



Farmers Co-op Assoc.

May 2016

Forest City, Iowa - Leland, Iowa - Kiester, Minnesota

Countdown to 100 Years!

T-MINUS 55 DAYS

One hundred years ago a couple dozen area farmers at this time were apprehensive but yet excited about a new venture called the Farmers Elevator Association. Farmers, who by nature were independent, were going to “pool resources” together for the propose of bettering their families and lives. Most farms in 1916 were 80-240 acres farmed with real horsepower. Education was in a country school and family labor was critical to survival and success.

One of the highlights of our celebration will be a Centennial Book which includes our Coop’s first 100 years plus the years of our members, neighbors, and changes in technology. The book contains hundreds of pictures and news articles from our Coop and Winnebago Historical Society archives!! This will be a keeper of a book and one of a kind!



WHERE’S THE BEEF?

The burgers or steaks you place on the grill this month are there because a farmer-rancher took the gamble to invest in the best genetics, feed, environment, and management to produce beef that hopefully includes a profit. There’s nothing prettier in the country side than a green pasture with cattle and calves by side! A big thank you to our cattlemen and women this May Beef Month!



LAST CALL

We have been very busy taking your phone calls for reservations for the “Ride the Rail” passenger train ride to be held on June 25 at noon, 2 pm, and 4 pm. If there are any unfilled seats left by May 15 we will open them up to the general public for reservations. Tickets will be mailed to you. So call us now!!

Many people who have requested tickets have asked how much it will cost. Our Coop is always interested in helping great causes and so we are asking those who will be riding with us to help us “Pay It Forward” with a generous free will donation. Three important area organizations will share in your gifts – Relay for Life, Winnebago Food Bank, and Forest City Dollars for Scholars. This once in a lifetime experience with your family on the rail in Forest City will be worth the enjoyment of your donation which will be received on June 25.

FCA ACQUIRES MAIN FERTILIZER

By Lynn Hagenon, president, Farmers Coop Association Board

Farmers Coop Association finalized the acquisition of Main Fertilizer on April 28, 2016, and it was effective April 29, 2016. All locations will operate as Farmers Coop Association. Randy Main is now agronomy manager for FCA.

With the acquisition, FCA has also leased the former Main Fertilizer facilities in Winnebago, Minnesota, and Buffalo Center, Iowa. The purchase also included equipment to serve our customers’ needs for today and the future including tanks, tender trucks, floaters, post sprayers, and more.

Main Fertilizer’s sales staff added to our own at Farmers Coop Association will be able to provide the kind of outstanding service you need and expect.

We welcome Randy Main and his staff to the FCA team. We also want to extend our thanks and appreciation to the FCA team who will be working to help integrate the businesses as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

YOUR CHOICE

After this rain delay farmers will start on soybeans and most will be treated with a fungicide/insecticide. Here are our recommendations and approximate costs for you. The most popular treatment is Exceleron which costs \$6.00 and does a nice job. Also many choose adding an insecticide which costs \$9.00 per unit. If you want maximum protection including nematodes the costs is \$12.50. With this early cool start treatment will insure a great start to seeds!



FOREST CITY

Address: 406 East K Street
Phone: 641-585-2814 or 800-483-6832
Fax: 641-585-2052

LELAND

Address: 609 B Street
Phone: 641-567-3341 or 888-676-7439
Fax: 641-567-3380

KIESTER

Address: 100 West Front Street
Phone: 507-294-3697 or 877-294-3697
Fax: 507-294-3540
Agronomy: 507-294-3427

WINNEBAGO

Address: 601 6th Avenue SE
Phone: 507-893-4800
Fax: 507-893-4305

BUFFALO CENTER

Address: 6401 Highway 9
Phone: 641-561-2800
Fax: 641-561-2216

DOWN AT THE CARDTROLS



Slowly but surely the price of fuel keeps working up. To show how fast fuel prices change, the lowest price for E-10 this past winter was \$1.39 on 2/16/16. Today's price is \$2.05 and the last time it was that price was 11/17/15.

Cardtrol winners of \$10 free fuel are **Dennis Tweeten, Roger Nieman, Craig Aukes and in Kiester Aaron Gerber.** Pumping it back 2 You designees are **North Iowa Hospice and Kiester Library.**

SELL - SELL - SELL

The last two and a half weeks have been rather busy in the grain department. Prices of today a month ago were just a pipe dream and now are reality. With the \$1.40 rally in beans we have seen heavy selling in both old and new crops. Unfortunately basis has widened to the largest we have seen in months, hindering the price quotes to our customers. Looking at new crop beans we purchased the equivalent of over 20 percent of the beans we normally would take in during the harvest season. Those who follow charts talk about a "C" rally which means they are fast, ascending and over within a short time.

FLY CONTROL

By Mitch Thorson



Turning the calendar to May should bring warmer temperatures bringing new growth to crops and pastures. Along with the new green countryside will be unwanted and costly pests; FLIES!! Good fly control is

an essential element of good animal husbandry. In an era where humane treatment of farm animals well-being is on the public conscience, fly control cannot be ignored."That's what tails are for" does not cut it in today's culture. Flies are not only "pests" but are profit robbers. Experts estimate the economic losses from inadequate fly control for cattle are greater than respiratory disease and coccidiosis combined. Maintaining good fly control should be effective, economical, environmentally friendly, safe and fit one's management scheme. We have feed through products that can fit in any producers' overall fly control program. We also have incorporated feed through fly control products in our calf starter and milk replacers from Hubbard Feeds.

SPRING HAS ARRIVED

By Kingsley Johnson



The month of April has been good to us this year. Field work got off to an early start with good field conditions. The rains we have received have been gentle without the flooding or erosion brought on by heavy rains just after planting. Nationwide the corn planting is ahead of the average and Iowa and Minnesota are well ahead of our normal.

As we look ahead to our summer growing season I have read some reports that an earlier planting season could help the effects of La Nina if it arrives. With an earlier pollination the crop could pollinate before the dry weather which is typically in July and August. Time will tell if it has an effect on our area.

In the last month the soybean market has rallied a dollar since the first of April. At the beginning of the month we would have thought this was not likely due to the fundamental picture in the market. There are many different thoughts as to what brought this rally. It may be a combination of factors happening at the same time. Some credit the dryer weather in Brazil or the wet conditions in Argentina. Others feel it is due to economic factors of inflation, lower US dollar, or the exchange rate between the US and Brazil. Whatever the reason it has allowed opportunities to market your soybeans at a higher level than just a month ago.

Whether this rally will continue or stall out, we still have projections of 400 million bushel carryout for this year. Global stocks look to be adequate and the US is planning on planting 82 million acres this year.

Thank you to all our customers who did business with us this season. I hope you have a productive balance of the spring and summer growing season.

PERFECT WEATHER

"Plant in dust and bins will bust" is a cardinal rule for spring farming. April was a dry and warm month but farmers were not complaining. The corn was planted over a period of about 12-15 days which spread out the risk into the growing season. Tiles have been running all winter and seeds going into dry soils with the blessings of the past weekend rains have our area fields primed for an excellent start. Phase II starts this week with bean planting!

	APRIL RAINFALL	LAST YEAR RAINFALL	MAY 2015 RAINFALL
FOREST CITY	1.85	3.93	4.19
LELAND	1.95	4.46	4.39
KIESTER	2.84	3.95	3.65

IMPROVING SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

By Randy Main

As I sit here deciding on what to write for my first article, many things are running through my mind. We have officially finalized the agreement between Farmers Coop Association and Main Fertilizer, which means we start the exciting process of combining two more locations with the already existing locations.

Now the question you are wanting to ask is what does this mean for "me", the member of the coop. It actually means that we will be able to build on and improve the services and products we will offer to you. Some of these include advanced VRT capabilities through the multiple layering of data to produce better information to improve yields while keeping programs economical. We will also provide new services like the Nutra-Boss side dress system, as well as being able to top dress urea.

One of the other priorities that has been set in front of me is to help create an environment where our agronomy account managers can spend a lot more time with you in the field. This is one of our top priorities and you will start to see this change very soon.

As we move forward through this progression of improvement, please feel free to contact me at any of the locations with suggestions you may have.

I am a person that is constantly on the move so don't be surprised if you see me in multiple locations throughout a week's time. As we get through the next few weeks, however, I will develop a schedule that will place me at certain locations on scheduled times during the week.

I look forward to the challenges ahead and am excited to be a part of Farmers Coop Association.

Thank you!