

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher



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Fed Creates Center For Ag And Economy

By Lydia Noyes, Contributing Editor

The newly formed Center for Agriculture and the Economy in Kansas City, Kan., aims to include perspectives from agriculture and rural areas in discussions about the national economy.

"The Center's creation is rooted in a longstanding focus on U.S. and global agriculture at the Kansas City Fed," says Nate Kauffman, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of the Center for Agriculture and the Economy at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. "Agriculture is central to the economy of our seven-state region in the middle of the country. Farm income on average represents more than 10% of total income across the counties of our District and is similarly prevalent in neighboring regions."

The Center serves as a resource for the Federal Reserve System.

"We provide insights on the U.S. agricultural economy, including updates on finance and the crop and livestock sectors, as well as regular in-depth research and updates on ag-related topics, such as food prices and labor," Kauffman says. "Center contributors also host events and engage with producers and industry professionals across our District and nationally, often partnering with other Federal Reserve Banks."

It aims to conduct regular surveys and analyses across the agricultural economy. This provides critical context for Federal Reserve policymakers as they evaluate economic conditions for new policy.

"Leveraging an existing area of focus, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City formally established the Center for Agriculture and the Economy to underscore our commitment to including perspectives from agriculture and rural areas in national economic conversations," Kauffman says. "We aim to foster a two-way exchange: listening to producers and industry leaders while producing research that serves their needs."

He notes that agricultural lending is also a priority.

"A third of the nearly 1,000 commercial agricultural banks are headquartered in our District," Kauffman says. "For decades, the Kansas City Fed has been dedicated to understanding topics relevant to the agricultural sector."

In this way, the Center aims to provide timely, relevant insights to the sector, helping producers and stakeholders stay informed about economic trends and financial conditions.

Kauffman explains, "We serve as a link between agriculture and the Federal Reserve, ensuring that voices from the sector, as well as the rural areas where production is concentrated, are included in national economic conversations."

A series of videos about the Center, featuring comments from Kauffman and other Center contributors, is available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRuFDIAZCtQ28HuDwCpyuA_gX6h0Qw2se).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Center for Agriculture and the Economy; Kansas City, Kan. (www.kansascityfed.org/center-for-agriculture-and-the-economy).



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Early Days At FARM SHOW



Harold Johnson (seated, left) launched FARM SHOW in January 1977. Mark Newhall (seated, right) was hired about a year later. Harold's wife, Joan (standing, left), and two neighbor ladies, Lois and Doris, started with zero subscribers and grew it to 25,000 in just one year. By the end of the second year, they had 50,000, and by the end of the third year, 100,000. So, it caught on very quickly. This picture was taken in Harold's office in 1978. Harold sold the business to Mark in 1994 and died in 2006 from complications of Parkinson's. Mark sold the business to Scott Geyer in 2019 and retired in 2024.



Tell us your story! FARM SHOW has always been about readers sharing their experiences with Best and Worst Buys, Shop Tips, Maintenance Shortcuts, and stories about real-world projects born in shops on farms across the U.S. and Canada. **Please share your story at www.farmshow.com, by email at editor@farmshow.com, or by text to 952-465-5019.**

Liberty Quotes

"Liberty may be gained, but can never be recovered." *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

"For all we become aware of when we slowly wake up, you can't help but pause and wonder what is still left unseen." *L.M. Fields*

"The greatest obstacle to human liberty is that the vast majority of people do not wish to be free." *Michel Templet*

"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man." *George Washington*

"I cannot possibly understand how fraternity can be legally enforced without liberty being legally destroyed." *Frédéric Bastiat*

Lena took a fall one day and hurt her leg. Ole wasn't sure what to do. Frantic, he called 911. The dispatcher said they would send someone out right away and asked, "What is your address?"

"Ve live on Susquehanna Road," Ole said.

The dispatcher asked, "Can you spell that for me?"

There was a long pause, and Ole replied, "How bout I drag her over to Elm street, and you pick her up dere?"

Ole wanted to work for the FBI. He went to Washington and took the agent admissions test. After the test was scored, the agent in charge took Ole aside.

He said, "Ole, this is the worst I've ever seen anyone score on this test. I'm sorry, but it appears you don't know the first thing about criminology or history, which are critical to this position. You didn't even spell FBI correctly! Can you even tell me who killed Abraham Lincoln?" Ole thought about it for a minute and shook his head. The agent continued, "OK, Ole, go home and study. If you come back and can tell me who killed Abraham Lincoln, I will let you retake the test."

Ole went home and saw Sven when he got back to town.

"How did da test go?" asked Sven.

Ole replied, "Vell, I've only been wit dem for 12 hours, and dey already haf me on a murder case!"

Ole, Sven and Lars were having a few beers when they couldn't agree on who had the most difficult life. "I have," Sven said. "I been in da same dead-end job for twenty-two years."

"Vell, mines even verse," Ole barked. "I've been married to da same voman for 45 years."

"I've got yew both beat!" shouted Lars "Last year, some crooks stole my identity."

"So what," said Ole and Sven. Lars explained, "Vell, two weeks later dey brought it back!"



In the 1960s, Massey Ferguson tethered its prototype 1130 tractor and a ballast device to a center pole on a 1/10th-mile test track so the tractor could run 24 hours a day.

'Runaway Massey' Tested On A 1/10th-Mile Track

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

Engineers who design and build farm equipment have long been tasked with testing prototype models for workability, strength, durability and other characteristics. In the early 1960s, Massey Ferguson built a 1/10-mile circular concrete track in Thomasville, Ga., to test its prototype 1130 tractor. Like old-fashioned horse-drawn power mechanisms, the tractor's front wheels were tethered to a pole at the center of the track, creating tension that kept the tractor turning left. Engineer Jim Clark says the tractor was set up to run 24 hours a day. Clark designed a safety kill switch that would stop the engine if the tether line broke.

Clark says the system worked well. The tractor towed a ballast device whose drag could be controlled by changing gears. After hundreds of hours of testing, interrupted only to add fuel and change oil, the prototype was evaluated to determine whether modifications were needed before production. On another occasion, Clark says the tether design "worked well until it didn't."

Clark says they were testing the wear life of the rake tines on an MF 25-mounted rake. Different suppliers sent product samples, which their team attached to a bar so the tines barely scraped the track surface. Clark and his team measured tine wear each morning, at midday, and again in the evening when the tractor was refueled. The small tethered tractor pulling the rake circled the track without issues for several days and nights. One morning, however, Clark says they heard the tractor engine running, but it wasn't on the track.

At some point during the evening, the tether line broke, the kill switch failed, and the tractor veered off the track. They spotted it nearly 100 yards away, stranded in a small ditch, with the mounted rake supporting the tractor's wheels off the ground.

Clark says the tines had done some serious raking in the soil along the edge of the concrete track. Thereafter, the small tractor was known as "the runaway Massey" whenever it was used for testing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup (www.legacyquarterly.com).