



## news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PBS Western Reserve to Air Documentary about Mental Health Crises Among Farmers

*“Greener Pastures” features a local farmer and will air  
Sunday, March 31, and Monday, April 1*

Kent, OH — March 26, 2024 — Farmers have one of the highest suicide rates by profession, according to [a 2021 report](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This heart-wrenching statistic was the inspiration behind “Greener Pastures,” the latest documentary released under the PBS series INDEPENDENT LENS. The documentary follows the lives of four Midwestern farming families as they navigate economic uncertainty and the health care crisis in America. “Greener Pastures” will air Sunday, March 31, at 11 PM on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1).

Among the documentary’s farmers is Jay, a sixth-generation farmer out of Adena, Ohio. The land he farms has been in his family since the late 1700s, but the future of his farm is uncertain as falling milk prices, competition from larger farms and stormy weather jeopardize the family business.

Jay’s story is one of tragedy and perseverance. Indicative of larger social and institutional challenges, Jay’s story will strike a chord with the families in charge of Ohio’s more than [75,000 farms](#).

“Greener Pastures” is the first feature from director/producer Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian and producer Ian Robertson Kibbe.

“Even living in Indiana, I can attest that few outside of these rural communities truly understand the significance that the farming industry has in the U.S.,” [said director/producer Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian](#). “I’m

continually inspired by the subjects of our film and their resilience and perseverance, and hope that anyone who watches finds a new understanding of the ripple effects this crisis can have.”

Additional air dates of “Greener Pastures” include Monday, April 1, at 4 AM on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 29.1) and Saturday, March 30, at noon on Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2). For information on free viewing on demand, visit [PBSWesternReserve.org](https://westernreserve.org). A trailer for the production is available at <https://video.westernreservepublicmedia.org/video/greener-pastures-3qxfdv/>.

## **About PBS Western Reserve**

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS Western Reserve uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population of Ohio’s eight PBS member stations.

PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates two standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEAO 49.3).

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