



Farmers Coop
ASSOCIATION

August 2019

Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center - Winnebago

100 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

County fairs are winding down and state fairs are just around the corner. Congratulations to all youth! Hopefully your projects have taught positive lessons that can be used in the future. Thanks to all exhibitors who trusted us with their projects' nutrition. We hope we enhanced your projects' success.

Trade conflicts continue to plague grain and livestock producers. Lately, with cancellations of exports and threats of increased tariffs, the markets for both grains and meats have been down. This is somewhat of a double-edged sword for the traditional grain farmer-feeder with less revenue for sellers on the cash market offset slightly by lower feed cost. This comes at a time when typically the hog market trends down in the third quarter of the year as numbers and harvest weights increase. Let's hope the administration's hardline trade negotiations come to fruition soon because the traditional grain and livestock feeder are the ones being held hostage the most.



BY MITCH THORSON

► 2019 FARMERS COOP FINANCIAL REPORT

	2019	2018
Sales	\$62,790,653	\$62,136,696
Operating Revenue	\$2,996,040	\$2,905,653
Expenses	\$7,529,742	\$7,477,996
Savings	\$310,007	(\$1,292,960)
Patronage	\$1,609,462	\$885,358

We are proceeding with revolvement of old equity on local patronage totaling \$253,000 at the Annual Meeting as well as \$311,000 in equity revolvement on the current years' members' business.

WELCOME RYAN JORDAHL



There's a new person behind the front counter at Farmers Coop in Forest City. Ryan Jordahl joined our team on July 29. He will be at the counter and also helping with outside tasks as needed in this new role. Additionally, he will put his technology skills to work for FCA, helping with computer maintenance.

"I've lived in Forest City all my life and when I saw this position was open at Farmers Coop, it was what I was looking for," Ryan commented. "Here I have the ability to do something different every day and work with people I already know." Prior to starting at Farmers Coop, Ryan worked as a warehouse operator. "I find what I'm doing now much more enjoyable. I am happy to come to work, have a good time with the people here, and enjoy what I'm doing," he stated.

When he's not working, Ryan enjoys working on electronics, including computers, as well as watching Netflix and spending time with his girlfriend, Samantha, family, and his two dogs.

► YOU'RE INVITED

It's time to celebrate the hard work and loyalty of our customers by attending our Appreciation Night to be held August 22, 2019, at our Dohrman Building north of our offices. Burgers, brats and all the other good stuff will be waiting for you from 5-7 pm as well as your neighbors and friends!

► WE NEED YOU!

Our cooperative functions by the work and leadership of a board of directors. If you are so inclined, we invite you to let Jodi at our Forest City office know if you wish to enter your name for possible election to the board. Deadline for self-nomination is August 20 and we thank you!

► JILL ROSS JOINS FCA TEAM

Jill Ross was looking for a job a little closer to home in Kiester and found a great opportunity with Farmers Coop Association.



She started with FCA on July 8 and you will find her behind the counter in Kiester where she weighs trucks, checks moisture of grain, answers the phone, talks with customers, and handles feed tickets from all locations for the coop.

"There's a lot to learn but I'm enjoying myself, learning lots, and meeting lots of new people," Jill remarked. Prior to joining Farmers Coop, Jill spent 35 years in a payroll accounting job. "I always love learning new things and working with people," she said.

When she's not working, Jill loves to garden, read, and spend time with her family, including four grandchildren. She has three grown children and her youngest son lives at home with her yet.

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: 222 N. Main Street
Phone: 641-561-2800
Fax: 641-561-2216

►DOWN AT THE CARDTROLS



Winners of \$20 free pork certificates from our Forest City location are **Ryan Sunde, Donavon and Holly Smidt**, and **Mark and Kim Miller**. Our winner from Kiester is Owen Lorenz. Be sure to pick up your certificates by calling or visiting our offices.

► COME BACK

Twenty years ago the milkweed plant was just that - a weed to be sprayed and killed. Monarch butterflies are directly dependent on their existence as a host plant for reproduction. In the past years the population of the monarch has seriously declined. But now thanks to efforts of farmers and conservation leaders, we are seeing an uptrend in counts because of planting of milkweed and no spraying of the plant in ditches and roadsides. Here is an example where one local farmer reports this past week during a field inspection seeing the most monarchs in many years.



► AROUND THE LOOP

KIESTER – The cardtrol island had a power surge on Saturday July 20 and was without power for six to eight hours. Gasohol pumps didn't come back online, restricting completely the sales data to our main office. Diesel pumps are now working. We are manually entering the sales from the report so your sales entry will look different. The pumps and technology are old and parts obsolete so we are in the process of getting bids for a new system.

LELAND – We now have a DTN quote screen in our Leland Grain Complex.

► AFRICAN SWINE FEVER FACTS

1. ASF is a contagious viral disease of only hogs.
2. ASF doesn't affect people, pets, or other animals.
3. ASF animals do not enter the food supply because of strict protocol inspections.
4. ASF is not a public threat nor a food safety concern.
5. There are no cases of ASF in North America.

► SPRAYING SEASON

It's August and one of the more important times of year to spray our corn and soybeans.

There always seems to be a debate on whether to spray a fungicide and insecticide on corn acres. Some customers say they have not seen a return over the years and some say the opposite. It is your choice, however, with the amount of moisture this year, odds are very good we will see a rise in corn diseases. We carry all major brands of fungicide and insecticides. Just give us a call and we can line up the planes to get it done.



BY RANDY MAIN

Soybeans seem to respond to fungicides and insecticides very well. This has been proven over the years through many trials. We carry all the fungicides and insecticides you would need, so give us a call. Our applicators are also ready to assist in spraying any acres you have.

Producers often overlook additional nitrogen and stimulants when spraying corn and soybeans. Corn increases its nitrogen intake during tassel to ear fill substantially. We have slow release nitrogens to add to your spraying to help cover this uptake in nitrogen.

Many forget that soybeans use more nitrogen than corn does throughout the year. The trick with soybeans is timing. Where corn uses nitrogen through the whole year, soybeans start to use large amounts during pod fill. This usually lines up with fungicide and insecticide spraying so don't forget to throw a gallon or two in when making the pass. We have seen good results from doing this. The products we typically use are SRN25B or Sable.

If you have any questions on any of these topics or products, make sure you give one of our salesmen a call. We truly appreciate your business and look forward to working with you in the future.

► HOLD 'EM OR FOLD 'EM

Since 1980, final corn US yields have dropped 6% or more than the previous year only 15 times. A 6% drop is 166 bushels per acre this year. In only two years the high was put in the month of June and the other times it came after July into harvest.

We are receiving reports from farmers traveling across the Midwest and they all say we are in the "sweet spot" for nice looking crops. The main surprises reported are the preventive plant or non plant acres. The other reports are the sad shape and height of the soybeans with rows not even canopied by this time. The soybean plant was robbed of over two weeks of growth from late planting, declining sunlight, and wet field conditions which will never be made back. You know it. We know it. But the Board of Trade doesn't have a clue - yet!

► FACT OR FICTION?

1. There are more resistant organisms in hospitals than on farms.

FACT : A Centers for Disease Control report said 50% of all antibiotics are not needed and the most resistant are found in hospitals.

2. Organic farms have no antimicrobial resistant bacteria.

FICTION: Bacteria has been found in ice core samples millions of years old.

3. Animals and humans rely on the same antibiotics.

FICTION: Penicillin use in humans is 44% and animals only 6%.

4. Livestock producers decide on when and how antibiotics should be used.

FICTION: There is strict oversight by veterinarians for all antibiotics used to today.

5. GMOs are the cause of many deaths of humans.

FICTION: Over 300 worldwide, respected, science-based studies reveal not one person has died from GMOs. (Enjoy your seedless watermelons!)

