

PILOT GROVE COOP

January 2024 newsletter

FROM THE GM I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Coop is looking forward to a prosperous and bountiful year for everyone (heck, I'm even optimistic that it might actually rain this year...). We will be running a spring fertilizer prepay special that will run until the end of January or until we use up all of our purchased fertilizer positions, which ever happens first. I suggest that you act sooner rather than later to ensure you can receive the discounted prices. For the most part pricing has remained steady except for the phosphates, which will be in short supply all spring. Call or stop by the Coop for pricing. I also continue ask that everyone get their feed orders in as early as possible. We do everything thing we can to get feed orders out the same day but that is not always possible. If we're able to receive advanced notice on your feed orders, we can all but guarantee those delivery requests. So please, help us help you.

We continue to make progress on the new Anhydrous plant. The road is being laid and the concrete is getting poured. The additional storage tank we purchased will double our holding capacity to allow us to have plenty of gas on hand when we're running in season. It will also provide us with the ability to purchase higher volumes of gas at the cheaper fill price which we would be able to pass along to you. Our plan is to have the new plant operational for the spring season, but Mother Nature will have a lot to say about that.

Another area that we have made some changes to is the 1% savings on your invoice by paying on or before the 15th of the month. There is no longer a discount on your invoice by paying on or before the 15th of the month. This has now changed to a 1% savings ONLY on same-day cash or check purchases. So for clarity, you will only receive the 1% discount if you pay at the time of your purchase. I know there will be questions and concerns, please direct those to me or our board members. We'd be happy to talk to you about our reasoning behind this change.

CHEMICAL: Hello 2024, I hope everyone is off to the right start in the new year and setting goals for themselves to achieve throughout the year. If there is any way I can help reach those goals let me know I would love to help. Going into the 2024 growing season the first thing on the checklist is getting our first shot of nitrogen on our wheat acres. For the growers that prefer liquid N. We will be handling 29-0-0-3. To supplement that we will also be carrying a product called taurus sulfur for an extra shot of sulfur. We also need to be getting burndown on our mind and analyze what residuals are best fit for your acres. We will be hosting a restricted use pesticide applicator license renewal course on Feb. 7th at 6p.m. in the Pilot Grove Coop's shop. To discuss any of these topics feel free to give Layne a call at the elevator!

FEED: As we begin a new year now is a good time to analyze the condition of your cow herd, spend some time thinking about the feed you have available and how much of it you have. Even with the recent weather swings, this winter hasn't been too rough on the beef cows in the area. However, as good as things seem to be, now is not the time to take a cow's nutrition for granted. Whether you have spring calving cows that will start calving in the next 60 days or fall calvers with a calf at side both sets of cows need extra nutrition for the second half of the winter. By providing an additional protein source to beef cows the forage digestibility can be increased by 20-30% and body condition can more easily be maintained. Additional protein can be supplied in many different forms from the most economical in range cubes and liquid protein to Energilass controlled intake tubs. Talk with Robbie about what product Kent Feeds and the Coop have that will best fit your specific situation.

Keeping free-choice mineral available in the winter months is just as important as it is in the summer months. Often winter hay and forage sources are low in minerals and lack some of the basic nutrition growing "green" forages have available in the warmer months. The Coop recommends Kent ADE for this time of year. ADE supplies a 2:1 ratio of calcium and phosphorus along with other trace minerals and high levels of vitamins A, D and E to support cow health and fetal development for the spring calving cows and milk production for the fall calving herds.

SEED: Happy New Year! Not much new in the seed business in the last month. The Coop has been receiving corn and soybean seed for next year. If you still need to finalize your seed order for next year please give David or Ryan a call, the early pay discount ends January 12, 2023. Through the NK brand, the Coop has the ability to offer Enogen seed corn for those of you that are interested in adding some efficiency to your cattle feeding program. Cattle feed mixed or silage with the Enogen trait provide improved feed efficiency and weight gain, especially in a feedlot situation. Give David or Ryan a call if you would like to know more about this or any of the AgriGold, NK, or Merschman seed products the Coop has to offer. The next few months are a good time to think about any last minute improvements that can be made for next year's crop. One thing that can improve performance is having your seed corn meters tested for accuracy to prevent doubles and skips both of which can cost you money. Another option that has been gaining interest is the ability to add biologicals and micronutrients to the seed box at planting. The Coop will be offering Stride Bio and Delta SeedCoat as a planter box additive that can replace talc/graphite while adding some goodies to help get your corn or soybeans off to the best start possible. Both products seemed to provide positive results in 2023. The Coop is looking forward to working with you to raise the best possible crop from start to finish. Thank you for your business in 2023!