

Your Nebraska-Owned, Locally-Owned Company



Dean Thernes
General Manager

Winter, Spring and More!!!

Wow, what a winter! From the long cold and wet conditions this winter, those conditions just seemed to continue with floods and wet weather right up to early June. I hope by the time you read this the crop has been planted and good growing conditions are with us. Many spring challenges presented themselves again this year; in terms of planting

progress, you don't have to travel too far and find conditions even worse than what we have had. Your agronomy team and all employees have worked hard to move equipment and personal around to try to get as much done as possible given the wet and cold conditions. Thank you, the member owner, for your continued support and the employees for all the hard work that was completed in a very short window. We are thankful for the updates to the agronomy facilities during the past few years to help to get you back to the field as soon as possible.

Given the wet conditions and slow pace of planting, hopefully soon we will get the market to pop up further and be able to present some marketing opportunities. Please check out our bids prior to selling; we look forward to helping you handle the harvest of the new crop just planted, and any old crop as well that you might have not yet sold. Given the current environment you may want to consider some option strategies to give you more opportunities. If you have any questions or would like to look at different possibilities please call so we can discuss.

Your cooperative is constructing a new grain facility at the Bloomfield location. No different than your spring challenges, the wet weather has also created challenges for the construction crews but they are making progress

The new site will consist of three new grain bins. The storage capacity of these bins will be 1,385,952 bushels.

One bin will be for soybeans with one wet bin for corn as well as a dry corn bin. A new 4,700 bushel per hour dryer will also be a part of the new facility and we should be ready for fall harvest. The new facility will have a 20,000 bushel per hour receiving leg for much improved grain delivery speed. At the new site, you will be able to probe at the scale and proceed to the new location to be weighed, dumped, pull forward for pickup of your ticket and be on your way! We look forward to be able to better serve the members in this area.

Tissue sampling of the corn crop will be very important this summer. With the continued wet weather many fields may need a little extra boost, so be sure to talk to our agronomy team. We have also seen some very good responses to fungicide treatments on certain hybrids of corn and soybeans. Be sure to talk to our team for help in this area.

The Winfield United Answer Plot-We once again have the great opportunity to have this plot, (recall it is one of two regional research plots Winfield United as in North America) just north of Battle Creek. Please ask the agronomy team to show you some of the great trials that are going on in the plot. We will host plot tours later this summer-----please plan to attend this information session. I will assure you it will be time well spent from the comments received back from growers last year on what they learned!

Remember, Farmers Pride is here only because of you the producer-owner! This is your company, returning your dollars right back into our local communities' Main Streets and not off to any foreign owned companies or those firms that are publicly traded on Wall Street. As always, have a safe and enjoyable summer!



In the Field, on your Farm, in your Community

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Dave Spencer
Marketing Manager

Energy News and Markets-Winter's Higher Prices Surprised Many

As the summer driving season kicked off, you would have thought the media would have covered the steady increase in petroleum prices since late winter more than they did. While prices did increase since December, it appears prices peaked out in mid-May, when retail gas prices hit the \$2.79/gal mark. Gas and fuel prices were generally the same at the end of May versus May 2018. It seems like most years the gasoline markets have a run-up to right before the Memorial Day Weekend, and then take a slide for the next two months.

For most people, this run-up in prices caught a lot of us off-guard this winter, after fairly depressed prices back in December. Crude oil drilling units has decreased in North America (down 79 units from a year ago). For those who profess in economics believe that decreased supply would increase prices-and that is what happened this winter/early spring. BUT.....the warning the oil world always tells us with their "predictions" is they are all dependent upon the "drama" of world events (trade tariffs, nuclear weapon bans, economic sanctions, middle east politics to name a few) all leading to the volatility of the marketplace.

More numbers for you to recall; crude prices this past December decreased to \$46/barrel. In mid-May crude hit \$64/barrel, surprising some, but then again, world "drama" moved the markets up. Since that time the market has dropped back and crude at the end of May was at \$55-the roller coaster ride continues!

Gasoline stocks and production

- Gasoline inventories down 2.2% from where they were last year, with prices up 49% YTD (5 months) in 2019.
- Gasoline production is nearly where it was last year, leaving retail prices about where they were last year.

Diesel stocks and production

- Diesel inventories are 11% higher than last year, with prices up 19% YTD (5 months) in 2019.
- Diesel production is slightly below last year.

Propane stocks

- Propane inventories are up 60% over last year at this time! Prices are down over 10% in that time frame, and continue to be lower.

Crude refining capacity and oil drilling rig counts

- United States' refineries are running over 90.5% of capacity, and that is down 2.1% vs. last year's average. Many refineries in the Midwest were down for maintenance work in April and May.
- US Rig Count; The Baker Hughes Oil Rig Count is released weekly; this helps paint a clearer picture for how much US oil production there will be. At the end of May, the North American Rig Count was 1,050 operating units. This is 79 less units from a year ago.

What does all of this mean for you?

Energy prices increased the last five months, and political issues around the world seem to have had an "uneasiness" about the future energy markets. Prices have come down and are attractive for you the consumer compared to the \$4 diesel we had a few years ago. A year ago, the "experts" predicted crude could trade anywhere from \$30 to \$80/barrel-that is about as accurate as the long-range weather forecasts! Remember, as global demand increases so will crude prices, but with higher crude prices, usually more supply or production comes on board, easing prices.

The bottom line? No one knows where these prices are headed. Demand seems to be strong with the US and world economies chugging along pretty good but there are a lot of talks of markets relaxing due to trade tariffs and an "overcooked economy". Talk with us about locking in your costs for the remainder of 2019. We offer a variety of contracting programs to help you take advantage of these prices for up for the fall months. As always, thank you for your business!



Bloomfield Grain Expansion & Upgrade

Bloomfield citizens might have noticed some construction started north of Broadway Street this week. Farmers Pride is expanding and according to the Bloomfield Location Manager Jason Hames, this \$9 million project has been a long time coming.

"It's been a need for about nine years," Hames said.

Farmer's Pride has actually been discussing the expansion for three to four years with their board of directors.

"It's like anything else, it's difficult to budget and make it pencil. But this is a long-term asset for the community of Bloomfield and will be here for many years in the future," said Dean Thernes, Farmers Pride General Manager.

According to Thernes, the improved infrastructure is much needed here. The Bloomfield location brings in many trucks at harvest time and the increased speed and space of this new facility is necessary for the area farm producers.

In recent years, Farmers Pride has had to pile grain on the ground because there was not enough bin storage. There are currently eight bins at the location and in most years, that has not been enough storage. The new facility will sport three additional storage bins with 1.9 million bushels storage bringing the total storage at Bloomfield of 3.3 million bushels. Additionally, there is room to add two more bins in the future.

Two years ago, the land in which the new facility is being constructed, went up for sale. Farmers Pride jumped on the opportunity to purchase it.

"With the current floodplain, we have run into issues when trying to expand our current facilities. So we purchased it and decided to move forward with this project," Thernes said.

EBM Construction from Norfolk and Aschoff Construction from Osmond are doing a majority of the work. In addition to the increased storage, project will add a new dump-thru scale, a new dryer and generally more space to receive grain.

The new facility will have a leg receiving capacity of 20,000 bushels an hour and with the other existing facilities Farmers Pride will be able to accept up to 37,000 bushels an hour.

"The new facility is very high tech-very automated. We can basically run it from inside the office," Thernes said.

The main goal of the expansion is to get trucks in and out quicker and bring in new customers. This new tech will speed up the process.

"The truck should be able to pull in, lay open its traps and be gone," Hames said.

"Trucks should be in and out in about 5-7 minutes," Thernes added.

The new setup will probe the load and the driver will then pull up to be weighed. After that, they will pull out, get their ticket and be on their way.

This expansion will bring the Farmers Pride Bloomfield location up a notch, as similar Farmers Pride projects in Osmond and Neligh as well as other newer facilities recently built in the region.

"This will be a very long-term project, built to serve the area for 40-50 years," Thernes said. He added, *"this project is a great illustration of the benefit of the cooperative system-investing in our member-owners to help them with their operation."*

In summary, Thernes stated that *"Farmers Pride's mission is to bring value to our Bloomfield, and all of our member-owners, as we look forward to assisting them in their operations for many years to come."*



Congratulations to our 2019 Scholarship Recipients!

Mark Stark, Battle Creek
(Current Pierce employee!)

Noah Stone, LCC

Christian Yaw, Elkhorn Valley

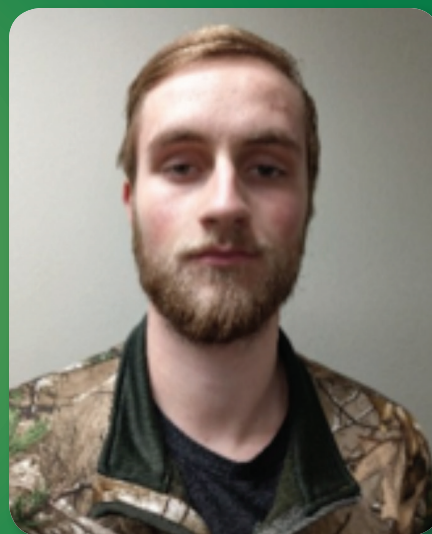
Marcus Echtenkamp, Lutheran High NE

Ryan Brummels, Ewing HS

Cole Bures, Oakland-Craig

Jacob Schwartz – Intern/Pierce Seasonal Help

Jacob Schwartz joins us for the second year as an intern/seasonal help. Last year, he helped at the Battle Creek location and this year he is assisting the Pierce location. Jacob is the son of Brian & Amy Schwartz of Battle Creek. He attended Battle Creek High School and is now studying Ag Business at NECC. He enjoys hunting fishing, & hanging out with friends. His favorite memory was driving a tender truck for us here in BC (ask him about it)! Jacob loves prime rib & a little John Langston. His bucket list item is to graduate college. Welcome back!



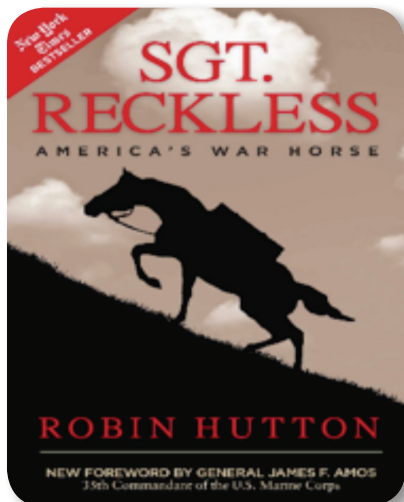
Zach Sellin – Intern/BC Seasonal Help

Zach is the son of Todd & Rhonda of Norfolk. Zach graduated from Norfolk High, where he was involved in basketball, FFA, & trap shooting. He is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, majoring in Ag/Biosystems Engineering. While at SDSU, he is involved with the trap shooting team and is a Ducks Unlimited Board Member. Zach enjoys hunting, fishing, working on automobiles, and anything outdoors. His favorite quote to live by is “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”



Human Resources & Safety

Former NFL player Trent Shelton said “Your purpose in life may seem small to you, but it might make a huge impact upon someone else.” When I heard this quote a few weeks ago, the timing couldn’t have been more appropriate. Especially during the month of May when we pay tribute to our heroes in the military.



As we remember those who serve and those who died for our country, it is humbling to know that their truth could simply be stated as this: “He who has a WHY to live for can bear almost any HOW.” (Freidrich Nietzsche). Currently I am reading the book Sgt. Reckless – America’s War Horse written by Robin Hutton. Have you heard of Sgt. Reckless? Don’t feel bad, it’s estimated that 85% of our current population never has either. With the recent Kentucky Derby, we can remember many great racing horses – but isn’t it sad we don’t remember a hero war horse, whose purpose, courage and loyalty surpasses so many before and after her.

Sgt. Reckless had a very unique job while serving during the Korean War. The purpose at the time may have been small, but what an impact she made. No one ever expected what a true hero she would become. In a single day, Reckless had made 51 round-trips to the various gun sites, moving solo through the combat zone ninety-five percent of the time. She carried 386 rounds of ammunition, nearly five tons of explosives on her back, up and down treacherous terrain. It is estimated she covered more than 35 miles that day alone. Reckless is also credited for carrying many wounded soldiers down the mountain and being instrumental to holding the ridge from takeover. No horse, before or since has come close to such selfless acts of bravery. One soldier wrote: “I grew up on a farm with horses, and not one of my horses could have done even once what she did.”

“I thought surely there was a Marine leading her, but in the flare light in all that intense fire, in the middle of chaos, all I could see was her alone a small struggling horse – putting everything she had into it, struggling up that ridge loaded with 75 mm rounds. Every time they sent her out, they didn’t expect her to come back. And when she did, they couldn’t believe it. She kept her Marines fighting just on her own willingness to keep at it.”

Today, a memorial at Camp Pendleton reminds our Marines just how impactful Reckless was. It reads: “*Home is the Warrior. Let Marines who pass this way take notice of honors won and the esteem in which she is held by those who were with her when the battle was in doubt. Remember, Marine, here is an unusual Marine. May we have a half a million as true.*”

Sgt. Reckless certainly had a WHY, and it was to serve & protect her fellow Marines. Each of us in our own lives also have a purpose and a WHY. The question becomes have you forgotten your WHY? Your purpose may seem small to you, but can make a huge impact on someone else. When you face obstacles & challenges in life – remember your WHY. It will truly help drive through your circumstances to the other side. Don’t ever give up yourself and don’t believe the negative voices in your head. Stay positive and when you think you can’t do it – remember the determination and spirit of Reckless. You have bravery within you too! You can bear any HOW by remembering your WHY.



Dawn Pochop
Human Resources
& Safety



Plant Tissue Testing Worth Your Time To Maximize Your Yield

With the high amounts of moisture since harvest last year, a regular tissue-testing program should be an essential part of your plant nutrition plan. While soil testing can measure soil nutrient levels, tissue testing during the season reveals deficient plant micronutrients at key growth stages, allowing you to correct these weaknesses while there's still time to have a positive impact on yield.

Today's hybrids with higher-yielding genetics and trait technology require optimum nutrition to reach their maximum yield potential. Tissue sampling helps identify and correct nutrient deficiencies that can hold back crop production. Tissue testing with WinfieldUnited's NutriSolutions® Analysis takes the guesswork out of identifying deficient macro and micronutrients at critical growth stages. By applying missing nutrients, you can take full advantage of your seed's yield potential and protect your input investment.

Typical stages of tissue sampling for corn;

- V4-V6 - Starting Ear Initiation;** kernel rows and number in a row is being determined
- V9-V11 - Developing Ear Length;** a good indicator on how plant nutrition is doing before this stage.
- VT-R1 - Good Indicator on how our Plant Nutrition did after Grand Growth Stage;** important stage on fertilization and pollen sustainability for creating our yield.
- R3-R4 - Demand of Filling Out Ear;** has our mobile nutrients moving to the ear also drawn down nutrition from the plant. Good time to determine harvest scheduling if stalks are weak.

Helpful Tissue Sampling Tips for corn;

- Try to sample for a number of consecutive weeks (10-12) to see what trends are developing.**
- Maintain your tissue sample results over time for yearly comparisons.**
- If corn plants are 12" or shorter, take 15 whole plants aboveground; for plants larger than 12" take the top collared leaf. After tassel, take the leaf opposite and below the ear leaf.**

The cost of producing an acre of corn, including seed and crop nutrients, along with current grain prices, increases the importance of managing nitrogen fertilizers appropriately to achieve maximum returns, while minimizing nitrogen losses to the environment. Corn hybrids vary dramatically in their response to the rate and timing of applied nitrogen. Access to information about how each hybrid responds to nitrogen fertilizer applications is extremely important.

With the NutriSolutions® Tools, your Farmers Pride Agronomist can help you assess your crop's nutritional needs before visual deficiencies appear and help you take tissue samples in a planned fashion. This tissue-testing program and assessment tool takes the guesswork out of nutrient analysis, helping you invest your dollars wisely.



March 13, 2019 - A Day We Won't Forget!

March 13, 2019 will be a day, and probably a week/month/year we will never forget in northeast Nebraska. Yes, the forecast called for some heavy rain, but no one in their wildest minds predicted what was going to happen next!

The day started off innocently enough for Farmers Pride as we held our annual Winfield United 2018 Answer Plot Results and Cropping Meeting for 2019 in Norfolk. We had a few cancellations prior to the meeting, but for the most part, producers came to learn how they can improve their 2019 crop plans. As the rains had started and continued all morning, cell phone texting and calling picked up for everyone at the meeting. Reports of closed roads, low-land flooding and ice jams starting to form were coming in at a rapid pace, and our meeting concluded shortly after lunch for everyone to try their attempt to get home safely.

As they might say, the rest is history! Farmers Pride's facilities received some damage, but it could have been much worse. The Osmond rail tracks were flooded and the railbed washed away. Ice penetrated the west facing

overhead doors at the liquid fertilizer load-out leaving damaging debris and some grain bins fans were moved off of their bases.

We all know the stories that followed in the weeks/months after this terrible weather event. The loss of life, livestock and property affected everyone. Stories of flood relief assistance reached national proportions and as usual, Nebraskans pulled together to help one another.

Farmers Pride received a call for help from NPPD as they were trying to restore power to the Village of Santee. Fuel was needed for a portable generator around the clock to restore power to the village while NPPD worked on repairing power poles and lines.

Mother Nature won on March 13, 2019; the stories of the 2019 storm will be told for many years to come. But not unlike other wild weather events over the past 165 years in Nebraska, we will recover from this. Thank you to everyone for helping one another and making northeast Nebraska the greatest place to call home!!!

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA HYDROLOGICAL MAP

WATERWAYS BASED ON STRAHLER STREAM ORDER



In the Field, on your Farm, in your Community

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BNSF Mainline - Osmond, NE



Bulk Fertilizer Load out Facility - Osmond, NE



NPPD Generator - Santee, NE



Verdesian Life Sciences, manufacturer of Nutrisphere and Avail-nitrogen and phosphorus stabilizers, held a “Nebraska Strong” event for Farmers Pride and all residents in Battle Creek and Osmond, two communities that suffered severe flood damage. The meals were held on April 22nd for anyone in the community. Thank you Verdesian for thinking of us and our communities and doing their part to give a little “extra” help that day!

Chemical Application Policy

The following policy has been developed by Farmers Pride in order to facilitate the handling of questions regarding the application of agricultural chemicals.

The performance and efficiency of agricultural products is dependent upon numerous factors that are beyond Farmers Pride control. Weather, pest/weed pressure, and timing factors can result in varying results from application of agricultural chemicals.

Recommendations made by our employees or contractors are based on information provided by the producer, their own observations, information available through trade publications or industry sources. Recommendations may be taken or rejected by the customer at his/her discretion.

Farmers Pride will not knowingly make off-label applications, but will apply all chemicals in a safe, efficient, and professional manner. While Farmers Pride warrants that its application will conform to this policy, customer dissatisfaction with the performance of the chemicals, or application must be reported to Farmers Pride within thirty (30) days of application.

Claims must be made promptly. Most chemical manufacturers require notice with this thirty (30) day period. Farmers Pride will attempt to arrange a conference between the manufacturer and the customer in cases where chemical performance does not meet customer expectation. Farmers Pride liability is limited to the amount charged for application of the chemicals.

Promise Yourself...

Stop breaking promises to yourself. A promise to self is just as important as a promise to others. If you tell yourself you're going to do something, don't give up on it. Your promise matters. Don't give up on a promise to yourself or others. If it's important, you'll find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse. Look at life, what are the things you're telling others and self. How much are you not keeping? When you break the promises, you have made to yourself, you are failing yourself on what you are meant to do in life, or who you are meant to be in life.

June Is Farmers Pride Safety Month





Jeremy Fickes
Newman Grove
Location Manager

As we have started this 2019 season, I want to thank you all for the support and patience with us as we all have fought strange weather and less than perfect conditions to get all this done. With the current volatility in these grain markets, I ask that you look at setting your basis now for harvest contracts. We have

some gains to come in futures but that basis is at a good level now. Please talk to us about some contract and storage options here in the near future so we can have some plans in place for you.

A big thank you to all of you that attended our station open house in March following the horrible flooding situation.

Thank You

It was another big turnout and sold good amount of Cenex oil products during the bulk oil sale. Please contact Robert or Kirt for any other lube needs you may have for this season so we can have those products on hand and ready for you when you need them.

Have you used the new card system at the service station? We upgraded the system and can also now accept all major credit cards/debit cards in addition to our Farmers Pride charge card, all with 24 hour fuel service available! It has been a great addition to another way for us to able to service our community even when we can't be here. We continue to strive to be profitable and successful with your business. All of us at Farmers Pride are here to help our member-owners with that mission and ask that you look to us as your true partner in all facets of you operation. Please be safe this season and again thank you for choosing Farmer Pride Cooperative for your needs.

Battle Creek & Newman Grove Pumps Now Taking Credit Cards!

Starting this spring our retail fueling pumps in Battle Creek and Newman Grove are able to accept most major credit cards. This has already shown to be convenient for customers who did not have a Farmers Pride charge card/account but wanted to use the pumps at each location.

Farmers Pride Gift Cards Also for Battle Creek & Newman Grove

Looking for a gift for a birthday, holiday or for any celebration? We are able to sell gift cards that can be used at our 24-hour retail fuel pumps at Battle Creek and Newman Grove. Cards are available in increments of \$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100.

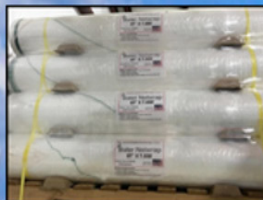
Stop in the Newman Grove Station or the Battle Creek Main Office to purchase your cards and start using them right away!



Richard Henery Retirement



*Congratulations
to Richard Henery
of Neligh on his
retirement May 17
after 16 years of
cooperative service!
Your grain handling
expertise will be
missed!*



PRITCHETT
Twine & Net Wrap
DEALER

*Pritchett Twine Net Wrap & Ag Sales
is a Nebraska, family-owned business!*

Available at Farmers Pride:

NET WRAP
67" x 7000'
&
64" x 7000'

BIODEGRADABLE TWINE
20,000 ft x 110 Knot Strength

Not all Farmers Pride locations will be stocked.
Any size can be ordered in advance.
Please call Gene Wissenburg in
Newman Grove for prices and availability!



Gene Wissenburg

Office Phone: 402-447-6292

Cell Phone: 402-750-1796

Email: gwissenburg@farmerspridecoop.com

Website: www.farmerspridecoop.com

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Jerry Dolesh - Cooperatively Rooted for 36 years!

When it comes to being part of the “cooperative system” Jerry Dolesh has a history that is difficult to match. Dolesh presided over his last Farmers Pride Annual Meeting as Chairman on March 4 in Norfolk after 36 years of involvement in local cooperatives as an employee, customer and board member.

Jerry grew up on the farm near Tilden that he is currently still living and farming today. He was in the first graduating class of the consolidated school between Tilden and Meadow Grove, Elkhorn Valley High School. He met a young lady, Bonnie, during that school year, and low and behold, they were married in 1971.

Upon graduation from UNL in 1972, Jerry found a job with Atlantic Richfield Oil Company working at a retail agronomy plant in Amboy, MN. Jerry worked all aspects of agronomy at that time, sales, operations and management when the plant was sold to Blue Earth County Service Coop. Jerry continued to work for the cooperative in their service station, as feed manager and assistant manager before moving back home to the family farm in 1984 after Jerry’s father had suffered from a heart attack.

Jerry’s father was told by the doctor to give up farming, and rather than renting the farm to a neighbor, Jerry asked his father if he could take over the farm. Jerry distinctly recalls his father’s reaction, “You are getting a paycheck now, so why farm?” Jerry quickly replied, “I can always get another job, but I might not be able to find another farm!”

So, Jerry and Bonnie returned to the farm to raise a family. Jerry remembers using very little fertilizer back in those days, with no irrigation using lots of field tillage just to raise 80 bushels of corn/acre and were really happy to raise 100-120 bushels on a big year! Today Jerry utilizes all of the crop nutrients in a grid system to efficiently control his inputs, irrigates all of his fields and is completely no-till for his tillage program. And believe it or not, his corn yield goals are 250 bushels/acre today!

Jerry has served in other capacities in the community. In the area of public power, Jerry has served for nine years on the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board of Directors which has been a great learning opportunity on how power is generated, transmitted and brought to our rural areas. Additionally, Jerry has been a full-time bus driver for his

alma mater, Elkhorn Valley since 1989, moving as a substitute driver in 2014. Jerry also retired from driving buses on May 23. Jerry has served in various leadership roles at their church, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tilden and as the secretary/treasurer for the Tilden Rural Fire Board since 1989.

Jerry has promoted the cooperative system for many years, and according to Jerry, “why wouldn’t you do business with the company you own?” “I prefer to do business with someone I trust; plus, I enjoy the dividends I receive from the coop and my equity was recently retired by the coop and I was really impressed with that!” Jerry also recalled the time when he was in Amboy and there were local fuel shortages. The regional cooperative system was able to always keep them supplied with a high-quality fuel during those times while other independent suppliers let their dealers run out of fuel.

Jerry has enjoyed his time on the board, learning a lot about business and the opportunity to meet a lot of great people and friends that he has made over the years.

Jerry and Bonnie raised two children on the farm; Amy who lives in Norfolk has three children and Brad who lives in Columbia Falls, MT has two children. Jerry and Bonnie enjoy traveling every time they get the chance and when there is a polka band playing, you can find them enjoying some time on the dance floor!

Thank you, Jerry, for your service to Farmers Pride and others for all of these years!



***Jerry & Bonnie Dolesh
recognized at the Farmers
Pride Annual Meeting***



***Jerry Dolesh recognized for
30 years of bus service with
Elkhorn Valley Schools***

Crop Management

As long as it took to plant the crop this year, what concerns should we have as we progress thru the growing season? What should we be aware of when it comes to crop diseases and in-season fertility this year?

There are three areas of concern as we move along this growing season; 1) be concerned about potential diseases. 2) the loss of nitrogen in your corn and 3) history of your fields.

There has been a lot of talk and research in the past number of years about the use of a fungicide, even in the absence of disease, to improve your yields. Recent research that shows a positive yield response from the use of a fungicide on soybeans ranging between 70% and 91% of the time. A positive yield response in corn seems to depend more on the particular hybrid. Some hybrids show very little response while others have a tremendous response.

On the disease side, it's important to remember your economic returns are greatest when fungicides are applied to susceptible plants and conditions favoring disease occur. Timing is crucial when applying the fungicide for a positive yield bump. When treating soybeans, the best time is in the R3 growth stage. This is when the pods on the top nodes of the plant are about 3/8 of an inch long. On the calendar most years, this is usually around the end of July or the beginning of August. Most fungicides require the use of a surfactant and a higher carrier volume. At least twenty gallons per acre along with a deposition aid is desired. This helps the fungicide penetrate the canopy for better coverage.

When treating soybeans for White Mold, timing is much earlier. You want to treat at R1 or blooming and most of the time it will be too early to see if you have White Mold. You need to base your decision to treat on the history of the field. The fungus that causes White Mold lives in the soil and old trash. It infects the soybean plant where the petals of the flowers fall off. This disease is usually worse in narrow planted rows and when the foliage remains wet. Once you see the damage of the disease, there is no reversing it. You may be able to stop future infection but if it's in a plant, it's going to stay there and greatly reduce your yield.

When treating corn for plant health or higher yields in the absence of disease, we first recommend looking at

your hybrid. We, at Farmers Pride, have a great resource with the Winfield United Answer Plots that shows us the response to fungicides on many different hybrids. Sometimes people will split apply the fungicide with one application at V5 and another at R1. Consider one full shot application at R1. You will need to use a surfactant when applying a fungicide, except if that application is between V8 and VT. The use of a surfactant at that time can affect ear development.

The application of a fungicide at R1 can also help with disease that may go unseen until harvest. Early stress on the plants or hail damage can allow diseases to infect the plant that will lead to later problems. Various stalk rots can cause the plants to break prior to harvest, making it much more difficult and slower. We can also see dropped ears as we did in 2017. It was common to hear of 40-70 bushels yield losses after the winds hit that year. A well-timed fungicide application may have lowered that a great deal.

In-season nitrogen application is best at tassel or even later with the newer hybrids; and consider using an ear leaf plant tissue samples at this time to maximize your in-season nitrogen investment.

Lastly, please visit with Farmers Pride to discuss your needs and the cost-effectiveness of any potential treatment

“Timing is crucial when applying the fungicide for a positive yield bump.”





Layne Bussey
Grain Marketing

Rain, Grain and ???????

Remember those high school basketball games where one high school pep squad would shout a challenge to the other school, “we’ve got spirit yes we do-we got spirit how about you”. The other high school would re-issue the challenge, “we’ve got spirit yes we do-we got spirit how about you”.

And back and forth it would go, the NOISE deafening, until one school would finally throw in the towel.

That is the scene you see in the grain markets today. The US farmer shouts “production reduction” while on the other side of the market a shout returns “demand destruction.” Back and forth it goes. Prices go up to the cheer of the grower “production reduction” and then prices go down “demand destruction” to the relief of the end user.

Let’s remove the “Noise” from the corn markets. In the corn market the acreage reduction is a given in the corn market. The question is not if, but how many acres, will not be planted to corn. Later in the summer the question will be raised about yields., With 50% of the national corn crop planted after May 20 it will be difficult for the national corn yield to be trend line. Yes “production reduction” is happening. Old crop export and ethanol demand are still falling below the USDA estimates, perhaps to the tune of 200 million bushels. At trend line yields 200 million bushels is equal to 1.24 million planted acres of corn. The rally in US futures markets has made it attractive for the “Feeding Cartel” in Wilmington NC to import Argentina corn while another large integrator buys Brazilian corn. Yes “demand destruction” is taking place also. We don’t have time or space to talk about the Farm Aid band aid from USDA.

What does all this mean? Remember your COP. No, not the local law enforcement officer, but your operation’s “Cost of Production”. The rallies in the grain market should have rallied prices to levels that are profitable for your operation. Be a farm manager, not a speculative trader. Remember our winter meetings, “be proactive not reactive”. Visit with our grain professionals to help you use the grain contracts best suited to your farming operation.

Grain Marketing Strategies to Consider

As far as strategy ideas, here are a few suggestions using options values on 6/6/19;

Old crop corn-

Sell best cash carry bid and buy Sept 430 calls for 26c and sell Sept 500 calls for 10c. Net option cost is 16c.

New crop corn-

Sell fall or Jan, depending on storage situation, and buy the Sept 430/500 call spread at 16c or can buy Dec 440 calls and sell 520 calls for a cost of 20c.

Another alternative would be to buy Dec 430 puts and sell 520 calls for 16c.

Suggest doing either of these on 25% of a conservative production estimate.

For 2020 corn-

Suggest buying Dec 20 400 puts at 20c on 25% of production.

For old crop beans-

Sell best cash carry bid and buy Nov 940 calls at 29c on 50% of cash sale bushels.

For new crop beans-

Sell fall or Jan, depending on storage situation, and buy Nov 940 calls at 29c on 50% of cash sale bushels. An alternative would be to buy Nov 880 puts and sell 1000 calls for 22c cost. Suggest doing either of these on 25% of a conservative production estimate.





Maximizing Beef Cow Fertility

Optimizing beef cow fertility is crucial to beef cattle production. Total conception rates, as well as, first cycle conception rates may be the two most important factors affecting total pounds weaned. Fertility rates are greatly affected by nutrition. Beef cows are bred during peak lactation, and therefore, need adequate and balanced supplies of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. Mature cows should be in a body condition score of 5 plus and 2 and 3 year-olds and older cows should be 6 plus. The majority of weight loss from cows in a BCS of 5.5 or less is muscle. Consequently, thin cows at calving have vastly increased nutritional requirements, which will most certainly require protein and energy supplementation. Cows in optimum body condition going into breeding and consuming adequate supplies of highly nutritious forage may not require protein and energy supplementation. Forage and water analyses, ration balancing and genetic evaluation will more precisely determine nutritional requirements.

All cows will require a high quality free-choice mineral that is being consumed at the desired rate of intake. This free-choice mineral must be fortified with the required macro minerals, trace minerals and vitamins. Free-choice mineral is normally consumed to fulfill the cow's nutritional phosphorus need. Green grass generally contains moderate to high levels of phosphorus. Therefore, an adequate mineral may include a phosphorus level as low as 6 percent in some cases. If the free-choice mineral's phosphorus or magnesium level is too high, intake can be compromised, and a deficiency of other components may occur.

Most research trials indicate that any well-designed free-choice breeding mineral program will include chelated trace minerals. Most of the forages in the Great Plains are deficient in copper and zinc, and antagonists (tie-ups) are likely in many of the forages and water. Chelated trace minerals come in all shapes and sizes, some good--some not as good. They are also included in free-choice minerals at varying levels, some at the proper levels--some only as tag dressing. Industry standards include chelates at 1/3 of the total trace mineral level.

Progressive Nutrition supplies various products designed for range cow supplementation - prior to, during and after the very important breeding season. Protein and energy

supplementation products may include PN cubes, tubs or liquid supplements. We have many products with chelated zinc and copper to choose from including PN 02-16-8-12. These minerals are formulated with industry standard levels. These are palatable products to assure consistent consumption and are nutritionally engineered to maximize range cow fertility. Maximizing beef cow fertility requires many important management decisions. Proper nutrition and supplementation is vital to the reproduction process and ranch profitability.

Cattle are not what they used to be

When done correctly creep feeding is a great method to capture more value from your calves. As cattle genetics have improved over the last 30 years, the nutritional demands and opportunities have also increased. With creep feed formulas that compliment grass, we have been able to see gains rise 50-70 pounds at weaning with feed efficiency of 5 or 6 pounds of creep per lb. of gain. Simple math calculations show us a good return on investment by using high quality creep feed. Most producers who routinely creep feed have also found that the best gains and feed efficiency are seen as grass starts to mature or go into the summer heat slump. We are currently running a booking program on creep feed for use from now until October 31st. Contact one of our Nutrition Consultants or call the office to book your needs to get optimal value for dollar!

Facility upgrades

We are very excited about some mill updates that are in the works. These highly efficient improvements will help us manufacture your feed more efficiently while also improving the quality. We do have a plan to provide uninterrupted service to you during these updates, but if there is an issue we would appreciate hearing from you so we can get them resolved. If you have any questions, please contact us at 402-371-2040. I have listed the updates below.

- Meal legs – installed in March/April
- Ingredient conveyors – installed in March/April
- Batching system – June/July timeline
- Pellet mills – early July

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"We are a locally owned Agricultural Marketing Cooperative with the mission of strengthening the well-being of Agricultural Producers, Employees, and their Communities."

Each year, Farmers Pride and Progressive Nutrition join together to serve pancakes and sausage at area County Fairs for local 4-H'ers and their families. This year's scheduled Pancake Feeds are as follows:

4-H PANCAKE FEEDS & FAIR PARADES

July 12 - Madison County

July 13 - Fremont Watermelon Feed

July 21 - Burt County Parade

July 26 - Wayne County

Aug 1 - Dixon County

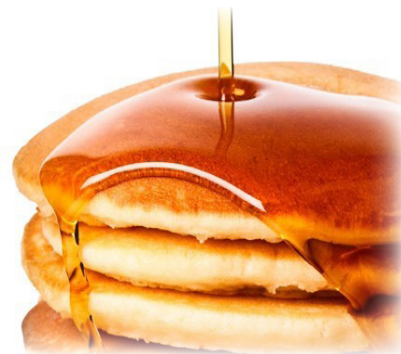
Aug 2 - Dakota County

Aug 2 - Pierce County

Aug 3 - Antelope County

Aug 9 - Knox County

Aug 11 - Cuming County Parade



Follow Farmers Pride on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to see updates, pictures, and other news!



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