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SPORTS, 1B

# Marshfield News Herald

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## ‘Worst of the worst’?

## Iran war raises prices for farming fertilizer

### 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 because 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

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U.S. Border Patrol agents stand guard at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Minneapolis, on Jan. 8.

CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## DHS overstates Wisconsin arrests

Sophie Carson and Kelli Arseneau

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

In 2018, an Ecuadorian man named Miguel Angel Rogel-Anchundia was cruising on a drug boat called “El Condor” 235 miles northeast of the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean, in international waters.

Then a U.S. Coast Guard crew spotted the boat, boarded and arrested Rogel-Anchundia and two other men. The crew recovered \$17 million worth of cocaine, a complaint said, and federal agents brought Rogel-Anchundia to the U.S. to face drug trafficking charges.

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Observers film ICE agents as they hold a perimeter after one of their vehicles got a flat tire on Penn Avenue on Feb. 5 in Minneapolis.

STEPHEN MATUREN,/GETTY IMAGES

## 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.

Carney, who recently secured a parliamentary majority for his Liberal government, has said his electoral win will help him deal more effectively in the trade war started by President Donald Trump.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard

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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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