

Pilot Grove Cooperative

August Newsletter

Coop News: The month of July was a fast-moving month filled with holidays, vacations, hot days and wheat harvest. The Coop has stayed busy spraying Soybeans and emptying bins and getting prepared for harvest. We will be having an open house for everyone to come check out the bins when they are finished if time provides before harvest.

Upcoming events:

Crop Tour: August 23rd @6 PM

Labor Day: September 3rd

Feed News: This summer's hot dry weather has created many challenges for the cattlemen in the area. Everyone is faced with a shortage of pasture, hay and in some places water. One question that continues to be asked by customers is "what cows can be fed that will help the cows maintain body condition, stretch tight forage supplies and be economical". While every situation is different some key things to keep in mind are; protein helps cows better utilize dry, low quality forages, feeding corn will actually decrease forage intake (not in a good way) and feeds that are higher in fiber will generally meet the requirements of a beef animal in the summer and fall months while helping to stretch hay and pasture. Another option for spring calving cows is to go ahead and wean the calves. Once the calf is removed from the cow, the nutritional requirements of the cow are considerably lower. The coop has put together several different mixes that may work well for you, cattle cubes work well when fed daily, liquid supplement is still the most economical way to get protein into a cow and there are several self-feeder mixes that have been working well too. Stop by the coop and talk with Robbie about what will work best for your situation.

If you haven't started creep feeding your calves, now is the time. Not only do you get additional gain, the calves wean easier, pasture and forage pressure is reduced and the demand on the cow is lowered. The coop has a good supply of contracted Kent creep feed on hand that works well in creep feeder situations or has a hand feeding option as well.

As late-summer approaches we may soon be seeing the beginning of another Anaplasmosis season. A mineral containing chlortetracycline and is labeled for the control of Anaplasmosis continues to be an excellent tool to use against this mid/late summer problem. Before any mineral or feed containing chlortetracycline, or any other antibiotic can be sold a current Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) must be on file with the coop. All VFD's will have to originate from your veterinarian and are good for 6 months. Any of the VFD's the coop received this spring will soon be expiring.

Grain News: July has had a strong month finish to the month for both Corn and Beans as trade war talks begin to slow down. Both Corn and Beans have been ahead of schedule for silking and setting pods here locally which will lead to an earlier than usual harvest. Despite going 3 weeks back in the first part of the month with no rain crops look like they have handled the weather well. Look for Soybeans to move in whichever direction the trade talks continue. Soybeans on the month were up .39 cents and Corn up .12 cents. Limited rains in the forecast look to keep driving the corn market upward with higher than normal temperatures. Wheat prices continue to be on an upward trend as European wheat prices remain strong on short crops.

Agronomy: As we enter the beginning of August now is the time to put on the final touches to get the most out of your Soybeans. We recommend putting some fungicide along with a Nutrition pack to maximize your yield. Soybeans for the most part look clean with the exception of a few cases of volunteer corn sticking through. I always recommend putting a grass killer when spraying Beans in a rotation crop field even with Liberty. Ryan can provide fertilizer recommendations for post harvest wheat planting based on your yeild average in your field.

Seed News: All of our row crop customers are invited to come and grab a steak @ the Pilot Grove Crop tour. Call Larry, Ryan or see Facebook for details or directions. Should be a good opportunity to see how our varieties stack up against some of our competitors and grab a bite to eat. Seed wheat prices should be in sometime in late July.