



**Farmers Coop**  
ASSOCIATION

It's Beef Month!

MAY 2022



Forest City - Leland - Kiester - Buffalo Center

105 Years Saluting Agriculture Every Day!

### ► THE VELOCITY OF CHALLENGE

When one signs on to become a farmer, they are fully aware of the risks. Most of the risks cannot be controlled but only managed. The list includes floods, droughts, pests, embargoes, repairs, and interest rates. We want to add one more -WIND! If the current wind keeps its pattern, the practice of fertilizer application and spraying will make farming very difficult in 2022. Never have farmers had so much money tied up in seed, fertilizer, and fuel all parked in their machine sheds, ready to go!



### ► SOIL BANK?

Driving through the countryside it's plain to see the weather since last harvest hasn't been kind to area soils. The open winter with little snow cover has allowed topsoil to move, especially on fall-tilled soybean ground. Recent rains have greatly added to sheet erosion and gulling on side hills and some fields are begging for grass waterways. No til and strip til seemed to have done the job as well as untouched soybean stubble. There are three banks in farming - money bank, soil bank, and a ditch bank. At over \$10,000 per acre, think about where you want your assets to be used for future generations.



### ► FROM THE GREEN TEAM

BY BILL MEYER

Mother Nature was not kind to us at all in April. We had a little bit of everything – cold, wind, rain, snow, you name it, we had it. After being able to get in a few days of spreading and spraying the last week of April, here we sit again waiting for weather conditions to improve to allow us to get the crops in the ground. Frustrating for everyone.

One positive of this, at least for FCA, is that it has allowed us to source some more of the chemicals that we have been struggling to get. As of now we are sitting good on most everything that we have been trying to procure. There are a few instances where we will have to use plan B, but aside from glufosinate (Liberty) we are in good shape overall.

Talking with chemical distributors, the general feeling is that this is not a one-year problem, but will take multiple years to get the supply chain straightened out again. We have already had internal discussions about buying product for the 2023 growing season if the opportunity arises.

Fertilizer pricing has been fairly stagnant for the past couple of months, so that gives us some hope that we might start seeing at least a little bit of relief in the coming months.

As always, FCA thanks you for your business and I hope that when you read this, we are well into planting. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact your account manager or me at 507-766-0510.

### ► DOUBLE DOWN FOR FFA!

Salute to Adam Helm Farms and Adam Lackore Farms for winning \$5000 each from Bayer Fund America's Farmers Grow Communities program to be given to a local charity of their choosing. Both of them designated the Forest City FFA! It will be interesting to see how and where the new gifts are used to help students prepare them for their futures.

### ► MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day and Veterans Day sometimes are the same to many people but Memorial Day is for those whose lives were lost in service to our country. It's because of that sacrifice we post the "Folds of Honor Flag" emblem in this newsletter as it says it all for lives that paid the ultimate sacrifice.



FOLDS of HONOR

#### 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

#### BUFFALO CENTER

Address: 6401 Highway 9  
Phone: 641-561-2800  
Fax: 641-561-2216



## ▶ DOWN AT THE CARDTROLS

Fuel again this month is a luxury. But one customer filled his tank for \$22.46 cents – it was his lawn mower! The State of Iowa passed a new law helping promote E-15 last month. Remember the law says you don't have to use it but will be made available for customers who like the advantages in savings and environment. It's not mandatory as sometimes the news implies! Winners of \$20 pork certificates are [Melissa Phillips and Kyle Van Hove](#) from Forest City and [Karen Busch](#) from Kiester!



## ▶ FEED SCOOP BY MITCH THORSON



Some changes in the feed department occurred the beginning of May. Due to shortage of staff, the Kiester location will have Scott not only making feed but also delivering loads. Ash will be floating between Leland and Kiester to help on busier days. Leland operations will stay the same. We believe this shuffling will allow us to meet your needs on the farm during spring fieldwork season. Then we will either find new help and/or agronomy staff will fill in as needed. As always, our customers can leave feed orders on the answering machine, call our cellphones, or at the grain office.

As we all know, fuel prices have skyrocketed this past year. Unfortunately, another change with the FCA feed department is needing to reintroduce a fuel surcharge to help recoup the additional fuel costs. Our grind/mix and delivery costs have not been increased for some time and the fuel surcharge was waived awhile back to help producers weather red ink in their operations. We hope for your understanding on our reimplementing of this small cost increase to your operations.

## ▶ DRAIN DITCH WATER

We have received some great rains lately, but those high drainage ditch water levels might be courtesy of Bucky Beaver Construction. Spring finds yearling beavers getting booted out of the den by parents to “get a life.” Part of that new life is constructing a dam. Northwest of Forest City a dam had backed up the water two feet above normal flow. A trapper was called in and reduced the population including a 72-pound “Mother-Load Master Builder” that the DNR called one of the biggest they have seen in this area!!!



## ▶ RAIN GAUGE REVIEW

Subsoil moisture is fully recharged. You are cleared for planting on Runway 2022! Rain amounts posted are always measured in the 40 acres around each of our facilities. Customers in Minnesota in our trade area have recorded almost double the posted amount in certain areas. Unfortunately, it's literally a Land of 10,000 Lakes but will change!

	March-April	March-April Average	May 10-Year Average
Forest City	5.61	5.81	4.63
Leland	4.63	5.88	4.84
Buffalo Center	4.63	5.34	5.24
Kiester	7.44	5.76	4.82

## ▶ LANDMINES OR WET SPOTS?

Be thankful we have wet spots in fields this spring and not mines or bombs as happened with this tractor in the Ukraine. (Source: Lana Synkovska via Twitter. The tractor driver survived.) Russia recently stole \$5.5 million of John Deere equipment from Ukraine and hauled the tractors 700 miles into Russia. John Deere disabled the onboard computers by satellite, so reports are they won't run!!! Thank you, John Deere!!!

