



Farmers Coop
ASSOCIATION



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

103 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► **BATTLE ZONE**

If farming this spring was likened to a football game, a penalty flag would have been thrown at Mother Nature for “Piling On” of our farm customers. Not only the weather was against them but field conditions, breakdowns, stuck equipment, and plugged planters added to the stress led to the question of, “Is this ever going to end?” As we write this, the few remaining acres of beans are going in and farmers as well as your Coop are all glad to say, “It is Finished. We made it!!”

► **COVER CROPS**

Pick up any farm magazine or newspaper and cover crops are being highlighted as the coming trend. In our service area, some farmers are trying the concept but most are passing and watching others experiment. When asking farmers why they are hesitant to plant cover crops, they reply the extra cost of seed, fuel, labor, equipment and burn down of the crop are some of the reasons. Others say the fall growing season is too short to get good growth. Some are now reporting cover crops can harbor insects over the winter that could do damage to the next year’s crops.

► **FOOTNOTES**

- In the past five years, the first crop rating in May has never varied more than 5 percent from the final crop ratings in September as we have had good growing seasons. However in 2012, the first rating was 75 percent, much like this year, but went to 25 percent by the end of July when the rain shut off and you know where the price of crops went!!!
- The Drought Index ratings show a much larger footprint of Cornbelt areas “on the edge” of possible problems than this time last year.
- Seasonal tendencies show for the last 20+ years that years ending in even numbers, like this year, put in their lows in the winter and proceed upward to highs in the June-July area. Odd numbered years have track records to put highs in the spring and going downward into summer.
- If there is a summer drought, northern Iowa and southern Minnesota have one of the best chances in the Cornbelt to survive with our full soil moisture profile.

► **25 YEARS**

Twenty five years ago our Coop had an aging service station on 4th Street in Forest City and decided to go modern with a new concept called electronic 24 hour fueling. Property on Highway 69 was bought from John K. Hanson in 1992 and in 1993 we opened our current Cardtrol Fuel Center. We are going to celebrate 25 years on Friday, June 22 from 8 am to 5 pm. Hot dogs will be served starting at 10 am. Also, a quarter will be given for each gallon pumped that day with a limit of 20 gallons per customer!!



► **KIESTER DAYS - JUNE 21-24**

Farmers Coop Association will be hosting the meal on **Thursday, June 21** from 5 to 7 pm at the Kiester School during the celebration. Join us!

BAGO FUN FEST - June 15-17

Look for Farmers Coop in the Friday parade at 7:30 pm.

► **CORNSTALK FENCE**

Imagine 80 acres of newly planted and rolled soybeans and then imagine 65 mph winds in a storm. Now see the reality of what happened south of Ventura this past week!



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



If you drive a yellow fuel cap vehicle, put some extra money in your pocket by using E- 85 and saving over 70 cents a gallon. On a yellow cap pick-up that amounts to around \$20 dollars per fill! Winners of free fuel are **James and Kay Murphy, Lon and Lynn Hagen, and Tom Hadacek** in Forest City and **Eilertson Trucking LLC** in Kiester.

▶AGRONOMY REQUEST

With the varying sizes of area crops, timing of your spray and side-dress needs becomes paramount. Please contact us a couple of days in advance of your needs. With greenhouse growing conditions, it makes your timely orders all the more important. Thank You!

▶MEMBERSHIPS

Fiscal Year-End Memberships Due June 30!

▶CRAZY INSANE!

From the coldest April in history since 1895 and now to one of the top five hottest months of May shows why the next three months will be challenging. Plant in mud, crop's a dud but plant in dust and bins will bust!! We started planting with mud and ended with dust. Crazy insane!

▶CHECK THIS OUT!

A customer has discovered a weather forecasting service which is free and very detailed long range. It is posted every Monday and Thursday mornings by Eric Snodgrass who teaches meteorology and specializes in agriculture. Each update is from nine to 16 minutes duration – not a long time to invest bi-weekly considering the investment you have in crops and marketing. Go to agribile.com – you have to open an account which costs nothing. We think you will like how Eric explains the “big picture” and what is coming our way and why!!

▶JUNE DAIRY MONTH

BY MITCH THORSON



June is National Dairy Month and we salute our dairy producers for their hard work. Our area has seen the number of dairy producers dwindle to only a few left willing to put in the commitment of 24/7 milk production. Thanks to these producers for supplying milk, cheese and ice cream and being a valuable asset to the community. Cows produce on average seven to nine gallons of milk a day or 128 glasses at about 25 cents per glass. Thanks dairy producers!

Another fun fact relayed to me was by the age of 70 the average American will have eaten 14 cattle, 23 pigs and 12 sheep. I wasn't told how many chickens but would guess that number could be a hundred or so.

We welcome to the feed department Tollin Manwarren as a truck driver out of Leland. Tollin is a doing a real good job and is learning all the new delivery sites in the area.

The month of June we see county fairs starting with Worth County in the middle of the month. Good luck to our area youth with their livestock projects.



	May Rainfall	Days of Rainfall	Total April-May Rainfall
Forest City	6.51 inches	19	10.33 inches
Kiester	6.50 inches	20	10.04 inches
Buffalo Center	6.20 inches	22	9.59 inches
Winnebago	7.23 inches	15	10.25 inches

▶UNIQUE TIME IN HISTORY

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON



This spring has been a challenging one. Late April snows and frequent rain events have kept the soils in less than ideal conditions for timely planting. Some areas of the country are dry and needing rains. Could our weather trend be similar to 2006? The drought monitor looks slightly worse than in 2006. Why look at 2006? The last time the Twin Cities had highs in the 90s for the Memorial Day weekend was in 2006. Corn yields managed a 149.1 national average yield off from a trendline yield of 149, while beans averaged 42.7. Light El Nino arrived late summer of 2006 salvaging the bean crop in Iowa and the eastern belt. Long range weather models currently look for a similar late summer development of a mild El Nino.

Recently we saw December 18 corn make contract highs at \$4.295. The markets have seen, and likely will see, more volatility from weather and trade. The possible trade war has caused market movement. As we watch the news, it has been reported that agreements have been made. The next news story will report the imposing of more tariffs. This has made the trade nervous and is causing some of our market moves.

Now that planting is done, be sure to monitor your stored grain. Some producers are moving some higher moisture grain. As we all know, as temperatures rise, the shelf life of wetter grain shortens, making it more susceptible to damage. For example, the allowable storage time for 15 percent corn is about nine months at 60 degrees, five months at 70 degrees, and only three months at 80 degrees. Please keep an eye on the condition of your grain. We have free price later available if you wish to move grain.