



**Farmers Coop**  
ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST 2017**

Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

101 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► **GOOD, BAD, AND UGLY**

**The Good**

Area farmers are thankful for the varying amounts of July rainfall as the tank was nearing empty. The slow soaker rains and cool temperature at pollination were a blessing. Also, we have missed major hail events and the corn stood great during the storm with 70 mph winds. With the dry and hot weather, corn plants have put their energy in root development and are shorter with stronger stalks.



**The Bad**

There are two sizes for beans for August 1 - short and very short. This should help reduce the chance of sudden death and white mold outbreaks which hit in 2016. Although not visible now, some corn and bean fields still have the scars from a wet and cold spring with stand reductions from poor germination. Although those spots are forgotten the yield monitor will remind farmers of their impact in 60 days.



**The Ugly**

This past month the dicamba dilemma came home to roost in multiple area soybean fields. The drone picture (top) shows one large local area field which was planted to Roundup Ready beans but when they ran out of RR beans, they planted dicamba beans for the last nine acres. The field in the bottom photo was sprayed by a neighbor using dicamba. Weather conditions in the following hours and days moved the volatilization of the chemical to completely spread across the 150 acre field except for those nine acres (bright green) which were resistant to dicamba.

► **CHRISTENSEN'S CORN BIN**

The new east bin at the feed mill has developed some "Kentucky windage." (leaning). We doubt it's anything serious but engineers will be examining it to make sure it's good to go. That has caused us to slow down your July deliveries which should get better this month as less bushels are contracted. Our goals are to get clearance for repairs if needed and have an empty bin for harvest. Christensens want to use new crop as soon as it hits the bin. When they have enough old crop corn bought to run to harvest corn basis will go south el pronto!

► **FROM THE FEED MILL**

BY MITCH THORSON

With the dry spell in early July and the "dog days of summer" pastures have been depleted earlier than normal. The recent rains have extended some pastures but coming into August and shorter days the plants are maturing and losing nutritional value. Besides providing additional roughages, supplementing cows with grain mixes and/or crystalax tubs can supply cattle with the necessary vitamins and minerals and help the cows increase digestion of the roughages that are available thus stretching the pasture. Creep feeding is another strategy that can help stretch available feedstuffs, take some pressure off the cow, and increase calf weights at weaning.

Another summertime topic that is often discussed but maybe not examined close enough is water. Both the amounts and quality should be closely monitored especially during hot summer months. Some rules of thumb of water requirements for pigs are .36 gals/lb of feed intake. By weight **nursery -3/4 gal per day; early grower -2-3 gal per day and finishers - 3-5 gal per day** with flow rates of nipples or cups of **1 cup per minute in nursery gradually increasing to 3 cups per min in the finishing phase.** A rule of thumb for cattle water requirements is **1 gal per 100 lbs of body weight and double that in high temperatures.** Water quality is also very important and it is widely recommended to annually test the water supply for contaminants and mineral content. Let's not let water, our cheapest and most important feedstuff, reduce our bottom line during these "Dog Days of Summer".

► **FAVORABLE WEATHER AND PLANT NUTRITION**

BY RANDY MAIN

Weather conditions have been in our favor so far resulting in what looks to be another average to slightly above average crop overall. As we flip the calendar to August, our thoughts begin to shift to harvest and planning for next year. With that, what can we expect from the fall fertilizer market? All nitrogen products are down from last year and in general, the phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrient markets are flat - comparable to last year.

Regardless of the fertilizer market, plants still need nutrition. Ask your FCA Agronomy Account Manager about our Green to Gold program and how soil sampling can help you place the right nutrients in the right place for maximum profitability.

What else is happening in the ag industry? Absolutely everything! The main theme that we are seeing is consolidation. We at FCA are fortunate that we are actually in growth mode! This is largely in part to hard and steady work in the financial spectrum throughout the years. This would not be possible without your support and business.

► **SELF NOMINATION FOR BOARD ELECTION**

Your Board of Directors wants to remind members of our self-nomination process for those interested in being considered for election to the Board. **The deadline for submitting your name to be placed on the ballot is August 25, 2017.**

We appreciate the interest of those willing to serve and entering their name into nomination.

If you are interested in standing for election to the Farmers Coop Association Board of Directors, you will need to see Jodi Nordskog in the Forest City office by **August 25, 2017**, to have your name placed on the ballot for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting in September.

For those who have questions about what the role includes, please see our general manager, Randy Broesder, or contact a current member of the Farmers Coop Association Board of Directors.

**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



Please reserve the weekend of Sept 9th to join us in Forest City as the FCFD hosts the [Iowa Fireman's State Convention](#) who are the recipients this month of "Pumping it back 2U." [Kiesters winner is Mike Henkel](#). One big loud and fun parade is a must for your family and grandchildren. Cardtrol winners are [Tweeten Farm Account](#), [Mike Korthals](#), and [Kendra Amundson from FC and KTTC from Kiesters](#).

## ▶ YOUR NEW LP DRIVER

Farmers Coop Association is pleased to announce Preston Alphs as the new LP delivery person. Preston has been with the coop for more than two years, having previously worked in the agronomy department. Preston looks forward to spending more time in the community and working directly with coop customers in his new position.

Contact Preston at [641-590-5292](tel:641-590-5292) to schedule your next LP delivery, to verify that you are on the Keep Full List or to have to your name added to the Keep Full List. You may also contact the Forest City office at [641-585-2814](tel:641-585-2814) or the Kiesters office at [507-294-3697](tel:507-294-3697).



## ▶ ON THE CLOCK

September 30 is the deadline for this year's price later contracts. They have to be sold or rolled into the fall. Prices for storage will be higher for carry in 2016 crops so take that into consideration please! Last year the cash corn lows happened end of August-September.

## ▶ CORN ON THE MOVE

We are scheduled to load two trains in August as farmers ready for harvest. By October we will have almost a full house of corn as we hold for the good carry in new crop prices. The first two weeks of October we will ship four trains out of Forest City. Kiesters will not get its bunker empty but a lot of their corn is going to MGP Ethanol in Lakota also in October. There will be piles on the ground in Kiesters if a good crop keeps developing. Beans are a different animal. All coop owned beans are gone but we still have some farmers holding 2016 beans and undecided what to do with them unless a rally pops up in August.

## ▶ YOUR CHOICE

In the next few years, a soybean producer will have the option of five GMO soybean systems to grow. Roundup Ready, Liberty, Dicamba, Balance GT, and Enlist 2,4 D. Choices mean super management as anyone of these listed can do damage to the other four by contact, drift, or poor sprayer cleanout.

## ▶ YOU ALL COME

Thursday, August 24, from 5-7 pm we invite you to join us at our Forest City office to show how important you are to us! We appreciate your business!

## ▶ DICAMBA DAMAGE FACTS FROM DTN

- Around 20 million acres in 2017 planted to dicamba resistant beans.
- Yield damage increases the later the plant is exposed especially reproductive stages.
- University of Missouri research shows a half teaspoon per acre at V3 showed no yield damage.
- But the same research showed half teaspoon per acre at R2 with 14 percent yield damage. Increasing the amount to one tablespoon per acre resulted in 68 percent yield loss.
- 2015 University of Arkansas tests on fields planted for seed that were exposed at RI-R6 to dicamba resulted in the production seed for the next year having less germination and vigor.
- We encourage you to check all your bean fields for dicamba drift to avoid harvest surprises. What looks good from the road may be totally different 80 rods away!!

## ▶ NEEDLES AND PINS

The current long-range forecast will put local crops literally running on fumes to finish up the growing season. Water needs from here out will be at maximum. When a corn plant tassels its root system ceases growing as all efforts are in reproductive filling. Corn-on-corn ground will need the most moisture and beans on corn ground will need the least. Lack of moisture causes kernels to abort or tip back and lose test weight. Soybeans can stand stress longer but eventually will start to abort flowers and pods to survive which causes serious yield reductions.

In Iowa, 12 out of the 16 reporting points show less than 2.8 inches of rain in July. One estimate is 32 million acres in the Midwest are now seeing a daily reduction in yields without a meaningful rain event.

The following figures with the very spotty rains could be completely different a mile from these locations!

	July Rain	June-July Rain	June-July 2016
Forest City	2.49	5.65	12.70
Leland	2.56	5.18	14.54
Kiesters	4.09	7.28	12.42
Buffalo Center	2.65	6.59	12.74
Winnebago	3.78	7.78	11.75

## ▶ REALITY, PROJECTIONS, AND POLICY

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

Recently reported crop conditions are the lowest reported since the 2013 crop year. Corn condition was reported as 62 percent good and excellent compared with 71 percent a year ago. Soybeans conditions as 57 percent good and excellent vs. 71 percent last year. The crops in this area look to be in good condition with pollination complete and timely rains.

The next Crop Production and Supply Demand report will be released on August 10. Some new estimates are out projecting the new crop. Informa has placed the corn yield at 166.2 bushels per acre which would make a production of 13.879 billion bushels. This would leave projected carryout above the 2 billion bushel mark. Another estimate has yields at 163.5 bushels per acre with production at 13.63 billion bushels. If this estimate was correct, carryout would be reduced to a number under 2 billion bushels. USDA is looking at the crop now so it will be interesting to see what their projections are.

Work is still going on in congress to write the 2018 Farm bill. One of the items they are working on is the Food Stamp Program. Some type of reform is being considered. Another item is Crop Insurance. Currently producers pay 38 percent of the premium and the feds pay 62 percent. Likely there will be attempts to lower the federal portion of support. Another item may be trade policy. TPP has been canceled and there are calls to renegotiate the NAFTA agreement.