

PILOT GROVE COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR, INC.
OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

THE MEGA HISTORICAL HARVEST IS HERE!!!!!! Corn yields are surprisingly better than expected, and for some, the best anyone can ever remember. Of course, along with the almost perfect and ideal amount of water and temperature, and the amount of time and money spent on research for higher yielding corn hybrids; the average corn yield per acre, per farm or state, will always be increasing. The Cooperative covered the first grain pile ever constructed by the Cooperative this past Monday morning, and started working on the second corn pile. The second pile will hold approximately 2.5 times what is in the first pile, which held around 187,000 bushels. It took four days of hauling corn to fill the first pile. The Cooperative is currently filling the second temporary emergency storage corn pile. Both of these corn piles are on Arthur Schuster's farm, just east of the MFA Petro card station along highway 135.

Soybean harvest has also started, but at a much slower pace than corn. Currently, the Cooperative has just a few soybean producers hauling soybeans to town. The verdict is still out to whether soybean yields can hold a candle to the corn yields for this year. There is some talk that the soybean yields may not have the overwhelmingly larger yields than normal like everyone is experiencing with their corn. It is a rare year when you have bumper wheat, corn, and soybean crops, which makes this year one of those rare years.

The grain prices are starting to reflect the larger than normal crop. Like the economics classes state, as the supply goes up, price goes down. The terminal grain elevators and feed companies are dropping their basis, (their paying cash bid versus the futures price) almost twice and always once on a weekly basis. The basis spread (cash price versus futures price) just keeps getting wider. All during the summer the Cooperative was buying new crop corn at -30/Dec, and currently the cash bid for corn is -55/Dec. The new crop bid for soybeans (and cash bid) is currently -60/Nov bean futures. As harvest rolls farther along, the bean basis will probably slide south like the corn basis.

Grain storage is .04 cents per bushel per month for any grain. If you want to get your money out of your grain, and still be eligible to make money if the market goes higher, then you may buy an option. Purchasing an option will in effect stop all costs related to owning the grain, (interest on money and storage), and allow you to make more money on those same bushels, if the grain prices go up. The cost of the options varies according to how much time your purchase according to the futures month you select. The most important thing to remember about options; versus futures, is that you know up front exactly the cost of the options. With futures, you are open to profits or losses every time the market moves. Options limit your risk, and there are no margin calls, or money upfront to secure the options than the original cost. If you would like to know more about options, give Earl a call at **834-5412**. Currently the cash prices paid for grain at the Pilot Grove Cooperative are: \$2.66 for corn, \$8.53 for soybeans, and \$4.08 for wheat.

SEED WHEAT The Cooperative has several varieties of seed wheat, available in 50 # paper, min bulk and bulk. You can purchase seed wheat treated or non-treated. There are fungicide and insecticide treatments available, like vibrance extreme and cruiser accordingly. The Cooperative has several tenders available for your usage, if needed. Some of the varieties include Bess, Milton, Branson, Coker 1104, and Agrimaxx 490, prices ranging from \$11.75 per unit through \$21.00 per unit. Give the Cooperative a call today and book your seed wheat @ 834-5412. If you have any questions, give Ryan or Larry a call @ **621-2537**, or **621-1663** consecutively.

COVER CROP SEED The Pilot Grove Cooperative is the area leader in cover crop seed. The Pilot Grove Cooperative has all the cover crop seed available that you need. Currently, we have good supplies of cereal rye, winter ryegrass (new variety that is very winter hardy), winter oats, bob oats, and triticale. You can add crimson clover, hairy vetch and/or balansa clover, which is a great way to add nitrogen to your soil for the 2015 corn crop. If sudden death syndrome was a problem for you this year, you might consider sowing some rape seed. There is research that shows that rape outsets sudden death in soybeans. Also available are turnips, radishes, and buckwheat. The Cooperative can custom mix for you any cover crop ration that you want, and can deliver it in a tender. For anyone wanting it applied by air, we can set that up for you also. We can also get all the necessary mapping at the Cooperative, and take it to the airport for you. For any cover crop suggestions, or questions, please give Pat a call at **834-5412, or 660-888-1029.**

BLACK WALNUTS The Cooperative is purchasing black walnuts again this year, starting to hull on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. The price for hulled walnuts is \$14.00 cwt. The Cooperative will be purchasing walnuts every week day after 3:30pm, and Saturdays until close. The starting price is \$14.00 per cwt, and the price usually does not change, unless the crop is a larger than normal crop, and a lot of walnuts are being harvested. Please be prepared to unload your own walnuts when you bring them to the Cooperative, we do not unload walnuts.

TRUCK SCALE ETIQUETTE Because this year's harvest is quite large, expect to see longer lines at the truck scales. Longer lines equate to longer waiting periods to get to the scales. Longer waiting periods can cause tension, particularly if someone is not taking their turn. We have noticed that there is some rudeness when it comes to getting to the scales. More often than not, trucks that get weighed immediately find a longer line at the dump pit, when in actuality they should have let more trucks exit the elevator. Yes, we know that highway 135 gets used as a line up for the scales, but I believe that persons who live in this community have come to expect that during harvest. So next time it's your turn to pull up on the scales, and another truck cuts you off, don't think that we are not watching. We are and we're thinking the same thing that you are. We do let the offender know what we think, and their actions always speak volumes.

THINK SAFETY FIRST Don't forget to slow down and remember to put safety into your daily agenda. There are so many jobs that a farmer does that can really cause injury or death if you are not practicing safety on a daily basis. Tractor roll overs, truck bed hoists, combine ladders, sickle bars, flowing grain in grain bins, and PTO shafts to name a few. Remember to get plenty of rest, and nourishment before you head out for a day of work. Also drink plenty of fluids so that you don't become dehydrated. It just takes a second or two for an unforgiving accident to occur. Even though you think your safety measures cannot be improved on, they can. Time and time again, some persons have become injured over the years, and then questioned because I thought they were the most safety minded persons I knew. Don't become a statistic, or an article for the newspaper. This year we just want to read or hear about your great crop yields.

FEED NEWS If you haven't started creep feeding, it is not too late. Not only do calves fed creep feed weigh more at weaning, the stress associated with weaning is reduced and the cow herd is in better condition for the upcoming winter season. For weaning, Kent Feeds has ArrivalMax products. These feeds are all medicated and specifically designed for beef calves going through the stress associated with weaning. ArrivalMax Complete is a complete feed that can be fed in a self feeder or bunk. ArrivalMax supplement is a product that can be mixed with your corn and hand fed along with hay.

With the large supply of corn this year, we want to remind you that the Cooperative can grain bank your corn and use it in your livestock feeds. By using your corn out of grain bank, you can reduce your “out of pocket” expenses when it comes to feeding your livestock. It has been proven for numerous years that corn and supplement diets were used to provide economic gains and good performance. As you inventory your corn bushels this year, you may want to take a look at utilizing a more traditional, higher corn diet. For thoughts and suggestions, contact the feed department at the Cooperative.

As always, you can apply for 0% interest feeder finance contracts for cash flow assistance. For more information on the Cooperative’s grain bank program, or to discuss feeding options, give Robbi a call at (660) 834-5412 (office) or (660) 621-4377 (cell).

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