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Palladium-Item

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 | RICHMOND, IND.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Iran war raises prices for farming fertilizer



Farmers are facing soaring fertilizer and diesel prices due to Iran's blockage of the Strait of Hormuz.
GRANT BALDWIN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

U.S. farmers forced to take on more costs

George Petras and Stephen J. Beard
USA TODAY

Americans worried about grocery prices may soon feel the consequences of an unexpected problem on U.S. farms caused by the war in Iran – rising fertilizer prices are creating a potential ripple effect that could reach grocery stores.

The American Farm Bureau Federation cited the virtual closing of the Strait of Hormuz as the main reason fertilizer prices are increasing. Roughly one-third of global seaborne fertilizer trade passes through the strait, according to the United Nations.

At least 70% of farmers say they can't afford all the fertilizer they need be-

cause of higher costs tied to the Iran war – a challenge that could lower crop yields, which, if widespread enough, could push food prices upward.

A federation survey released April 14 revealed nearly three-fourths of farmers said fertilizer has become too expensive. About 6 in 10 farmers reported worsening finances overall.

Many farmers are rethinking purchases of fertilizer and when to apply it, the American Farm Bureau Federation says. Though farmers in the South and Northeast are having the greatest difficulty, farms across the United States are affected.

Persian Gulf nations are significant producers of fertilizer chemicals, and

the Strait of Hormuz is a key trade route.

Large volumes of urea, ammonia, phosphate fertilizers, sulfur and petroleum from gulf countries are shipped through the strait each year.

The federation says countries affected by the Iran war account for nearly 49% of global urea exports and about 30% of global ammonia exports. Major exporters include Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Urea, which contains about 46% nitrogen, is the most widely used solid nitrogen fertilizer in the world. Anhydrous ammonia is a nitrogen fertilizer applied to soil. Nitrogen is essential for plant growth.

Many farmers "prebook" or buy

See FERTILIZER, Page 2A

Woman sentenced after attack on mother

Douglas Walker
Richmond Palladium-Item
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Richmond woman who attacked her mother has been sentenced to two years and six months in prison.

Angelrae Paige Wiley, 34, had pleaded guilty to domestic battery, a Level 6 felony, which carried a maximum 30-month sentence. She was sentenced on Monday, April 13, by Wayne Circuit Court 2 Judge Gregory Horn.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, two other charges – robbery resulting in bodily injury and criminal confinement – were dismissed.

Wiley was arrested in February 2025 after she was accused of repeatedly punching her mother in the face,

See SENTENCE, Page 2A

Indiana launches chatbot for health care

Hayleigh Colombo
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new chatbot developed by Gov. Mike Braun's administration aims to make health care price data more accessible to Hoosiers.

Need a colonoscopy, for example?

If you ask the chatbot to find you the best price for a colonoscopy in Indiana, it takes less than 30 seconds for the chatbot to generate a result, using data from a statewide claims database: That's at Bloomington Endoscopy Center, where a colonoscopy with lesion removal is \$1,450.

See CHATBOT, Page 2A

Canadian PM: U.S. ties have become a weakness

Amanda Stephenson
REUTERS

CALGARY – Canada's close ties to the United States were once a strength but have become a weakness, Prime Minister Mark Carney said on April 19 in a video message to his country in which he also praised the heroism of military leaders who fought against U.S. invasion more than two centuries ago.

Holding up a small toy soldier depiction of Gen. Isaac Brock, the British military leader who died defending what is now Canada from a U.S. invasion in

the War of 1812, Carney said Canada can't control the disruption coming from its U.S. neighbors, and can't bet its future on the hope that it will suddenly stop.

"The situation today feels unique, but we've faced down threats like this before," Carney said, referencing Brock and several other Canadian historical figures, including Chief Tecumseh who united Indigenous nations across the Great Lakes to resist U.S. expansion in 1812.

See CANADA, Page 2A



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's governing Liberal Party secured a majority by winning all three seats in special elections on April 14.

DAVID KAWAI/REUTERS FILE

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