

# FFA adds warnings about toxic plants

By Gregory R. Norfleet  
gregory.norfleet@westbranchtimes.com

From sheep to donkeys, from tractors to ATVs, West Branch High School's FFA filled up the Central Office parking lot and nearby grassy lawn to teach children about farming.

Chapter President Saylee Gingerich said the club wanted to primarily teach children about avoiding danger on the farm, but also how to enjoy the animals and heavy equipment.

"My favorite part ... is definitely seeing all of our members being able to interact with all of the elementary students and seeing how those elementary students interact with agriculture and learning more about it," she said.

Classes moved from station to station, listening to the high school students explain the use of each machine, or how

to care for each animal. They even brought a hog trailer the pupils could walk through to feed them Nilla wafers.

The FFA brought lambs for the first time in years, and added a new feature: How to identify and stay away from poisonous or toxic plants often found on farmland.

Gingerich said she hopes children will remember to ask adults what to do if they encounter a possibly dangerous situation.

"They know what's best," she said. "I want kids to learn ... that agriculture is super-fun, everyone can be involved in it, but agriculture can also be dangerous, so it's super-important to stay safe," she said.

That includes asking permission before touching or feeding animals.

The FFA students worked from scripts, but relied on them less throughout the day.



Hoover Elementary preschool teacher Joan Gredell's class listens Friday to West Branch High School junior Reid Hansen, left, and sophomore Hunter Hamer talk about how tractors get used on the farm and how to stay safe when around them. The high school FFA chapter filled the Central Office parking lot with farm equipment and animals for its annual Ag in the Lot event. **Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times**

## Budget

From Page 1

\$570, a decrease of about \$37. That comes from decreasing the tax rate from \$13.19 per \$1,000 to \$11.46.

- West Main Street rehabilitation project — removing the existing asphalt, making some underground improvements, and putting down a "smoother, longer-lasting road." The project widens the road, giving it bigger shoulders, to make

the road safer "and enhance overall driving conditions."

- Hiring a new, full-time fire chief — The city believes a full-time chief will "strengthen training and safety standards," "improve emergency response coordination," improve volunteer recruitment and retention, give more time to oversee operations and budgeting, and more.
- Finishing the Wapsi Creek widening project — to improve water flow capacity, protect nearby structures

and property, and support long-term stormwater management.

- Chipping and sealing West Branch Municipal Cemetery roads — creating a smoother driving surface, reducing dust and maintenance needs, enhancing visitor safety, and improving the overall appearance.
- Seeking trail grants — The city wants to build a trail in front of West Branch High School, from the Cedar-Johnson roundabout to the existing trail just east of WBHS prop-

erty.

- Increased police department equipment reserves — setting aside more money to prepare for larger expenses, like new squad cars.
- Updating its website — to make it more user-friendly for phones and tablets, giving it the ability to handle online forms, and making it easier to access agendas and public documents.

City Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken said the federal government wants

all public websites compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act by February 2027.

The city already received bids from four vendors, she said.

- Potential solar investments — to reduce long-term energy costs, increase energy independence, and take advantage of grants and incentives.

Council member Colton Miller asked about the solar options, saying that he thought the committee ruled out purchasing a

system.

Laughlin said that option, which at first appeared too expensive, now seems feasible. That does not mean the committee will recommend purchasing a system, but puts it back in the running alongside other options, like leasing.

However, after discussing new numbers on Monday, the council felt it could not get the panels installed in this fiscal year.

- New HVAC system at the public library.

ALL PUBLIC NOTICES CAN BE FOUND AT IOWAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

### Cedar county claim

4/9/2026  
General Basic Fund  
937.73-Access Systems Leasing-contract  
2300.00-Ahlers-Cooney-Dorweiler-labor relations  
83.16-Alliant Energy-elec  
238.55-Amazon Capital Services-batteries  
1046.70-AT&T Mobility-phone  
437.00-Cedar County COOP-fuel  
2544.00-Cedar County Health Fund Empl-ins SW  
1727.49-Centec Cast Metal Products-markers  
9936.64-City of Tipton-gas  
11839.21-Consolidated Management Co-meals  
297.44-Copy Systems-copies  
1636.58-Crist Electrical Serv-elec CV  
85.00-D&R Pest Control-spray  
708.20-Mike Dauber-ME  
138.60-Deana Drumbarger-mil  
366.77-Eastern IA Light&Power-elec  
1385.00-Frytown Trailers-trailer  
230.00-Teri Jo Griebat-ME  
78.10-Patricia Hamann-mil  
140.00-Trent Hansen-mtgs  
175.00-Heartland Shredding Inc-shred  
227.72-Hermesen Automotive LLC-oil chg  
333.10-Jennifer Hubler-ME  
90.00-IACVS Dubuque Veterans Affairs-registration  
556.00-Iowa County Attorneys Assoc-dues  
76.50-Iowa Dept of Natural Resources-permit  
385.16-Iowa Paper-paper  
470.94-Thiesen's-Parts  
138.67-Karl Emergency Vehicles-outpost  
1463.47-KMDE, LLC-solar  
318.58-Language Line Services-interpretation  
42.38-Linn County Sheriff-subpoena  
80.00-Mike Lodge-mtgs  
303.47-McKesson Medical - Surgical-medical  
150.00-Mid States Org Crime Ctr-renewal  
61.80-MPH INDUSTRIES, INC-cable  
295.00-NACCHO-dues  
51.66-Genuine Parts Company Inc NAPA-fuse  
59.84-ODP Business Solutions, LLC-envelope  
89.98-Office Express-paper  
60.00-Jeff Owen-mtg  
60.00-Richard Paulsen-mtgs  
1046.46-Professional Office Services-MV renewal  
1415.10-Progressive Rehabilitation-PT  
2133.67-Secondary Road Fund-snow  
98.97-Austin Sorgenfrey-clothing  
1088.00-Spengler Auto Repair Inc-transfer case  
180.44-Matt Stuhr-mil  
280.00-Tipton Lions Club-flags  
40.62-US Cellular-phone  
159.30-Vestis-mats/mops  
1471.54-VISA/Bankers Bank-notary  
123.75-Elizabeth Voss-mil  
168.30-Nicki Welch-mil  
116.18-West Branch Ford Inc-oil chg  
General Supplemental Fund  
89.98-Office Express-paper  
3895.29-S.I.A.D.S.A. Lee/Lucas-stay  
41.80-Nicki Welch-mil  
Rural Services Basic Fund  
40.62-US Cellular-phone  
3397.85-Waste Management of Iowa-20Yrd  
EMS-Essential Srv(Ambulance)  
185.24-AT&T Mobility-phone  
25.08-Secondary Road Fund-fuel  
176.33-VISA/Bankers Bank-Dues  
Secondary Road Fund  
744.00-Acuren Inspection Inc-Inspections  
2531.81-Advantage FS, Inc-Oil  
500.35-Albaugh PHC Inc-Building  
485.28-Alliant Energy-Utilities  
638.78-Altorfer Inc-Parts  
40.00-Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspec-Boiler  
5287.00-Calhoun-Burns & Assoc-Consultants  
5566.46-Cedar County COOP-Gasoline  
41.28-Cedar County Health Fund Empl-Insurance  
148.00-Central Iowa Distributing-Sundry  
88.91-City of Bennett-TJ  
73.95-City of Mechanicsville-Utilities  
3927.31-City of Tipton-Utilities  
117.92-Clarence Telephone Company-Phone  
260.00-Codeworks-software  
50.77-Custom Hose & Supplies-Parts  
273.85-Eastern Iowa Tire Inc-Tires  
80.00-Electronic Engineering Co Inc-Radios  
252.58-Finkbiner Equipment Co-Parts  
150.00-James Fuller-clothing

548.44-H & H Auto-Tires  
24508.00-Illowa Culvert & Supply-Culverts  
168241.12-Iowa Bridge & Culvert-L-202602-73-16  
924.50-Iowa Patch Midwest Patch-concrete  
194.20-Iowa Prison Industries-Signs  
11706.95-Jim Schroeder Construction Inc-LFM-202502-7X  
122.76-Thiesen's-equipment  
42.93-Lawson Products Inc-Parts  
251.72-Mutual Wheel Company Corp-Parts  
347.31-Genuine Parts Company Inc-NAPA Parts/Serviceing equi  
91.68-Phelps the Uniform Specialists-Sundry  
478.91-Quill Corp-Office supplies  
103.57-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-Signs  
86.80-T Mobile-Phone  
968.17-Truck Country of Iowa Inc-Parts  
63785.50-Wending Quarries Inc-Rock Transfer Station Fund  
848.53-Alliant Energy-elec  
975.73-Cintas Corporation-towels  
10.00-Clarence Telephone Company-email  
181.95-Thiesen's-cart, tools  
5512.81-Liberty Tire Services LLC-waste  
350.81-New Pig Corporation-wipers  
43.00-Niles Chiropractic, Inc-drug test  
6.50-RPM Revival, LLC -adapter  
522.50-Wending Quarries Inc-rock  
310.50-Wex Bank-fuel  
201.55-Windstream Auto-Pay-phone  
Cedar Co Health Fund  
2702.00-Benefits, Inc-flex  
11046.16-CEDAR COUNTY TRESURER ACH MED-self funded med Conservation Trust Fund  
93.23-Brothers Market, LLC-food  
117.85-Thiesen's-Food PH/NS Memorial Trust Fund  
34.99-Amazon Capital Services-bag  
955.00-T & M Clothing-shirts  
Debt Service Fund  
675402.50-UMB Bank, N.A-int  
Jnt Disaster Serv.Fund  
219.83-AT&T Mobility-phone  
631.60-City of Tipton-util  
1104.38-All Star Turf-snow  
7.02-Verizon-river gauge  
68.49-VISA/Bankers Bank-Office E911  
183.57-Clarence Telephone Company-data  
240.85-Corridor Energy Cooperative-elec  
241.23-Eastern IA Light&Power-elec  
12.00-F&B Communications-data  
541.75-Iowa Prison Industries-sign  
253.00-Mechanicsville Telephone-data  
308.20-Secondary Road Fund-signs  
679.68-VISA/Bankers Bank-Utilities Assessor  
26.42-Secondary Road Fund-fuel  
300.00-South Central District ISAA-registration  
1055528.40-Grand Total  
WBT 18

### Cedar county board

(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV) TIPTON, IOWA April 14, 2026  
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. April 14, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present. Board viewed correspondence from various agencies. Manure Management Annual Updates submitted. It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 4/10/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #445523 for \$16,116.84-self funded medical claims. Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve agenda. Ayes: All  
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. Pam Fluharty came to Board to give thanks to members of Board and resources that are utilized. Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve Board Minutes of April 7, 2026. Ayes: All  
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve Claim Disbursements #445400 - #445522 paid on 4/9/2026.

Ayes: All  
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.  
Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve to waive 14-day waiting period for Logan Hoffman & Dircks Farms, Inc. Ayes: All  
Public Health Director Wagman provided Board with a 28E Agreement between Inc-LFM-202502-7X  
122.76-Thiesen's-equipment  
42.93-Lawson Products Inc-Parts  
251.72-Mutual Wheel Company Corp-Parts  
347.31-Genuine Parts Company Inc-NAPA Parts/Serviceing equi  
91.68-Phelps the Uniform Specialists-Sundry  
478.91-Quill Corp-Office supplies  
103.57-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-Signs  
86.80-T Mobile-Phone  
968.17-Truck Country of Iowa Inc-Parts  
63785.50-Wending Quarries Inc-Rock Transfer Station Fund  
848.53-Alliant Energy-elec  
975.73-Cintas Corporation-towels  
10.00-Clarence Telephone Company-email  
181.95-Thiesen's-cart, tools  
5512.81-Liberty Tire Services LLC-waste  
350.81-New Pig Corporation-wipers  
43.00-Niles Chiropractic, Inc-drug test  
6.50-RPM Revival, LLC -adapter  
522.50-Wending Quarries Inc-rock  
310.50-Wex Bank-fuel  
201.55-Windstream Auto-Pay-phone  
Cedar Co Health Fund  
2702.00-Benefits, Inc-flex  
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93.23-Brothers Market, LLC-food  
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34.99-Amazon Capital Services-bag  
955.00-T & M Clothing-shirts  
Debt Service Fund  
675402.50-UMB Bank, N.A-int  
Jnt Disaster Serv.Fund  
219.83-AT&T Mobility-phone  
631.60-City of Tipton-util  
1104.38-All Star Turf-snow  
7.02-Verizon-river gauge  
68.49-VISA/Bankers Bank-Office E911  
183.57-Clarence Telephone Company-data  
240.85-Corridor Energy Cooperative-elec  
241.23-Eastern IA Light&Power-elec  
12.00-F&B Communications-data  
541.75-Iowa Prison Industries-sign  
253.00-Mechanicsville Telephone-data  
308.20-Secondary Road Fund-signs  
679.68-VISA/Bankers Bank-Utilities Assessor  
26.42-Secondary Road Fund-fuel  
300.00-South Central District ISAA-registration  
1055528.40-Grand Total  
WBT 18  
Ayes: All  
Jon Bell, Chairperson  
Nicki Welch, Auditor  
WBT 18

### Cedar county board

(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV) TIPTON, IOWA April 21, 2026  
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. April 21, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Auditor Welch. Members of public were also present. Board viewed correspondence from various agencies. It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 4/17/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #445524 for \$7,716.43-self funded medical claims. Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to approve agenda. Ayes: All  
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none. A correction of manure management annual updates in minutes for previous meeting noted. Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to approve Board Minutes of April 14, 2026 as corrected.

Ayes: All  
Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve Payroll Disbursements #204953-205105 for period ending 4/11/26 and to be paid on 4/17/26. This includes a payout for Dakotah Clements and Caitlyn Boyle. Ayes: All  
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.  
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve contract for GeoPermits Software. Ayes: All  
Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve RFQ for Zoning Administrator Services. Ayes: All  
Moved by Gaul seconded by Kaufmann to approve Secondary Roads Iowa DOT budget and 5-year Construction Program. Ayes: All  
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to adopt and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign Resolution For A Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). Ayes: All  
Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve a utility permit at 1025 230th St. Tipton for Eastern Iowa REC and \$100 fee applies. Ayes: All  
Abstained: Bixler  
HR Attorney Galloway discussed removal of benefits for employees under 30 hours from handbook, to take effect immediately upon Board approval. Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Gaul to remove benefits for employees under 30 hours from Handbook. Ayes: All  
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to go into closed session at 9:50 a.m. for collective bargaining strategy pursuant to Iowa Code 20.17(3). Ayes: All  
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to return to regular session at 10:36 a.m. Ayes: All  
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to adjourn at 10:46 a.m., to April 28, 2026. Ayes: All  
Jon Bell, Chairperson  
Nicki Welch, Auditor  
WBT 18

### Cedar county payroll

PAY DATE 4/17/2026

VENDOR	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	960.82
Washington National Ins Co.	167.26
Fidelity Investments	1,200.00
Phelps the Uniform Specialists	34.10
Cincinnati Life Insurance Co	500.06
IPERS	120,363.50
Cedar County Health Fund	163,101.21
Cedar County Treasurer	459.00
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION	140.00
Cedar County Treasurer	78,795.00
Cedar County Treasurer	10,498.07
Cedar County Treasurer	8,762.80
Cedar County Treasurer	361.82
Cedar County Treasurer	1,016.42
COUNTY TOTAL	386,360.06
	WBT 18

### Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CEDAR COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DALIUS KAZLAUSKAS, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR 019974 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Dalius Kazlauskas, Deceased, who died on or about November 12, 2025: You are hereby notified that on April 30, 2026, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate. Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from

the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated on May 1, 2026.

Suzanna Kazlauskas, Administrator of the Estate 336 S. Maple Street West Branch, Iowa 52358  
Kevin D. Olson, ICIS#: AT0005986 Attorney for the Administrator 1400 5th Street PO Box 5640 Coralville, IA 52241  
Date of second publication: May 14, 2026 (Date to be inserted by the publisher) WBT 18-19

### Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CEDAR COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN HOWARD DICK, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR 019970 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS To All Persons Interested in the Estate of John Howard Dick, Deceased, who died

on or about April 9, 2026: You are hereby notified that on April 17, 2026, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate. Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated on April 20, 2026.

Patricia A. McCabe, Administrator of the Estate 370 Derbyshire Rd. Waterloo, IA 50701  
Richard R Morris, ICIS#: AT0005452 Attorney for the Administrator Beecher, Law Firm, P.C. 620 Lafayette St., Ste. 300 Waterloo, IA 50703  
Date of second publication: May 7, 2026 (Date to be inserted by the publisher) Probate Code Section 230 WBT 17-18

I have a medical condition that requires me to have a weekly massage. It's called kids.

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Lifestyle Luann Mausser  
Therapeutic Solutions CLT, PTA, LMT

### FARMLAND FOR SALE

**SALE PENDING!**  
LINN CO. - NEW LISTING! 54.99 Acres located 2 miles SE of Cedar Rapids along a hard paved road. Includes 43.02 cropland acres with a 56.30 acre pond. Also includes a 3-bed/1-bath home, out-buildings and mature timber. 2037 Ivanhoe Rd., Ely - \$16,350/acre.

**SALE PENDING!**  
LINN CO. - NEW LISTING! 64.11 Acres located 2 miles SE of Cedar Rapids along a hard paved road. Includes 63.64 cropland acres with a 70.50 acre pond. \$14,500/acre.

**SALE PENDING!**  
MUSCATINE CO. - NEW LISTING! 62.94 Acres located 3 miles south of Blue Grass. Includes 50 acres of productive farmland, mature timber and beautiful pasture. \$9,500/acre.

**SALE PENDING!**  
SCOTT CO. - 55.18 Acres in Davenport along I-280. 45.09 crop acres with an 80.20 CSR2. \$16,500/acre.

### DEVELOPMENT LAND

**SALE PENDING!**  
CEDAR CO. - 5.44 Acres in city limits on hard-surfaced roads, SE side of Lowden. A timbered lot near access to utilities with existing garage. \$239,000.00

**SALE PENDING!**  
LINN CO. - 43.93 Acres on the east side of Center Point. Well-timbered lot with direct access to nature trail. \$27,500/acre.

### RESIDENTIAL LOT FOR SALE

**SALE PENDING!**  
CEDAR CO. - PRICE REDUCED! A 1.49-acre lot located 3 miles south of West Branch, close to the Village of Downey. 71 330th St., West Branch \$419,500.00 \$109,500.00

**Mt. Vernon, IA 319.895.8858**

All Acres are 'More or Less' unless noted  
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