



**Farmers Coop**  
ASSOCIATION

Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

100 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

## ▶ FALL PETROLEUM NEWS

BY RANDY BROESDER

The large, wet crop brought in this fall created heavy demand for propane. Our sales are up 55 percent over one year ago. One evening this fall, we ran out of propane and for a period of one week, we ran nip and tuck with our supply. We appreciate our customers understanding through this challenging time.

There was good news as well. We had access to a better supply of propane this fall than past high-demand seasons. We were able to pull all of our needs from Clear Lake so there was no need to travel great distances to get product as we have in the past.

The price spread between conventional fuel and E-85 has continued to be wide this fall. As a result, sales of E-85 have about doubled. We recommend you continue to watch the price spread and make your fuel decisions accordingly.

**Thanks for your business this fall and always. We wish you a blessed and happy holiday season.**

## ▶ IT'S OVER!

Most of you, reading this letter and looking at your statement, are probably in a state of shock as you see what it cost to harvest this fall. Big, wet crops require drying and when temperatures are below freezing run up the cost at the speed of light. It doesn't matter if corn was farm dried or in our facilities, the cost is substantial. Adding insult to injury, the big crops of the last two years have drained the fertility bank on many farms causing fertilizer bills to also rise for 2018 crops. All this is compounded by the fact market prices for corn and beans are at "Black Friday" levels below the cost of production. Markets have a tendency to bottom when everybody is most bearish – we've got to be real close by what we see and hear!

## ▶ WHAT SMELLS?

The harvest season produced some difficult corn drying conditions. Some say it was cold temperatures and others say the late frost affected the process. Most corn we received never went below 17.5 percent all season. In years when corn has experienced these conditions, it has a tendency to create storage problems. **In other words, keep an eye on your farm stored grain for any changes!**

## ▶ HARVEST HOPE

Because of the late harvest, we are extending receiving your donations to our 2017 Harvest Hope program until December 10th. There are so many great local organizations enriching our lives and we encourage you to support them. Organizations like Food Bank, Relay for Life, Toys for the Needy and don't forget your church! If your heart is telling you to donate grain, chances are you won't miss those bushels when it comes time to market them. Blessings need to be shared!!

## ▶ FARMERS COOP ASSOCIATION TEST PLOT

**Forest City Corn Plot** Planted: May 15, 2017 | Harvested: November 8, 2017

Rank	Brand	Variety	Moisture	Yield
1	Kruger	K4R-9802	20.8	244.4
2	Kruger	K4R-9901	19.5	243.8
3	LG	5505STX	18.8	242.9
4	Cornelius	C324SS-RIB	18.5	242.2
5	LG	5494VT2PRO	18.7	242.2

## ▶ ARE YOU SERIOUS?



It's almost like a bad dream when you read in the latest **Farm Journal** they have two test years of rolling beans after the crop emerges from V1 to V3 growth stages. They experimented running a heavy packer over newly emerged beans and discovered it increased final yields by 2.4 bushels on 10 Illinois fields. The tests were using various tillage options including vertical till, no-till, and conventional. Bean rolling usually is good for pushing rocks down and a smoother field for combining but this is a new one. Best not to have the banker present if you try this!!

## ▶ BRING IT ON!

Rabobank offered its agricultural update and they are predicting corn is the most bullish commodity for 2018. They say world demand, La Nina, freight rates, and reduced acres both in America and South America will cause corn prices to spend more time above \$4.00 than in the last two years. They also predict hog prices are the second most bullish for 2018. We are only the messenger on this so no phone calls please!

## ▶ YOUR YEAR END GIFT

When you prepay \$5000 in expenses – or complete a cash transaction of \$5000 or more – by December 31, 2017, Farmers Coop Association will reward you with a \$50 gift certificate able to be used where you choose. Limit one. It's our way of saying thanks!

## ▶ OUR HOLIDAY HOURS

**Farmers Coop Association will be closed December 25 and January 1 as staff enjoys the holidays with family and friends.**

### 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



Someone wondered the other day what the price of corn would be without ethanol. It's very important for America to support this fuel of nearly 30 years and it starts at our pumps. Winners of free fuel from Forest City are **DL Family Farms**, **Leslie Grothe**, and **Chris and Dana Jones**. Our Kiester free fuel winners are **Mike and Deb Wigern**. Pumpin It Back 2U recipients for December are **Forest City Fine Arts** and **Kiester Food Shelf**. Also, we have been alerted Santa will be putting some Christmas cheer in the prices at the pumps Christmas weekend!!

## ▶ PUMPIN IT BACK 2U

We are sorry to announce that after seven years we will be retiring our Pumpin It Back 2U cardtrol program. However, we are happy that over \$100,000 has been given to many local non-profit organizations from your Coop over those years, bettering our communities.

## ▶ TAX LOSS DEDUCTION



As you wrap up yearend tax planning, remember if you sold us corn during the last fiscal year which ended June 30, 2017, you will be receiving a pass through tax loss deduction from our Coop. This deduction goes to those who sold corn to our Forest City, Kiester, and Christensen Mill locations. This is the first year we have done this and possibly the last if the new proposed tax legislation goes through in Washington.

## ▶ RETIREMENTS

At the end of this month, we will be missing two veteran, well-liked employees. Mike Krukow with 24 years of service and Larry Alne with nine years will be retiring. Both of them have seen many changes over the years in technology. Between the two of them they have been on most of the acres our Coop serves. (They also know where every wet hole is on your farm.) Both men have been professional in their service, hardworking, honest, and carry a high degree of respect with our customer base. Thank you Mike and Larry for your friendship and service!! It's been a good ride!

## WINTER PROJECTS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS BY MITCH THORSON

With us finally getting Indian summer, it's hard to believe it's the first of December. This weather has allowed producers to finish up harvest, clean up and store equipment, bale cornstalks and get pits emptied and manure hauled in a sweatshirt rather than the Carhartts. Now would be a good time to add pit treatments. The Coop has several good products that stabilize nitrogen and phosphorus and help reduce sludge which will add pit capacity and reduce crusting on top which will reduce fly populations. A fall and spring treatment of **More Than Manure** or **Bioverse Agra Sphere** are recommended.

Cow/calf producers are encouraged to keep monitoring cows' condition. We are entering the third trimester for those calving in February-March. This is when 70 percent of fetal growth is observed. Third trimester cows should be on a diet that is at least 9 percent crude protein, up from 7 percent recommended in the middle of gestation. Depending on roughages available, protein supplements might be needed. Vitamin and mineral supplementation with proper ratios of trace minerals are also advised. A lot of research has shown that "fetal programing" occurs by what is fed to the mother cow. That means calves out of cows that have been adequately fed a balanced diet will outperform calves from mothers that are fed a lower plane of nutrition or unbalanced diets.

We have made it through the Thanksgiving holiday in good shape and would like to thank our customers for their timely feed ordering. As we approach the Christmas and New Year holidays, we look for your continued timely feed ordering at our mills. We will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Days. We ask for as much lead time as possible especially during these short weeks. Hope all have a blessed holiday season and look forward continuing to serving our customers in the new year.

## ▶ WINTER HEATING SAFETY

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

Harvest is wrapping up and the holiday season is upon us. This time of year brings colder weather and a need to heat our homes. Many of you heat your homes and outbuildings with propane. Here are a few tips to stay warm and safe this winter.

### Know the smell:

Propane has a strong unpleasant smell similar to rotten eggs. Propane is odorless but an odorant is added to alert customers of leaks.

### Don't run on empty:

Keep your tank at least 20 percent full. Running low can cause a number of problems, including outages and pilot light going out. We offer a keep full service to ensure your tank doesn't run low.

### Install detectors:

Install a carbon monoxide and gas detector. Carbon monoxide is produced when fuel is burned. Carbon monoxide is odorless and tasteless. Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms include headache, dizziness, fatigue, and nausea. Have your furnace checked if you experience these symptoms.

### What you should do if you smell a leak.

Do

- Leave area immediately. Get out of building where you suspect gas leak.
- Shut off the gas. Turn off gas supply at tank if it is safe to do so. Close valve by turning to the right.
- Report the leak. From your cell or a neighbor's phone, call you propane supplier.
- Get your system checked. Have your system tested to be sure it is leak free.

Don't

- Create flames or sparks. Do not operate lights, appliances or phones.
- Return to area or building. Remain away from area until it is determined to be safe.

**Happy Holidays!**

## THE FALL THAT NEVER ENDS! THANK GOODNESS! BY RANDY MAIN

I would have to say this fall was one of the first I feel started and stopped four to five times. Just when we thought the weather was going to close in we would get a shot of good weather. Thank goodness for that. We are still spreading dry fertilizer which is adding to a very good fall for us on dry fertilizer spreading and sales. Thank all of you for your business. As we transition through fall to spring, we will have a few changes in personnel within FCA. Mike Krukow and Larry Alne will be retiring this month. We truly appreciate the years they have worked with FCA and wish them a great retirement.

We did have a great harvest with yields being well above average. This was definitely reflected in our test plots. Please check out yield results in one of our offices. We will try to post these results on the website as well. Also, ask about our **Book Now** and **Pay Later** program. This allows you to book this month's discount without having to pay until March 15, 2018.

As we finish this fall's fertilizer spreading. I can't say enough about the employees who work here. They have gone above and beyond to service our customers and they definitely deserve a round of applause. **Thank you for your business.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**