

# Aging farmers leave uncertain future for the next generation

BLUE GRASS, Iowa (AP) — Earl Martz winces at the idea that one day someone other than a Martz may work the farm his family has owned for generations.

Martz, 71, raised hogs, corn and soybeans on the same 160 acres his father bought in 1913. Two of his three sons now are working the land, but the future of the family farm seems uncertain.

Soaring land values and operating costs, competition from large-scale operations, tax hurdles and market forces have made it difficult for young families to take over the nation's graying farmers.

"I really don't think my grandchildren will farm," said Martz, now a year into retirement. "We don't know what will happen to it, really, after our two sons are done farming here."

The questions facing the Martz family are familiar to many American farmers and ranchers.

A 2002 survey by farm economists at Iowa State University found that nearly 25 percent of Iowa farmland owners are 75 or older. Another 24 percent are 65 to 74, and nearly 22 percent are 55 to 64.

The most recent census by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows a similar trend nationwide. Based on 2002 figures, the average age of America's estimated 2 million farmers is 55.3 years.

The next national agriculture census is scheduled for 2007, but economists say there is scant evidence to suggest the trend will reverse any time soon.

"The average age of the farmer is going up year after year after year," said Pat O'Brien, an economist with the American Farm Bureau. "And one result of that is that we're seeing right now more and more land being concentrated in the hands of older owners."

**“It's not that the younger generation doesn't want to farm. it's that we've created so many economic barriers for them to enter the field.”**

John Crabtree.  
Center for Rural Affairs, Lyon, Neb.

Mike Duffy, professor of farm economics at Iowa State University, says research in Iowa shows an increase in land held by joint tenants and trusts — often by multiple heirs — as retirees turn the farm over to their children.

While some children choose to farm, many more have other careers. As a result, Duffy says, multiple-heir ownership has put more land in the hands of people who live away from the farm or out of state.

In 1982, 37 percent of Iowa farmland was owned by someone living off the farm. By 2002, that had risen to 45 percent, according to Duffy's research.

"What we anticipate seeing is more land being owned by more people who don't live in the state any more," Duffy said.

"That just means more income leaves the state and the rural communities."

The trend also has contributed to rising land values and consolidation of land by bigger, established operators, officials say.

While rising land prices benefit older farmers, many of whom rely on cash rent for retirement income, inflated prices are discouraging the hopes of the next generation of farmers.

"It doesn't take a very smart guy to realize the numbers are stacked against you," said Steven Houston

Jr., a 31-year-old part-time farmer from Donaldsonville, Ga., in the state's southwest corner.

When he's not driving trucks to help pay the bills, Houston says he raises wheat, peanuts and cotton on 220 rented acres. But his dream is to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and farm full time.

"It's so hard to be able to afford extra land," said Houston, adding that his father recently sold some farmland for \$3,300 per acre.

"If your daddy isn't already an established, big farmer, where you can use the name to start up a partnership, you really don't have much of a chance these days," he said.

The federal government has programs designed to help a new generation of farmers buy or rent land, but critics say the federal farm payment system offsets the good intentions of future farming programs.

"The reality is that agricultural land, the value of it, the cost of it, has been artificially inflated by the unlimited farm payment system," said John Crabtree, spokesman of the Center for Rural Affairs, a private, nonprofit farm issues group based in Lyon, Neb.

"It's not that the younger generation doesn't want to farm," he said, "it's that we've created so many economic barriers for them to enter the field."

# Kansas education official to move on to national position

TOPEKA (AP) — The woman Bob Corkins beat out to nab the job of Kansas commissioner of education has been picked to oversee most of the nation's special-education programs.

Alexa Posny, the state's deputy education commissioner, will leave next month to become the director of the Office for Special Education Programs. It's one of three divisions of the federal Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the U.S. Department of Education.

"This is an opportunity that only comes once in a lifetime," Posny said.

Posny sought the commission-

er's job when former school chief Andy Tompkins retired last year.

She initially was one of two finalists for the job. Unable to make a decision, the state board reopened the search. Posny remained a finalist — this time one of five — when the board's conservative majority voted for Corkins in September.

The decision angered some superintendents and educators because Corkins is a former lobbyist with no experience in education administration and had advocated for increased school choice.

Posny said the search process didn't play a role in her decision to take the federal post.

Posny, the former director of spe-

cial education for the Shawnee Mission School District, joined the Kansas State Department of Education in 1999 as director of special education and has led the division of learning services since 2001.

Corkins, who will choose Posny's replacement, was unavailable for comment.

Conservative and moderate school board members spoke highly of Posny.

"It's an acknowledgment of her tremendous skills and knowledge," said Sue Gamble, a moderate member of the school board from Shawnee. "But she's going to leave a huge hole in the Department of Education."

## People In The News

### Prince Charles left for two-week tour

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and wife Camilla are to leave Monday for a two-week tour of the Middle East and India, officials said.

The Prince of Wales and the former Camilla Parker Bowles, the Duchess of Cornwall, are scheduled to make stops in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India.

The tour, the couple's second official trip together, aims to improve Britain's profile and promote interfaith tolerance and the prince's environmental initiatives, according to a statement from the prince's office.

The royals will start in Egypt, where they are to lay a wreath at war graves in El Alamein and attend an exhibition of Islamic art. From there, they will travel to Saudi Arabia to attend meetings on education and work training.

Their tour wraps up in India, where the pair will attend the British high commissioner's annual reception for diplomats, politicians and businessmen. The prince — known for his interest in the environment and young people — is expected to discuss his ideas for sustainable farming, water conservation and jobs.

The couple's first official foreign trip together was a tour of the United States in November.

### Kid Rock reaches agreement regarding video

DETROIT (AP) — Lawyers for Kid Rock and a California company have reached a tentative agreement to extend a judge's order blocking the release of an explicit sex video featuring the rap-rocker, former Creed singer Scott Stapp and four

women. Under the agreement, the temporary injunction would remain in effect without the necessity of another court hearing, according to William Horton, a lawyer for Rock who spoke to The Detroit News.

Paperwork to permanently block the release of the tape is expected to be filed early next week, the newspaper said.

Lawyers for the company, World Wide Red Light District, did not return messages left Saturday seeking comment.

Last month, federal Judge John Feikens in Detroit signed a temporary order that stopped the company from distributing or promoting the tape.

Kid Rock's lawyers sued Red Light, which made headlines in 2004 by distributing the Paris Hilton sex video. The lawsuit sought a permanent court order halting sale or distribution of the video.

Stapp also has filed a federal lawsuit in Los Angeles to stop the company from selling or promoting the video. And a woman who claims to be involved in the video has sued Stapp for invasion of privacy.

RedLight acknowledged the tape came from a third party, but a company lawyer has denied that it was stolen.

### Ned Beatty accepts Master of Cinema award

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — Ned Beatty says he sees himself as a quintessential character actor. Although the leading man may get the girl, he said, as a character actor, "you make things happen. You drive the story on."

Beatty, who has appeared in more than 100 films, accepted the Master of Cinema award Saturday at the

### 2006 RiverRun International Film Festival

He discussed his role in the 1972 adventure-thriller "Deliverance." His character underwent an unforgettable sexual assault. "The whole 'squeal-like-a-pig' thing ... came from guess who?" Beatty said.

As the audience laughed, he theatrically put his head in his hands and silently pointed to himself. Beatty then explained how director John Boorman encouraged him to improvise the scene with Bill McKinney, his on-screen tormenter.

Despite identifying himself as a character actor, "I think I look like a leading man," Beatty joked.

The festival held in Winston-Salem included 25 feature films and 44 short films.



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# TV LISTINGS

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## WEEKDAYS MARCH 21 - MARCH 27

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	Good Morning Kansas	Good Morning America				Martha		The View		Millionaire	News	
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News Cont'd	Today				Live With Regis and Kelly		Paid Program	Paid Program			
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News Cont'd	News		The Early Show		The 700 Club		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless		
K15CG (2)	BBC World	Body Electric	Caillou	Mister Rogers	Beren Bears	Cliff Pup	Big Big World	Dragon Tales	Sesame Street	Teletubbies	Barney-Friends	
ESPN (28)	Sports-Center	Varied	Sports-Center	Varied Programs	Sports-Center	Varied Programs	Sports-Center	Varied Programs				
USA (37)	Walker, Texas Ranger	JAG		The District		Nash Bridges		Nash Bridges		Texas Ranger	Varied	
TBS (38)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Dawson's Creek		Movie		Becker		Becker	
WGN (39)	Changing	Believer Voice	Happy Days	Happy Days	Hillbillies	Hillbillies	Rockford Files		Matlock		Magnum, P.I.	
TNT (40)	Angel	Charmed		Charmed		ER		ER		Judging Amy		
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	American Chopper		American Chopper		Varied Programs			
A&E (47)	Varied Programs								City Confidential		American Justice	
HIST (48)	Varied Programs											
NICK (55)	Oddparents	Oddparents	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Dora the Explorer	Go Diego	Blue's Clues	Backyardigans	Dora the Explorer	Wonder Pets	LazyTown	Miss Spider
DISN (56)	Breakfast Bear	Higglytown	Einsteins	Doodlebops	JoJo's Circus	Charlie & Lola	The Wiggles	Koala Brothers	Rolie Polie	Doodlebops	Charlie & Lola	Rolie Polie
FAM (58)	Kong-Series	Spider-Man	Power Rangers	Power Rangers	The 700 Club		Living the Life		Gilmore Girls		Step by Step	Full House
HALL (60)	New Morning	The Waltons		The Waltons		Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		Diagnosis Murder		

## WEEKDAYS MARCH 21 - MARCH 27

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	All My Children	One Life to Live		General Hospital		Judge Brown	Judge Brown	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC Wld	ABC Wld
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News	Inside Edition	Days of our Lives		Passions		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The Insider	Jeopardy!	News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light		Dr. Phil		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News
K15CG (2)	Reading Rainbow	Lions	Varied Programs		Clifford-Red		Cyber-chase	Arthur	Maya & Miguel	Post-cards	Zoom	Business
ESPN (28)	Varied Programs								Around the Horn		Interruption	SportsCenter
USA (37)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Programs		Movie		Varied Programs		Movie		Varied Programs		
TBS (38)	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
WGN (39)	News	Magnum, P.I.		Da Vinci's Inquest		Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Moehsa	Moehsa	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	
TNT (40)	Judging Amy	NYPD Blue		Law & Order		Law & Order		Charmed		Charmed		
DSC (42)	Varied Programs	The New Detectives		The FBI Files		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		It Takes a Thief		Cash Cab	Cash Cab	
A&E (47)	Cold Case Files		Varied Programs						City Confidential		American Justice	
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels		Varied Programs									
NICK (55)	Dora the Explorer	Go Diego	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Jimmy Neutron	Jimmy Neutron	Oddparents	Oddparents	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Ned's School	Danny Phantom
DISN (56)	Higglytown	JoJo's Circus	Lilo & Stitch	Whiskers	Varied Programs				Phil of Future	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody
FAM (58)	Family Matters	Family Matters	Boy Mts. World	Boy Mts. World	Full House	Full House	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Gilmore Girls		7th Heaven	
HALL (60)	Matlock	Matlock		Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	

## TUESDAY MARCH 21

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	News (CC)	Ent. Tonight	Accord- ing-Jim	Hope & Faith (N)	Daughters	Daughters	Boston Legal Chitty Chitty Bang Bang		News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC)	
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News	Wheel of Fortune	Outra- geous	Outra- geous	Scrubs (N) (CC)	Scrubs (N) (CC)	Law & Order: SVU		News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Night	
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	NCIS Boxed in (iTV) (CC)		The Unit 200th Hour (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 9 (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman	Late Late	
K15CG (2)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Nova America's Stone Age Explorers	Small Fortunes: Microcredit		Frontline Mental health behind bars.		BBC World		Baxter Black	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		
ESPN (28)	College Basketball: NIT Tournament Second Round -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)	College Basketball: NIT Tournament Second Round -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)		College Basketball: NIT Tournament Second Round -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		College Gmday	Outside-Lines	
USA (37)	Law & Order: SVU	Movie: Intolerable Cruelty *** (2003, Romance-Comedy) George Clooney. (CC)		Nashville Star (N) (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law/Ord SVU		
TBS (38)	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Movie: Twister (1996) Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.			
WGN (39)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	Da Vinci's Inquest The Hanged Man	Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)	Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)	WGN News at Nine (CC)		WGN News	Becker (CC)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)			
TNT (40)	Law & Order: Tabloid (CC) (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Houston Rockets at Dallas Mavericks. American Airlines Center. (Live) (CC)		NBA Basketball: Phoenix Suns at Utah Jazz. Delta Center. (Live) (CC)								
DSC (42)	Dirty Jobs Plumber Plumbing.	MythBusters Helium Football (CC)		Dirty Jobs (N)		Oil, Sweat and Rigs Saving MARS (N)		Deadliest Catch Off-load. (CC)		MythBusters Helium Football (CC)		
A&E (47)	Cold Case Files (CC)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dallas SWAT (CC)		Crossing Jordan (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter		
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels Rubber Rubber.	Shootout! (CC)		Six Degrees of Francis Bacon (CC)		Modern Marvels The F-14 (CC)		Zero Hour The Last Hour of Flight 11		Shootout! (CC)		
NICK (55)	Oddparents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Grown Up	Full House	Hi-Jinks Jon Cryer	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
DISN (56)	Phil of Future	That's-Raven	Movie: The Cheetah Girls ** (2003, Comedy-Drama) Raven. (CC)		American Drgn		Even Stevens	Zack & Cody	That's-Raven	Phil of Future	Kim Possible	
FAM (58)	Smallville Ageless (CC)	Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory *** (1971) Gene Wilder.		Who's Line? Who's Line?		The 700 Club (CC)		Beautiful People A Tale of Two Parties				
HALL (60)	Walker, Texas Ranger Tiger's Eye	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Movie: A Place Called Home (2004, Drama) Ann-Margret, Matthew Settle. (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 22

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	News (CC)	Ent. Tonight	George Lopez (N) (CC)	Freddie (N) (CC)	Lost The Whole Truth (N) (CC)		The Evidence Pilot (Series Premiere)		News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (CC)	
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News	Wheel of Fortune	Deal or No Deal (N) (CC)	Law & Order: America, Inc. (CC)	Heist Pilot (Series Premiere) (N) (CC)		CSI: NY Necrophilia Americana (iTV) (N)		News (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman	Late Night	
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Out of Practice	Courting Alex (N)	Criminal Minds A Real Rain (N) (CC)		CSI: NY Necrophilia Americana (iTV) (N)		News (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman	Late Late	
K15CG (2)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	A Conversation With Jerry Moran	Exploring Space: The Quest for Life Computer-animated deep-space imagery.		BBC World		As Time Goes By		Charlie Rose (N) (CC)			
ESPN (28)	Sports-Center	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Detroit Pistons. Palace of Auburn Hills. (Live) (CC)	NBA Basketball: San Antonio Spurs at Denver Pepsi Center. (Live) (CC)									
USA (37)	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: SVU	
TBS (38)	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Movie: The Birdcage *** (1996, Comedy) Robin Williams. (CC)	Movie: The Birdcage *** (1996, Comedy) Robin Williams. (CC)				
WGN (39)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)		
TNT (40)	Law & Order: Mother's Day	Law & Order: Mother's Day (CC) (DVS)		Movie: O Brother, Where Art Thou? *** (2000, Comedy-Drama) George Clooney.		Movie: O Brother, Where Art Thou? *** (2000, Comedy-Drama) George Clooney.		Movie: O Brother, Where Art Thou? *** (2000, Comedy-Drama) George Clooney.				
DSC (42)	Extreme Engineering (CC)	Everything You Need to Know		MythBusters (CC)		Everything You Need to Know (N)		Dirty Jobs (CC)		Everything You Need to Know		
A&E (47)	Cold Case Files (CC)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Inked (CC)	Inked (CC)	Spying						