



Farmers Coop
ASSOCIATION



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

100 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

▶ **TIME CAPSULE**



The harvest we are just starting might feel familiar to some of our area farmers. There was a harvest time years ago when land prices had dropped more than 50 percent in two years. A time when corn, bean, hogs, and cattle prices were being taken to the wood shed. A time when the fall weather was on hold with wet conditions with some corn being taken out first in mid-October and bean combining never really starting until October 23. A time when farming wasn't fun in the field or at the lenders office.

The time – October 1985 – right in the middle of the Farm Crisis.

▶ **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BACON**

It's October and it's Pork Month. We are going to celebrate in a grand way! Our Coop is co-sponsoring a pork give-away on KIOW Radio. Over \$600 of free pork will be given to its listeners. It's simple – listen from 8-10 am and 3-5pm Monday through Friday to the "pork sounder" after which you will hear a familiar tune. Be the designated caller to KIOW, name the tune, and receive a \$10 pork gift certificate. Identify the artist and you get an extra certificate for Hormel Bacon products. This promotion starts this week and runs for three weeks. **Thanks to Hubbard Feeds, Schmidt Livestock, KIOW, Iowa Pork Producers, and Hormel Foods for this great giveaway!**



▶ **UNBELIEVABLE**

Farming in 2016 might go down as a year of records, or near records, in the history books. The growing season was nearly perfect and most long-term forecasters, including the Farmer's Almanac (85 percent correct record), all pointed to a September–November period for Iowa with much below rainfall and above temps.

Since April 1 and the beginning of the growing season, Mason City (and many of our customers) has been tanked with 36.97 inches of rain – normal is 24.53. There are thousands of farmers who need a break from Mother Nature. It's not a big crop until it is in the bin.

Here's what Iowa has experienced in rainfall the last 30 days:

Cities	September 2016	September Averages
Ames	8.82	3.16
Des Moines	6.11	3.27
Lamoni	1.61	4.40
Mason City	10.36	3.41
Sioux City	2.30	2.38
Spencer	7.03	2.85
Waterloo	7.34	3.04

▶ **"I GO TO PIECES"**

Before you get too far into the fall season, be sure to call one of our fertilizer centers to hear the good news on fall fertilizer. Every product is down and some substantially from last season. The big crops have a big appetite for nutrients and we have the equipment to grid test and bring your fields to full potential. We are committed to passing the saving along to you and will work to earn your business.



▶ **SAFETY FIRST**

Mud creates new challenges. We are in a harvest season where mud is the biggest challenge facing our customers bringing in a large harvest.

Due to muddy conditions in fields, we know many of you will be loading grain transport vehicles on roadways. We want to encourage all of you to be aware of buses being on those same roads. This is the Forest City bus schedule to help you work around their routes. Other districts timing will be very similar.

Morning routes: 6:50 to 8:00 am daily | Afternoon routes: 3:25 to 4:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 2:15 to 3:15 pm Wednesday

▶ **FROM THE BACK OFFICE**

BY RANDY BROESDER

With harvest beginning, we are empty of old crop beans at Farmers Coop Association. And as I write this, we are moving old crop corn to the bunker so the house will be empty and ready for new crop corn. We look forward to receiving your grain and offering the best service we can with this large crop.

Rains are complicating harvest in many ways. For us, it means trains are slowed. Recently we were to get an 85-car train in to load out grain and it had just 27 cars. We hope things get back to normal for shipping over the next couple of weeks.

We want to handle everyone's grain storage needs. To help us plan, if you anticipate bringing in more grain than you did last year, please let us know. Your help is appreciated. You will find grain policies posted at each of our grain offices.

Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting. In addition to dividend checks, Farmers Coop Association also paid out \$150,000 in old equity. For those who did not attend the meeting or came in later to get their checks, they will be enclosed in this statement.

<p>FOREST CITY Address: 406 East K Street Phone: 641-585-2814 or 800-483-6832 Fax: 641-585-2052</p>	<p>LELAND Address: 609 B Street Phone: 641-567-3341 or 888-676-7439 Fax: 641-567-3380</p>	<p>KIESTER Address: 100 West Front Street Phone: 507-294-3697 or 877-294-3697 Fax: 507-294-3540 Agronomy: 507-294-3427</p>	<p>WINNEBAGO Address: 601 6th Avenue SE Phone: 507-893-4800 Fax: 507-893-4305</p>	<p>BUFFALO CENTER Address: 6401 Highway 9 Phone: 641-561-2800 Fax: 641-561-2216</p>
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▶DOWN AT THE CARDTROLS



We are happy to announce E-85 sales are up and should continue to rise as it is the blue light special for those who have the yellow gas cap for E-85. Winners of free fuel are [Misty Juveland](#), [James Oulman](#), [Forest City Ambulance](#) and [Mark Zabel](#) at Kiester. Pumping it Back 2U is [Forest City Food Bank](#) and [Legion Auxairy](#) in Kiester.

▶WE ASK FOR YOUR GRACE

Because most crops are transported by trucks, we are going to see many having to be loaded on the roads as fields could be too wet to park. We ask that if you encounter this happening to please give some grace to the truckers and for farmers to be alert and gracious to let traffic stopping be at a minimum. **Farmers don't own the roads by any means, or should take advantage, so let's all try to make this work and be safe!!**

▶FUEL AND LP

Harvest means fuel – lots of it. Both our LP and fuel departments would welcome a call from you if it works to “Keep Them Full” this season. With your permission and direction, they will work a stop by when in the neighborhood to off load to your facilities. When you want it stopped at the end of the season, just call and cancel.

▶NEW CENTURY – NEW LOOK

Do you notice something different? Farmers Coop Association has a new logo! It has been a few decades since the logo was updated -actually, we're not exactly sure how long it's been since the logo has been updated!

We wanted something that represented growth, the future, appreciation of our history, something that shows the pride we have in our coop and its members, our passion for agriculture-this all lead to the development of our new logo. After five months of revisions and numerous versions, we are excited to share the final design with you.

The transition to the new logo will take place over the next couple years so you'll see both the new and old during that time. **There may be a new logo, but we are still the same Farmers Coop Association you've known for 100 years.**

▶ FCA HOURS

Hours for each location will be posted daily on signs displayed on doors. You're also welcome to call the location for this information. Thank you!

▶ FREE PORK DRAWING

Stop at one of our five offices this month and register for a \$25 gift certificate for pork compliments of our Coop. At the end of the month, all names will be combined and five winners will enjoy eating “High on the Hog!”

▶HARVEST TIME

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

As we move into another harvest season, it is looking like fall with a few challenges. The abundance of rainfall in September has made for wet fields with some crops under water. We will be working extended hours in this process. I would encourage you to work safely and have a productive harvest.

Much of your crop will be stored on the farm. With the prices at these levels I would expect much of it to be stored on the farm. As a general rule, grain that is clean, dry, and low foreign material stored in a good aerated structure will store well. Corn should be dried to 15 percent for storage up to six months, and 13 percent if stored for longer periods. As temperature drops this fall, aerate to lower grain temperatures to below 50 degrees. You should monitor your bins weekly until December and then every two weeks.

Cell phones are a part of our daily life, but they can be a distraction from what is going on around us. Please refrain from cell phone use as you enter the receiving area to help keep our employees and you safe.



▶FROM THE FEED DEPARTMENT

BY MITCH THORSON

October is Pork Month saluting pork producers supplying the world with pork products. Congratulations and thank you to our producers!

Hog prices have dropped dramatically lately causing red ink and this trend looks like it will continue for the next several months. A large supply of hogs this fall and winter will push packing plant capacity to the limit. Producers are encouraged to keep market weights in check to help prevent an even larger supply of pork on the market.

When new crop corn starts to be fed coupled with cooler temps, weight gains tend to spike. Hopefully with the new packing plants due to come on line and the ever growing world population we can keep our exports growing and our producers can walk some of this cheap corn off the farm.

Hopefully the rains will stop soon and we can get our crops out. There appears to be a huge crop which would give us abundant supply of cheap feed. But all this moisture has set up a possibility of increased levels of molds and mycotoxins. We will be monitoring grains closely and may need to incorporate mold inhibitors in the feed coming out of our mills.

After fall manure application is a good time to incorporate pit additives to reduce sludge buildup and enhance fertilizer value in manure. We have More than Manure available for sale to stabilize nitrogen and improve phosphorous availability and Bioverse Products to help reduce sludge and solid buildup.

We also have a Crystalyx booking through October 15 where cattle producers can receive a \$40 per ton savings on their mineral and barrel needs. See Randy Aukes and he can help design a mineral program to balance and get the most out of cow/calf producers' homegrown roughages.

▶AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT NEWS

BY RANDY MAIN

Harvest is upon us and unfortunately the weather is still not cooperating. However, the crop always comes out. It will just take a little longer to get into the bin. So far, yields sound promising which is great.

The agronomy crew at FCA has been working hard to get everything from fertilizer programs to machinery ready to serve your needs. I appreciate the hard work and time our team has put into being ready for fall.

As you take out your harvest this fall, our agronomy team will be informing you of our new fertilizer and seed programs that have been developed with you, the producer, in mind. This includes very competitive pricing as well as deferred payment programs to fit your financial needs.

Our team appreciates your business and we wish all of you a safe and bountiful harvest.

▶TRAIN PICTURE

The beautiful picture of our Centennial train trip is now being printed for you to purchase. It would look great in a frame on the office wall or in your house. Contact our Forest City office for ordering - price is \$12 for the print. This month only!!!



Forest City Farmer's Coop Train Ride- 6/25/16