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00:03:12,160 --> 00:03:17,680

Good morning and happy September, welcome to the state of the division, I'm Mary Hightower, and with me,

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00:03:17,680 --> 00:03:21,520

Dr. Mark Cochran, who's going to give us an update on what's going on around the division.

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00:03:21,520 --> 00:03:25,060

Always pleased to be here. All right. But we couldn't do this without you.

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00:03:25,060 --> 00:03:30,010

So we're glad you're here, obviously. I try to follow instructions. You did well this morning.

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00:03:30,010 --> 00:03:35,170

OK, well, let's get started on a roll then. You are on a roll. Well, let's keep it rolling.

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00:03:35,170 --> 00:03:40,150

We've got some new folks to talk about the delay. It's always good to get some new blood into the organization.

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00:03:40,150 --> 00:03:46,720

Let me start off with a couple of administrative positions. We have Dr. Alton Johnson taking over today.

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00:03:46,720 --> 00:03:52,750

This is the first day. So welcome, Alton. He we've actually enticed him to come back.

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00:03:52,750 --> 00:03:58,900

To the state of Arkansas, Alton's assuming the role of director at our Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart,

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00:03:58,900 --> 00:04:02,410

Alton actually did his Ph.D. in the Department of Crop Soil.

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00:04:02,410 --> 00:04:10,480

How about that crop science, crop, soil and environmental sciences. He did some of his Ph.D. work at Stuttgart and Pine Tree and Marianna.

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00:04:10,480 --> 00:04:14,020

So so even so, he decided to come back. He did come back.

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00:04:14,020 --> 00:04:17,260

So we're pleased to have Alton on board and looking forward to great things.

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00:04:17,260 --> 00:04:24,370

And I think that, you know, whatever the polar opposite of six degrees of separation is, the state of Arkansas is that.

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00:04:24,370 --> 00:04:30,730

But Alton and Tim Berchem, who is our director at our Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center,

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00:04:30,730 --> 00:04:38,440

have history together of back from their days in Mississippi. So I think now Tim and Alton are going to be a great tag team and really help us

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00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:43,390

and enhance our programs to address the issues of the rice and soybean industries.

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00:04:43,390 --> 00:04:49,510

It's a small world, but it's to our benefit. The other administrative one is, is he didn't leave the state.

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You just took a new position with this. It's Kevin Lawson has taken over.

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00:04:53,620 --> 00:04:56,840

as the Ozark district director.

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00:04:56,840 --> 00:05:00,250

So Kevin's been with us a long time and we're glad that he's in a new role.

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00:05:00,250 --> 00:05:04,340

And and we still expect to get a lot of new blood out of that turnip out of it.

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00:05:04,340 --> 00:05:08,260

That well, he started when in 1995 in Monroe County.

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00:05:08,260 --> 00:05:12,850

And I get the feeling that Kevin has worked in just about every county in Arkansas.

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00:05:12,850 --> 00:05:17,920

Well, he probably has a chance to visit each one of them, at least.

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00:05:17,920 --> 00:05:25,390

So. Well, the other thing that I'm very pleased on that the pandemic and a lot of other things haven't had a slowdown.

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00:05:25,390 --> 00:05:31,750

And so we're coming out and we were really in the the quest to fill a lot of our faculty positions.

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00:05:31,750 --> 00:05:39,850

And that's always a great opportunity for us to bring in some new talents and new energy and really some new skill sets off of it.

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00:05:39,850 --> 00:05:48,760

So we've already finished and Eugene Park has joined the AG Econ Department, been with us about a month off of it.

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00:05:48,760 --> 00:05:55,190

And then Shawna Weimer is going to be joining us in poultry science and taking over as director of our Animal Wellbeing Center.

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00:05:55,190 --> 00:06:00,790

So they're already on board. We've got 15 other searches that are currently ongoing.

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00:06:00,790 --> 00:06:06,670

So we're looking forward to getting those up. The one that we finished all the interviews.

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00:06:06,670 --> 00:06:15,550

So we're anxious to to get moving on. Getting that field is the department head for crop soil environmental sciences that replacing Robert Bacon.

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00:06:15,550 --> 00:06:24,730

And we wish Robert well in his retirement. But we're anxious to get good leadership in in that there are 14 other faculty positions that are going on.

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00:06:24,730 --> 00:06:31,240

There's two in ag Econ, one in AG stat, two in food science, one in animal science,

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00:06:31,240 --> 00:06:36,760

two faculty positions in crop soil, environmental science in addition to the department head,

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00:06:36,760 --> 00:06:44,740

one in entomology, plant pathology row crop entomologist position three in poultry science,

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00:06:44,740 --> 00:06:51,280

one in horticulture and then two in in family consumer sciences off of it.

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00:06:51,280 --> 00:06:56,380

Wow. That's that's a lot of work. I was doing an hour, so we don't want them to get bored.

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00:06:56,380 --> 00:07:01,990

And so we have another seven that are we've approved, but they haven't started the search process yet.

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00:07:01,990 --> 00:07:08,830

So a lot of new faces. In addition to that, I think we're we've got about 15 county agent positions that we're in the process of trying

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00:07:08,830 --> 00:07:14,740

to fill and then a lot in our business office and and communication staff that will come in.

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00:07:14,740 --> 00:07:20,290

We'll have a lot of new people to welcome to our family. Looking forward to that. Yeah, that's that's that's always great with it.

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00:07:20,290 --> 00:07:26,290

So. Well, it looks like faculty have been really busy on another front getting some of those extramural funds so ...I

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00:07:26,290 --> 00:07:33,580

Well, you know, this is a very important part. We certainly work hard to get our our state, federal and local appropriations through.

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00:07:33,580 --> 00:07:40,640

But that seeking some alternative funding and do it in in areas that are very consistent with our mission is very key it.

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00:07:40,640 --> 00:07:47,200

So whenever you start making a list, you you run the risk of overlooking somebody.

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00:07:47,200 --> 00:07:50,380

But I wanted to highlight some of them as we're going through.

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00:07:50,380 --> 00:07:59,470

So we've got a team led by Ioannis Tzanetakis caucus in plant pathology, entomology, very large,

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00:07:59,470 --> 00:08:05,980

one about three quarters of a million dollars to help the efforts with Arkansas becoming part of the Clean Plant Network.

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00:08:05,980 --> 00:08:08,770

So we're pleased with that. Can you talk a little bit about the clean plant network?

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00:08:08,770 --> 00:08:13,990

Well, we're very delighted off of it because it's really got two roles on it.

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00:08:13,990 --> 00:08:16,390

One is a diagnostic and therapeutic.

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00:08:16,390 --> 00:08:25,460

So that is you get a new pest emerging in it that you're identifying what those pests are and start to work on what the control practices.

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And then the second is certification so that you can move genetic material safely across state and international boundaries.

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00:08:31,240 --> 00:08:37,990

And and so many of our areas, those those national and international markets are very important often.

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00:08:37,990 --> 00:08:46,430

So I think it's going to be a big, big boom for for us, particularly in the berries and the the the soft root area.

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00:08:46,430 --> 00:08:52,270

Kind of a tribute to our success in those areas, too. Yeah, I think I think it's a real testimony to the progress in the.

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00:08:52,270 --> 00:08:56,320

The reputation that we have to be recognized and be become part of that.

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So kudos to that group. We've got a team led by Jeremy Powell and Animal Science that managing pain and cattle, undergoing castration, all of it.

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00:09:05,290 --> 00:09:13,660

So I think that that's a good one. That's about a half million dollars. We've got another one led by Alvaro Durand Morat and ag Econ.

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00:09:13,660 --> 00:09:19,400

Look at the challenges and opportunities for US organic rice, which once again is about a half million dollar grant.

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00:09:19,400 --> 00:09:26,320

So we're pleased with that. Larry Purcell is leading the team on trying to mitigate drought stress.

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And it's got about three hundred and fifty thousand for some genetic work on from the U.S. soybean board.

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In poultry science, Young Min Kwon has a National Institute of Health,

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00:09:38,540 --> 00:09:44,630

and we're always glad to see some of those other federal funding agencies be aware of our expertise and talent.

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00:09:44,630 --> 00:09:49,220

So he he's got a grant looking at the allergy and infectious disease research.

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00:09:49,220 --> 00:09:55,970

And then on the other side of the family, Lori Canada and the team has got a four page tech challenge.

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00:09:55,970 --> 00:10:00,820

Makers grant about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the National Forage Council off of it.

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00:10:00,820 --> 00:10:02,810

So we're proud of that.

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00:10:02,810 --> 00:10:10,490

Ron Rainey is able to renew the the longstanding Southern Risk Management Education Center for about one point two million dollars.

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00:10:10,490 --> 00:10:16,940

And that's a program. And Ron is really kind of recognized as a national leader in that network of regional areas.

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00:10:16,940 --> 00:10:18,440

So we're pleased with that.

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00:10:18,440 --> 00:10:26,150

And then Sarah, Katherine Orlowski and Poultry Science has a grant from Cobb-Vantress looking at selection for water efficiency and broilers.

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00:10:26,150 --> 00:10:31,520

And so we're glad to see her start off with a good, good grant like that early in her career.

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00:10:31,520 --> 00:10:41,030

And then Brittany Shrick is working on a grant from the Department of Human Services with best care agreement for continuing that program.

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00:10:41,030 --> 00:10:44,450

So so thanks to all of our faculty, they're engaged in that.

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00:10:44,450 --> 00:10:47,750

And as I say, real special callout for for all of them.

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00:10:47,750 --> 00:10:54,540

Very good. Well, summer is the time for for O-Rama and it's also the time for our Arkansas for Governors Award.

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00:10:54,540 --> 00:10:58,700

So we had another winner this year. You want to talk a little bit? Well, we're real pleased with that.

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And not only is that a real high profile event for four,

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00:11:05,630 --> 00:11:11,390

but we're very pleased that Governor Hutchinson and his wife have adopted that and

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00:11:11,390 --> 00:11:15,950

they do the lunch with them and bring them all into the governor's mansion off of it.

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00:11:15,950 --> 00:11:25,790

So so this year, that Faith Fritsch from Benton County was the overall winner, got a three thousand dollar scholarship off of it.

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00:11:25,790 --> 00:11:31,100

Eva Berryhill from Loyola was one of the runners up a thousand dollar scholarship,

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00:11:31,100 --> 00:11:38,120

as was Sara Gaskin from Bald Knob and Jennifer Fredric from Fort Smith, all all with a thousand dollar scholarships.

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00:11:38,120 --> 00:11:43,160

So I'm sure they can expect an invitation from Deacue Fields to do how where they can invest.

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00:11:43,160 --> 00:11:46,400

So scholarship dollars wisely and their their future.

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00:11:46,400 --> 00:11:49,340

But we're pleased to recognize these achievements.

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00:11:49,340 --> 00:11:58,400

And every time that we see any awards or really have a chance to showcase the exciting things that these really impressive youth are learning.

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00:11:58,400 --> 00:12:01,760

And for I think it's something that we all need to be proud of.

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00:12:01,760 --> 00:12:09,440

And and and I'm glad you mentioned the scholarships to you. I mean, people know about for his ability to impart skills to young people,

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00:12:09,440 --> 00:12:14,750

but anybody who knows a forum to encourage them to join and be part of part of it for the scholarships,

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00:12:14,750 --> 00:12:20,840

too, because money is hard to come by no matter what college you go to, if you know, young people, get them in.

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00:12:20,840 --> 00:12:24,960

And if you want to be a donor, that's very notable. Nice.

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00:12:24,960 --> 00:12:32,180

Yes. A nice, nice, nice place to make investment in the future of our state and the people here and and for each does so many things.

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00:12:32,180 --> 00:12:37,760

And I think that these these governors awards are a chance to really recognize the investment

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00:12:37,760 --> 00:12:42,350

and the accomplishments of those young people as they're working through on their civic,

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00:12:42,350 --> 00:12:46,040

their community, their leadership, their four projects,

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00:12:46,040 --> 00:12:51,080

and how they're really being prepared to be a good citizen, a productive citizen,

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00:12:51,080 --> 00:12:57,740

and and put together the skill sets that not only will they have a bright future in their own career, but they will help all the rest of society.

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00:12:57,740 --> 00:13:01,520

It's a great program to help guide our future. All of us. Yes.

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00:13:01,520 --> 00:13:08,600

Well, on a not so great note, our old friend covid has come back, well hasn't really gone away.

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00:13:08,600 --> 00:13:12,890

So we've had to reinstate some policies.

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00:13:12,890 --> 00:13:16,580

Yeah, we're certainly concerned about the numbers.

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00:13:16,580 --> 00:13:23,060

It does look that the recent numbers that we have in the state that hopefully we've kind of turned the corner on some of the upsurge,

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00:13:23,060 --> 00:13:32,030

but we've reinstated some of our our protocols that we have that the masks, the social distancing is we work through with it.

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00:13:32,030 --> 00:13:35,480

I do think that there's going to be a lot of interest.

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00:13:35,480 --> 00:13:46,010

There is discussions underway and we've reached out to the UA-Medical Sciences to see if they will do booster clinics when available.

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00:13:46,010 --> 00:13:50,840

Obviously, we've got to work through with both the Pfizer in the Moderna on how we'll do that.

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00:13:50,840 --> 00:13:58,640

And I think they're going to be very willing to do that. And and all those that would be interested when we get those set up and get available,

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00:13:58,640 --> 00:14:01,700

certainly encouraged to get that booster shot and make sure that we're following the

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00:14:01,700 --> 00:14:07,760

guidelines of the Arkansas Department of Health and the CDC with things and on the public.

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00:14:07,760 --> 00:14:09,740

And we we're, of course, continuing our education,

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00:14:09,740 --> 00:14:16,100

our educational outreach on covid through social media just to make sure that these these messages don't fall into the cracks.

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00:14:16,100 --> 00:14:22,220

Yes, there's still a lot of work left to be done here. So and covid, of course, made us jump again.

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00:14:22,220 --> 00:14:27,830

We were hoping we could have our online our field days in person, but have had to pivot back to online.

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00:14:27,830 --> 00:14:33,180

Well, we pivoted and I think once again, real proud of our.

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00:14:33,180 --> 00:14:41,040

Ability to be able to do that, and it's not an easy task, so so that's the people that organized those,

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00:14:41,040 --> 00:14:45,300

shift them over that actually get the content and, you know,

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00:14:45,300 --> 00:14:49,500

scrub behind the years and put their ties on and and look sharp in front of the

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00:14:49,500 --> 00:14:53,190

camera and the people that do the camera and then that post camera work as well.

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00:14:53,190 --> 00:14:59,340

They've got to get it in through there. But, you know, it is an opportunity as we look through of our experience over this last year and a half

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00:14:59,340 --> 00:15:04,290

that we are reaching people that we hadn't reached in some of our in-person programs.

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00:15:04,290 --> 00:15:08,760

And so there's some opportunities there. Most of those are going to be posted.

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00:15:08,760 --> 00:15:13,950

And I think you've got a website that the two that we've already done or are up.

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00:15:13,950 --> 00:15:14,250

Right.

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00:15:14,250 --> 00:15:22,650

If you go to the AAE.uark.edu site, you'll be able to find the links to the online field with the rice and the turf, grass and turf grass.

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00:15:22,650 --> 00:15:25,650

There's always looking for partnership and collaboration.

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00:15:25,650 --> 00:15:33,240

And please that that was a thing that we did with our friends and colleagues from the University of Missouri.

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00:15:33,240 --> 00:15:39,180

So we're glad to do that. As I say, you can go back and watch those.

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00:15:39,180 --> 00:15:44,010

I think that part of our experience is that people will come and they may look at

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00:15:44,010 --> 00:15:49,480

something that they've they've seen before or they're interested in particular part of it.

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00:15:49,480 --> 00:15:55,140

So it's it's how to learn that technology and help us with that.

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00:15:55,140 --> 00:16:03,330

We are planning a couple more. So on the 7th of October, we have a rice and soybean online field.

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00:16:03,330 --> 00:16:10,380

We have a livestock field day on October 12th that we're kind of waiting to see whether which way the wind blows,

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00:16:10,380 --> 00:16:16,950

which which where we'll be at that particular time. And then corn and cotton on the twenty eighth of October.

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00:16:16,950 --> 00:16:20,640

So so do watch for all of those that we would have.

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00:16:20,640 --> 00:16:27,420

Well, coming up, we've got a little open house to celebrate a new program in partnership with UA Monticello.

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00:16:27,420 --> 00:16:36,360

Well, we're real, real pleased that, you know, we've had a longstanding partnership with UAI Monticello on it in forestry and agriculture.

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There's this new opportunity, I think is is really kind of a recognition of the quality of programs that we have within the College of Forestry,

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Agriculture and Natural Resources and then in the Forest Resource Research Resources Center

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00:16:50,100 --> 00:16:56,220

that we have that George Dunklin and the Five Oaks been recognized for a long time,

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00:16:56,220 --> 00:17:00,600

that Five Oaks is one of the premier duck hunting lodges up and down the flyway off of it.

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00:17:00,600 --> 00:17:07,950

Well, their foundation came to us and wanted to establish a partnership. And we're just so delighted that this is working out off of it.

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00:17:07,950 --> 00:17:12,930

Really a chance for us to showcase all three of our our land grant missions off of it.

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00:17:12,930 --> 00:17:20,940

One of the things that is very, very exciting. And a new addition to it is that the the college is going to be offering a graduate

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00:17:20,940 --> 00:17:27,210

certificate program and waterfowl habitat and wetlands management off of it.

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00:17:27,210 --> 00:17:31,920

And we're off to a great start that they attracted students from all over the country.

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00:17:31,920 --> 00:17:37,020

The first batch here, we have four students, one of whom came from, um, Monticello.

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00:17:37,020 --> 00:17:37,530

That's good.

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00:17:37,530 --> 00:17:45,330

So we're glad that we had one in the batch of ones from Texas A&M and one's from Louisiana State, and one's all the way from North Carolina State.

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00:17:45,330 --> 00:17:55,140

Wow. And so we're we're thinking that this program is is really such a great way for us to showcase the the science,

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00:17:55,140 --> 00:18:02,040

the education and the career paths and really the needs that we have to manage our our woodlands,

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00:18:02,040 --> 00:18:05,550

our wetlands to really reach their full potential.

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00:18:05,550 --> 00:18:13,020

So the Five Oaks Foundation is sponsoring some research and some demonstration and some education.

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00:18:13,020 --> 00:18:18,960

We're in hopes that not only are we training that next group of scientists and managers,

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00:18:18,960 --> 00:18:24,690

but we'll have some education programs on both public and private landowners and how to manage this.

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00:18:24,690 --> 00:18:31,650

This is a great opportunity because Five Oaks has really benefited from decades of very high end management.

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00:18:31,650 --> 00:18:42,810

There's still lots of researchable topics as we go through and we look at that those the complexity of how you try to provide good habitat while you

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00:18:42,810 --> 00:18:56,880

create a revenue stream off of your forest off of it and how it really fits together and in an overall hunting and and really recreation avenue,

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00:18:56,880 --> 00:19:00,210

but is really helping the state manage its resources.

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00:19:00,210 --> 00:19:04,140

We're also very excited because we have some other properties that are probably at the other end of

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00:19:04,140 --> 00:19:08,820

the spectrum that are kind of a starting from scratch at Pine Tree and some of our other areas.

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00:19:08,820 --> 00:19:14,040

So we think that the students in the research and education opportunities really go through the whole breadth.

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00:19:14,040 --> 00:19:20,640

So a lot of potential. So, yeah, we're really very thankful to George and the Five Oaks Foundation for making this happen,

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00:19:20,640 --> 00:19:25,140

very pleased that this partnership has been so recognized and we're expecting great things out of it.

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00:19:25,140 --> 00:19:28,620

Looking forward to it. So this is also the time of year.

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00:19:28,620 --> 00:19:33,920

It's not just coming up to fall, but if you're thinking about promotion, now's the time to.

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00:19:33,920 --> 00:19:41,480

Well, you really ought to sit down with your unit head or your immediate supervisor, we have a network of promotion opportunities.

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00:19:41,480 --> 00:19:49,220

We're actually going to try to to expand something for some of our titles and positions, because we do think that that's a very important part of it.

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00:19:49,220 --> 00:19:55,100

We want to recognize performance. We want to invest in career long employees.

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00:19:55,100 --> 00:20:01,700

We want to think that we have a good working environment, that somebody is going to stay with us for a long time.

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00:20:01,700 --> 00:20:09,110

And and we do recognize that as an educational institution, we're having some growth opportunities and that professional development.

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00:20:09,110 --> 00:20:17,300

And so so if you're interested, you think that you're with it, get with your unit head or your immediate supervisor and get into the process.

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00:20:17,300 --> 00:20:23,150

And and those of you that are asked to serve on those review committees and and go through that,

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00:20:23,150 --> 00:20:30,950

we certainly appreciate your effort because we do want to make sure that this is is got the appropriate quality controls and that we go through.

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00:20:30,950 --> 00:20:35,420

And collectively, we can we can determine who's who's really eligible.

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00:20:35,420 --> 00:20:39,320

And and it's appropriate for them to be recognized with the promotion.

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00:20:39,320 --> 00:20:45,350

It really is an important role because you can make a difference in someone's career and someone's life.

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00:20:45,350 --> 00:20:51,620

Well, you know, we we go back to kind of our our motto, you know, I care and we serve.

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00:20:51,620 --> 00:20:54,650

And we're we're in this game because we want to make a difference.

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00:20:54,650 --> 00:21:00,200

And it's it's always great to have an opportunity to make a difference with our own people and really better prepare

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00:21:00,200 --> 00:21:07,280

them so that they can make a difference in the lives of the stakeholders and the the the people that we serve.

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00:21:07,280 --> 00:21:10,760

All right. Our program is going to be a little bit short today.

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00:21:10,760 --> 00:21:14,030

We are getting into the wrap up, but we're going to do something a little bit different.

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00:21:14,030 --> 00:21:17,390

And, you know, Dr. Cochran is one of the hardest working people I know.

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00:21:17,390 --> 00:21:22,140

I get emails from him right after 10:00 at night, sometimes at 5:00 in the morning on the weekend.

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00:21:22,140 --> 00:21:27,380

So I don't know when this guy takes a break, but apparently he does. But we've got a state of the division exclusive right here.

190

00:21:27,380 --> 00:21:35,030

We're going to show some of Dr. Cochran's vacation photos, Dr. Cochran, in rare moments of relaxation Gary.

191

00:21:35,030 --> 00:21:41,060

Well, this is the Cochran household here that that's my lovely wife, Felicia.

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00:21:41,060 --> 00:21:48,200

The my my son and daughter. And the real star there is that's the granddaughter of Sylvia Skout there.

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00:21:48,200 --> 00:21:49,940

So she kind of runs the world right now.

194

00:21:49,940 --> 00:21:57,740

That's in downtown Milwaukee, that when there's there there is the two two of the really important women in my life.

195

00:21:57,740 --> 00:22:05,820

And you can see who's towering over the other one there. So but but that's some happiness right there.

196

00:22:05,820 --> 00:22:17,020

There they are again with their friends off of it, and so she's she's real special off of it and.

197

00:22:17,020 --> 00:22:23,530

This is a Christmas Snoopy picture here. Looks like Grandpa's in the background, worn out from all the excitement here.

198

00:22:23,530 --> 00:22:31,290

So. This is up in Wisconsin and we were in a forest and we found this statue,

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00:22:31,290 --> 00:22:35,490

and so not only could I impress her and singing the lyrics to Smokey the Bear,

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00:22:35,490 --> 00:22:42,360

but told her that maybe we could find Smokey the Bear out in the forest, but she informed me that that bear's not real.

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00:22:42,360 --> 00:22:46,440

It's just a statue. We're not going to see him in the forest. So she's keeping me there.

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00:22:46,440 --> 00:22:56,340

I'm learning about how to color Easter eggs here. So important. So that's that's an important one there.

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00:22:56,340 --> 00:23:03,540

She wanted to take us to the Bone Museum, which if you ever have an opportunity to go to the Natural History Museum in Chicago,

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00:23:03,540 --> 00:23:12,060

they've got lots of dinosaurs and lots of pictures. So so they wanted to get a picture taken there on the the bottom with the pterodactyl.

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00:23:12,060 --> 00:23:20,130

Now, this is on my watch from Costa Rica. And this is part of the Costa Rican generation that this is one of our nephews in Glasgow.

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00:23:20,130 --> 00:23:24,490

His dad plays soccer professionally and in Europe off of it.

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00:23:24,490 --> 00:23:28,470

There's some of our four legged friends there. That coming up.

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00:23:28,470 --> 00:23:36,840

And I think we're kind of competing for grandpa's attention here, so.

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00:23:36,840 --> 00:23:43,410

There are I'm not sure whether I'm helping her down or she's helping me up on the top of that castle, but it's probably the latter.

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00:23:43,410 --> 00:23:55,050

They're. And we're big hikers, so this is my daughter's dog and out here in the Ozarks on a good, good day out,

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00:23:55,050 --> 00:24:02,540

enjoying the nature of it there, he's cuddling up and thinks he's a lap dog, but he's about 110 pounds.

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00:24:02,540 --> 00:24:12,910

So it's a lot of lap dog. There's a Costa Rica, so it's it's one of the other parts of our our household,

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00:24:12,910 --> 00:24:20,540

as we're going through, and certainly famous for its beaches and sunsets at their beaches.

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00:24:20,540 --> 00:24:26,520

That is beautiful. I tell you, there's nothing like sunset over the water.

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00:24:26,520 --> 00:24:34,880

Again, another one of those that is beautiful. I can feel the serenity leaking in right now.

216

00:24:34,880 --> 00:24:40,050

There it is, serenity, which which brings me to.

217

00:24:40,050 --> 00:24:46,080

I'm going to retire at the end of September here, so I'm going to be spending more time in the hammocks and with the family off of it.

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00:24:46,080 --> 00:24:50,340

It's it's, you know, knock on wood. At least you and I are in good health off of it.

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00:24:50,340 --> 00:24:55,060

And the geography of the health, the Cochran household is we've got a lot of travel off of it.

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00:24:55,060 --> 00:24:57,310

So I've certainly enjoyed this job.

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00:24:57,310 --> 00:25:04,350

And one of the things that I've enjoyed the most of it is being able to work with the high quality people and the interaction with our stakeholders.

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00:25:04,350 --> 00:25:07,860

And there's there's a lot of people very proud of what we've done.

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00:25:07,860 --> 00:25:12,030

I'm very proud that I think that we've got a lot of momentum and we'll continue on with it.

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00:25:12,030 --> 00:25:17,310

But it's been a pleasure and it's time for me to sail off in the sunset.

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00:25:17,310 --> 00:25:21,810

I'm sure we'll spend more time with Lucy's family down in Costa Rica off of it.

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00:25:21,810 --> 00:25:26,780

She's been a real good trouper. We're going to be celebrating our forty-fourth wedding anniversary here.

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00:25:26,780 --> 00:25:34,140

Congratulations in the weeks. And she's been up here, so we'll have more opportunity to interact with that, that side of the family with it.

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00:25:34,140 --> 00:25:37,980

But it's. Well, congratulations.

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00:25:37,980 --> 00:25:43,290

Well, thank you very much. Yes, I know you're looking forward to that. You will be missed here.

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00:25:43,290 --> 00:25:47,970

You've got big shoes that you're leaving to fill and that's going to take a lot to process.

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00:25:47,970 --> 00:25:52,410

We've got a real good team off of it and I think we've got a good momentum and we've got

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00:25:52,410 --> 00:25:57,420

a good foundation and we have done a lot for this state and the people in the state.

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00:25:57,420 --> 00:26:04,830

And that's going to continue. But thank you very much for your kind words. Well, on that stunning note, we're going to wrap it up,

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00:26:04,830 --> 00:26:09,110

thank you for joining us for state of the Division and unfortunately, it's our last one with Dr. Cochran.

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00:26:09,110 --> 00:26:15,050

But we appreciate you being game and getting up here and telling us, keeping us up to date on what's going on.

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00:26:15,050 --> 00:26:19,580

And even the big news will come October 1st. I'll be working for a new boss lady.

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00:26:19,580 --> 00:26:25,910

And so I said, I'll be glad to if ask. I'll be glad to kind of help, but I'm going to have to get permission to come out and play anymore.

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00:26:25,910 --> 00:26:33,060

So so I think there's no worry about me being busy because I think there's been more things that have gone in the job jar than have come out.

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00:26:33,060 --> 00:26:36,610

I was going to say 44 years of honey-do list is waiting for you.

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00:26:36,610 --> 00:26:43,730

I'm kind of afraid that maybe the quality control expectations might be a little higher than what they've been in the past as well.

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00:26:43,730 --> 00:26:50,180

She she hasn't given up on training me yet, so. Well, thanks for joining us.

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00:26:50,180 --> 00:27:39,488

Thank you all for everything that you've done. It's been a pleasure.