



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

100 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► FROM THE BACK OFFICE

BY RANDY BROESDER

This spring is going to be one of the smallest working windows we have seen in a while. Please be patient as we will do the best job we can to get everything done. Your advance orders are paramount to being as efficient as possible in the coming weeks.

We are happy to announce our Leland grain bin expansion project. Before fall we will have six bins each holding 115,000 bushels in two rows off to the west with a 15,000 bushel per hour grain leg and dump pit that will take grain about as fast as you can unload it! We have pictures of the plan in Leland now.

Have a safe spring – we would rather talk with you than talk about you!!!

► DO YOU QUALIFY?

A recent study of farmers reported mental stress is caused by work load expectations, financial pressure, weather, and unreasonable goals. We would add one more – government.

You as a farmer, or family members, should be aware of six signs of severe stress:

1. Feeling unable to cope – anxiety
2. Lack of energy
3. Mood swings
4. Excessive worry about minor issues
5. Inability to concentrate
6. Changes in sleeping or eating patterns

The first step in managing stress and not letting stress manage you is acknowledging you are under stress. Once you have done that, then work on the stress-producing area. Maybe change the situation like letting the Coop spray for you, grind feed, or hire a neighbor to help plant. Manage what you can control - take breaks, eat well, exercise, and get your rest.

Thousands of farmers are under stress right now caused by what they cannot control. In a way our farm community is family – be aware and support each of those farm and farm related lives that are important to all of us!

► YOU ARE EXPOSED

It's reported over 7000 Iowa farmers took classes in order to legally spray Dicamba on beans this season. Not all are going to use the product as the timetable for spraying narrows down the window of opportunity. Regulations differ from state to state. Follow the instructions and be considerate of others!

► HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

To all the extraordinary, fearless, smart, caring, funny, and fierce mothers: nobody keeps the world spinning like you do. Thank you!



► ETHANOL IN CHINA

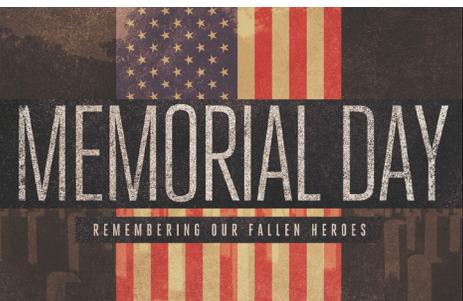
China is on record to be using 10 percent ethanol in ALL of its cars by 2020. Recent research shows ethanol reduces up to 50 percent of tailpipe emissions which would really help their environment. China currently produces around 2 billion gallons a year and will need access to close to 12 billion to meet their goals. America uses 15 billion gallons a year and will use much more if and when the 15 percent blend is introduced into the market nationwide.

► MAY BEEF MONTH



Farming is more than a business but a passion, especially with beef producers. In the recent 40 inches of snow, many newborn calves have come into the world and their survivability is dependent on mom's milk, dry shelter, and the care of local beef producer. We thank our beef producers for their excellent product and especially their dedication to their animals – it has truly shown in the past snowy month!!

► MEMORIAL DAY



We hope by Memorial Day weekend all crops are in so we can recognize and honor those who served and died for our country. It's the least we can do. Coop hours of operation that weekend will be based on need so keep in touch with your service center!

► HELD HOSTAGE

It's been reported area BBQ grills have been held hostage in local garages the past months not being able to escape. Well, our Coop is going to offer those LP grills and their owners an invitation to fire up with this May Beef Month LP Special!

All BBQ bottles will be filled for only \$10 this month!

It's time to break out for some delicious eating!! Light 'em up!!

<p>FOREST CITY Address: 406 East K Street Phone: 641-585-2814 or 800-483-6832 Fax: 641-585-2052</p>	<p>LELAND Address: 609 B Street Phone: 641-567-3341 or 888-676-7439 Fax: 641-567-3380</p>	<p>KIESTER Address: 100 West Front Street Phone: 507-294-3697 or 877-294-3697 Fax: 507-294-3540 Agronomy: 507-294-3427</p>	<p>WINNEBAGO Address: 601 6th Avenue SE Phone: 507-893-4800 Fax: 507-893-4305</p>	<p>BUFFALO CENTER Address: 6401 Highway 9 Phone: 641-561-2800 Fax: 641-561-2216</p>
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▶ DOWN AT THE CARDTROLS



Twenty five years ago next month, the Farmers Coop Association Board of Directors decided to go modern and close the Fourth Street fuel facilities in Forest City and construct our present Cardtrol Complex. Next month we are going to celebrate that accomplishment – stay tuned!

Winners of free fuel in Forest City are [Judy Boekelman](#), [James and Linda Anderson](#), [Trinity Olson](#) and [Eilertson Trucking, LLC](#) in Kiester!

▶ THROW AWAY THE CALENDAR

No matter what the calendar says about planting dates, the basics of heat, moisture, and ground conditions will trump the calendar when it comes to crop development. A study examined the history of the coldest Apriils on crop yields going back decades. In the past 20 years, there have been eight very cold Apriils like this year and in seven of those eight years, trend line yields were not attained that growing season.

Those who follow the 20 week cycles in corn look for a bottom late this month. Remember, we are entering a 60 day window where, on a yearly basis, is the best time to market both old and new crops! Also, do not be caught with marketing your old crops late August as that time window is when the CCC sealed corn comes due. It could be a repeat of 2017 and that was not good!

▶ THE COLDEST



If someone would have told you snowfall after the first day of spring would total 40 inches, insane would be the word to come to most minds. Here are the figures from FARMLOGS on our 2018 weather.

City	Moisture since Jan. 1	Normal Precip.	Normal Temp.
Forest City	8.20 in.	+21%	-77%
Leland	8.34 in.	+21%	-72%
Buffalo Center	7.20 in.	+18%	-73%
Kiester	7.26 in.	+13%	-75%
Winnebago	6.90 in.	+7%	-81%

Some locations say to break these records you would have to go back to 1895! Right now the frost on north sides of farm hills and ridges is in desperate need of a 70 degree, warm thunderstorm.

NAVIGATING WEATHER CHALLENGES WITH BEEF PRODUCERS

BY MITCH THORSON

May is Beef Month when we congratulate our cow/calf and feedlot beef producers. With grilling season finally getting underway, we can enjoy the delicious steaks and hamburgers provided to us by our beef producers. Thank you!

The last 45 days have been one of the most challenging springs producers have experienced. Excessive snow and mud challenged cow/calf producers 24/7 just to keep calves alive as well as treating for scours and respiratory issues. Feedlot producers struggled to keep cattle gaining and not disappear into the mud and record April snow. So we salute all beef producers for all their hard work not only this spring but year-round as well.

With pastures greening up and field work finally about to begin, producers are reminded again to get their fly control plans in place. It's easier to get ahead rather than catch up on successful pest control program for the summer. Stop in to either of the mills and we'll help establish a plan of attack.

And once field work starts winding down, hopefully by the end of May, producers could talk to Randy or me about the economics of creep feeding. Hubbard Feeds has an interactive dashboard we can work with showing return on investment of creep feeding.

Hope all have a safe planting season!



▶ SPRING WORK AHEAD ON THE FARM AND BEYOND

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON

After the cold and snowy month of April, we are enjoying the warmer spring weather and sunshine. We have anticipated and planned for this growing season all winter. As field conditions improve, and we get an opportunity to plant our crops, we will all be very busy. Please take the time to plan your day. Don't make hasty decisions that could be costly to your operation or your health.

Be safe this season. Agriculture is an occupation with several risks to the people who work in it. Two common pieces of equipment in most operations are tractors and ATVs. Some research into farm accidents has shown that tractors are the most common injury source in farming. Thirty-two percent of farm accidents involve tractor accidents with half fatalities. The second most common source of injury is the ATV. Eighteen percent of farm related injuries involve ATVs and over 60 percent were fatal. ATVs are the leading injury source among youth 17 and under. As these pieces of equipment are used, be aware of the hazards associated with them.

NAFTA talks are still in negotiation. Depending on progress it could be finalized in early May. Topics being discussed in the latest rounds of talk center on: automotive rules, agriculture, and legal matters such as dispute settlements. The Farm Bill has been passed out of committee and is expected to be debated on the US House floor early in May. Some changes to the SNAP program included in this bill would require recipients to show employment or take job training to receive benefits. This may make this version difficult to pass as written.

As the temperatures warm up, remember to check your bins. Now might be a good time to aerate your bins to bring the grain closer to outside air temperatures.

Be safe and have a good planting season.

▶ A SLOW START REQUIRES LOTS OF PLANNING

BY RANDY MAIN

As I am writing this newsletter article, there has been nothing done in the field. This is obviously not an ideal situation to be in but is one we can work with. We at FCA have been preparing for a few months and are ready to serve all your needs. We have just a few things to bring to your attention.

Maps and Spring Plans

If you haven't gotten in yet to confirm fields and maps, please do so. We want to make sure we are doing everything correctly this spring and that starts with a good plan and map.

Soybean Treatment

We have introduced two new soybean seed treatments for this spring. These two treatments bring a good value for the money. Here are the details:

Product	Target	Rate	Price
Brute 3000	Disease	1.71 ounces/hundred weight	\$3.50
Brute 4000	Disease/Insects	3.41 ounces/hundred weight	\$5.57

If you haven't decided to treat seed yet, give us a call.

On behalf of the agronomy crew at FCA, we wish you a safe spring!