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[00:00:01] **Speaker 1** Rolling on both. Okay. All right. So tell me your name and where we are.

[00:00:07] **Speaker 2** Stan Turner were on County Highway just north of Manifold.

[00:00:13] **Speaker 1** And what are you doing out here?

[00:00:16] **Speaker 2** I farm out here. Oh, um, my or my dad started farming back in 1968.

[00:00:23] **Speaker 1** And what do you farm? Uh.

[00:00:25] **Speaker 2** We're from Stoughton.

[00:00:27] **Speaker 1** What? What do you.

[00:00:28] **Speaker 2** Oh, far more. We farm corn, beans and hay.

[00:00:33] **Speaker 1** And what's happening with your season so far?

[00:00:36] **Speaker 2** It started out great, and everything got planted when it was supposed to. Everything took off good. And the brakes got put on because of the dry weather. It's getting really, really dry right now. And if we don't get some rain here pretty soon, we don't know how bad it's going to be for sure, because now we're going into the the driest part of the summer on a normal year, July and August, and we're already dry. So it's kind of it's getting very concerning. The next ten days is really going to be critical for this corn and beans in the hay, especially because the hay takes a lot of moisture. So it's very concerning right now.

[00:01:22] **Speaker 1** And have you seen it like this before?

[00:01:24] **Speaker 2** No, I've never seen it like this. I farm my whole life and I've never seen I've seen dry spells where in 2012 we had quite a drought, but that was later in the year. And but to be this dry this early is kind of unheard of in this part of the country anyway. So it's something different, like I said. So they keep telling us we're supposed to start get more rains in July. So that's all we can pray for right now is more rain because we're going to need quite a bit of it.

[00:01:55] **Speaker 1** Is there anything that you are trying to do to prepare?

[00:02:01] **Speaker 2** Not really. It's just it's just there's nothing you can do. I thought about starting to cut hay. A lot of guys are starting to cut their second crop. I've decided I'm going to hold off because it's just the hay is under such stress. And if we don't get rain, will it come back? I mean, there's a lot of ifs in the equation and I sell a lot of hay and I don't wanna lose my hay crop. And so it's just one of those things or. Yeah. You don't know what to do for sure. So I'm going to let mine. If it doesn't rain, it's going to be in full bloom before I cut it. So the corn and beans, they've got at least another ten days that they'll be able to survive this pretty decently, I think, in most areas. But within the next ten days, if they don't get rain, they're going to be in a world of hurt. I mean, we've already I'm assuming we've already lost some of the yields. I mean, but how much the newer genetics corn can tolerate drier spells than the older genetics used two years ago. So every year something surprises you, so you just don't know.

[00:03:19] **Speaker 1** And by new genetics, it's kind of like the the hybrids. Yeah. Horns that they are developing. Yeah.

[00:03:27] **Speaker 2** With new tech, all this tech new technology that they got out in the corn and stuff, it all works great. Just unfortunately, we've got to figure out a way to pay for it all.

[00:03:35] **Speaker 1** It's more expensive.

[00:03:36] **Speaker 2** It's very much a lot more expensive than it used to be years ago. Yeah, the genetics work, but unfortunately you got to make it pay for yourself too. So it's give and take. I mean, so far it's work to, you know, you go as far as you can go, I mean, and hope like heck it works out for you. I mean, farming is a heck of a gamble. I mean, you put a lot of money into this stuff in the spring of the year and you got to wait all year long. You know, Mother Nature is 50% of your market because like I said, if you don't get rain, you can put all the genetics, fertilizer, anything you want out there. Mother Nature doesn't play with you for moisture. You don't get nothing. No.

[00:04:24] **Speaker 1** Is crop insurance something you're considering this year?

[00:04:27] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I, I have crop insurance every year because I don't have any cattle or anything I can use my feed for. I sell everything. So I do have crop insurance know. So you almost have to in this day and age because the input costs are so high that you just can't afford not to have it. I mean, it's not cheap, but nothing's cheap these days. I mean, if you have a a total loss, you could be in big trouble. I mean, that's it's. Not easy.

[00:05:01] **Speaker 1** Have you had to call in your crop insurance in the past?

[00:05:05] **Speaker 2** I did in 2012, Out of all the years we've had it, which I've had it for over 30 years, I've collected one with crop insurance. I mean, that was the only year I've ever collected. It's like anything else, your house insurance or for any other person. Like I said, you hope you never use it. Yeah, but it's still a cost that you've got to come up with and pay for. It's all in the equation of what it costs to raise all this stuff.

[00:05:32] **Speaker 1** And for how expensive all of the inputs are on the front end. Does that mean that what you put out, you can just say, Well, my prices are going to be higher for what I'm selling?

[00:05:45] **Speaker 2** No, that you cannot do. I mean, unfortunately, farmers are on a in a world market. And so the market's set by the world standards. I mean, we compete against other countries. Unfortunately, most countries were you know, our government tells us we have to compete against other farmers, which theoretically we don't do because other countries government basically owns the farm. And so we're and they subsidize so much, which we do they do here a little bit, but not like they do in other countries. So we're competing against the world market. Like I said, you got Brazil and stuff like that. They've got a bumper crop this year. That's what affecting our corn being prices this this year because they've got so much and so that's going to drive our prices down. So like I said, it's one of those things where supply and demand and the economy with China not doing well, we're not exporting as much stuff. So economy, there's so many variables, but we can't no, we cannot just say, well, this is what it costs. This is what we're going to charge. No, it does not work that way.

[00:07:00] **Speaker 1** Are there things that you would maybe want to see the state or the federal government do to help farmers, especially in these kinds of times?

[00:07:09] **Speaker 2** Realistically, there's not much they can do. I mean, you can't guarantee because you can't guarantee farmers one thing, because not all farms are equal. I mean, you know, you've got the larger operations and then you've got the smaller operations. So how do you balance that out? I mean, I don't know the answer to that. I mean, it's just one of those things we're often said farmers are their own worst enemies. I mean, it's it's a supply and demand market. And if you have a good year one crop, they'll overproduce, start staying in check and don't overproduce to make a glut. Then that kills the market. But like I said, I've often said farmers are their own worst enemies.

[00:08:03] **Speaker 1** When there's years where there's a surplus or years where there's a decrease in the yield, do things like the farm bill where they will buy surplus, do those things help you?

[00:08:17] **Speaker 2** It helps, yeah. I mean, it's just like now they say we've got a lot of corn and stuff in storage and we got plenty of that stuff on hand, but yet we're still importing from other countries. To me that makes no sense. But they turn around and they say, well, that if we don't import, it upsets the world market. So, you know, why do you import something that you don't need? You're paying for stuff that we don't we've already got. I mean, that's just like telling any other country, well, you produce this, but you've got to buy somebody else's, too. That don't happen. Many businesses, I mean and that but that's farming. I mean it's just it's a different business.

[00:08:59] **Speaker 1** And would you consider yourself a small.

[00:09:01] **Speaker 2** Yes, I'm not overly large. I run about 450 acres, like I said, which is anymore that's a small operation. Like I said, it's not like it used to be. I mean, years ago, oil was big. 200 acres was a big farm. Now you're looking at salt. You know, a lot of farms are a couple thousand acres. So I'm just a mid-sized farm now trying to make a living.

[00:09:31] **Speaker 1** I think that's all the questions I had. Can you think of anything that we were we.

[00:09:37] **Speaker 2** Discussed.

[00:09:37] **Speaker 1** Talking about earlier?

[00:09:41] **Speaker 2** Hmm. I should be able to. Standard. Do you remember something that we talked about? No, not really. I mean. Then. That's a business that you have to love, that's for sure, because the rewards hurt much. You know, you're you're on your own boss. You get out of it what you want. I mean, you can take off whenever you want, but on the same token, you know. You can't. I mean, it's. It's too many hours for what you get paid for. Like I said, how people can go to work every day and hate their job is more than I can ever imagine. I mean, I just can't. Like I said, I'm in this business. Like I said, you either like it or you don't. There is no happy medium because it's too much work for what you get paid out of it. I mean, you don't work on an hourly rate on a farm. Yeah.

[00:10:49] **Speaker 1** So and I'm guessing, especially when things are unpredictable like this. Yeah.

[00:10:54] **Speaker 2** I mean.

[00:10:54] **Speaker 1** Working even harder.

[00:10:55] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I mean, it just. Yeah, your. Your mind's going 100 miles an hour, you know? How can you do something a little bit different to try to offset this expense if you're not going to make, you know, make this amount of money because your crops are going to be down? Yeah, you got a lot of things going on. I mean.

[00:11:13] **Speaker 1** That sounds like a lot of like anxiety.

[00:11:15] **Speaker 2** Yeah, it's a lot of it keeps you up at night. Yeah. I mean, because like I said, it's a heck of a gamble. You put a lot of money in this stuff, like I said, in the spring of the year, and you're relying 50% on Mother Nature. I mean, so and then like I said, the with the government, like I said, it's you got to worry about the economy And that's one thing about that was the other thing like if there's a world problem, you know, they keep saying all this stuff about China and stuff, which China's a big buyer, but usually if anything happens in the world, the first thing they do is shut agriculture off to the country. And then, you know, back in the seventies when we had the embargo where they shut everything down, it takes a long time to get those markets back. I mean, and farmers take the brunt of that. I mean, so like I said, it's sometimes I think the government would be better off just to get out of farming altogether. I mean, just leave it alone. This I mean, you either survive or you don't. I mean, it's just because, like I said, it tipped the scales one way or the other to the big operations of small operations. I mean, I don't like I said, there's not a whole lot you can do. And like I said, you're relying on Mother Nature so much and nobody can control that. Yeah. I mean, that's just unfortunately the way it works. So you have to rely on. So you can't you can't really rely on the government. I mean, like everybody says, you know, somebody has a problem or the government should help me out. Well, somebody's got to pay for it. So it's one of those deals were. Yeah. Sometimes I think it'd be better if the government just got out of farming altogether. I mean, just let it supply and demand take its take its course, I mean. See where it goes. So that's about all I can tell you.

[00:13:23] **Speaker 1** All right. I think that's all I have for you. Okay. Thank you so much. Yeah. And could we get. Oh, well, do you need to do that? And what? Oh.

[00:13:36] **Speaker 2** Okay. 36.