

Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. Newsletter
December 2014

Harvest is wrapping up quickly. Other than more than a couple of rain delays in early October, harvest ran rather smooth and swift. Many thanks go out to all our patrons who were patient with our elevator staff when we had to move augers to fill bins, or when we had temporary breakdowns etc. Also, many thanks to our great elevator staff who worked long hours, to enable patrons to get unloaded. Other than a few times, waiting to get unloaded was not a long wait, because of the many places we were unloading grain. I honestly expected more of a nightmare of a harvest, than what we really had.

With this year's harvest comes some new experiences for the Cooperative handling grain. This is the first time that the grain elevator has stored grain in ground piles. Also, this is the first time that we have bagged grain in bags, which are nine (9) foot in diameter, and three hundred (300) foot long. Each bag holds approximately ten thousand (10,000) bushels of corn. The Cooperative purchased a bagging machine to fill these bags, and thus also purchased a machine to unload these bags. Usually, when we had a good day, we could bag thirty thousand (30,000) bushels of corn a day. This is a quick way to make grain storage, and unloading into the bagging machine is fast and efficient. Thanks again to all who helped make our mega harvest experience an enjoyable one.

FALL FERTILIZATION The ground has been frozen, and already thawed. If you would like to have the Cooperative do some soil sampling or grid sampling, give us a call @834-5412. A lot of fertilizer has been applied, but not near what usually gets applied in the fall. The bigger than normal harvest cut into a lot of the fall fertilization time. The forecast for fertilizer pricing looks like nitrogen and phosphate prices will soften after December. Potash prices will more than likely stay the same, as there are fewer players in the potash market. Since dry nitrogen prices look to weaken, anhydrous ammonia will also soften going into spring. These cheaper prices for phosphate and nitrogen will be available for prepay opportunities in December, later in the month. Prepay prices for fertilizer usually doesn't get established until midway through December.

SEED NEWS Many thanks to everyone who has placed their seed orders with the Cooperative to capture the greatest discounts. There is still a good supply of most hybrids, but some numbers are getting short in supply. Don't wait too long to get corn ordered.

Soybeans-Liberty soybeans continue to impress growers with yield and stand ability not to mention excellent weed control. The Cooperative has booked their Liberty Link soybeans for the 2015 season. The Cooperative has the newest varieties, which has not showed any yield drag. In some cases, have performed better than the roundup ready soybeans planted beside them.

Do not be fooled by competitors offering ultra low priced Liberty Link soybean seed. There is a very good chance that they are some of the earlier Liberty Link soybean varieties, which probably did have some yield drag. Pay attention to this slogan, **"The Bitterness of Poor Quality remains long after the sweetness of the low price is forgotten."**

PILOT GROVE COOPERATIVE'S CUSTOMER APPRECIATION AND OPEN HOUSE, IS TAKING PLACE AT THE PILOT GROVE COMMUNITY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014. OPEN HOUSE FROM 10:30AM-2:30PM, WITH LUNCH BEING SERVED FROM 11:30AM-1:30PM. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. NO RSVP NECESSARY

SEED TREATING Many thanks to all our chemical partners, who have helped us update our seed treater, to make it more accurate and easier to use.

This year we will be offering clariva complete soybean treatment. This is a fungicide with insecticide along with a cyst nematode nemadacide. This product will protect your soybeans from both above and below ground pests along with the protection from cyst nematodes. Everyone has some nematodes, but not very many know what their populations are. Along with the clariva complete, we will still be offering the cruisermass vibrance combo. So give Ryan or Larry a call to discuss what will work best for you.

FEED NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT The Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. will host a feed meeting at the Pilot Grove Community Building on Tuesday evening, **December 9, 2014**. Topics discussed at the meeting will include winter forage utilization. Come and enjoy a nice steak dinner prepared by the local Cooper County Cattlemen's Association. The dinner will start at 6:30pm, with the feed meeting following.

Whether you have spring or fall calving cows, now is the time to be evaluating your cow herd and thinking about next year's valuable calf crop. With some of the lowest feed prices in recent years, and record calf prices, now is not the time to skimp on nutrition. Energy and protein requirements increase as the spring calving cows get close to the third (3rd) trimester, and the fall calving cows come into the breeding season. Kent Feeds and the Pilot Grove Cooperative can supply needed protein and energy in several different forms to best fit your operation. Ruma-Liq 34 is a 34% liquid supplement that can be fed free choice out of a lick tank and offers the most economical way to get a unit of protein into the beef cow. Energilass tubs are 250# cooked molasses tubs that offer both protein and energy along with solid nutrition in the convenience of a tub. Exact Beef fed either straight or mixed with 20% corn continues to grow in popularity for the breeding herd and is offering very consistent intakes.

If you are wanting to hand feed, both range cubes and grain mixes are available in either bulk or bag. For winter bred cows, breeder aide mineral is just as important as it is in the summer. For more information on any of these products, or to get signed up on Kent Feeds 0% interest feeder finance contracts, give Robbi a call at the Cooperative @ 834-5412.

NEW CHANGE All patrons who rent cattle feeders from the Cooperative will be paying \$2.00 per day per feeder, starting December 1, 2014. This will apply to any and all new feeder rentals. Feeders currently rented by patrons will stay at the initial rent currently being charged. If you have any questions, please give Robbi a call at the Cooperative.

FEED ORDERS To help the Cooperative manage our assets and time more efficiently, it would be a big benefit to us if when you ordered feed, you could give us more than one half day or day to get it to you. If you can, it would be very much appreciated if you could give us a couple of days leeway when you order a feed delivery, that would help us to always have full truck load when leaving the driveway. Thank you very much for your consideration concerning this matter.

2014 FARM BILL EDUCATIONAL MEETING, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 4, 2014 AT THE ISLE OF CAPRI, BOONVILLE.(FLAMINGO BAY BANQUET ROOM) FREE ADMISSION, NO RSVP NECESSARY COME AND LEARN HOW THE NEW CROP PROGRAMS , PRICE LOSS COVERAGE(PLC), AND AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE (ARC), WILL WORK ON YOUR FARM.

