



**Farmers Coop**  
ASSOCIATION

JULY 2017



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

101 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► **VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE?**

If you are a person who likes variety in your life, the weather in June should have been great for you. The first 21 days posted above normal temps, little rainfall, and furnace-like drying winds. Then on the first day of summer, weather went September-like with cool temps and spotty rainfall.

The weather affected corn fields with slow growth and spotty stands especially in corn-on-corn fields. Areas of tipping over, rootless corn were observed from compaction at planting. However, fields with good stands saw the roots go deep for moisture and nutrients.

Bean fields, on the other hand, have been the poster child for What Can Go Wrong Agronomy 101. Fields planted early got caught with slow emergence because of the cool weather and water-logged soils. Instead of beans racing out of the ground fast, they sat in packed wet soils absorbing the pre-emergence chemicals before trying to break through the crusting soil. Then when post spraying started, many fields were sprayed in 90 degree weather and many plants are still recovering from the shock.

Three things we see that have worked well this spring are pre-emergence bean spraying, treating soybean seed with a fungicide, and a planter that puts the seed into moisture. APH's on many farms are going to be a challenge this year. You know beans are way behind when most 15 inch rows aren't closed in by July 1<sup>st</sup>!

In our service area, the best fields generally are northwest of a line from Thompson to Kiester. The farther south and east, because of more May moisture, we have problems! Some insured farmers are even talking about a visit from the Big White Combine (hail).

► **PUCKER UP!**

This local picture is of a farmer's soybean test plot. As you can see there are two strips that look rather healthy and the rest is puckered and stunted. No doubt the damage is from dicamba drift. The beans in the test plot that look good are dicamba resistant and the others are not.

Where did the drift come from? The plot is surround by CRP ground and the nearest corn field is 1800 feet away. That corn field WAS sprayed four weeks ago with dicamba but the puckering started only 12 days ago. The question is, did the damage come from the early spray or is it a new drift from a neighbor applying dicamba to his dicamba resistant beans?

Complaints in Missouri and Arkansas from dicamba drift on beans are way ahead of last year. Arkansas over the weekend banned the spraying of dicamba. Some farmers are actually planting dicamba beans first around the edges of their fields as a hedge against a neighbor's rogue drift problem. With beans below breakeven in price – the Golden Rule might be a good game plan?



► **FROM THE BACK OFFICE**

BY RANDY BROESDER

Corn movement has greatly picked up the pace and basis has gotten worse. Christensen Feed Mill only needs corn for September and the first half of October to get to new crop. They like new crop corn as pigs do better on newly harvested bushels. Forest City and Kiester have received more corn in June than the first five months of the year together. If we get any rally, corn basis will falter.

Beans on the other hand have very little movement in sales although basis has gotten a little better. I estimate there is now 30 to 35 percent of corn left to buy from farmers and 10 percent of beans.



Photo Credit: United Soybean Board

► **WRONG!**

One of our customers encountered engine trouble in his 2017 diesel truck. He pulled into a dealership and was asked if he used ag diesel DEF or over the road DEF as two exhaust sensors had failed. We went up the chain of command of our DEF suppliers and ALL stated DEF was DEF – there is no difference. Sounds like the same mechanics who said ethanol was bad for your engine after you've driven it 200,000 miles!

► **TRUE STORY**

A local farmer was dismayed why he only got half an inch in the rain gauge when next door neighbors on both sides were constantly dumping an inch or more all summer long. He was getting depressed and thought the Good Lord was telling him something until one of the neighbors told him to look closely at his rain gauge. What he found was a hole on the back side of the glass the size of a dentist bit at the one half inch level! True story!

**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



Diesel and gasoline are declining after crude oil had a bad week. Local winners of free fuel are [Kristi Feldman](#), [Andy Buffington](#), and [Trinity Olson](#) from Forest City and [Warren Oldfather](#) from Kiester. Our Pumpin it Back 2U designees are the [Winnebago Historical Society](#) and [Kiester Lions](#)!

## ▶LP SUMMER FILL

It's true for consumers the best deals are usually when no one has a need or is out of the market. Same goes for LP for home heat and fall drying. NOW, in the heat of the summer, is the time to call us. We have many ways to help you get the best deal including even monthly pay and quantity discounts. From the late maturity of the corn crop, dryers are going to be running this fall. Call our offices now for details!

## ▶UNDERWORKED RAIN GAUGE

Last month we chastised the Farmer's Almanac for blowing their May forecast for higher than normal temps and much less normal rainfall. To their credit they saw something coming in May which actually came true in June and for most of the month!! They were right BUT only were two weeks off. Their forecast was made early 2016 fall – not bad for eight months ago!

June 1 - June 27 Totals	Inches
Forest City	2.94
Leland	2.09
Kiester	2.93
Buffalo Center	3.33
Winnebago	3.57

The rainfall has been so spotty a farmer put his double barrel shot gun by the fence before going to town and when he returned a passing spotty shower had filled one barrel!

## ▶CONCERNING

There are certain signs in servicing agriculture that show a possible roadmap for the future. We all know the price of corn and beans are under the cost of producing them. Doing a windshield survey of the condition of crops at this stage leaves doubt in many farmers' minds of a profitable outcome. There are three things that control crop farming – prices, size of crop, and the banker. Right now there are signs in all three categories that we hope reverse before harvest or it's going to be a long winter.

## HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!



## ▶FROM THE FEED MILL

BY MITCH THORSON

The 101<sup>st</sup> year of Farmers Coop Association is coming to a close and we continue to do what the founding members of the Coop set out to do - provide quality products and services at a competitive price to our members. We take pride in working directly with producers who live and farm in our communities. In this age of getting bigger is better, consolidations, and location closings, we look forward to continuing in providing quality products, great service, and markets at a competitive price for feed, fuel, agronomy, and grain to our grassroots members. Thank you for your business. We are looking forward to working with you in the future.

**Congratulations and good luck to all our 4-H and FFA members as they exhibit their projects at their county and state fairs. Hope all have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and fair season.**

## ▶SUMMER CELEBRATION AND TRADE POLICY

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

A sure sign of summer is all the gathering of friends and family at the various town celebrations in our local communities. Kiester Days was celebrated with Farmers Coop sponsoring the Community Picnic which was enjoyed by members of the community and customers from the area. We plan to be involved in many of the area parades as our local communities celebrate.

Crops are progressing quite well in our area. As a whole, they are looking good as compared to some other areas nearby. We still have some critical times for crop development before harvest. The markets are still depressed with the burden of large supplies from our nationwide record harvest the last few years.

Recently US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue met with his counterparts from Mexico and Canada to begin renegotiation of NAFTA. The original agreement was implemented in 1990. Behind China, Mexico and Canada are the second and third largest buyers of US farm goods. Agricultural trade goods worth \$91.6 billion were sold to one another last year. Mexico is the United States' largest customer of corn and dairy products. The US is Canada's largest customer of beef and pork and also buys two-thirds of Canada's canola oil. As interrelated as the three countries' ag sectors are, it is time to review the original agreement after a quarter century.

## ▶WHAT WOULD GRANDPA THINK?

It never fails that when there isn't a profit in corn and bean production, equipment companies release their new products as to add insult to injury. John Deere just announced their new combines will automatically adjust the inside of the machine on the go to put the best sample in the bin. Cameras will be in the clean grain and tailing augers for operators to view. Case IH last summer released a driverless tractor run by computers. Pull into an 80 acres with tractor and ripper in the evening, set the computer and wake up in the morning and the tractor is shut down waiting for the next farm! One hundred years ago farm work quit when the horses got tired – today it's when the satellite or computer goes off line!

## ▶GREEN TO GOLD AND YOU

BY JAMIE JONES

Over the past few months, the FCA Agronomy team has been diligently bringing together a top of the line precision management program for our patrons. From soil sampling to aerial imagery and fertilizer/nitrogen/nitrogen prescriptions – Green to Gold has everything you need to take your yield goals to the next level.



Here are a few highlights of the program:

- **Soil Sampling** – the evolution of grid sampling has advanced into zone sampling which utilizes soil types, organic matter, topography, draining class, etc. to create zones in which samples are taken. From there prescription fertilizer, seed, and variable rate nitrogen recommendations are developed.
- **Seed Prescriptions** – Green to Gold allows for proper positioning of hybrids throughout the field to capitalize your return on investment.
- **Variable Rate Nitrogen** – prescriptions are customized to your field to place nitrogen at the right place, right time, and right rate.
- **Aerial Imagery** – using drones with multi-spectrum cameras (NDVI, thermal, and RGB) we are able to collect data on plant health, drainage, problematic areas, and patterns throughout the field.
- **ProfitLink** – an industry leading data analysis software that analyzes multiple layers of information. This tool summarizes and analyzes harvest data along with benchmarking profitability, comparing hybrids, and on farm trials all in one spot.

**We are excited to share Green to Gold with you!**