

► TAXES

Each year in the months of March and September, property owners make a trip to the courthouse or mailbox to pay their taxes. One has to wonder where all those funds go so we took a Forest City \$24 per acre bare production acre tax bill to see who gets what. Of that \$24 amount, the largest amount goes to the schools in the Forest City district which amounts to \$11.67. The next \$10.52 goes to county operations including roads, law enforcement, etc.

That one acre of farmland also supports NIACC College in Mason City receiving \$6.29 per acre. NIACC received \$379,229 in tax dollar support from Winnebago County in 2016. NIACC posted roughly 30 graduates in 2016 from Winnebago County with the largest number from Forest City and Lake Mills.

One other important area is fire department services which cost about 30 cents per acre. The farm property one mile from the fire station pays the same as the farm property seven miles away. Not a big deal unless your home is on fire and response time is critical!

Different school districts, counties, and states will make these figures highly variable!

► WELCOME TO FCA

For some of you this is your first issue of our monthly newsletter. FCA newsletters have a reputation of not being your standard coop detailed publication. Because we have over 1800 customers representing a cross section our region, we strive to touch base with different subjects affecting our base. The newsletter is also a great conduit to inform those not directly associated with farming. If you are a new customer – WELCOME – we are here to serve you and your operation with the highest quality products and service delivered at a competitive cost.

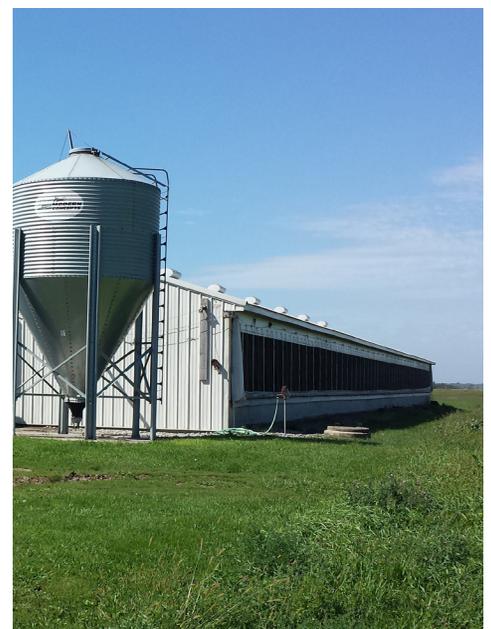
► RAIN GAUGE REPORT

A new season begins with area farms at 100 percent capacity in soil moisture. There are many rainfall reporting systems. We use Farm Logs zeroed in on the exact property of our facilities posted.



The big range of the March reports is due to the couple of wet snowstorms that swept across the middle to south end of our sales territory during the month. Growing degree days are ahead of normal as evidenced by the tulip growth. Each year, whether early or late, Easter has to be celebrated before any serious growing conditions will commence.

	March 2017	March 2016
Forest City	3.18	3.51
Leland	2.25	3.63
Kiester	1.79	2.82
Buffalo Center	1.92	2.60
Winnebago	1.51	2.81



► INTRODUCING CODY THEOBALD



Farmers Coop Association welcomes Cody Theobald to the team. Cody began on March 27 and is the manager of the Winnebago location.

Prior to joining Farmers Coop, Cody worked at Protein Sources as a farm manager for the farrowing and breeding operation. Before his work with this livestock company, Cody was an agronomy applicator and looks forward to getting back into this side of production agriculture at Farmers Coop.

With spring, Cody is eager to getting to know Farmers Coop's customers and getting into the field to help with spring application and planning.

Cody, who lives in Winnebago, is taking over his family's small farm and in his spare time will be found working there. The business includes crops and cattle.

► DOWNER HEADLINES

Although it is spring and the gloom of the winter should turn to springtime optimism, it's going to be hard. The first negative headline report was the hog report which showed increases in all categories as producers are gearing up for new pork processing plants. On the same page, it tells of hog prices the lowest in three months. Not to add insult to injury, projections for 2017 crops show large acres and farmers still storing large amounts hoping for a rally. Breakevens for corn are from \$3.60 to \$3.70 per bushel and \$9.70 for beans. Harvest delivery prices today are \$3.43 and \$8.78. Ouch. Farm income is projected to be down for the fourth year in a row seriously affecting upcoming state budgets.

**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



It's nice to hear over a weekend that gasoline is 20 cents higher in Des Moines than here. It seems we are in a range of about 20 cents and will stay that way until summer demand picks up. Winners of free fuel are [Forest City Ford](#), [Linda Gannon](#), and [Ruth Bachman](#) from Forest City and [Brownies Plumbing and Heating](#) of Kiester. Pumpin it Back 2U recipients for April are [Forest City Fine Arts](#) and the [Kiester Fire Department](#).

## ▶ LET MIKEY TRY IT

Just like the old cereal commercial, most local farmers are going to let Mikey try Dicamba. With all the rules and stipulations and the stack of lawsuits for crop damage in Missouri, the word is "no thank you!" Good neighbors are a valuable commodity in most areas and taking a risk at crop damage across the fence line is not just worth it, according to sales.



## ▶ PSSST!

Check your diesel barrels and give us a call – prices are in your favor. Also, bulk oil was delivered on April 3. Give Larry a call for some great spring prices!

## ▶ HOPEFUL MEMORIES

Since 1960, there have been only four back-to-back years when the price of corn was lower on December 31 than it was 12 months earlier on January 1. There have never been five years.

In every year since records have been kept, if Great Lakes ice cover was over 90 percent, the next crop season produced a new national record corn yield. On the opposite side, every year with less than 20 percent ice cover, the next corn trend line yields were down by at least 5 percent. This year it never got to 20 percent.

In the past three growing seasons, corn has reached the \$4.50 area during the season.

## ▶ TIME FOR PEST CONTROL PLANS

BY MITCH THORSON

With spring slowly getting into full swing, beef and dairy producers will need to prepare and implement a good fly control program. In both drylot and pasture situations, a good fly control program will pay a good return on investment. There are several strategies available to producers to achieve good results. Feed through additives are one way to help control flies in both situations. Crystalyx tubs are a convenient way to supplement both nutrient and pest control ingredients. Options include IGR for horn fly control in pastures and Rabon or Clarifly for horn, face, stable, and house flies in both pasture and drylot situations. Depending on type of roughages and grain mixes fed, different nutrient profiles are offered with each of the fly control agents. Clarifly is also available to mix in with grain and TMR rations. Any fly control program is best when combined with other control measures such as sprays, oilers, sanitation, fly tags, etc. There is no such thing as 100 percent fly control, only the change of seasons can do that. But controlling fly populations at a managed level can pay big dividends in beef and dairy operations. See the guys at Leland or Kiester for developing a good fly control plan.

## ▶ SAFETY AND GRAIN QUALITY

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

The spring season of 2017 is around the corner. Soon we hope to be planting our next crop. I am sure this year will present its own unique set of challenges and rewards.

As we prepare our equipment for spring and start our spring work, I would encourage all of you to remember to be safe in all you do. Take the time to be sure equipment is supported so it cannot fall. Replace all guards after working on equipment. If you are applying NH3 this spring, be sure you follow the safety precautions associated with hauling and applying NH3.

Before we move into this busy planting season I would like to remind you to be checking your bins of grain. At this time of year, it would be good to check your bins every couple weeks. Now would be a time to warm your grain to 40 degrees if you have frozen your grain or cooled it to less than 40 degrees for winter storage. Cold grain with warm outside air may cause moisture migration and cause some quality issues. If you need to move some grain or core a bin, we have Free Price Later available.

By now the highly anticipated Planting Intentions and Quarterly Stocks Reports will be out. It was anticipated that we would have a shift from corn to beans. We all know this is a moving target but one which we will trade for a while.

Have a safe and productive spring.



## ▶ SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

BY RANDY MAIN

We have just a few weeks to finish spring plans. Like you, we have been working to be ready for spring here at FCA.

### Seed

Seed is being delivered as I write this article. If you have seed purchased and haven't talked to our sales staff about seed treatment, please do so. We are ready to treat your seed any time.

### Starter Fertilizer

As usual, we have high quality starter fertilizers to cover your needs. We have pickup or delivery options for your convenience. Just give us a call for any of your starter needs.

### Spring Nitrogen

Don't forget your spring nitrogen stabilizers. I can say that these products have consistently given returns every year. Please talk to one of our agronomy salesmen if you haven't booked these already.

As we move into spring fieldwork, we at FCA wish all of you a safe and productive spring. Thank you for your business.

