

Progressive Ag Market Update

The North Dakota Forestry Service had a couple of staffers in town over the past two weeks. They were signing off on our tree removal and replacement grant to make sure we did everything as we said we would. One of the things we requested at the completion of the planting of the new trees was to have an update of our community tree inventory. If you are ever wondering what a certain tree is on a boulevard and if your community has taken the inventory through the ND Forest Service there is a good chance that you'll answer your own question. If you google ND TIP Tool it will take you to NDSU's North Dakota Forest Service website. When you click on the ND TIP Tool it will load a map of North Dakota with pins indicating which communities have had the inventory completed. From there you can click on the town / city and you will get a color-coded map of differ-



By Tom Lilja

ent trees along boulevards and public areas. What I learned last year through the ND TIP Tool was that our town had 42.5% green ash trees. What I learned this week is that our green ash inventory is now 37.3%. We took a step in the right direction of bio diversity.

The first weekly US crop ratings of the season show the major crops off

to a below average start. The first spring wheat ratings of 2025 are 45% good to excellent, 37% fair and 18% poor to very poor. These are the second lowest ratings to start the growing season in 40 years comparable to 1988 and 2021 which were both drought years. Spring wheat plantings are 7% ahead of normal at 87%. Emergence is 7% ahead of normal at 60%. Barley conditions are 43% good to excellent, 25% lower than last year. Oats conditions are 51% good to excellent, 15% below a year ago.

Winter wheat conditions declined 2% to 50% good to excellent but are the best since 2020 for this time of year. Kansas declined 1% to 48% g/e.

Oklahoma declined 10% to 46% g/e, Texas declined 6% to 26% g/e and Colorado improved 5% to 51% g/e. Winter wheat headed is 5% ahead of normal at 75%.The June-July-August outlook from NOAA calls for most of the US to be above normal temperatures. The northern plains is called drier than normal.

The first corn ratings of the year came in much lower than expected at only 68% good/excellent vs the 73% G/E the trade was expecting. The 5-year average is 73% G/E ratings for this time of year. This was the lowest corn first ratings of the season in six years. Of the prior 10 years this was the third lowest first start. 2019 started the season with

only 59% good/excellent ratings.

The first soybean condition ratings of the 2025 show the crop rated 67% good to excellent, 28% fair and 5% poor to very poor. Trade was expecting 68% g/e. Soybean plantings are 4% ahead of normal at 84%. Emergence is 6% ahead of normal at 63%. The weekly Drought Monitor showed 51% of the US was covered by abnormal dryness/drought, down 1% from the previous week. USDA estimated D1-D4 drought conditions covered 17% of soybeans (up 1%).

The monthly crush report showed 202 million bushels of soybeans crushed for crude oil in April. This was a new record for the month of

April. Total oil produced was 2.40 billion pounds, down 3% from March but 15% higher than April 2024.

After a week of favorable rainfall this week, 8 to 14 day forecasts show normal temperatures and slightly wetter conditions for most of the cornbelt.

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Tom Lilja is an employee of Progressive who writes this column for the Times-Record.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 306
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-8508
 Monday June 9th, 2025 @ 9:00a.m.
 Barnes County Highway Department,
 Conference Room
 Members of the public unable to attend may participate in the Teams meeting:
 Call: +1 323-457-5870
 Phone Conference 10: 286 088 381#
Agenda
 Call to Order
 May Minutes
 Bills
Old Business:
 VC Little Dam
 NRCS-RCPP: Ten Mile Lake
 Thordenskjold Drain
 Clausen Springs Dam
 Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study
 Svea Drain
 Cornell 80 Project
 Hobart Lake
 Dam Inventory
 Sanborn Lake Outlet
 Water-Related Complaint- Oriska Township
NEW BUSINESS:
 Drain Tile Application- Mike Clemens
 Drain Tile Application- Rob Hanson
 Engineer Report
 Legal Report
 Adjourn
 (June 4, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE
 The North Dakota Interagency Coordinating Council will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025, 9a.m. - 4p.m. Central Time. Agenda topics include but are not limited to: Family Story, Standard Operating Procedures, ICC Family Member Compensation, ICC Team Building Activity, Public Information Campaign, Overview of HCBS Waiver Services for Early Intervention Participants, Legislative Update, ICC Member Updates, and ICC Committee Reports. Individuals who need special accommodations should contact Colette Perkins at (800) 755-8529 or ND Relay TTY (800) 366-6888.

(June 4, 2025)

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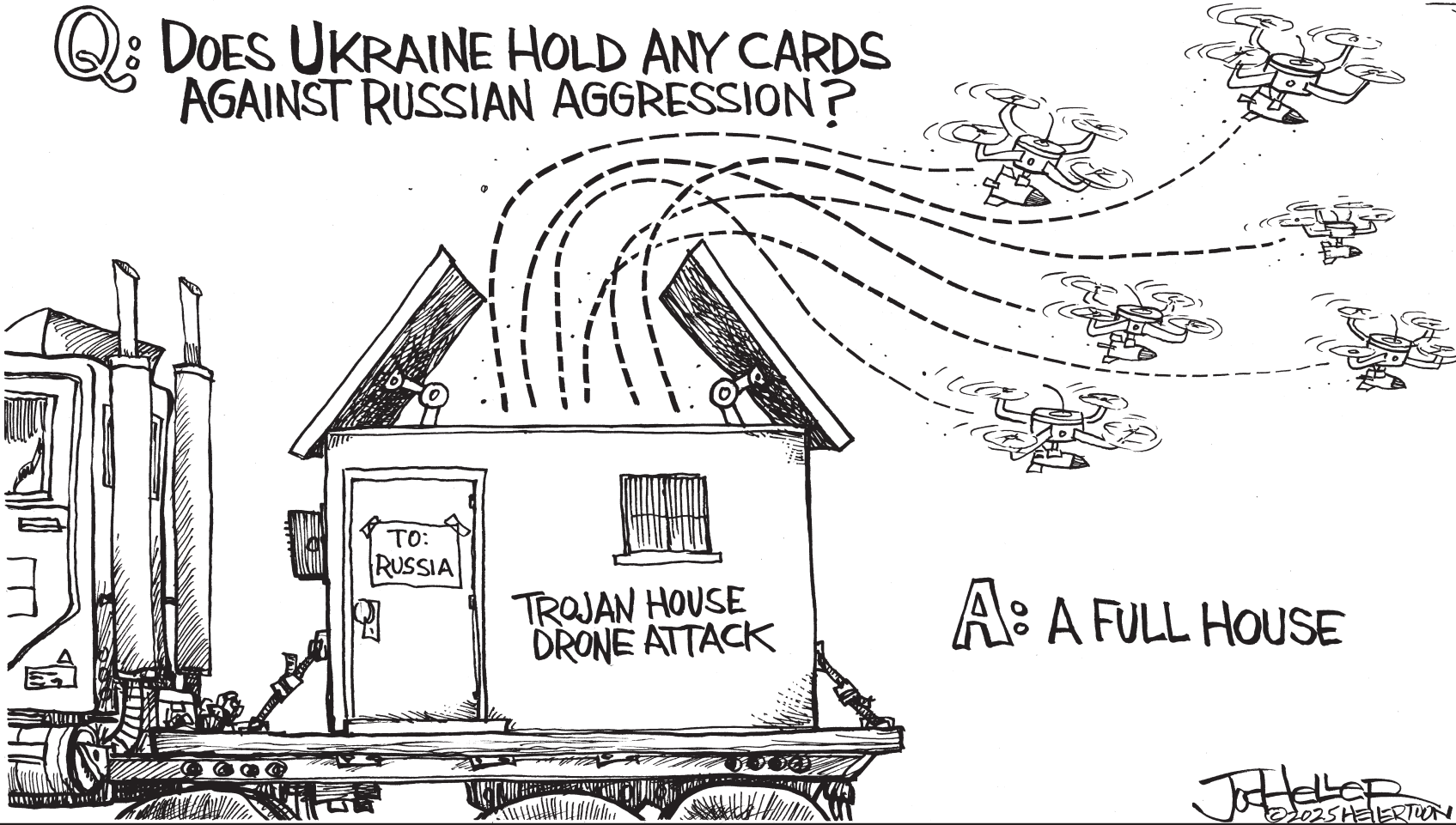
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Union Members Hold the Keys to a Restored Democracy

by Andrew Moss

When ICE and other agencies began arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrants this past January under orders from Donald Trump, unions stepped up to support immigrant workers. They called for the release of workers detained and imprisoned without due process, offered know-your-rights workshops and legal assistance, accompanied workers to their

ICE check-ins, and gave public displays of solidarity, such as the May Day marches this year.

In doing all this, unionists clearly rejected the scapegoating that's been a hallmark of authoritarians for years. They didn't buy the claims that immigrants were driving up housing prices or threatening the physical safety of Americans.

Yes, there were unionists who voted for Donald Trump in 2024, but a clear majority did not. Their rejection then, and their resistance now, show why unions are playing a key role in resisting authoritarianism today – and why they'll play an equally critical role in rebuilding democracy once the Trump era is over.

When Trump is gone, unions and other American institutions will have to confront the inequality that weakens democracy no matter who's in power. Over 800 American billionaires collectively possess \$6.22 trillion in wealth, and they wield immensely disproportionate political power. At the same time, millions of their fellow citizens struggle to get by, juggling payments for rent, groceries, healthcare, childcare, elder care, and transportation. In taking in this picture, one must also consider the record 771,480 people who were reported as unhoused on a single night last year – and the 47.4 million people liv-

ing in food insecure households.

It's not surprising, then, that more than 85 million people who were eligible to vote in last year's presidential election chose not to do so, many of them feeling that their vote would make little difference in their own lives or in the lives of their communities.

There was a time – in the mid-1950's – when one in three American workers belonged to a union. It was a time of much greater economic equality, in no small measure due to the greater union density of that era. The reason was, and is, clear: unions are the only institutions that directly represent the economic interests of working people, and over the decades they've demonstrated their power by raising wages, improving working conditions, and yielding greater job security through collective bargaining.

In addition, unions foster participation in everyday democracy, keeping members informed of political issues, and promoting engagement and leadership within the union and the community at large. It's quite possible that Donald Trump might never have reached the White House if union membership was as strong today as it was in the 1950's.

But union strength declined precipitously in the last few decades. Corporate heads engaged in aggressive forms of union bust-

ing, and legislators at both the state and national levels have worked methodically to weaken existing labor laws and to pass hostile legislation, such as the so-called "right-to-work" laws. When Donald Trump was inaugurated this year, he joined the attack by terminating collective bargaining for federal employees and by firing thousands of federal workers.

As Trump's anti-democratic agenda has come into sharper focus, scholars and activists have called for a broad coalition to resist the assaults on democracy and the rule of law. They've called on a wide range of institutions – the courts and legal profession, media organizations, colleges and universities, businesses and non-profits, advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, and unions – to work together in resisting these attacks.

But a broad-based coalition will succeed only insofar as its members understand the economic underpinnings of a democratic society – and the unique role that unions play in advancing the economic interests of working people. Union members may constitute 9.9 percent of working people today, but that percentage hasn't stopped them from recently securing major victories on behalf of auto workers, UPS drivers, health workers, teachers, actors, screenwriters, and hotel workers, among

many others.

An effective coalition will recognize the foundational role that unions and union members play in protecting and rebuilding community, and coalition members will provide support to restore union strength. This means, among other things, becoming informed about labor history and current labor struggles, and supporting critical legislation, like the PRO Act, that will protect the right to organize.

If coalition members are serious about protecting democracy as a whole – not just their own institutional turf – they'll be willing to leave their familiar silos. If, for example, an M.L. King or a U.S. President can walk a picket line, so can the president of your alma mater, or the head of that prominent law firm in your town. Or, for that matter, so can the rest of us.

And if we're willing to leave our comfort zones and face with clarity and discernment the uncertainty that lies before us, we might – just might – cross a threshold into a new, more expansive and creative notion of what American democracy can be.

–end–

Andrew Moss, syndicated by PeaceVoice, writes on politics, labor, and nonviolence from Los Angeles. He is an emeritus professor (Non-violence Studies, English) from the California State University.