



# **“AMERICA’S HEARTLAND”**

**- SHOW # AH-101 -**

**- INITIAL FEED DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 09, 2017 -**

## **S Y N O P S I S**

This episode features a history, by host Paul Ryan, on the development of agriculture in America, from the first crops scratched out by colonial settlers through seminal events like the Homestead Act of 1862 and the abolition of slavery through the development of modern farming equipment and practices. Correspondent Jason Shultz portrays an era that helped found and shape American agriculture: the homesteading era of the late 1800s. The story profiles South Dakota descendants of a Czech immigrant family who answered the U.S. offer of free land in exchange for the creation of a farm and a crop. Correspondent Pat McConahay travels to New Hampshire to visit the offices of the legendary “Old Farmer’s Almanac.”

(This show is closed-captioned)

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# “AMERICA’S HEARTLAND”

- SHOW # AH-102 -

- INITIAL FEED DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017 -

## SYNOPSIS

Correspondent Pat McConahay tells one of the Heartland’s “sweetest” agricultural stories – the production of New England’s famed maple sugar. The method for drawing sap from the maples and creating sugar and syrup hasn’t changed much for hundreds of years, and viewers get a complete demonstration from a master syrup maker. Host Paul Ryan discovers a community of shepherders who maintain the farming techniques and culture of their ancestral home: the Basque region of Spain.

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# “AMERICA’S HEARTLAND”

**- SHOW # AH-103 -**

**- INITIAL FEED DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 -**

## SYNOPSIS

Viewers learn about a lesser-known story behind one of the world’s most versatile crops in America’s second most productive agricultural state. The Iowa soybean harvest feeds not just people, but America’s small but growing appetite for biofuels: biodiesel, to be exact. Soybeans feed hundreds of products and industries, and this Heartland segment uncovers why biodiesel may be foremost among them. Correspondent Pat McConahay visits one of America’s more unusual ranches: the Babcock Ranch in Florida, where an ancient breed of livestock known as “cracker cattle” is raised along with alligators.

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# **“AMERICA’S HEARTLAND”**

**- SHOW # AH-104 -**

**- INITIAL FEED DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 -**

## **S Y N O P S I S**

Host Paul Ryan visits the historic King Ranch occupying more than 800,000 acres in South Texas. Its legend is told through the experiences of cowboys who have ridden its vast stretches for decades. Correspondent Jason Shoultz examines the early harvest of “sweet” corn in Iowa – the kind even Iowans love on their late summer dinner plates. Shoultz follows a farm family who made the switch from growing soybeans and field corn to perfecting the delivery of farm-fresh sweet corn to neighbors and grocers.

**(This show is closed-captioned)**

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