






July 2025

THE HOUSEHOLDER BULLETIN

The Monthly Newsletter of Leut Services, P.C.

BIG, BEAUTIFUL & APPROVED

On July 3, after 29 hours of deliberation that included the longest floor speech and longest vote in the history of the House of Representatives, the One Big Beautiful Bill passed. The House approved the bill 218-214 while the Senate passed the bill 51-50, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. This bill creates new forms of tax relief while also extending the Trump tax cuts passed in 2017, which were set to expire this year. The standard tax deduction has been increased by \$750 for individuals and \$1,500 for married couples. This increase will be effective in the 2025 tax year. Additionally, the bill makes the 20% tax deduction for small businesses permanent. It makes significant cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. It allocates \$46.5 billion for border wall construction. It terminates many “green energy” tax incentives. Not only will most farmers benefit from the bill’s termination of the “death tax,” but \$66 billion for farm programs was passed, including changes for ARC and PLC for the 2025 crop year. Payment limits of \$155,000 on ARC and PLC will exist, but LLCs and S corporations will be treated the same as a general partnership.

Increase in EFR X Estimated PLC Yield = Increase in Potential PLC Payment Per Acre				
CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	SORGHUM	COTTON
Increase in EFR: \$0.16	Increase in EFR: \$1.05	Increase in EFR: \$0.79	Increase in EFR: \$0.16	Increase in EFR: \$0.053
Estimated PLC Yield: 140.76 bu/acre	Estimated PLC Yield: 40.44 bu/acre	Estimated PLC Yield: 41.48 bu/acre	Estimated PLC Yield: 61.90 bu/acre	Estimated PLC Yield: 1,756 bu/acre
\$22.52 Per Acre	\$42.46 Per Acre	\$32.77 Per Acre	\$9.90 Per Acre	\$93.05 Per Acre
				

Farm CPA Paul Neiffer calculated possible PLC payment increases under the One Big Beautiful Bill. (Lori Hayes)

A NOTE FROM YOUR Attorney

An important perspective that you must have to be a good leader is knowing the difference between a “fail” and a “failure.” What is the difference? Is there one?? A “fail” may come as an outcome of trying while a failure is the product of laziness and fear. Good leaders don’t let the fear of failing control their actions. They initiate. Initiation is the match to the flame of success. Now, initiation is not taking a shot in the dark. Good leaders know that life does not deliver immediate, positive results, so they make calculated and purposeful moves. Good leaders are prepared. In addition to initiating, good leaders finish well. They complete the project; they get the job done. Even when things do not go as planned, they find the benefit in the bad experience. They are professional and shake hands with their opponent, no matter the outcome. *(Continued on next page)*

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WHAT IS AN AGENT?

By Rane Stehly

What is an agent? And no, not like James Bond. You probably came across the word “agent” when reading a contract or your bylaws. Legally speaking, it is not nearly as exciting as the agents we see in the movies. An agent is someone who is allowed to act on behalf of another person, business, or Colony. That “another person, business or Colony” is called the “principal.” Because of this relationship, the agent has the authority to do things like sign contracts or make decisions, depending on the scope of the relationship. Think of it like this: If you tell someone, “You can attend this meeting for me,” and they go do it, they are acting as your agent. This comes with a great deal of responsibility because the principal is responsible for the agent’s actions. This means that agents owe many duties to their principals, including the duties of:

- Loyalty: acting in the best interests of the principal.
- Care: exercising reasonable care and skill in performing their duties.
- Confidentiality: maintaining the confidentiality of the principal’s information.
- Account: to account for their actions and transactions on behalf of the principal.

In the legal world, an attorney acts as their client’s agent. At Leut Services, we act as legal agents for our clients, and we take our role very seriously. We strive to not put our self-interest before our clients’ interest. It is important to choose wisely when you are allowing anyone to act on your behalf, especially in the legal world.

At the end of the month, we will say best of luck and see you again soon to Rane Stehly as she returns to law school for her final year. We have enjoyed having her so much in the office this summer.

(Note from Your Attorney continued)

Most importantly, good leaders create an environment where they allow others to learn from their mistakes. If you are surrounded by people who live in an imaginary world of perfection, then those people are living a life of failure. They do not realize that the most valuable lessons to learn in life come from mistakes. This perspective certainly fits on the Fourth of July. Next year, our country will be 250 years old. When our founding fathers set out writing the Declaration of Independence, little did they know they were initiating the greatest experiment: the United States of America. What started as an idea created the greatest country in the world. Our founding fathers were great leaders because they understood the difference between a “fail” and a “failure.” They acted and got the job done. While things did not go as planned, they learned to pivot and find the benefit of the bad experience. This Fourth of July, I am proud to be an American and proud to be a part of the greatest experiment in history. As always, **Consult Your Attorney,**

Kiera Leddy

FAIL
First
Attempt
In
Learning

DID YOU KNOW *with Grandpa Joe*

Platte Colony was founded in 1949 and is a direct daughter of Bon Homme Colony. Platte is home to beautiful views of the native South Dakota prairie with the Missouri River in the distance. Platte commercially raises beef cattle, pigs, turkeys, and grain. Platte also has a successful manufacturing shop and pre-cast business, Ola Precast, LLC. Platte has two daughters: Grass Ranch Colony and Spring Valley Colony.



Platte Colony in 1949



An upgrade on equipment, tractors frequently driven by the late Pr. Joseph Waldner.



Kitchen remodeling, all hands on deck!

Thank you to our friends at Platte Colony for the pictures!

PESTICIDES PERSIST

Pesticides continue to be a hot legal issue, and this time they are before the Supreme Court. Bayer, owner of Monsanto Co. and maker of Roundup, has asked the Supreme Court to block lawsuits against pesticide manufacturers over alleged health risks. Customers have claimed that glyphosate exposure from Roundup caused cancer, prompting lawsuits under state products liability law. Bayer argues that these claims are invalid under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which restricts state modifications to pesticide labels. While the Third Circuit has sided with Bayer, the Ninth and Eleventh Circuits have disagreed, creating a circuit split that led this case to the Supreme Court. Now, the Court has asked President Donald Trump's administration for its input on Bayer's request to limit lawsuits claiming Roundup causes cancer

TUNE IN Kiera was on...



SD Farm Bureau's
Town & Country Show
CLICK HERE to listen!

THE CODE

By Rane Stehly

Attorneys wear many hats, and they have many roles that go further than the practice of law. One of the most important roles an attorney has is being an advisor to their clients. Attorneys can also be called “counselors” because they counsel and provide guidance. Professional Rule of Conduct Rule 2.1 requires an attorney to give independent and honest advice to clients. This means that as a client, you are entitled to straightforward advice from your attorney, *even if it is hard to hear*. Although the advice may not always be the answer that you *want to hear*, you should be able to trust that your attorney is giving you truthful and necessary advice. For example, if an attorney believes a client’s case is unlikely to succeed, they must tell the client. Additionally, attorneys’ advice to clients can go beyond the interpretation of the law. Rule 2.1 also allows attorneys to consider moral, economic, social, and political factors when advising clients. This allows the client to receive well-rounded advice that applies to the real world, not just the legal world. At Leut Services, we are here to advise. You can trust that we will handle your problems competently, honestly, and to the best of our judgment.

PROP 12 CHALLENGE REFUSED

The United States Supreme Court has declined to hear a court case challenging California’s Proposition 12. Proposition 12 is a California law that bans the sale of food products from hens and hogs raised in confinement, such as cages or gestation crates. The lawsuit, *Iowa Pork Producers Association v. Bonta*, challenged Proposition 12 by arguing the law discriminates against out-of-state farmers, gives unfair advantages to California farmers, and imposes excessive burdens on interstate commerce. This decision confirms the law is likely here to stay, unless action is taken by Congress in Washington, D.C.

REAP GRANTS POSTPONED

On June 30, in an unexpected announcement, the USDA Rural Development office announced the delay in accepting Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grant applications. The acceptance period was supposed to open on July 1, the following day. Grant applications will now be accepted starting October 1, 2025. The postponement is supposed to help the USDA catch up with reviewing applications that have already been submitted. Leut Services plans to diligently continue working on applications so that when the October 1 acceptance period opens, we have applications to submit.

SWAMPBUSTER CONSTITUTIONAL

A federal judge in Iowa upheld the constitutionality of the wetland conservation program known as Swampbuster. The purpose of Swampbuster is to conserve wetlands from being converted into farmland by withholding certain USDA payments. If a farmer converts a designated wetland area into cropland, they are required to pay back certain USDA payments. In this lawsuit, *CTM Holdings, LLC v. USDA*, the landowners/farmers argued that Swampbuster is unconstitutional under both the Commerce Clause and the Takings Clause of the U.S. Constitution. However, the judge ruled on May 29, that Swampbuster is a valid exercise of Congress’s spending power under the Food Security Act because Congress may attach conditions on the receipt of federal funds

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILING

By Kellie Ripp

What is reconciling? Why is it important? Both questions are loaded with important answers that everyone who manages a bank account should pay close attention to. Reconciliation has several definitions, but today we are referring to the type of reconciling used in QuickBooks. One of the biggest mistakes people make in QuickBooks is that they don't understand the importance of reconciling, so they don't do it at all. (BIG MISTAKE!) Reconciliation involves analyzing bank statements from the past month to verify the accuracy of the transactions entered into QuickBooks. Reconciling allows you to review past transactions and confirm the date, dollar amount, and categorization. You might be surprised to see how many transactions are duplicated or assigned to the wrong bank account (if you have multiple). Reconciling also helps monitor the flow of money that is coming in and out of your account. It is good practice to reconcile your bank statements and credit cards that are in your QuickBooks file **every month**. An extra precaution is also reconciling your loans **quarterly**. Some common mistakes that occur when reconciling are combining transactions, entering the wrong ending balance, deleting transactions, and incorrect categorization. Do not put off reconciling your accounts until the end of the year. There is enough stress happening then. By getting into the habit of monthly reconciliation, it will eventually become an easier and less dreadful task to do.

BIRD FLU UPDATE

When Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins was sworn in, she worked to implement a five-pronged strategy to improve biosecurity on poultry farms and lower egg prices on grocery store shelves. She reports that the strategy has worked to help decrease food prices, with wholesale egg prices dropping 64% and retail prices falling 27% from their peak earlier this year. From January 20 to June 26, 2025, USDA completed 948 total biosecurity assessments on farms across the United States. USDA offers 2 free, voluntary biosecurity assessments to help farmers mitigate HPAI threats. One focuses on wildlife risk while the other focuses on general biosecurity improvements. USDA shares up to 75% of costs to fix the highest-risk biosecurity concerns identified during the assessments. Farmers can email poultry.biosecurity@usda.gov or call 844-820-2234 to request these assessments.

Completed Biosecurity Assessments by State

- Minnesota: 32
- South Dakota: 26
- North Dakota: 3



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Fourth of July Crisp

4 cups pretzels
1 ½ cups old-fashioned oats
½ cup flour
½ cup brown sugar
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
2 sticks salted butter, at room temp
2 tsp vanilla
12 oz jam (any berry, I used blueberry)
½ cup fresh berries (I used strawberries)

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a 9x13-inch baking dish with parchment paper. Using a food processor, grind the pretzels into a coarse powder. Measure 1 cup of pretzel “flour” and add it to a bowl. Add the oats, ½ cup flour, brown sugar, baking powder, and salt. Add the butter and vanilla. Mix until combined. Press 1/3 of the dough into the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Spread the jam evenly over the dough, then top with berries. Sprinkle the remaining dough over the jam. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until the crumble is golden brown. Adding ice cream to the top gives you the perfect Fourth of July treat. *Recipe by Half Baked Harvest*



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

July 8 // SDSU SE Research Farm Field Day
(Beresford, SD)
July 18-26 // ND State Fair (Minot)
July 22 // Organic Vegetable Production Field Day (Bruce, SD)
July 23 // SDSU High Tunnel and Vegetable Production Field Day (Brandon, SD)
July 29 // SDSU Specialty Crop Field Day
(Brookings, SD)
July 31 // AgPhD Field Day (Baltic, SD)
Aug. 5-7 // MN Farmfest (Redwood Co., MN)
Aug. 19-21 // Dakotafest (Mitchell, SD)
Aug. 20 // Leut Appreciation Day (The Shoffice)
Aug. 21-Sept. 1 // MN State Fair (St. Paul)
Aug. 26-28 // Farm Progress Show
(Decatur, IL)
Aug. 27-Sept. 1 // SD State Fair (Huron)
Sept. 1 // Labor Day (Office Closed)

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