

# Pocahontas RECORD-DEMOCRAT

Official County Newspaper

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\$1<sup>00</sup>



**WEATHER**

**WESSELS OIL COMPANY, INC.**  
Palmer, IA  
1-800-426-0016

DAY	HI	LOW	PRCP.	SNOW
Jan. 16	39	28	0.44	
Jan. 17	30	24		
Jan. 18	30	24	0.76	7.7
Jan. 19	29	16	0.02	0.3
Jan. 20	26	15		
Jan. 21	19	11		M
Jan. 22	No Observation Reported			



Kim Himrod is seen with the sandhill crane she found on a gravel road near Plover on Christmas Day (above left). The juvenile crane is seen in the entryway at Kim's home (above right). The migrating bird was separated from its flock by a winter storm and is now recovering at a bird rehabilitation center. Submitted photos

## Feenstra tours Positech

By Erin Sommers  
pokyrnews@gmail.com

Positech continues to grow, in a managed way, company officials told U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra during a tour last week.

The Laurens manufacturer of manipulators — equipment that helps human workers do their jobs better, safer and more efficiently — has stayed at about 50 employees for several years, CEO Brenda Slama said. Positech moved to be an employee owned company in 2018.

"It's been a change in company direction, company morale," Slama told Feenstra.

The representative said he was impressed to see a company like Positech, which sends its products around the world, operating in a town the size of Laurens. He asked if the employees live locally.

Slama said she doesn't always understand why younger workers aren't interested in the jobs Positech has open.

"There's a lot of money in what we do," she said. "There's kids going to college for minimum wage jobs. This is not a minimum wage job."

Positech, she added, grows and promotes its own employees. Finding workers for open positions is not a unique challenge, Feenstra said, but it was something he'd like to look into from a federal perspective. Further, he agreed with Tate that there should be stricter rules to get people working. He didn't elaborate on which rules he would change.

"That's what's got to end," Feenstra said. "We've got to put work requirements on subsidies. You've got to get back to work."

Tate said one challenge that would fall under the federal government's reach is the duty fees Positech pays for imported components. The company recently received an order of bearings from China for which the purchase price was decent, but the duty fees were another \$10,000 on top of that. While Positech employees can and have started to make some of their own component parts, that isn't always feasible, he added.

How have supply chain issues since the pandemic impacted Positech, Feenstra asked.

"Raw materials have gotten better," Slama said. Electrical components are

## At the Rialto

Showing Jan. 20-26 is "Kinnick: The Documentary" Not Rated, Running time: 1 hr. 32 min.

The story of Nile Kinnick: child of the Depression, winner of the Heisman Trophy, and pilot in WW2. The story of a man becoming myth unfolds in cinematic detail in this feature documentary, revealing what pushed a young man from Adel, Iowa to reach ever higher and ascend to the realm of legend in the minds of sports fans across the nation.

No Movie Thursday, Feb. 2  
Schedule subject to change.

## COMING SOON:

"Avatar: The Way of the Water" — PG-13  
"Plane" — R  
"A Man Called Otto" — PG-13

## AUCTIONS

\*\*\*  
Hay Auctions  
First and Third Saturdays of each month  
February 4 & 18 @ 10:15 a.m.  
@ the Fonda Sale Barn  
Hammen Auction Company  
Jerry Hammen - 712-299-2523  
\*\*\*

Iowa Land Auction  
Live & Online  
Pocahontas County, Iowa  
Friday, Feb. 10 @ 10 a.m.  
Garfield Township Sections  
80 Acres M/L in Section 24  
33.3 Acres M/L in Section 14  
Auction Location:  
Expo Center,  
Pocahontas Fair Grounds  
Lorna Kleen Revocable Trust,  
Owner  
Attorney for Trust:  
Noelle Murray  
Sale Barn Realty & Auction  
401 1/2 East Elm,  
Pocahontas, IA  
712-335-3117  
www.salebarn.ncn.net  
\*\*\*

Acres Auction  
Saturday, Feb. 25 @ 10 a.m.  
4879 220th Avenue,  
Albert City, IA  
Claire Anderson, Owner  
Sale Barn Realty & Auction  
401 1/2 East Elm,  
Pocahontas, IA  
712-335-3117  
www.salebarn.ncn.net  
\*\*\*

Pocahontas Machinery  
Consignment Auction  
Wednesday, March 8 @ 8 a.m.  
Advertising Deadline:  
Friday, Feb. 24  
Located at 401 1/2 East Elm,  
Pocahontas, IA  
Sale Barn Realty & Auction  
401 1/2 East Elm,  
Pocahontas, IA  
712-335-3117  
www.salebarn.ncn.net  
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# Sandhill crane rescued from snowy gravel road

By Erin Sommers  
pokyrnews@gmail.com

At first, Kim Himrod of rural Plover thought the snowbank might be a dead raccoon.

Himrod was driving on gravel from her daughter's home to her own house on Christmas Day, after eating Christmas dinner there.

She hadn't noticed the snowbank or anything in the road a few hours earlier, so despite the cold temps, she stopped to check it out. She quickly realized it wasn't a raccoon, but some kind of bird. Based on the rough size and shape, she next thought it was a Canada goose.

It wasn't one of those either.

"It had snow on its neck, snow under its wing," Himrod said.

It also had much skinnier feet and a narrower bill than a goose.

But she wasn't sure just what she'd found. She did know it needed to get out of the weather. The bird was so cold, it didn't even fight her as she bundled it into her car and headed home, where she put it in the back entryway with a kitten she had also rescued. She penned the bird in place by propping a piece of loose, portable dog kennel in front of it.

Himrod talked with her daughter about the bird and how she had no idea what kind of bird it was. Certainly nothing she'd seen before. Her daughter came back with a photo of a sandhill crane, famous for their migration across Nebraska each spring as they head to the prairie ponds in the Dakotas.

Himrod's daughter also

helped her find Iowa Bird Rehabilitation, a Des Moines nonprofit that rescues wild birds and helps them re-enter their natural habitat. A volunteer with that organization was ready to drive up to Plover that night to transport the crane right away.

Himrod and Iowa Bird Rehabilitation Founder Jenni Boonjakuakul told the volunteer to wait.

The volunteer did start driving north on Dec. 26. It took her more than three hours to make the trek, Boonjakuakul said.

Himrod, recognizing that gravel road conditions still weren't great that day, told the volunteer to meet her at Casey's in Pocahontas instead of coming all the way out to the acreage.

"She pulled up laughing at me," Himrod said.

At first, Himrod didn't understand why, until the volunteer pointed out that she could clearly see the crane walking around in the back window of Himrod's vehicle. Himrod had let the bird roam in the vehicle during the trip to town.

Her favorite part of her brief time caring for the crane was listening to it vocalize as it warmed up.

"The coolest part was when it started talking to me," she said. "He never did try to attack me. It just stood there."

Under Boonjakuakul's advice, Himrod didn't offer the bird any food. Rescuers would prefer to check the bird for injuries before it eats or drink anything, Boonjakuakul said.

Himrod could hardly stop smiling as she showed off photos and videos of the bird. The whole situation was surreal, she said.

"If I didn't have the pictures, I'd swear it didn't happen," she said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Boonjakuakul said Himrod took the right steps to help the bird to wait.

"If it's something that is in immediate danger, has an obvious injury or can't stand, place it in a small box with a cover and a towel or T-shirt on the bottom," she said.

Then, the person who finds the bird should put the box and the bird in a safe place and call Iowa Bird Rehabilitation at 415-596-1147.

This sandhill crane was likely hatched in 2022 and seems to have been separated from its parents during this first migration, Boonjakuakul said. She can't tell if the bird is a male or female without a blood test just yet, she added, but she referred to the bird as a male.

"He should still be with his parents through winter," Boonjakuakul said. "My theory is he just got blown off course."

Sandhill cranes winter in Texas along the Gulf Coast and in northern Mexico.

The crane is recovering well. "After my vet examined him, no broken bones, he's a good weight," Boonjakuakul said. "He's eating really well too."

The crane's young age is working in its favor, allowing it to recover quickly. It will also be able to reintegrate to a sandhill

crane flock in the spring. It will have another stop before then, though.

"We are transferring him to the Nebraska Wildlife Center," Boonjakuakul said. "We decided that the best place for him was to transfer him to Nebraska, overwinter him and release into large flocks. There are lots of birds that will accept others. I'm happy he will find some to connect with."

Boonjakuakul has been working with birds since 2007 and received her own federal and state wildlife rehabilitation licenses a few years ago.

"There's not a lot of wild bird rehabilitators," she said. "Birds are more of a specialty because they require a federal as well as a state permit."

On top of that, baby birds need to eat every 30 to 60 minutes right after they hatch. People working with them need to have the flexibility to meet that need, Boonjakuakul said.

"It's pretty intense," she said.

The sandhill crane Himrod found in Pocahontas County got a little bit of the star treatment at Iowa Bird Rehabilitation about two weeks after it arrived. National Geographic photographer Joel Sartori, the driving force behind the Photo Ark project, visited.

"He already had a sandhill crane, but he wanted a video of (the crane's) face," Boonjakuakul.

Iowa Bird Rehabilitation's Facebook page shared a video of the sandhill crane on Jan. 13.

# Lawyer: IUB is asking tough safety questions

By Erin Sommers  
pokyrnews@gmail.com

Iowa Utilities Board members are showing an inclination to push back against proposed carbon capture pipelines, a Storm Lake attorney said last week.

John Murray met with Pocahontas County landowners who may be on the pipeline's path Jan. 17 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church to talk about what's changed since September. High on the list was how the IUB members have been asking tough questions of Summit pipeline attorneys. The answers haven't been promising, Murray said.

Summit won't come through Pocahontas County, but Navigator Heartland Greenway has proposed a similar project here. Murray said Navigator

officials are likely watching as Summit attorneys are grilled by IUB members about how close that pipeline would pass to homes, towns and schools, and in particular how big a plume of carbon gas would be if it were released from the pipeline.

"The IUB is exercising some significant discretion here," Murray said. "The IUB is not dealing with these pipelines like Dakota Access."

He read an exchange from a transcript of the hearing in which IUB officials asked Summit attorneys about safety protocols and concerns, particularly setbacks. One IUB member asked about the setback from schools, and the attorney said he didn't have the rules memorized, but he guessed it was a standard 50-foot setback, as authorized in the federal rules, governed

by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA.

Summit doesn't have its permit yet, Murray added.

"If the IUB comes down and says, 'I'm really interested in this plum thing and how bad it's going to be if it bursts,' if they say, 'we've got to have this information,' — the pipeline company has to react to that. This is where it gets really interesting."

If the IUB opts not to issue a permit, Summit can appeal that decision. Ultimately, a case like that could rise as high as the Iowa Supreme Court. And if that happens, Murray said, a regular case typically takes at least a year to be heard and decided at that level.

He shared that as part of an overall theme in his message —

the pipeline is not a certainty and even if a permit is approved, it could take more than a year to happen.

Murray encouraged the landowners to take their time and not sign any agreement with Navigator's land and right-of-way agents immediately. Instead, he said, get tile maps together and, just as importantly, gather any plans for any future tiling as well. The pipeline companies must, by law, not only remain separated from existing tile lines, but they also have to avoid the path of future tile. Farmers don't have to share those maps and plans just yet, Murray said, but it would be in their best interest to have those plans together and ready to go.

"Navigator is waiting for Summit to deal with this," Murray said, explaining why

he doesn't see Navigator even starting a permitting hearing until possibly some time in 2024. "Let's say there's no appeal. It's still going to be hotly contested at trial."

Another big factor is how many landowners sign voluntary agreements, Murray said. Based on documents Summit has filed, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation estimated Summit has received easements for about 62 percent of land along that pipeline route. Murray was part of an effort to lobby legislators after the Dakota Access pipeline to create a minimum percentage of landowners signing a voluntary easement before the IUB could grant a company eminent domain powers. That effort failed, but the Iowa Farm Bureau is pushing for new legislation that would do just that. If the

Farm Bureau's recommendation were to pass, a full 90 percent of landowners would need to sign on to a project before the IUB would allow the use of eminent domain.

Iowans should "tell your legislators" what sort of restrictions should be approved, Murray said. "It matters."

One thing that won't happen, Murray said, is a law completely prohibiting the use of eminent domain on farm land. There are laws allowing pipelines and no pipeline will ever get 100 percent voluntary easements. At some point, the IUB will grant the use of eminent domain for most projects. People can ask their legislators to step in with rules for the threshold for granting eminent domain, for setting strict rules about land restoration and even route restrictions.

He reiterated his belief, shared at the September meeting, that county regulations won't count for much when it comes to how deep the pipeline will be buried. That's all generally set by PHMSA, Murray said. Individual landowners do need to keep an eye on what's happening on their property and in their easement agreements, though.

"The ability of your county to enforce the county ordinance that says it has to be an eight-foot depth is questionable," Murray said.

A few things have changed since 2015, when Dakota Access began the permitting process here. Now, pipeline inspectors have the authority to stop construction in wet conditions. County inspectors this time

See IUB, Page 04

## Grain quality lab provides specialized results for industry

All corn is not the same, soybeans are not all the same and not all wheat is wheat. At least not in Iowa State University's Grain Quality Lab.

Tests performed inside the lab determine the protein, oil, starch and fiber content of popular grains grown in Iowa and across the Midwest. The lab can also test for functional value of certain grains, or how they might hold up for different uses, in addition to amino acid testing.

The lab is part of the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and its specialists help measure the "nutritive value" of grains, going beyond the standard testing done at most grain elevators today.

"Score-keeping for grain handling" is how Charlie Hurburgh describes the lab's services. Hurburgh is professor in charge of the Iowa Grain

Quality Initiative and manages the lab, alongside Connie Hardy, Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources program specialist.

"There is a value proposition in all of the different qualities or traits, and for the most part, it isn't being captured very well by the commodity marketing system, which treats everything the same," he said. "Consumers worldwide are getting more sophisticated and grain processors are seeing some real market opportunity to purchase outside the traditional generic commodity system."

**Specialized testing**

Plant breeders and genetic companies, ethanol producers, livestock feed companies and some human food processors rely on the lab's services for testing.

According to Hurburgh and Hardy, ethanol producers usually

want softer corn that is high in starch, and lower density. On the flip side, livestock producers usually prefer high-protein, dense grain that is less powdery and dusty.

"It's a matter of preference, based on what the grain is going to be used for, and seed companies are coming up with genetics to match the demand," said Hurburgh.

In a typical year, the lab performs tests for 50-60 clients who may have a couple samples each, or several thousand. Most clients are small and medium size companies who do not have their own laboratories for testing, although farmers occasionally bring their own samples if they have a concern or want to know how their grain performs.

**Team effort**

In addition to Hurburgh and Hardy, the lab is run by graduate and undergraduate students.

The staff also help calibrate grain testing equipment used by other laboratories - at other universities and private companies.

The primary testing technology is near-infrared spectroscopy. The grain is gravity-fed through the machines, where a near infrared lamp provides the appropriate spectrum for analysis. Results are produced in a minute or less and are displayed on a computer monitor or a digital screen.

The lab maintains strict confidentiality of samples and results, protecting the proprietary investments of the people and companies who use the lab. Services are for all grains and are priced on a per sample basis, with some exceptions based on the size of samples and the combinations.

The lab is also used for research related to grain quality

and grain quality testing, and maintains an extensive library of grain samples that grows with each test. It's what Hurburgh calls "integrated extension and research."

**Making a difference**

Because the testing is often proprietary, Hurburgh and Hardy don't always know what clients do with the results or how the results are being applied. But based on the number of return clients and anecdotal evidence, they are confident the lab's services are making a difference.

"The extension specialist is listening to the industry and taking what they hear to work to help solve the puzzle," said Hurburgh. "One of the more satisfying things for me is that we have become closely integrated with the grain handling and processing industry and the people who make it happen."

In addition to Iowa State, Hurburgh serves on the Board of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society and is a leading voice on grain handling logistics and best practices.

Hardy enjoys knowing that the work done in the lab is making a difference in the industry.

"Our work is technical enough that it's challenging, but it's also an applied science that resonates with the industry," she said. "I also enjoy working with our many clients, because I know that the things we learn in the lab are being applied by the industry."

**Other services**

While the lab is a big part of the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, Hardy and Hurburgh and Erin Bowers, an affiliate assistant professor in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State, also provide training to grain handlers designed to meet

the requirements of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act. In addition, Hurburgh provides expert advice to farmers, cooperatives and the feed industry, regarding current trends and rapid response resources to mitigate time-sensitive issues.

The Grain Quality Initiative is also helping to organize the construction of the Ken Corporation Feed Mill and Grain Science Complex, being built on the Iowa State campus. This state-of-the-art facility is scheduled to be in use in 2023, and will provide teaching, research and extension opportunities, while also producing feed for Iowa State's livestock farms.

A full listing of Iowa Grain Quality Initiative services and upcoming educational opportunities is available online.

## Proposed legislation could kill or restrict carbon dioxide pipelines in Iowa

**By Jared Strong**  
**Iowa Capitol Dispatch**

A spate of bills introduced in the Iowa Senate this week would severely restrict ongoing plans by three companies to build pipelines to transport captured carbon dioxide from ethanol plants in the state.

Five bills introduced by Sen. Jeff Taylor, a Sioux Center Republican, would curtail eminent domain opportunities for hazardous liquid pipeline companies, limit their ability to conduct land surveys and negotiate easements for that land, and require them to identify their investors.

Taylor was among a minority of vocal Republicans to push for more protections in last year's legislative session for landowners who oppose three projects that would lay about 2,000 miles of pipe across the state.

The only provision that gained traction last year would have delayed the empowerment of eminent domain for the projects until next month. It was not ultimately adopted and would have likely been ineffectual: A final permit hearing for the company furthest along in the process — Summit Carbon Solutions — has not yet been scheduled by state regulators.

But the issue gained new traction during last year's election cycle.

"In my sixteen years in the Iowa House, I have never heard more concerns from constituents related to a single issue than the CO2 pipeline project currently proposed for our area," Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley, R-New Hartford, wrote in a letter to state regulators about a week before the election.

Grassley told Iowa Capital Dispatch this month that the pipelines will be a greater priority this session than last year: "What

that is exactly, I'm not in a position where I can tell you, but I know the caucus is hearing enough from their constituents."

Taylor's bills would have far-reaching consequences for the projects. One would eliminate the use of eminent domain for their construction.

"That, in many ways, is my No. 1 preference because it gives the strongest protection to landowners and does the best job of addressing the constitutional problems with eminent domain for private companies to produce profit," he said.

Taylor said that proposal faces the largest uphill battle in the Legislature. In lieu of that, another bill would require the companies to gain the permission of landowners for 90% of the route to enable eminent domain for the remainder. The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation recently indicated it would support that law change.

Summit said Friday it has signed voluntary easements for about 63% of its route in Iowa. That's up from about 50% in September. Under current law, there is no requirement for a percentage of voluntary easements for a project to qualify for eminent domain. Summit has said it hopes to get final approval for its project from the Iowa Utilities Board in June and to start construction this fall.

About its progress for obtaining voluntary easements, the company said: "This support tells us Iowa landowners along the route view the project as a critical to supporting the state's most important industry - agriculture. We look forward to continuing to work with landowners, stakeholders and policymakers to advance our nearly \$987 million investment in Iowa's future."

Another of Taylor's bills would remove the pipeline companies'

abilities to conduct land surveys without landowner permission. Iowa law allows the surveys — which are used to determine the depth and path of the potential pipelines — after the companies have held public meetings about their projects and provided notice of the surveys.

That part of the law is being challenged in court by multiple landowners who have refused to allow surveyors from Summit and Navigator CO2 Ventures onto their properties. It is also the subject of a criminal trespassing charge in Dickinson County.

Another Taylor bill would prevent pipeline companies from contacting unwilling landowners to negotiate voluntary easements, and the last would require pipeline companies to identify their

investors. As part of the permit process, pipeline companies would have to provide a list of investors and their projected contributions based on monetary ranges, with the top category of more than \$1 million.

Taylor said it's likely that one or more of the bills will have companion bills in the House, but he was unsure when they might be filed or by whom.

The pipelines have been promoted as a boon to ethanol plants, which could reap billions of federal tax incentives to limit greenhouse gas emissions and could also sell their fuels at a premium in low-carbon markets. The ethanol industry is an important market for Iowa farmers because more than half of their corn is used to produce the fuel.

## IUB allows counties to be parties to pipeline hearings

**By Erin Sommers**  
**pokyrdnews@gmail.com**

Two counties will be able to have a seat at the table when the Iowa Utilities Board considers a permit request for a carbon capture pipeline.

Bremer and Kossuth counties filed petitions to intervene last year in the hearing and permitting process for the Navigator Heartland Greenway carbon capture pipeline that will cross those counties, as well as into Pocahontas and Buena Vista counties. The IUB also granted the Sierra Club of Iowa the right to intervene during the hearings.

"Both Bremer County BOS and Kossuth County BOS assert Iowa Code 331.301 grants them the authority to 'exercise any power and perform any function it deems appropriate to protect and preserve the rights, privileges, and property of the county or of its residents and to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of its residents,'" a Jan. 18 filing from the IUB said. "Bremer County BOS and Kossuth County BOS each assert that due to the potential impact on their county and its residents, they have a unique interest in this proceeding and no other party can adequately represent their interests in this proceeding. No objection to Bremer County BOS' or Kossuth County BOS' petition to intervene has been filed."

The Sierra Club made similar arguments.

"The Board finds that the prospective intervenors have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, the final determination in the docket may have an adverse effect on the prospective intervenors' interest, and the prospective intervenors may reasonably be expected to assist with the development of a sound record," IUB officials wrote in their ruling.

The IUB also issued a staff letter to Navigator officials asking for answers to a number of questions.

"It is our intent to expedite this process," the IUB officials wrote.

They acknowledged that some of the answers might be included in documents already filed, but that they hadn't had a chance to fully review those submissions.

The questions were as follows:

- Does Navigator have the following permits/authorizations required to build the pipeline, including seasonal time restrictions from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- They also referenced similar requirements from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Department of Transportation, 571 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 77 and the Office of the State

Archaeologist.

- Will erosion control be installed to protect resources downstream of the project?
- Will Navigator consult with county weed officers and/or the Natural Resource Conservation Service regarding seed removal, mixes, and management?
- Does Navigator have a weed management plan?
- Does Navigator have a winter construction plan?
- Does Navigator have a plan to inspect the ROW within 24 hours of any half-inch or greater rain event?
- Will excavated materials from streams be set back farther than ordinary high-water marks? Will additional soil storage be used?
- Will water bodies and wetlands be depicted on the alignment sheet and marked along the ROW?
- Does Navigator have to provide a notification to the environmental inspector if there is a pressure loss during HDD (HDD)?
- Does Navigator have a containment management plan to deal with inadvertent release of HDD drilling fluid?
- Does Navigator have a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan?
- IUB officials asked Navigator to respond within 30 days of the Jan. 12 letter.

## Iowa Farm and Rural Life poll shows higher quality of life, lower stress

Every two years since 1982, the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll has asked farmers to report on changes in quality of life, defined as "the degree of satisfaction with all aspects of life," for their families and families in their communities.

In 2022, 86% of participants reported that quality of life for their families either stayed the same or improved over the five years leading up to February/March 2022. This represents a substantial uptick from what had been a downward trend from 91% in 2014, 87% in 2016, 84% in 2018 and 80% in 2020.

The 2022 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll summary report was published in December, and is available online at the Iowa State University Extension Store.

Known also as the "Farm Poll," the survey is the longest-running survey of its kind in the nation. Questionnaires were mailed in February and March 2022, and 979 farmers statewide responded.

Periodically since 1994, the Farm Poll has asked farmers

stress over the levels of personal stress over the previous five years had increased, stayed the same or declined. The results show a continued long-term decline in the proportion of farmers who reported increases in stress, from 60% in 1994 to 27% in 2022. Conversely, the percentage of farmers reporting decreases in personal stress rose from 9% to 32% over the same time period.

"This is the first time since we first started asking this question nearly thirty years ago, that more farmers reported declines in stress than reported increases," noted J. Arbuckle, professor and extension sociologist at Iowa State, and director of the Farm Poll.

Other topics covered in the 2022 Farm Poll summary include farming and traumatic experiences, opinions about what makes a "good farmer," influence of information sources on decision making, and participation in carbon markets. View the full 2022 Farm Poll and previous years' polls online.

around may be empowered to be more assertive this time, too.

"I think these county inspectors understand who they're answerable to — supervisors and landowners," Murray said.

Navigator initially tried to avoid filing and following an agricultural impact statement. Murray said that wasn't well received and the company, relatively quickly, walked back that request and filed a land restoration plan. That full plan can be found on the IUB's electronic filing system, in the Navigator docket. The document was filed Nov. 18. It lays out rules for separating top soil from other soil and for avoiding using the top soil for construction of driveways or removed from the

property without the landowner's permission.

Murray encouraged landowners to think about the impact to more than just the direct pipeline path on their farm. The temporary work areas will be just as affected, he said. Heavy equipment will be parked on the temporary easement area, which will create soil compaction. He also encouraged the landowners to look closely at the easement contracts — some of them allow access all over the entire farm.

"I'm strongly encouraging you on a corner clip to limit access," he said, giving an example of "the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter — these 10 acres," and not the entire farm.

Some of the proposed easements Murray has seen have offered landowners 25 percent of their full per-acre easement price for the temporary easements. That's not a good deal, Murray said. Dakota Access offered 50 percent of the permanent easement compensation for land affected by the temporary easement and construction areas. Dakota Access also paid bonuses on top of that.

Navigator started its offer at about \$12,000 per acre and has increased it to \$22,000 per acre.

"You guys can get a lot more than that," Murray said. "They have a long way to go in order to offer what is, in my opinion, fair compensation."

He was happy to see that Navigator was offering to pay its crop damage based on five years of corn production after the pipeline is built. Landowners should consider asking to receive 100 percent of the damage amounts for both the first and second years, if the project isn't done during the first growing season.

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## IUB: Tough questions being asked by IUB

**From Page 01**

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property without the landowner's permission.

Murray encouraged landowners to think about the impact to more than just the direct pipeline path on their farm. The temporary work areas will be just as affected, he said. Heavy equipment will be parked on the temporary easement area, which will create soil compaction. He also encouraged the landowners to look closely at the easement contracts — some of them allow access all over the entire farm.

"I'm strongly encouraging you on a corner clip to limit access," he said, giving an example of "the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter — these 10 acres," and not the entire farm.

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