



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

100 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► RESERVE THE DATE NOW

We are proud to announce we are joining with KLOW, MBT, Red Power, and TSB to host a marketing seminar to be held at First Baptist Fellowship Hall on Highway 9 East in Forest City on January 17, 2017. Guest speaker will be David Kruse from The Commstock Report which is heard on KLOW every day. Kruse is known as the "Paul Harvey of Agriculture" as his commentaries prove his support of farming. More details and information coming but this is one you won't want to miss as it comes after a major USDA Report.

► 20 WEEK CORN CYCLES

David Kruse has always been a firm believer in 20 week cycles in corn from low to low. Back in the spring, he predicted the current cycle would bottom in September right after the crop report and as price later contracts were terminated putting corn on the market. He then predicted the next low to come in mid-January 2017 when farmers need cash for 2017 inputs and are planning for 2017 acres.

After seeing corn rise a few cents this past week while beans skyrocketed is all the more indication corn prices could be flat at best into the January low. In fact, we might have seen the high for the 20 week corn cycle in the last week of November. There are piles of outside corn around the Midwest to move and bins sitting with high moisture corn that needs to come to town if winter stays warm. We hope we are wrong but.....(this is just an observation!!)

► FLUSHED

As we wrap up 2016 in the weather department, there are a lot of mixed feelings. Rivers and tile lines definitely got a good workout with most areas getting close to 40 inches of rainfall, yet not many acres were lost to drowning. Here are some of the totals of precip from April 1 to December 1.

Mason City 38.55	Des Moines 29.18	Davenport 21.57
Sioux City 24.71	Ames 32.19	Waterloo 32.85

Many of our Minnesota customers would have loved to have these totals as some rain gauges got a real work out of over 45 inches! Soil moisture profiles are now at full ready for a deep freeze to take out this year's deep soil compactions.

► DEEPER THE BETTER?

ACCO farm equipment conducted interesting research this year on how planting depth of corn can affect the yields. At their Hanska, Minnesota, test farm they used a new planter at the same population setting to see how depth influences yields. Side-by-side they set the depth to go from one inch to 3.4 inches. In August, they took agronomists into the field to estimate population and kernel counts. Here are the bushels per acre they calculated:

Depth	Estimated Yield
1 inch	186 bushels per acre
1.5 inches	228 bushels per acre
2.5 inches	247 bushels per acre
2 inches	242 bushels per acre
3 inches	259 bushels per acre
3.4 inches	245 bushels per acre

Some observations were that because of rainfall in the weeks after planting, depth could lose at least one quarter of an inch to compaction from rainfall. Also, the deeper the seed depth, the closer the seed is to nutrients. Maybe emergence time out of the ground by planting shallower needs to be reevaluated in choosing a hybrid?

► INSURANCE

Agriculture has to have a method to offload risk and that is done through insurance. Purchasing too much insurance can make a person insurance poor. Here are some interesting facts. One in 335 houses will have a fire sometime in its existence. One in 52 cars will end up in a body shop because of a collision. But projections are one in every 1.4 adults will need some type of long term care. At an average of \$5000 to \$7000 a month for that care, a person's savings and assets can go in a hurry and that includes farmland.

► WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CUSTOMERS

Because of the busy and late harvest, we did not have a promotional Harvest Help program publicized this year but to the credit of our customers, they gave without the program. Total grain gifts were \$45,545 with \$7,499 going to Forest City, Leland, Kiester, and Wells Food Banks. *This is grassroots rural America at its best!*

► HOLIDAY HOURS AND YEAR-END OFFER!

Farmers Coop locations will be closed on Mondays, December 26, and January 2.

Purchase \$5000 or more in year-end expenses and receive a special and very warm Farmers Coop blanket!

► TRUMP TRADE

A lot of farmers are keeping an eye on any new trade policies coming from President-elect Trump. TPP has been in the news as being DOA with Trump but in reality, many organizations in agriculture support TPP as agriculture survives on exports. An example is a pork loin from America to Japan sells for \$6.00 but their domestic protected pork loin sells for \$11.00. Japanese consumers want our pork and our hog producers need that market.



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▶DOWN AT THE CARDTROLS



It's the most wonderful time of the year when gas prices keep dropping and Christmas shopping needs to get done! Cardtrol winners are [Kevin Stecker](#), [Eric Kingland](#), and [Judy Kleveland](#) in Forest City and [Corner Grove Farms](#) in Kiester. Pumpin it Back 2 U recipients for December are [Mosaic of Forest City](#) and [Kiester Food Shelf](#).

Also, rumor is Santa has the Cardtrols plugged in on GPS and will be making a stop and putting some cheer in the prices to you starting around 4:00 pm December 24 through December 25. Thanks Santa!!

▶WINTER OF 1936

Grandpa told about the winter of '36 – here's the local proof he wasn't lying! From the Winnebago Historical Society.



▶SOYBEAN CYST OBIT?

Kansas State University has developed RNA1 which is a way to silence the reproducing gene of soybean cyst nematodes. These creatures live underground and thrive on the roots of soybean plants reducing yields in 29 states. The new discovery will have an 85 percent reduction kill rate when the cyst attaches to the roots and takes one bite. This would be great for our immediate area!

▶PREPARING FOR VFD AND NEW MILL ADDITION BY MITCH THORSON

The January 1 startup of the new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rules and regulations is just one month away. We encourage all producers to get with their veterinarians and to have a game plan in place if the need arises to use antibiotics in their livestock. By having a plan, sick animals will be able to be treated and recovery achieved in a timely manner. The antibiotics under the "medically important" list include: all tetracyclines, Tylan, Lincomycin, Tylan/Sulfa, ASP 250, Neomycin, nuflor, and pulmotil. The new rules apply for feed grade *and* water medications. We will be able to floor stock some of these antibiotics but will not be able to let them out the door unless a VFD script is in place. A little planning ahead will hopefully prevent delays in treatment of livestock helping the animals and producer's pocketbook.

Hopefully within the next few weeks we will be replacing our cattle mill at our Leland location. We will be unable to make cattle feed for about three days while a new three ton mixer is installed along with adding a liquid molasses line. Hopefully this will help us serve our cattle customers in a more efficient manner. This should help us speed up the process and be able to make top notch calf and sweet horse feeds. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience and we will be in contact with our regular customers when the time gets closer.

It's hard to believe but Christmas and the New Year is coming up fast. We will be closed on Mondays, December 26, and January 2 at the feed mills. We wish all a very blessed holiday season.

▶LOOKING TO THE NEW YEAR

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

Much has happened in the last month. With some weather challenges, another harvest has been completed and most fall tillage has been completed. We have elected a new President. Friends and family gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Again we have harvested a good crop with excellent quality and yield. The price of soybeans has risen due to export demand and the short palm oil crop which has given beans a boost. We will be looking to South America in the next few months to gauge how their crop is progressing. Early reports show planting progressing well in Brazil.

With the election of our new President, we will have questions about changes to farm policy as well as international trade. As these are implemented, we will see what effects it will have on agriculture and our general economy.

Christmas and the New Year will soon be here. Many of you will spend time with family and friends. All of us at FCA wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

▶GROWER MEETING ON DECEMBER 6!

BY RANDY MAIN

We will be having our grower meeting at The Branding Iron in Thompson, Iowa, on December 6. We have a number of good guest speakers for you to listen to. Dean Getting from Monsanto will be talking about the newly approved Xtend Soybeans program and Scott Gaskill from Bayer will talk about their Liberty seed and chemical programs. Bruce Nelson from INTL FC Stone will also be there to share grain market insight.

Everyone will also get a glimpse of our new **Green to Gold** program we have been talking about for the past few months. So please join us for a night of fun and great information.



▶MERRY CHRISTMAS

For the last 25 years we have ended our December newsletter with the signatures of our employees with our holiday greeting to our customers. With the many new employees this year and limited space we are just going to say, "Merry Christmas - For unto us a Savior is born and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."