



Farmers Coop
ASSOCIATION

JULY 2018

Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

103 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► **DOWN THE RIVER**

It's been a very frustrating year for our farmers, coop, construction, and all those who need good weather to do their jobs. Unfortunately, "Mother Nature Gone Wild" keeps pounding away at those who need her cooperation most. Most people see flood waters going down the river but many in agriculture are seeing a whole lot more being washed away with the 18 inches of rain, hail, and winds of the past 60 days.

Weather isn't the only disappointment. Farmers are seeing pressure on their prices from the government putting farmers on the front line of a trade and tariff war. The results have been a \$2.00 drop in soybean prices and \$.70 in corn. Beans were at \$10 when the talk of a 25 percent tariff began and now they are at \$8.00 per bushel which is a blue light special to all world users complements of our farmers' balance sheets. Double down the uncertainty of NAFTA, TPP, and a new Farm Bill and farmers have every right to be skeptical. The words of "We Got Your Back" and "Farmers Are Patriots" need to be more than words from Washington as cash rents for 2019 are already being discussed.

► **FROM THE BACK DESK**

BY RANDY BROESDER

For those who still have crops to sell or contract, here is our current status. Almost all 2017 soybeans are sold and about 30 percent of 2018 is contracted. We still have about 30 to 35 percent of 2017 corn to come to town and about 15 percent of 2018 corn is contracted. Many years the markets have a trend change around the 4th of July and with the July 6 tariff deadline, fireworks could develop. There are many signals that if you are a user of corn the time to get serious is close at hand. Also remember, price later contracts of past years put the cash low in the market late August-September. Demand for corn is excellent with all livestock sectors in growth mode and exports good. On the other hand, soybean prices are all dependent on Trump, trade, and tariffs. The fasten seatbelt sign is on!

► **SPRAYING OPTIONS**

BY RANDY MAIN



As we finish the month of June without getting all corn and soybeans sprayed, a number of issues arise concerning label dates. Most corn herbicides are off label today. This is because they should not be sprayed over the top of the corn – this goes for most herbicides including glyphosates. FCA recommends using drops if corn spraying is still needed going forward. Another option is to wait until brown silk and hit the field with 2,4-D. If you are wondering what specific options will work best for your operation, please contact your FCA Agronomy Account Manager.

When it comes to soybeans, there are a few more options compared to corn at this time of the season such as Cobra, Ultra Blazer, Extreme, Glyphosate, and Liberty. Some of these products may cause cosmetic burn on soybeans but will do a decent job killing weeds. A quart of glyphosate is always recommended with these on RR beans or a quart of Liberty on Liberty beans. For residual effect, add products like Outlook or Dual to the mix. It is not recommended to apply Flexstar products after July 10 due to carry over concerns. If you have any questions please contact your FCA Agronomy Account Manager for specific details.

The crew at FCA thanks you for your business and wish you a great summer ahead.

► **JOHN DEERE FIELDS**

Driving through the country, windshield surveys are finding a lot of green and yellow fields. The rainfall is causing field nitrogen to travel downward in the soil with each event. Corn roots are near the surface, missing that nitrogen, causing yellowing, especially on corn-on-corn ground. Many are conservatively saying with the late spring, mudding in the crop, soil saturation, and now large drown outs, conditions could cause a reduction of 20 percent in final yields. The past years, with 200 bushel per acre corn, have kept farmers in the game even with low prices. But if low yields are harvested here locally and big yields are harvested nationwide, low prices could continue. Not good for the home team.



► **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Puckerbrush Days **July 19-21**
- Winnebago County Fair **July 19-22**
- Hancock County Fair **July 24-29**
- Fairbault County Fair **July 25-28**

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**



Thank you to all those who stopped in at our 25th celebration in Forest City. We exceeded our guesstimate for gallons pumped by over 1000 gallons! We pumped a total of 5413 gallons for our customers and we handed out \$1185 in quarters!

Unleaded	312 gallons
E10	3890 gallons
Diesel	900 gallons
E85	311 gallons

It was nice to meet some of you in person and put a face with the transactions at the pumps!

Winners of the \$25 in free fuel drawing on our anniversary are **Byron Schultz, Gene Fjeld, Barb Ludwig, and Dana Oudekerk.**

Winners of the \$50 free fuel drawing were **Karen Zellmer and Marcia Tweeten.** Congratulations!

Winner of \$10 free fuel this month in Kiester is **Dale Garvik.**

Also, if it works for you, be sure to put your checks in the door slot at the control shed. We check it every day!

► **CONSTRUCTION ZONE**

We wanted to share our Leland project with you. It has been delayed too much by weather. Two out of the six bins are up. One picture is the foundation of the new dump pit and the other is an excavator trying to keep ahead of the ground water which, so far, is in our favor!



► **STRUGGLING WITH WEATHER AND TRADE** *BY MITCH THORSON*



With all the extreme weather events along with chaotic and unpredictable markets, I've heard a lot of comments such as, "I'm so tired (sick) of this," and "I wish things would get back to normal," or "I can't wait for this year to be over." As far as the weather, those comments are usually followed up with, "But what do you do?"

I'm not sure what normal is and I certainly don't want time to speed up any more than what it is. But the markets are equally concerning. Tariff threats, trade barriers, and lack of good trade agreements have hindered hog, cattle, and dairy prices. I just saw a report that said meat exports are suffering by not joining the TPP with beef exports declining 25 percent and pork exports down 35 percent, putting more product in cold storage and putting pressure on prices. These trade wars, threats, and lack of cooperation are things I can't wait to be over. On the plus side for livestock producers, feed prices have come down and possibly created an opportunity to lock in lower costs.

As of July 1, one of our feed truckdrivers, Keith Gatton, has retired from FCA. We wish Keith the best and thank him for his 13 years as part of the feed department team.

I hope you all have a safe 4th of July holiday.

► **HOW WET IS IT?**

We have noted some soybean fields so waterlogged the volunteer corn is even dying voluntarily without spraying!! Beans do not like wet feet and they are showing it. At Forest City in the past 60 days we have recorded 38 days with rain events totaling almost 20 inches. Mason City, Ames, and Des Moines have all had over 10 inches of rain in the past 30 days. Normal May-June rainfall is between eight and nine inches.

Rainfall	June 2018	June 2017	May - July 1
Forest City	13.34 inches	3.16 inches	19.68 inches
Leland	12.04 inches	2.62 inches	18.21 inches
Kiester	9.51 inches	3.64 inches	15.58 inches
Buffalo Center	7.76 inches	3.95 inches	13.30 inches

► **A CHALLENGING YEAR**

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON



It is hard to believe it is summer already. People are gathering with friends and family at home or the local town celebrations. Kiester Days was recently celebrated with Farmers Coop Association sponsoring the Community Picnic which enjoyed by members of the community and customers in the area. We plan to be involved in area parades as our local communities celebrate.

This year has been a challenging one for our area, as well as most of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Frequent rain events have delayed or prevented our producers from completing spring operations in a timely manner. Recently we have been subjected to localized thunderstorms which produced large rainfalls and some damaging winds and hail. Field operations have been done in less than ideal conditions. This has occurred locally, as other parts of the country have better crop conditions.

The two houses of Congress are still working on the new Farm bill as the present version will expire on September 30. The Senate has passed their version recently. The Farm Bill is an important piece of legislation that sets the "Eating and Farming Policy" for the United States. This policy includes: what Americans grow, what they know about their dinner, and how much the government will spend over the next five years. The Senate version does not include a work requirement for SNAP (Food Stamp) recipients. This differs from the House version which does include work requirements of up to 20 hours of work if able bodied and do not have children under the age of six. The two sides will need to come to an agreement to continue the Farm Bill.