

PILOT GROVE COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR, INC.
APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

LOST: The Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. still has a lost panel and gate wagon missing. Basically this is a 4 wheeled wagon with pipe frame, used to haul gates and wire panels. Someone has borrowed it and it has not been returned. The Cooperative could really use it, so please give us a call at (660) 834-5412. Thank you.

FISH DAY The Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. will have a spring fish stocking on April 17, 2015. Pick your fish up from 9:00-10:00am. Fish available for spring stock include, catfish (3 different sizes), hybrid bluegill (2 sizes), bluegill, fathead minnows, and grass carp. Call in your orders by Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Fathead minnows are sold in lots of 1,000 only, and are pre-bagged in oxygen. Please bring your own container, preferably with the same water in the container that will become your order's new home. That way, the fish don't have the extra shock of adjusting to another new water source.

PASTURE SPRAYING Currently, the Pilot Grove Cooperative is taking orders for pasture spraying. While it has been too wet to spray crop acreage, pastures can be sprayed. The product of choice is GrazonNext HL. GrazonNext HL has no livestock grazing restrictions, and most states do not require a pesticide license to purchase or apply it. GrazonNext HL provides long lasting, broad spectrum control of more than ninety (90) tough pasture weeds. Ridding your pastures of weeds will make you more hay and grass, saving you lots of feed dollars. Give the Cooperative a call today to get in line for some pasture spraying @ 834-5412.

WHEAT SPRAYING Now is also the time to be scouting your wheat fields for winter annuals. If you no-tilled your wheat last fall, chances are you will need to have your field sprayed for weeds. Winter annuals germinate in the fall, and are fairly unnoticeable until spring. Winter annuals can really choke out wheat, and causing severe reduction in yield, from the competition for moisture and nutrients. Harmony Extra will kill all broadleaf weeds in wheat, and also give you a little residual. In addition to improving your wheat yield, spraying you wheat fields will likely give you a clean seed bed when the wheat is harvested and you decide to plant another crop of milo, or soybeans, etc. While you are spraying your wheat for weeds, you should also throw a little insecticide in to take care of aphids, and other insects that can severely affect the outcome of your wheat.

Aphids carry the virus called, "yellow barley leaf blight" that can severely impact your wheat yield. There are three (4) causes of yellowing wheat in a growing wheat field. (1) lack of nitrogen, (2) lack of sulfur, (3) chemical carry over, or (4) yellow barley leaf blight. Items (1) and (2) can readily be remedied, item (3) will go affect your crop, and yield will be what the crop can tolerate, and (4) will be the severity of the blight, which was carried to your field by aphids. If you keep the insects out of the wheat, you'll never have yellow barley leaf blight.

BULK GARDEN SEED The Cooperative has a good supply of pre-packaged garden seed, as well as some items in bulk, particularly green beans, sweet corn, peas, onions (bulbs and plants), and seed potatoes. If you would like something that we currently don't stock, give us a call and let us order for you.

HAPPY EASTER

FEED NEWS April brings green grass, new calves, and a new Kent Creep Feed booking for spring and summer. The price is too cheap to print, so please give the Cooperative a call and talk with your feed specialist about booking your needs. This feed product has both Bovatec and Aureomycin for improved feed efficiency and overall better calf health.

We are in the last stages of mineral promotion month. There are still a limited amount of mineral left at a booking price. Call as quick as you can to take advantage of these special savings.

ADM Endofighter mineral is back and in stock at the Cooperative. We have both IGR and Non-IGR versions. If you want to help keep cows out of the ponds and in the shade, and keep your cattle in better shape, endo-fighter mineral is the product you need to be feeding your herd. Call Larry or Robbi for more information.

For all cattle producers, grass tetany season is around the corner. Grass tetany is a magnesium deficiency in the blood, caused by rapidly growing forages. Symptoms of grass tetany are incoordination, excitability, and muscle twitching. Longer term symptoms are lower weight gain, lower weaning weights, and a decrease in milk production, and eventual death without warning. Now is the time to start supplementing your cattle with extra magnesium, through minerals, blocks, or feed. Most producers rely on a mineral program that supplies the extra magnesium that is necessary to get your cattle through this lush growing season. If you are currently feeding a balanced mineral, providing your cattle are eating the proper consumption, they are probably getting an adequate amount of mag. But if you are not sure, then the best protection is to feed a mineral that is at least 10% magnesium, and don't have any other source of salt, or mineral out for them to eat. Magnesium is bitter, and you don't need any competition to get them to start eating it. Cows cannot store magnesium, so they need to consume it daily.

It will be soon time to turn the bulls out, so now is also the time to be considering Kent's Breeder Aide minerals for improved conception rates. Getting more cows bred on the first heat cycle is one of the easiest ways to increase the profitability of your cow herd. The first calves born each year are typically the heaviest when weaning time rolls around, and the cows that calve first are generally the first cows to breed back the next season.

GRAIN PRICES A lot of you have utilized the feature of establishing grain targets, and many have locked in profitable grain prices, based on the costs of production, and average yields. Sure, not all targets are always filled, but any target that is offered has the potential of getting filled, and you don't have to watch or listen to the markets, the target order is working for you.

Currently, cash prices for wheat, soybeans, and corn are \$4.70, \$9.46, and \$3.60 respectively. New crop prices for wheat, soybeans, and corn are: \$5.03, \$8.89, and \$3.78 respectively. Some new crop targets for soybeans have been filled at \$9.40, corn for \$4.00, and very little activity in the wheat.

Give the Cooperative a call today, and review the February 2015 newsletter, to help you decide if you would like to put in some target offers. More than most years, persons who have contracted grain in the first six months were happier with their decision that waiting to see what the market gives you at harvest time.

SAFETY As the busy season starts, slow down and make safety one of your main goals. Don't become a statistic because you were in too much of a hurry, or you haven't been getting enough rest.

