



**Farmers Coop**  
ASSOCIATION

Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

103 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

► **WHERE ELSE BUT HERE?**

Only our Coop customers can experience world weather without leaving their farms! Last June on a Sunday afternoon, Mother Nature delivered five inches of torrential rain in three hours letting residents experience the power of a hurricane without the 100 mph winds. This past week, residents got to feel and see Arctic weather with a serious blast equivalent to -60 degree wind chills. What's next? Earthquakes?

► **DEAR WASHINGTON: "GIT R DONE LIST"**

1. Complete the new USMCA agreement
2. Drop tariffs on Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminum costing hog farmers \$12 per pig sold each day
3. Develop trade agreement(s) to replace the failed Trans Pacific Partnership – Canada is taking that market away from American pork producers
4. Abide by the law passed by Congress and promises made regarding ethanol
5. Address the farm labor shortage – livestock and crops need care
6. Tell Europe no is not an acceptable answer when refusing American ag imports

Thank you!

► **INFURIATED**

Pork producers lashed out this past week about trade negotiations with Europe. It appears Europe loves their farmers and protects them so much that agriculture will not be allowed in ANY negotiations for ag trade with the US. Last year America bought \$11 billion more goods from Europe than what they bought from us. Let's give them something to talk about at the trade table – let's start with Volkswagen, Mercedes, Audi, and BMW to name a few.



► **PAINT DRYING**

Grain markets the past month have been as exciting as watching paint dry. We do know many farmers are adding USDA market payment to the current bean prices, taking the money, and running. New crop corn has traded in a \$.15 range and beans in a \$.35 range. In the advertising business, the saying is "Confusion Kills" and with the lack of USDA reports, farmers marketing directions are limited. Also, there is a reliable CBR index that runs from three to 3.5 years. It's due for its low this fall give or take six months.

► **CROP CHOICES**

It's becoming more apparent with current new crop prices the switch to more corn is going to possibly be less than thought. Corn costs more to produce. Corn takes more fertilizer and nitrogen and those prices are up. Energy prices and interest rates are also higher. All that means the possibility of more beans and larger carryover could drive bean prices much lower than expected this fall. Add to that the large outbreak of African swine fever in China and meal demand could also be "on the bubble."

► **NITRATE RESULTS**

One year ago we distributed 30 nitrate kits to farmers to test water coming out of their tiles and drainage ditches. Jim Benson, who lives north of the FC Bowling Center, took tests from his 12 and 16 inch tiles draining into Bear Creek. Nitrate tests of 10 ppm or more have a caution for consumption by humans. Test kits will register up to 50 ppm.

Tests from Bensons' farm well were always near zero. Monthly tile tests starting in April were at one ppm going to five in May and stayed in the 10 range through September. The Bear Creek Drainage Ditch itself northeast of Forest City was always in the five range. With all the CRP ground in that district, it provides a relatively good mix with crop production acres.

Riley Lewis, on the west side of town, tested the water just before flowing into the Winnebago River northwest of Forest city near the old Shiloh kennels. Over 8000 acres in the area five to six miles west of Forest City flow through two systems. Results were from four to nine ppm from April through June.

**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



We are happy to announce each month there will be three winners from Forest City and one from Kiester cardtrolls who will be receiving a \$20 gift certificate for pork. Bacon, chops, hams, ribs, and sausage are all possible just for using our cardtroll card! Cardtroll credit owners also get the discount posted price under the marquee. This month's winners of the certificates are **Shirley Hanson, Doug Jensen, and Ron Eden** from Forest City, and **Les Bloomingdale** from Kiester. (You have to visit our offices to receive your certificate during the month!)

## ▶ 1930s FARM FORECLOSURES

Looking through a 1938 Winnebago County Plat Book, we can see how horrible the Depression of the 30s was for local farms. We looked at Forest Township (Forest City), King Township (Thompson), Buffalo Township (Buffalo Center), and Logan Township (inje) for farms owned by insurance companies, Federal Land Bank, and other lending institutions. Forest Township had 3200 acres, King 4950 acres, Buffalo 5260 acres, and Logan 3340 acres owned by outsiders finance companies and not farmers. Lots of heartaches for all of rural America. Most land sold in the late 1930s for \$75 to \$120 per acre.



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!

## ▶ FROM THE FEED DEPARTMENT

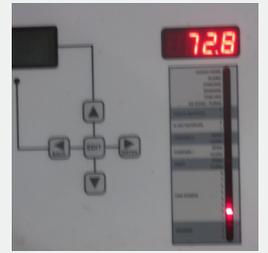
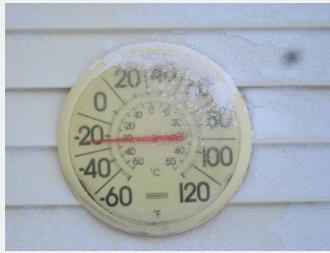
BY MITCH THORSON



Outside temps are -25 degrees with -60 degree wind chills. Inside today's modern hog confinement barns it's a balmy 72 degrees and the animals couldn't care less what the weather is outside. They have warmth, fresh feed, cold well water, and a farmer who has their best interests at heart. If those animals don't do well, the farmer/caretaker wouldn't be doing well.

Actually, the concern in Arctic colds goes to the farmer and the one who grinds, mixes, and delivers the feed to our farms. Animals don't stop eating during Arctic events. Thank you feed employees for delivering the goods in some very brutal conditions. You are appreciated!

One visitor from California to an area hog farm said hogs today have it better than many people in getting the basics of life. They have food, water, heat, misters when temps go to 90s, and a caretaker who will see to their health needs. We concur!



## ▶ BACK IN BUSINESS

BY KINGSLEY JOHNSON



With the reopening of government offices, the trade will receive reports from the USDA's Ag Statistics Board. They have rescheduled reports that were affected by the government shutdown. The highly anticipated Crop Production and Grain Stocks report that was scheduled for January 11 will be released on February 8. Export sales reports are being released with a combined report on February 22 which will include total sales for a six week period. This will make the market wait another month until actual sales and commitments are known and up to date.

The US/Chinese trade talks have resumed again. The talks resumed on January 30 with high-level officials, led by Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. Negotiations are continuing with a deadline of March 2 before tariffs could be raised to 25 percent from 10 percent on \$200 billion of goods if an agreement isn't made.

The last couple months have been busy for all of us. The holidays are past and we have moved on to preparing for our spring season, planning our crops and the inputs we will use.

As we move forward I would encourage you to remember to check your stored grain. At this time of year you should check your bins every three to four weeks for crusting, moisture migration, and molds. As the temps warm up in the spring you should increase the interval for checking bins to every one to two weeks.

