

Pilot Grove Cooperative

April Newsletter

Coop News: The first of the two new bins are almost all the way up, they are defiantly changing the skyline driving in from the South. With a wet March there is still a lot of fertilizer left to go be spread. With more snow and rain in the forecast Anhydrous may take more of a back seat to dry fertilizer as we get later into April and Corn planting days start to get squeezed.

Upcoming events:

Fish Days: April 23rd is the last day to order. P/u on April 27th.

Chick Day: March 27th was the last Day to order. P/u on April 25th.

Easter: April 1st

Annual Meeting: May 3rd starting 6pm

Grain News: With the March Planting intentions report behind us, look for a better than anticipated Summer market. USDA raised the estimated Quarterly stocks up on Corn, Soybeans and Wheat, bushels but lowered estimated planted acres on Corn and Beans then lowered acres on wheat for 2018. So overall a bullish planting intentions report because of lower Soybean and Corn acres. Corn on the month finished up \$.06 cents after being down as much as \$.13. Beans finished down \$.11 on the month after being up as high as up \$.26 or \$10.82 May futures. Moving forward into the spring now that the USDA has established their baseline for acres will be a planting and weather market.

Agromony: Spring is here, at least according to the calendar. Soil Temperatures are staying steady in the mid-40s. Corn will not germinate until the soil reaches 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Planting corn in 50-degree soils will often lead to uneven emergence. Most of the yield is determined at planting so having the right soil conditions is more important rather than being the first one to plant. Studies have shown that even emergence is one of the most important determinates of max potential yield. All the corn should emerge in 8-12-hour window. Some factors that affect even emergence include soil temperature, soil moisture, and an even planting depth. Double checking the planter at the field to ensure each row is planting at the same depth is important. Some years the earliest corn planted in the coolest soil temperatures may yield the best, but no 2 years are the same. Control the factors that we can control to reach max potential. Make sure to strategize because as soon as it dries we are going to get busy with spraying and fertilizer then eventually planting. Getting on the spray list early will help us getting there in a timely fashion. Fertilizer prices have moved up a little bit but not much. Expect them to remain steady the rest of spring. Wish everyone a good and safe planting season!

Seed news: April is finally here even though the temperature does not feel like it! We will soon be seeing the planters pulled out of the shed, dust blown off and the grease guns getting a work out. If you have a spot picked out for seed you have ordered and need delivered from us or need to make or add to an order give Larry (660-621-1663) or Ryan (660-621-2537) a call. The CO-OP still has a good supply of most corn and soybean numbers. Also ask them about the benefits of treating your soybeans and how we can use this essential tool to protect your investment from day one and give your crop a running head start.

Feed News: With spring and warmer weather hopefully arriving sooner than later we still need to give the cow herd a little attention and keep them in good condition before turning them out to grass. First, spring means grass tetany time. Grass tetany typically affects thinner cows that have a calf side, cows that are experiencing additional stress (mud, dampness etc.) and are eating lower quality forage or grazing cover crops. Feeding a free choice mineral with high levels of magnesium will help prevent tetany. It is recommended to start cattle on higher levels of magnesium several weeks prior to turn out. The coop has a good supply Kent Hi Mag mineral both plain and with CTC on hand.

Many producers have been asking how to stretch their remaining few bales of hay until the spring grass is growing. While there are very few substitutes for grass and hay feeding a balanced grain mix, range cubes or protein tubs and liquid supplement will help to supply the cow with the added energy and nutrition they may need if they are eating lower quality hay or are limited on the amount of hay being fed. Give Robbie a call to discuss what option might work best for you and your cow herd.

Local news: If you see Kenny Vollmer around town, wish him a Happy Retirement!