

## Pilot Grove Cooperative February 2021 Newsletter

**Coop News:** With a mostly dry start to the year lots of early field work and fertilizer has been done in and around our area.

Locally it seems COVID-19 Vaccine's are the hot topic right now. If you or someone in your family needs signed up in Cooper County, please contact the Cooper County Public Health Center to get signed up. The phone number is (660)882-2626, and please have patience when calling in as it is a lot for that office to process everyone in the County who wants the vaccine.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for our Summer 21' internship program to learn about ag chemicals or agronomy, please contact Rick or Bryce for more details.

### **Upcoming events:**

CFA 2019/2020 crop input loans due 2/15/21

CFA Loan renewals can be turned in anytime before August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Grain Comments:** Corn up **\$.70** on the month. The last week of January saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest single day purchase of corn from the United States by China. 2.108 million metric tons of corn to China of old crop corn(2020 harvest). That equates to about 80-85 million bushels for one days worth of sales. The last week in January totaled sales of 5.7 MMT. China's rapid corn buying is a mixture of lower domestic yields and a loss of acres over the last few years.

It's hard not to think that these higher corn prices will not carry over into harvest 2021. The Coop urges it's customers to put in target orders, on farm or picked up after harvest for 2021. Targets of \$4.50 New crop Corn and \$11.50 on Beans delivered out of the field is a good reachable goal. Any wheat over \$6 is very profitable as well, especially with the really good double crop yields the last few years.

**Feed News:** As we start to approach the last half of the winter now is the time to be thinking about the condition of your beef cows and how they are holding up after going through everything Mother Nature has thrown at them the last few weeks. If you have a fall calving herd the calves are getting enough size on them that their milk demands are increasing more than what the cow can supply. In order to help keep the cows in good condition and get them bred back both energy and protein supplementation should be looked at. Also, creep feeding these calves will reduce the demand on the cows, help to stretch hay and give you additional pounds to sell. Sometime in the next couple of months most spring calving cows will calve. As these cows get closer to calving their energy and protein requirements increase too. Whether you are looking for a grain mix, cubes, liquid supplement or a protein tub the Coop has it on hand. Give Robbi or Emily a call to discuss which product will work best for your specific situation.

February is a good time to start thinking about tetany issues and switch cows over to Hi Mag mineral. Traditionally grass tetany is what most of producers worry about as spring grass starts to green up and cows start picking. However, winter tetany is just as common and may be more likely to happen when cows are fed lower quality hay, consume forages from cereal grains (cover crops) or are pulled down from damp conditions.

Research and new ingredients continue to show improvements in efficiency and productivity for the beef producer. If you are interested in seeing information on how to increase colostrum quality, reduce your calving time period by 16 days, add 28lbs to weaning weights and improve pregnancy rates talk with Emily at the coop. Kent Feeds and Zinpro have teamed up with a new line of Performance Minerals that have consistently shown these types of results and many more for all life stages of the beef cow throughout the year.

Spring calving season will soon be here, now is the time to stock up on colostrum replacement products, milk replacers and electrolytes for all of the unpredicted situations that arise this time of year.

**Chemical news:** If you have not gotten a chance to sit down with Rick to come up with a spray plan over the winter please do so. We want to be as efficient as possible to make it easy for our customers and easier for the Coop to plan. We have a good stock of Branded and generic chemicals to help us stay competitive, the right people and the right equipment to get the job done this spring.

**Fertilizer:** If you have not locked in fertilizer prices for this spring you may want to asap. Dry fertilizer demand is at all time high with high grain prices EVERYWHERE in the world right now. Nitrogen is on the rise with the higher fuel prices and a cooler winter we're having and forecasted to continue. We have financing available (**CFA**) to help prepay and pay for fall applications. Fall applications were great this fall and should give a little bit of local demand relief for dry and NH3. Fall application acres continue to grow every year with good savings on fertilizer and better planting times in the spring are realized by more and more customers.

*Thank you for being a customer!*

**PILOT GROVE**



**PILOT GROVE, MO**