

Pilot Grove Cooperative

May 2019 Newsletter

Coop News: What a way to kick off spring! With large amounts of dry fertilizer and nh3 going on in a hurry. Lots of Corn was planted in April and even a few Beans. Looking like we are going to be pretty wet for the rest of spring with hopes of time to get the rest of everything planted in a timely matter. We recently purchased a new John Deere Sprayer to help keep up with the demands of spraying row crops and pastures. The best way to have big yields is to have a clean field.

Upcoming events:

Mother's Day: May 12th

Armed Forces Day: May 18th

Memorial Day: May 27th

The value of a strong burndown and residual soybean herbicide.

Over the last few years, we have all probably heard Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri Weed Specialist, talk about the value of "overlapping residuals" when it comes to consistent soybean weed control. Here at Pilot Grove Coop, we are stocking several preplant and post emerge residuals that offer strong residual control of water hemp and other troublesome weeds. However, one of the hidden advantages to these products is rarely discussed. Several of our residual programs (Trivence for example) offer tremendous added burndown of the mass of winter annual weeds like henbit, chickweed, pennycress and many others that inhabit our fields. Check out the newly posted photo on our Facebook page of an area field that was treated a week or so ago. Give us a call at the Coop to schedule your burndown and residual treatment ahead of your bean crop. Trust my guidance; don't leave out the residual or you might be fighting hard to kill water hemp for most of the summer. I think you will be glad that you added a broad-spectrum burndown and residual product to your weed control program.

Breeding time!

If you haven't already turned your breeding bulls out it will soon be time too as you start preparing for the 2020 spring calf crop. One product to consider at this important time of the year is **Kent's Breeder Aide mineral**. Every year we hear positive comments on how cows fed Breeder Aide are calving earlier in the season with fewer stragglers calving later in year. Remember, every year at fall weaning the biggest calves in the group are typically the calves born first and those big calves are the ones that generate more dollars per head. Recommendations are to feed Breeder Aide 1-2 weeks before bull turn out and then an additional 6 weeks.

Creep feeding season will soon be here and the Coop has a good supply of **Kent Creep Feed** locked in at very competitive pricing. This year the coop is stocking creep feed with Bovatec in it. Bovatec improves feed efficiency and doesn't require a VFD. At today's calf prices it looks like creep feeding will offer about a 3:1 return this year. If you need a new creep feeder or would like to rent one contact the coop. As in past years all Kent beef feeds are eligible for **0% feeder finance** to help with your cash flow needs. Contact Robbie at the coop for more information.

The need for seed

We hope everyone is having a good spring and corn planting is going well. Reminder if you have pallets or boxes from your seed delivery, we need to have them returned by the end of May. You can return to the seed shed, or call Larry or Ryan to arrange for pick up. If you have any leftover corn seed, let us know as soon as possible.

We have ample availability of most soybean seed varieties and maturities. We carry straight Liberty Link, Liberty Link **GT27**™s, the **Enlist 3**, and **Extend** seed beans. We carry a variety of seed treatment options, such as fungicide and insecticide, Ilevo Sudden Death treatment, and soybean inoculate. All of these can be added to your bulk seed. We have made some updates to our seed treatment equipment, resulting in a more uniform coverage on the seed. If you haven't got your seed beans ordered yet, contact Larry or Ryan, so we can make sure we have what you want.

Rain makes grain

I put grain at the bottom of this newsletter, obviously because we hope to have met some new lows. But as of the end of April we are at some all-time low prices. Looking at new crop bean prices in the sub \$8 cash level doesn't inspire a lot of joy in value added things like fungicides and micros. But when thinking about those do a cash analysis of it. If you think about it our only hope at profitability is to grow as many bushels as you can with proven technologies and practices. The solution is dilution when it comes to being profitable this crop year.

As cheap as US crops are, they are still in the middle of the road compared to the rest of the world. Not great news for farmers in mid MO, but we are still searching for the bottom of this market with the funds taking record short positions isn't helping anything. At some point in time the funds will offset their short position and should provide some market strength. The Trump administration is ready to provide more federal aid to farmers if required, a White House adviser said on Monday, after rolling out up to \$12 billion since last year to offset agricultural losses from the trade dispute with China last year. But I think we all want a market not a handout. Corn down \$.03 on the month and Beans down \$.43.

Thank you for being a customer!

PILOT GROVE



PILOT GROVE, MO