the former CEO of Sears, who lived down the street from us after he retired. And, of course, there are also stories and pictures of tractors.”



Cutline from the book for photo at right: “No, officer, you don’t need to get your ticket book. I just took a wrong turn at Princeton. The next sign I saw said ‘Dan Ryan Expressway’. Yes sir, I know I can’t stay parked in front of the Wrigley Building. Is there anything I can do to convince you to not write me a ticket? Of course, sir, come on up!”



Max includes this photo of the 1862 Commissioner of Agriculture Report given to President Lincoln. The book was given to him by a corporate executive who was a WGN listener. "That was an important year for USDA, you may recall. With Lincoln's name embossed on the cover, it was appraised by a Lincoln book expert and described as Lincoln's personal copy of the *Yearbook of Agriculture*. The book is now in the Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, IL."

If you wish to acquire a copy of Max Armstrong's book, it can be ordered from www.Amazon.com or obtained through the website: www.maxarmstrongbook.com.

TOURING ALASKA AGRICULTURE – Greg Akagi (WIBW Radio/Kansas Agriculture Network, Topeka, KS) and his wife, **Lisa**, hosted 50 listeners on a Holiday Vacations 13-day tour of Alaska and Inside Passage Cruise. "Holiday Vacations does a wonderful job in tailoring tours to include looking at agricultural operations in the area that you're going to," Greg said. "This gave our listeners with us on the tour an opportunity to see Alaska agriculture up close and speak with those involved on a personal level about their daily operations." The tour started with a three-day cruise aboard *Holland America's MS Vollendam* through the inside passage of Alaska. After disembarking in Skagway, the group boarded the *White Pass & Yukon Route Railway* for a narrow-gauge train ride along the path of the legendary *Klondike Goldseekers*. "The scenery was breathtaking as we passed glaciers, mountains and waterfalls. Then, we headed to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. As we traveled down the Alaska Highway and crossed back into Alaska, we stayed in Tok, in the far eastern part of the state. This stay included a presentation from **Hugh Neff**, a dog musher from the local area and a participant in the *Iditarod* sled dog race. Neff is also the 2016 Yukon Quest champion, another high profile sled dog race." About their agricultural visits, Greg said, "Heading further west on the Alaska Highway, our first agriculture stop was in the Delta Junction, Alaska's largest agricultural area. We stopped at the Alaska Flour Company. They specialize in high-quality, artisan, stone-ground barley flour and barley cereal that they plant, grow, and mill on their 1,700-acre farm. **Milo Wrigley**, Alaska Flour Company General Manger, and his wife, **Heather**, who serves as Communications Director, talked to the group



about the history of their family's operation. The tour included a look at their production facilities, the types of products they make from their crops, and a discussion about the marketing of their product across Alaska. **(Milo Wrigley, General Manager of the Alaska Flour Company answers questions from the group.)** The tour group headed to Fairbanks and after visiting Santa Claus

at North Pole, Alaska, panning for gold, and seeing the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline up close, the tour headed south towards Denali National Park. "What an incredible tour as we made our way through the park. They say if you see Dall sheep, moose, caribou and grizzly bears, you hit the *Grand Slam* on your tour of the park. We indeed hit the *Grand Slam*, which according to our park tour guide doesn't happen often. As we made our way further south, we headed towards the Matanuska Valley, which is the state's first agricultural center. Before we got there, we toured the Iditarod Trail Headquarters and learned more about the treasured Anchorage-to-Nome race. Our next agricultural stop was at Havemeister Dairy in Palmer, AK. It is a dairy farm/creamery and is the only Colonist-era dairy farm still in operation today. Family-owned and operated for the last 81 years, they have opened their own on-farm creamery producing Grade A milk. The dairy is one of only two operating dairies in the state," Greg said.



(Pictured are the production facilities for Havemeister Dairy. After processing, the product is delivered to retail markets, coffee shops and restaurants across the region.)

“The last part of our Alaska tour took us through many areas around Anchorage. It included a visit to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center and then on to Wittier to board a boat for a glacier cruise through Prince William Sound. What an awesome tour around the Sound to view nature’s beauty,” he said. **(Shown is one of several glaciers on the cruise through Prince William Sound.)**



Concluding his tour description, Greg explained, “Our final day of the tour was a busy one. We headed out on a beautiful Saturday to the first weekend of the Alaska State Fair. We learned that when you have beautiful weather (74 degrees and abundant sunshine) that many Alaskans want to enjoy it. The fair was packed throughout the facilities. We even heard many Alaskans making the comments that it was hot outside. It truly is all relative to where you live and the weather



you experience. Our final agricultural stop was at the Musk Ox farm. The historic 1930s-era Colony farm is located just 45 miles north of Anchorage in the Matanuska Valley, the heart of Alaskan agriculture in Palmer.” Greg adds, “If this animal doesn’t look familiar to you, don’t worry. It didn’t look familiar to any of our Kansas farmers either! The non-profit Musk Ox Farm is dedicated to the domestication of the Musk Ox, an Ice Age mammal that once roamed the earth alongside saber-tooth tigers and woolly

mammoths. This once-endangered animal produces an annual harvest of qiviut (kiv'-ee-ute), the finest wool in the world. It’s the fur that is the undercoat of what you see in the picture. The cost of the wool is pretty staggering as well. It’s safe to say that Alaska agriculture is different in many ways. The people we talked to at the Alaska Flour Company, Havemeister Dairy, and the Musk

Ox Farm say the Alaskan consumer is very loyal to products produced in their home state. All of our tour participants came away impressed with the beautiful scenery and the agriculture in Alaska,” Greg concludes.

UPDATE ON DON MOLINO’S FLOOD RECOVERY – “Five weeks after the flood water left our home, it was finally declared ‘dry’ so repairs can start,” reports **Don Molino** (Louisiana Farm Bureau Agri-News Radio Network, Baton Rouge, LA). “All the floors have been removed, some of the new doors are installed and the sheetrock should be installed in the next few days,” he added. “The city/parish finally removed the trash from our neighborhood last week which was a huge



relief. Makes it almost seem like we're finally making progress. The biggest obstacle remains money to pay for the labor and repairs,” he said.

“Some flood insurance money has been released, but we don't look for anymore until sometime late in October. That means an SBA loan to tide us over until the flood insurance money is released.” Don continued, “We had no idea building what will be basically a new house would entail. Never, never wanted to do this, but Mother Nature had other ideas, so we just move forward. My wife asked our contractor if we'd be back home by next March. His response? ‘I have no idea.’ We just keeping making tiny strides forward and dream of the day when we can go home.”

HOOSIER AG TODAY BEGINS ITS SECOND DECADE – On

September 18, 2006, a new concept hit the airwaves of Indiana radio stations, delivered by a voice that had been heard on those stations for over two decades. Hoosier Ag Today debuted on 10 stations around the state with a new focus on delivering news for and about Indiana agriculture. “There was a lot going on in Indiana agriculture that was not being reported by the farm broadcast media of the day,” according to **Gary Truitt**,

founder of HAT, Zionsville, IN. “The state Department of Agriculture was just being formed, and the ethanol industry was just beginning to explode in Indiana.” As the ethanol, grain, and livestock sectors began to grow, Hoosier Ag Today grew with them. “In the beginning, all we had was a vision. Fortunately, we had some great partners who also had a vision,” Gary said. Their partners included Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Soybean Alliance, and the American Dairy Association of Indiana. Over the next few years, the program content of HAT was picked up by more radio stations wanting to serve their agricultural community. Today, HAT programs are aired by 65 radio stations across the Hoosier State. Over the past decade, the Network has expanded its staff and launched several digital platforms to deliver content to farmers via the Internet and, more recently, mobile devices. “Reading the morning HAT e-newsletter has become a regular routine for thousands of Indiana farmers, farm leaders, and government officials,” Gary said. “In the past year, HAT has expanded into online video, with live streaming of news events as well as informational in-field videos with agronomists and economists from the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture.” Gary added, “Our focus is Indiana. That is why we put Hoosier in our name.” While times are economically challenging for agriculture, Gary believes HAT is well positioned to be sustainable and ready to grow and prosper when the agricultural economy recovers.



HOOSIER AG TODAY

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WE WANT YOUR NEWS – Send us your stories and photos for future newsletter issues. Contact me at larryaquinn@outlook.com or call me at **703-819-6532**. *Airing on the Side of Agriculture* is included in the blog section of NAFB.com. For an archive copy of any past issues, go to **Membership** and click on **Airing on the Side of Agriculture**.