



Farmers Coop
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2017

Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

101 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

▶ PEACE OF MIND

There are many things in life today which are challenging but consider that we don't have the forest fires of the west nor do we have the drought of the Dakotas. The two monster hurricanes with 100+ mph winds left property in the south destroyed, flooded, and without electricity and all we received was August weather in September. When we think life is difficult, all we have to do is look elsewhere and we realize our little spot of the world isn't so bad after all! Have a safe harvest!

▶ HARVEST HOPE VII

This is the seventh year we have sponsored Harvest Hope to allow you, with your bounty of grain, to help others. Donating grain off the combine to non-profit organizations is not only smart but efficient. This year, at your command, we will sell your grain and make a check on your behalf to the charity.

This year we have a new consideration for your giving, especially those in the Forest City area. There are a number of children in school systems whose parent or parents, because of circumstances of emergencies or just bad luck, fall behind in their payment of school lunches. The schools try to recover those costs but sometimes it is futile. This year, our Coop is encouraging donations to help pay for children's school meals that have fallen behind.

However, in order for a parent to receive this financial benefit, they will be required to attend a group meeting where a financial advisor will brief attendees on ways to handle finances to the best of their abilities. The school will invite them and then, if they attend, their children's lunch debt will be reduced or fully paid according to the total amount the Coop receives. When you can help a child for a problem they didn't cause while helping a parent do a better job, it's a good thing for everyone.

You can also tag any favorite organization like Food Bank, church, Relay for Life, etc. for your gift but all undesignated received funds will go to help families who are having a difficult time with school lunches. Help us help them!

▶ SYNGENTA SETTLED

A class action lawsuit has been settled against Syngenta Seed Company who released seed corn for commercial production before it was approved in the world export market. When China flatly rejected their special bred corn, the markets dropped, hurting farm incomes. Over 100,000 farmers took issue of Syngenta's move in a lawsuit and now the settlement is reported to be around \$1.4 billion. Of course that's before the lawyers get paid for their services.

▶ LELAND IS OPEN

Our thanks to each of you who attended our Leland Grain Complex open house. We are on the fast track to bring it online for the first loads of harvest. Our hours will be 7:30 am to 5:00 pm or as posted during harvest. Rainy periods or Sundays, please call ahead so there are no surprises. The phone number is 641-567-3010 and the fax number is 641-567-3012.

▶ THANK YOU GENTLEMEN!

We want to say thank you to Lynn Hagenson and Don Reese for their 15 years of service each on our Board of Directors. Farmers Coop has really changed in the past years to position our organization to better serve and prosper for our farmers through our collective efforts. Lots of meetings, responsibilities, and probably some sleepless nights but their efforts have put us in a competitive stance for our future!

▶ LISTEN TO THE RADIO

"It's all about the bacon" is the sound you want to hear in the next three weeks for free pork! Starting this week on 107.3 KLOW we will be teaming with other businesses to promote pork. Monday through Friday, KLOW will play a "sounder" to which the designated caller will identify the song playing, or its artist. If they get one right, they will receive a \$10 pork certificate. They will also be asked what their favorite pork entrée is. America's pork is considered World Class. Listen and win! Sponsored by Hubbard Feeds, Hormel Foods, Schmidt Trucking, and KLOW.

▶ BEER STOP?

If you need a new place to fill up with top quality fuel 24 hours a day at great prices, we invite you to try our cardtrols. We don't have cold beer, candy, pizza or chocolate donuts but we have fuel that delivers the goods to make your vehicle perform to its best. Stop in and see how you can save 5¢ off the posted prices on the marquee!

▶ BOOTS ON THE GROUND

We have some farmers who have been out cutting six inch sections of individual corn stalks to see how much nitrogen is left in the plant at maturity. By doing this, they know if their nitrogen program is too much or too little, adjusting for coming years. Reports are this year's stalks are in very strong condition in our area which makes for a very good dry down!

Farmers also are amazed how short bean plants of late June, followed by two weeks of 90 degree weather without rain, grew to the height they are today. Reports are both crops will be at least 10 percent below last year's bumper crop yields. Last year in September, we received almost 10 inches of rain – normal is 3.5 inches.

▶ HELP WANTED

Farmers Coop Association is looking for part-time tender truck drivers. Please contact Randy at the Forest City office to apply.

FOREST CITY

Address: 406 East K Street
Phone: 641-585-2814 or
800-483-6832
Fax: 641-585-2052

LELAND FEED MILL

Address: 609 B Street
Phone: 641-567-3341 or
888-676-7439
Fax: 641-567-3380

LELAND GRAIN

Address: 222 West Broadway
Phone: 641-567-3010
Fax: 641-567-3012

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



The price of corn you receive is a supply/demand market. In order to reduce supply to raise the price is the reason every farmer and those who support agriculture should be using E-85 if they have a yellow gas cap on their vehicle. Crop prices are below breakeven – which affects everything from Main Street to the state capitol in tax revenue. Winners of free fuel are **Chris and Dana Jones, Eric Kingland, and Debra Levad** from Forest City and **Jonathan Huper** from Kiester. Pumpin It Back 2U recipients in October are **Mosaic** in Forest City and the **Kiester Library**.

▶101ST ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting last month was one of the largest attended in years. Coop financial statement many times mirrors what is happening on local farms. When farm incomes go down, so does the Coop. Average price bought by our Coop was \$3.49 for corn and \$9.24 for beans. Average sales price for gas was \$2.12 per gallon, \$1.88 for farm diesel, and \$.98 for LP. Of the total corn sold to Christensen Mills, 58 percent of the volume came from our Coop members. We also will be passing back a tax credit to those who sold corn to our Coop in the past year to help those who might have made a profit last year!

▶199 DEDUCTION

The 199 deduction is a tax deduction earned by the Coop on grain purchases. We cannot use the deduction this year so we are going to pass it back to our members on Forest City, Leland, and Kiester grain we purchased. We are also going to pass it on the bushels purchased from farmers for Christensen Farms. You will want to check with your tax advisor on how this credit will affect you. This deduction cannot be carried forward. We will send notification letters in November so you know your credit.

▶NEW BOARD OFFICERS

President - Tom Meyer

Vice President - Ben Dontje

Secretary - Jeff Chose

New members of the Farmers Coop Board elected at our Annual Meeting are Scott Anderson and Josh Murra.

▶CHRISTENSEN FARMS GOOD TO GO THIS HARVEST

We got the go ahead this week to fill the bin at Christensen Farms site that is leaning. Hopefully harvest gets in full swing soon. Pick up grain policies at each grain location. We anticipate good crops in our area from the first acres harvested. The basis will continue to get wider as harvest progresses.

▶BOOK NOW, PAY LATER

BY JAMIE JONES

Book your seed today with NO payment until March 15, 2018, AND receive full discounts!

How It Works:

- Book top yielding varieties
- Receive full cash, volume, and early pay discounts
- Applies to all FCA seed brands
- Mix-and-match corn and beans from all brands
- Payment in full due March 15, 2018



▶ANOTHER HARVEST TIME

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

It is that time of year with combines in the fields harvesting what farmers have produced. Many discussions have been held throughout the summer about the state of the crop and how much it will yield. Soon these questions will be answered as harvest progresses. Some of the early reports for other areas have been varied. Some areas are reporting better than expected yields while some of the dryer areas are reporting lower yields. Unfortunately prices remain depressed. Any improvement will likely be tied to how large the crop really is.

President Trump has recently presented his tax plan to congress. Lower tax rates are proposed for the taxpayer. Another key part of the proposal is a review of estate taxes. With this lowering of tax rates, some deductions which have been used may be taken away or changed in some manner. This might cause some taxpayers to pay more in taxes than in previous years. Time will tell what Congress does or if it is able to come up with one.

We will all be working extended hours. Make sure to take a couple seconds to think about what you will be doing before you start your task. Plan what you are going to do and do it safely. Many accidents happen because we decide to take a shortcut, "Just this one time."

Cell phones have become an important tool in our personal and business life. Be aware they are distracting. We have all heard the dangers of texting and driving. With that thought, I would ask that customers refrain from using cell phones as you enter the scale and dump pit area to ensure the safety of you and our employees.

Have a safe and productive harvest.

▶CELEBRATING PORK PRODUCTION

BY MITCH THORSON

October is Pork Month! We salute our pork producers for their hard work and supplying us - and the world - with hams, chops, bacon, and other pork products for our dinner tables. Pork exports have increased to 27 percent of the total U.S. production with Mexico, Japan, Korea, and China/Hong Kong being where the majority of our products are exported.



In the first half of this year compared to 2016, volume of pork products to Mexico and South Korea has increased 19 percent and 31 percent respectively, whereas Japan and China decreased slightly. Value of pork products to all of these counties increased 12 percent compared to the first six months of 2016. This is good news in the light of the recent and traditional price drop in August – September. Without this kind of export performance prices would've dropped even further.

As of this writing, the Quarterly Hogs & Pigs report is yet to come out. Hopefully inventories and farrowing intentions don't show too much expansion. With added packing capacity slowly coming online, which should be creating a little competition for hogs, and continued strong exports producers current red ink will turn to black in the near future. As with all farming enterprises, pork prices are cyclical and hopefully with the positives in the industry this downturn is short lived. Hope all have a safe and bountiful harvest season.