

Pilot Grove Cooperative

February Newsletter

Coop News- January was a cold snowy month that did not help a lot with below average temperatures and above average snowfall. There is a lot of field work that's left to do for this upcoming spring. Good thing you have your local elevator that's here to help with good equipment and the best service.

Upcoming events:

Valentine's Day: February 14th

Presidents' Day: February 18th

St. Patrick's Day: Sunday, March 17th

Easter: April 21st

Coop News: The coop has been getting prepared for spring '19 by getting all of our agronomy sectors ready to be applied. We have a good supply of Ammonia Nitrate and other fertilizer ready to be applied for the spring. We're also stocked up with chemicals and seed ready to be applied and delivered.

We recently have made several repairs to our fertilizer shed to help improve it's integrity and make it safer for employees and patrons. We have also made quite a few plant improvements and automated one of our old distributors. The Anhydrous dock has also been updated to meet with current safety standards. We still have plans to add more storage in the future but for now we will be as fully stocked as possible. Last year we were able to pump out close to 200 ton a day of anhydrous and keep up with demand.

Agronomy News- Don't' be afraid to call in and ask about getting your fields soil sampled. Pilot Grove Coop offers this service to all our customers who purchase their fertilizers from us at no fee. It's important to get the right amount of fertilizer to make sure you can maximize your yields. We also offer grid sampling for those who want to make sure you're getting the absolute most out of every acre. The cost is \$8.50 an acre and includes year to year nutrient management for 4 years.

On spraying this year, we will have Dupont and BASF products available for use. Talk to either Bryce or Ryan about what type of plans works out best for you. We had good success with VersaMax on quite a few acres. With about a \$5 to \$1 return on Beans this year it seems to make a lot of sense. At the Coop we try and run as few of generics as possible, we think your fields are to important to trust with an unproven brand.

Grain News- Thank you all for attending the Grain Marketing Meeting in on January 9th. The speaker Brian Burke kept the audience vary captivated with his thoughts on grain markets going into the future. China as always was the big topic and there was a lot to discuss. Brain says watch what China does; not what they do. So when they say they have a record crop or that they have the Swine flu epidemic under control, take that with a grain of salt. We're looking at the biggest bean stocks we've ever had and still a bigger than average carryout on corn.

Soybeans finished up .20 ¼ cents China has made a few purchases as of recent and looks like Trump has been pushing extra hard as of late to get a trade deal done. But all of that as we know can be undone in a hurry with this administration. Corn exports remain near record highs helping hold the market. While the Corn market held steady on the market with very low movement, we are still about \$.30 cents stronger this year compared to last year on cash price.

Seed News: How important is emergence to your crops? The answer is VERY important. What if you could help your crops emergence at a low cost? This year we are offering TripidityST; it includes a balanced ratio of three hormones designed to work together to enhance seed germination and seedling establishment, provide stress reduction in cold soils, enhance cell elongation, and increase nutrient uptake for higher yield potentials. Germinating seedlings can only draw from the energy within the seed until the start of photosynthesis. TripidityST provides the building blocks for cell walls, membranes, and the components of key growth processes before the plant can create its own. **Unlike** other Seed treatments or “snake oil” this one has a guaranteed analysis so every kernel will receive the right amount of hormones.

Talk to Ryan and Larry about Tripidity and other seed treatment options we have this year. We also have the new Enlist Beans and Liberty GT Soybean available this year with the newest varieties to help you reach your yield goal.

Feed News: To date this winter’s weather hasn’t been too rough on the beef cows in the area. Most producers seem to have ample hay and in some cases, cows can still be seen out picking in pastures and stalk fields. However, as good as things seem to be, now is not the time to take a cow’s nutrition for granted. Whether you have spring calving cows that will be calving in the next 60 days or fall calvers with a calf at side both sets of cows need extra nutrition for the second half of the winter. By providing an additional protein source to beef cows the forage digestibility can be increased by 20-30% and the body condition can more easily be maintained. Additional protein can be supplied in many different forms from the most economical in range cubes and liquid protein to convenient protein tubs. Kent Feeds and the Coop have the right product for your cow herd, talk with Robbie if you have any questions.

February is a good time to start thinking about tetany issues and switch cows over to Hi Mag mineral. Traditionally grass tetany is what most of producers worry about as spring grass starts to green up and cows start picking. However, winter tetany is just as common and may be more likely to happen when cows have had lower quality hay or cows get pulled down from cold weather.

Spring calving season will soon be here, the Coop has a good selection of colostrum replacement products, milk replacers and electrolytes for all of the unpredicted situations that arise this time of year.

With the start of the new-year Kent Feeds and Coop will again be offering 12-month, 0% interest on all Kent beef products. Contact Robbie for more information on this program.