

## Pilot Grove Cooperative

### March Newsletter

**Coop News:** February is the last day of the physical year at the Coop and we would like to start out by saying “Thank You” to all our patrons for your commitment in the elevator over the last year. There has been a lot of changes to the Coop, but we are just as dedicated as ever in bringing you the best service. Also, thanks to everyone who attended the Stine Seed meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The project is coming along great and expect to see some HUGE bins pop up in the coming weeks. Most of the concrete is finished and they are working on putting the roofs together. The scale should be installed sometime this month as well. We plan to use the new scale to weigh in and the old scale to weigh out.

#### Upcoming events:

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

Chick Day: March 27<sup>th</sup> is the last Day to order. P/u on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Easter: April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Grain News:** Grains are seeing some levels we have not seen since February 17 on beans and since Aug 17 corn. On the month we are up .50 cents on beans and .12 cents on corn. The biggest part of the recent rally has been tied to dryness in Argentina. There is still a lot of world grain stocks and a big acres forecasted in Brazil. We will trade a weather and acres reports going forward. On wheat we are getting close to the levels we saw post harvest in July last year, posting a gain of .43 cents on the month. The majority coming the last few days of the month on reports of dry weather to the west of Missouri. Taking advantage of the rally's and selling ahead is key to a good marketing program.

**Fertilizer News:** With spring just around the corner now is the time to have cropping plans in place. Cropping plans should include herbicide program and nutrient management plan at the minimum. In the next few weeks it will be time to start applying burndowns, wheat herbicide, and also top dressing wheat. Getting early season control of winter annuals, mainly marestalk, is vital to having season long clean fields. Marestalk continues to be a bigger problem in crop production fields. Tillage is not the answer for control. Early season burndown before marestalk is out of the rosetta stage gives us the best chances at control.

Pilot Grove Co-Op is also now offering and facilitating a grid sampling program. Grid sampling is a proven nutrient management tool that will help maximize profitability. Grid samples are taken on 2.5 acre grids and provide a detailed picture of nutrient levels across the field. If you have any questions or want to discuss spring plans stop by or give me a call.

Along with crop management now is the time to start thinking about managing the moss and algae in your ponds. We have a wide variety of pond dies and cleaners available.

**Feed News:** The big news in the feed industry this winter has been about a fire in Germany at a BASF vitamin plant. This particular plant is very instrumental in the manufacturing of both vitamins A and E that are used by most feed companies here in the US. Due to this fire, both vitamins A and E have seen price increases and affected the coops price on many products. These price increases are forecasted to continue well into the summer.

Several suppliers have reduced or removed both vitamins A and E from some products to offer a competitive price or because their vitamin supply has ran out. Kent Feeds has left the levels of both vitamins at the same levels they have been in prior years to continue delivering a quality product that will offer the performance and results you have become accustomed too. Vitamin A is directly related to vision, bone development and immune function. Vitamin A supplementation is required to maintain proper health and reproductive performance of the cow and development of the calf. Adequate vitamin E levels have been shown to reduce retained placentas at calving, reduce cases of mastitis and improve milk quality and prevent white muscle disease.

The Coop and Kent Feeds will be working together and offering a 10% discount on all beef minerals during the month of March to help offset the price increases related to vitamin availability. A solid mineral program is one of the best investments a producer can make in their cow herd. Keep in mind that the bag of mineral you are feeding today will have a bigger effect on your 2019 calf crop than it will on your spring 2018 calf crop. The coop stocks several Kent minerals to help you stay on top of seasonal challenges. Now is the time to be switching to a mineral with high levels of Magnesium to help prevent grass tetany. Grass tetany is common in the early spring with cows that have been consuming low quality hay, have recently calved or have been grazing cereal grains that are often used in cover crops. Last summer and fall Anaplasmosis showed up in the area again; the coop recommends switching to a Kent Fescue Plus Mineral with 5600 grams of CTC after the Mag mineral to help protect cows in the summer and fall months from this expensive disease that is spread by ticks and biting flies. Remember, a current VFD will have to be on file at the coop before any mineral or feed product containing CTC can be invoiced and delivered. Stop by the coop or give Robbie a call to discuss your spring and summer mineral needs and take advantage of Kent Feeds 0% interest on all Kent beef feeds for 2018.

**Help wanted:** We are currently looking for someone to drive a feed truck. If you're interested, or know of someone that's interested, please apply in person at the Coop.