

PILOT GROVE COOP

April 2024 newsletter

FROM THE GM: I would like to start out by thanking everyone for the great turn-out to our town-hall meeting to discuss the potential merger with PrairieLand FS. We know there is still a lot of work to be done so that we can provide answers to everyone's questions and hopefully alleviate any concerns. As the attorney's get involved, we will be able to provide precise direction on what needs to be done moving forward. We will still have a couple more meetings before we have a shareholder vote on the matter. The current tentative timeline will be a vote near the beginning of August.

I want to thank everyone for their patience, with the early spring weather we experienced we were able to move large quantities of fertilizer and anhydrous, despite the extremely tight supply we experienced. The fertilizer market is easing and I'd also expect to see commodity basis levels tick up as farmers get back into the field.

Please let us know what we can do to help make your planting season better. Please be SAFE!

CHEMICAL: Spring is here and these fields are sure to show it with all the winter annuals in full swing. It is time to get ahead of the game, start getting those winter annuals burned down to make for easier worked ground or no till planting. No matter if you are going to corn or beans it is a good decision to throw in a residual with your burndown pass to help keep the weed pressure back as we get into planting time. Give Layne a call at the Coop to go over some residual options to best fit your acres. We also need to keep our seed traits in mind when it comes time to go over these crops with a post pass to ensure the best kill and to keep from having crop damage. For most of the wheat acres if it hasn't been done already it is time to get a shot of nitrogen on it either dry or liquid. When going across those wheat acres it is smart to think about the additives that we can throw in with it. We can add micronutrients, nitrogen stabilizers, or insecticides while covering these acres. If there is anything you would like to discuss or get a plan in place don't hesitate to give Layne a call at the Coop.

FEED: With spring, warm weather and row crops on the horizon, now is not the time to forget about the beef cowherd. Whether you have a spring or fall calving herd this time of year is extremely hard on the mother cow. Hay quality is often very low and not appealing, spring grass is starting to green up but not enough is available to provide adequate nutrition, the weather is damp and most likely they have a calf at side that they are feeding too. Nutrition and cow condition are the two main factors that affect breeding...bottom line-thin and stressed cows do not breed in a timely manner. Remember, late born calves are never the biggest at weaning! Now is the time to be supplementing these cows to help maintain body condition and feeding one of the Kent Performance Beef minerals. Performance minerals contain some

of the highest levels of organic zinc, manganese, copper and cobalt in the industry. When fed at the recommended rate Performance Minerals have been proven to help with the challenging effects of stress (mud and weather), reproduction (breeding), colostrum quality and heavier calves at weaning. Talk to Robbi for information on the line of Kent Performance Minerals and the options the Coop has for supplementing your beef cows.

Creep feeding season will soon be here and the Coop has locked in creep feed again this year. The Kent creep feed the Coop is stocking is a 14% protein, pelleted feed that has both Bovatec and NutriVantage in it. If you need a creep feeder contact the Coop, we have creep feeders for sale and rent. As always, Kent Feeds has 0% interest on all of their beef products to help with your cash flow needs.

SEED: Well, April is already here and with that comes planting season! I know it can be hard to resist the temptation once you see the first planter go by the house, but it is important to make sure that everything is ready before you go to the field. If I were to make a checklist of things to address once your planter is ready to go to the field it would include;

- Make sure you are starting with a clean field. Tillage or a good burndown can help get your season off to a clean start, for both weed and pest control.
- Check the ground temperature. Germination begins above 50 degrees and it is important that the soil remain above 50 degrees consistently.
- Look at the weather forecast. A combination of cool temperatures and rain can wreak havoc on young corn seedlings vigor.
- Double check your hybrid. Are you starting with a hybrid that has very good emergence and early season vigor. (Remember, it's not so important when the first plant emerges as when all of the plants emerge.)

Once you are in the field it is important to check your planter's operation for spacing and depth, consistency is key.

If you need to finish up your seed order, make any changes, or discuss seed placement or treatment options please give David or Ryan a call. Also, if you would like Coop to deliver your seed corn or soybeans, give David, Ryan, or the Coop a call. The Coop is excited to get another spring planting season underway and looking forward to watching our AgriGold, NK, and Merschman products perform on your farm. *Don't forget to grab some Stride Bio before heading to the field!* Have a safe and productive planting season!