



Farmers Coop
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2017



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

101 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

▶ TALE OF TWO SEASONS

The spring of 2017 will be remembered as a split season literally of both corn and soybeans. The corn season started in mid-April and then was abruptly stopped by a cold and wet 10 days. Around May 1, the vast majority of corn was finished followed by farmers going to beans. Then on Tuesday, May 16, Mother Nature rolled in with thunderstorms chasing farmers from the fields for two weeks. As we write this, the last fields are finally being planted, putting an end to the long, stretched out season of nearly 45 days.

The radical weather is now showing signs of effects on area crops. It's been many years since corn has been this small on June 1. Bean fields are showing signs of poor emergence due to crusting of the soils to the point where cotyledons cannot push through the soil. Hopefully a nice gentle rain combined with heat would be the biggest help right now.



Photo Credit: United Soybean Board

▶ AND THE VERDICT IS...

Last month, we addressed the two theories of early spring planting. The first theory is planting when field conditions are right no matter the calendar. The second is holding off if rain and chilling temperatures were forecasted. Now, 30 days later, in our area most farmers are going to say if the field conditions are right – plant!! Frigid temperatures and cold rains for extended periods of time after the corn was planted in April showed almost nothing in replanting issues. The genetics of today's corn to withstand extremes never ceases to amaze many farmers.

▶ SMOKIN' LP SALES

Meat on the grill wasn't the only thing that was smoking last month! It has to be a record, and our livestock producers have to love the fact, last month we filled no less than 448 LP barbeque bottles!! Every time our employees came to the offices someone wanted their tank filled! That amounts to an average of two tanks per hour while we were open!! No wonder our pork, beef, and chicken producers are smiling and hopeful for a comeback in the markets!

▶ OFFICIAL NOTICE

For years local famers northeast of Forest City have kept an eye on a hayfield run by Larry Alne of our Farmers Coop Association Kiester Agronomy Center. Whenever Larry mows his hay, it is a very reliable sign it is going to rain shortly – predicted or not. Crop observers have now noticed Larry plowed under 50 percent of his field and planted oats. Does this mean Larry's rainmaker field will now only be 50 percent correct?? Stay tuned!

▶ NITROGEN LOSSES

With the larger than usual rainfall for May, many farmers are wondering about the nitrogen that might be lost because of leaching. The saving grace is, although the rain gauge was very active, the temperature continued cool for the month. If temps would have been in the 80s there would be nitrogen losses with hot and damp saturated soils perfect for denitrification.

▶ FROM THE BACK OFFICE

BY RANDY BROESDER

The Maytag man has nothing on our grain offices, as last month corn and bean sales made us some of the loneliest people in town! We have roughly 10 percent of 2016 beans left to be marketed and a whopping 40 percent of corn. Grain in farmers' hands will not move the market and a 15 cent trading range in May proves it! Worse yet is new crop sales showing only 5 percent of 2017 projected corn to be harvested contracted. Soybean sales fared better being up 25 percent over the averages.

Some positive news concerns oats which made new highs this week. Oats have been a leader of other grains in the past. The corn futures are heavily sold and any concern on production could spark a rally of 20 to 40 cents.

This is the last month of our 101st fiscal year. Profits and payback will be down this year because of margins and slow farm economy. One area for your attention is farm or home LP as we are now under \$1.00 per gallon. I doubt it will get any cheaper than what it is right now.

Thank you for your business – let us know how we can serve you and check out our website as it is loaded with market and weather information!



Happy Father's Day!

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



Fuel prices are on a stable course right now. Our \$10 free fuel winners are **Chelsey Faber, La Vurne Josten, and Dr. Gene Fjeld** in Forest City and **Lori Olson** in Kiester. Pumping it Back 2U designees for June are **Relay for Life and Kiester Farming of Yesteryear!** Our \$10 winners are selected by computer each month telling us who pumped the winning gallons.

►RAIN

Last month, Farmer's Almanac had a dream forecast for May with below average rain fall and above average temps. What actually occurred is almost totally opposite with rainfall near 20 percent above normal and sweatshirt temperatures for most of the month. We are fortunate that in our sales territory very few drow out areas have occurred although many wet side hills have reduced stands. June is the highest month for rainfall of all 12 months.

May Totals	Inches
Forest City	4.96
Leland	5.11
Kiester	4.49
Buffalo Center	5.28
Winnebago	4.21

Celebrate June Dairy Month!



►WARNING - BE CAREFUL

Today's herbicides require your fully undivided attention when it comes to usage. Two areas of concern are soil type and the other is rotational restrictions for next year's crops. Be sure to contact our agronomy personnel to make sure you are not doubling up for carry over potential for 2018. There are enough challenges in producing a profit in grain these days!! When in doubt – give us a call please!!



Photo Credit: United Soybean Board

►WATCHING FOR MYCOTOXINS

BY MITCH THORSON

Since the harvest of 2016 crops and with the guidance of Hubbard Feeds, along with their parent company Alltech, we have stepped up our testing of incoming feedstuffs for mycotoxins. Alltech is a world leader in animal health and production systems and developed a Mycotoxin Management Program.

The first four months we were involved in the program we established a baseline of types and levels of mycotoxins. Results shows a low to moderate risk for one mycotoxin group for the feedstuffs from our area. We are pleased to see good results compared to other areas especially the further east where higher levels and types are being reported.

In our Hubbard complete feeds and basemixes we already had a comfortable level of mycotoxin binders for finishing pigs. However for starting and nursery pigs we felt incorporating higher levels would be cost effective adding only \$.12 per pig. We will continue to work with Alltech on a routine basis monitoring mycotoxin levels and also are working with them on developing a quicker testing procedure.



►101 YEARS OF COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

A year ago we were preparing to celebrate our 100th anniversary as a farmer owned cooperative. Farmers Coop Association was formed to focus on the benefits of a cooperative. Farm cooperatives exist for the members. A cooperative allows individual members to benefit from the coop's purchasing, processing, and marketing of grains produced by members as well as the inputs and services needed to produce and market their production. Member shareholders have the opportunity to share in the profits generated by your local coop through dividends returned for your patronage.

Members elect a board of directors to represent you in guiding the cooperative forward. We are a cooperative with about 600 class A members and 1200 class B members.

Farmers Coop Association is a customer and community focused company. Our strengths are in the customer services we provide in grain, feed, agronomy, seed, and fuel. Many of our employees volunteer in our communities through involvement in fire departments, ambulance services, church, school, or other activities that benefit our communities.

Thank you for your patronage and have a productive and enjoyable summer.

►SUPPLEMENTAL NITROGEN IN-SEASON

BY JAMIE JONES

When making a nitrogen recommendation, there are several factors that play into this decision – yield goal, soil type, growth stage, and environmental factors (mainly rain). Another factor is split applying nitrogen – more specifically, fine-tuning that application timing to achieve optimal results.

Ideal timing for applying supplemental nitrogen should occur before the grand growth phase, otherwise known as the great uptake. This begins around V5 and continues to the tassel stage which means the corn plant utilizes a majority of its nitrogen during this time. Sidedressing or topdressing nitrogen between V5-V8 is optimal because it gives the nitrogen enough time to move down through the soil profile into the root zone for uptake. The great uptake will be upon us shortly so now is the time to begin planning.

If you're wondering if sidedressing UAN or topdressing urea is a viable option for you this summer, talk with your FCA Agronomy Account Manager. We can also assess your crop needs using NDVI drone imagery, crop scouting, tissue sampling, and more.

