



Edge



SilverEdge

Cooperative

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Main Office

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563-928-6419

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Locations

• Strawberry Point • Delhi

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to provide superior customer service and knowledge of the many agricultural fields while working with our customers to see them strive for success. We are dedicated to our work and the always changing fields of Agriculture."



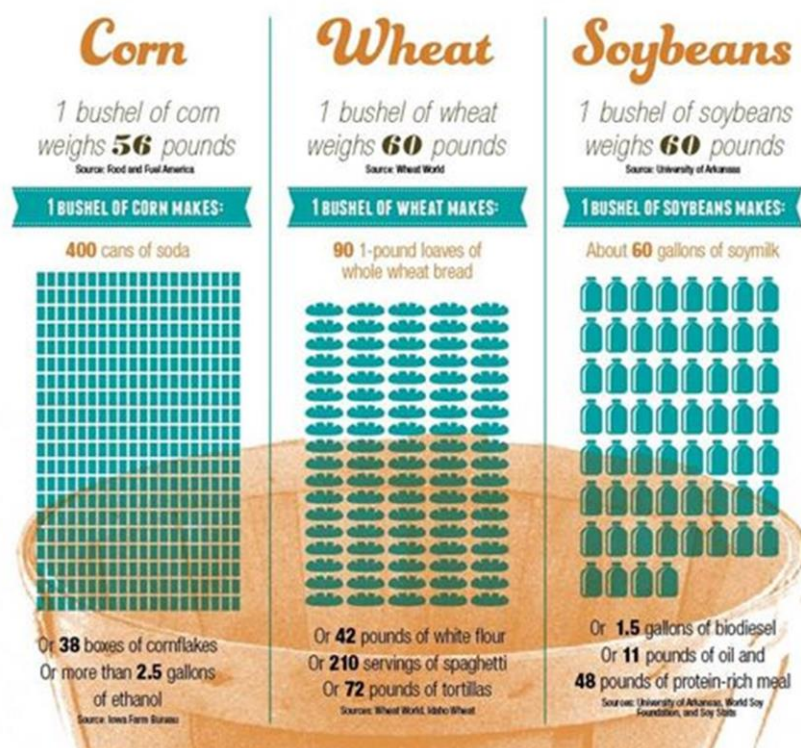
Let's Be Safe Out There

The 2014 harvest season is approaching quickly and we all know that with harvest there is a large amount of work to be done in a short period of time. The urgency to get work done is likely what causes more accidents and damage during harvest than any other season. Here at SilverEdge we want our growers to get their work done, but done safely. Preparation is key to staying safe during harvest! Here are a few tips to keep your operation running smoothly and safely during this fall season.

- **Get Organized:** Collect, maintain or purchase tools and equipment, conduct a basic safety walkthrough, check facilities electrical conditions, and do a safety training for employees and family members.
- **Focus on Efficiency:** Make sure your grain-receiving equipment is in good working condition, check condition of your bins and grain dryer.
- **Know Your Crop:** Quantity and quality, stay in touch with your local grain elevators, and determine your corn drying needs.
- **Stay Safe on the Public Roads:** During harvest, farm vehicles must share the road with other vehicles, let's make sure we know the proper farm vehicle safety.

For more information on harvest safety please visit our website. We wish all our growers a successful and safe 2014 harvest season!

What does one bushel of corn, wheat, and soybeans make?



BURNDOWN DAY

Jennifer Winch • Animal Nutrition, Agronomy and Office Department's • jennifer@silveredgecoop.com

We would like to thank everyone that was able to participate in our 2014 SilverEdge Cooperative Burndown Day. This 2014 season we ran 49 samples through the chipper to be analyzed, with moistures ranging from 64% to 72%. Depending on how you are storing your corn silage, whether it's going in a bunker, silo or maybe through a bagger, will help you decide when to start chopping.



Corn silage provides an ample amount of nutrients for your dairy and beef cattle needs, most all cattle operations use corn silage as part of a daily ration. But, did you know that for every 10 rows of corn in your field you will never see 2 of those rows go through your animal? This is due to loss thru the corn silage process. So whether you are a dairy or beef producer, we all have the same goal, we want high quality and high yielding corn silage for our animals.

Have you ever gone through our Croplan seed guides and wondered why some hybrids have a cow head picture next to them? With so many corn varieties and hybrids on the market these days it is hard to decipher which is going to be the best on your acres for your operation. Every Croplan hybrid that has a cow head picture next to it means that for two years in a row that hybrid was high quality and high yielding corn silage. Croplan corn silage trials are planted at nearly 200 Answer Plot locations throughout the United States, that being said, Croplan is able to provide data-proven corn silage products. Also, you may notice in the seed guides that every Croplan corn silage hybrid is rated on factors like percentage of dry matter yield, milk per ton, digestibility, starch and much more. Selecting the right hybrids for your operation is key in maximizing your investment.



Here at SilverEdge our Cattle Nutritionists and Agronomists can work side by side with you in selecting corn hybrids that will provide you with that high quality and high yielding corn silage that you are looking for. Your nutritionist will determine the parameters for nutrient needs and your agronomist will use R7 Placement Strategy to help strategically place hybrids for optimal agronomic performance. Talk with your SilverEdge Nutritionist and Agronomist for your 2015 corn silage needs.

SilverEdge
Cooperative

CROPLAN
By WINFIELD

Manager's Report

Tony Hemann • General Manager, CEO • tonyh@silveredgecoop.com

Happy New Year!

September 1st was the start of a new fiscal year here at the Co-op. Thank you to everyone that came in and took care of their account before the close of the fiscal year! Although I cannot give you any numbers at this time, as the auditors are currently working on the yearend audit, I can say that it looks like your Co-op had another good year. This is all possible because of the great support we receive from you, our member owners, thank you very much!

Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on November 24th, when we will be able to share with you the official numbers including patronage rates and other important information. At this year's annual meeting we will have elections for (3) Board of Director seats. If you have interest in running for one of these positions, please let us know and we will get you in touch with the Nominating Committee. Remember that this is your Cooperative!

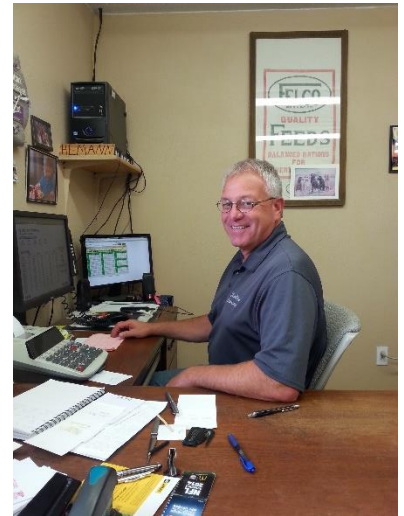
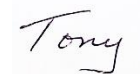
The Board consists of nine board members with staggered three year terms. This year the seats held by, *Doug Baumgartner*, *Tim Rathe* and *Charlie Robinson* are up for election. You must be a class A voting member of the Cooperative to run for a seat on the board. The Board of Directors meets monthly * to review and oversee the operation of the Cooperative. The Board also attends industry meetings and functions that pertain to the Cooperative such as, Annual Meeting of the Regional Cooperatives. Again, please call with any questions.

The fall harvest season will be upon us before we know it. If you haven't already booked your storage needs, I would recommend you do it soon. With what looks like a huge crop out there, and lower than hoped for grain prices, storage will be very tight this year.

I would also like to remind you about Syngenta's Duracade corn trait. The trait is still not approved in all markets, therefore there are only certain terminals that will purchase the corn. **The SilverEdge Coop will accept Syngenta's Duracade corn trait this fall, but ONLY corn that has been dried on the farm. We will NOT accept any Duracade corn traits directly from the field.** For questions, comments or concerns, please call us at the Edgewood location at 563-928-6419.

I look forward to a safe and prosperous harvest for you and your cooperative, I again want to thank you for your business and support.

Sincerely,



*Monthly meetings maybe cancelled due to weather conditions or business of the spring or fall season.

CORN MOISTURE DISCOUNT

All corn received at SilverEdge Coop that is over 15% moisture will be discounted as follows:

15.1 % and above	Discount: 5.0 cents/point
Custom Drying: Discounts as above plus 5.0 cents/ bu./ % moisture over 15%.	

SHRINK FACTORS

Corn: 1.45%	Soybeans: 1.50%
Corn purchased, contracted or on Price Later will be shrunk to 15%.	
Corn for storage or grain bank will be will shrunk to 14.0%.	

BEAN MOISTURE DISCOUNT

All soybeans received at SilverEdge that test over 13% moisture will be discounted as follows:

13.1% and above	CALL FOR CURRECT DISCOUNTS
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STORAGE CHARGES

Regular Corn Storage: 14.0 cents/bushel for the first 90 days, 3.0 cents/bushel per month for the next 9 months. 3.5 cents/bushel per month after 1 year.

Regular Bean Storage: 15.0 cents/bushel for the first 90 days, 3.0 cents/bushel per month for the next 9 months, 4.0 cents/ bushel per month after 1 year.

Grain Bank: 5.0 cents/bushel for the first 90 days, 2.0 cents/ bushel per month for the next 9 months, 3.0 cents/ bushel per month after 1 year.

(MUST BE PROCESSED INTO FEED)

CORN AND SOYBEAN DISCOUNTS

TEST WEIGHT

CORN: All corn received at SilverEdge Coop that is under 54.0 lbs test weight will be discounted as follows:

53.9 – 52.0	Discount: 1.0 cent/ point
51.9 – 50.0	Discount: 2.0 cents/ point
49.9 – 45.0	Discount: 3.0 cents/ point
44.9 – below	Discount: 4.0 cents/ point

BEANS: All beans received at SilverEdge Coop that is under 54.0 lbs test weight will be discounted as follows:

53.9 and below	Discount: 1.0 cent/ pound
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DAMAGE

CORN: All corn received at SilverEdge Coop that is over 5.0% damage will be discounted as follows:

5.1 and above	Discount: 1.0 cent/ point
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Corn that is over 15% Damage is Subject to Rejections or Such Discounts Agreed Upon by Buyer and Seller.

BEANS: All beans received at SilverEdge Coop that is over 2.0% damage will be discounted as follows:

2.1 and above	Discount: 3.0 cents
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HEAT DAMAGE

CORN: All corn received at SilverEdge Coop that is over .02% heat damage will be discounted as follows:

.03 - .05	Discount: 2.0 cents
.06 and above	Discount: 1.0 cent per additional 10th

BEANS: All beans received at SilverEdge Coop that is over .02% heat damage will be discounted as follows:

.03 - .05	Discount: 2.0 cents
.6 and above	Discount: 4.0 cents for each half % over 0.5

FOREIGN MATERIAL

CORN: All corn received at SilverEdge Coop that is above 3.0% F.M will be discounted as follows:

3.1 – 4.0	Discount: 2.0 cents/ point
4.1 – 10.0	Discount: 3.0 cents/ point

BEANS: All beans received at SilverEdge Coop that is over 1.0% F.M will be deducted from weight.

OTHER FACTORS

Heating 10 cents	COFO 10 cents	Sour 10 cents	Weevils 10 cents	Must 10 cents
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- Current Scale of Discounts on date of discounts will prevail over other discounts.
- Buyer Reserves the Right of Rejection.
- Schedule is subject to change without notice.

NOTE: OR ANY FRACTIONS THEREOF.

Optimizing the Profitability of your Acres in 2015

Bruce Hemann • Agronomy Sales • bruce@silveredgecoop.com

As we begin to look forward to 2015, we are going to be faced with some of the tightest margins in recent years. It is going to be more important than ever to make the right decisions when it comes to placing the right seed products on the right acres and following up with the right crop protection products.

Lower crop prices are going to be a reality, we all know that. The question on everyone's mind is where can I cut costs? Well, one of the best results of having high commodity prices over the past few years is that we have tried many new things to optimize yields. Now as margins tighten, we can use what we learned over these past good years to make decisions based on economics and data and not emotion.

Your cooperative system has invested in one of the most powerful tools for capturing this data and insights in the Winfield Answer Plot Program. The sheer amount of information gleaned from the Answer Plots is staggering. There are nearly 200 Answer Plots scattered across the country with dozens of replicated trials in

each. With this many locations and replications, the data is very powerful. In 2013 Answer Plots, the average LSD (Least Significant Difference) across all corn hybrid yield trials was 2.1 bu. What LSD boils down to is that if Hybrid A yields 231 bu/acre, Hybrid B yields 229 bu/acre, and Hybrid C yields 225 bu/acre, and the LSD of the trial is 5.0, there is statistically no difference between A and B OR B and C; or in other words, there was not enough replication to determine if the difference between A and B OR B and C was due to actual hybrid differences or within field variability. However, if there is more than a 5 bu/acre difference between A and C, so you can state with a very high degree of confidence that A is better than C.

Why is this important? I stated above that the average LSD in all of the 2013 Answer Plot corn trials was 2.1 bu/acre. Let's look at another hybrid testing program that is commonly used every year, the F.I.R.S.T. trials. Last year in the 105-110 RM trial in Central City, IA, the LSD was 21.3 bu/acre. This means that any hybrid within 21.3 bu of the top hybrid in the plot was statistically the same. 24 out of the 72 entries were within that window, so you have no way of knowing if there are any actual differences between the top 24! With the amount of replication in the Answer Plot, you can be confident that the hybrids you are looking at are truly the best.





Of course picking the hybrids that you are going to plant next year isn't as easy as picking the best hybrid out of one year's trials. Winfield also tests all of the hybrids in the Answer Plots for Response to Nitrogen (RTN), Response to Population (RTP), Response to Corn on Corn (RTCC), and this year they will be adding Response to Plant Health. We can even break down the performance of each tested hybrid by soil type. In 2013 putting the right hybrid on the right soil type was worth 24.7 bu/acre! Applying the right amount of nitrogen and at the correct timing based on the hybrids RTN score was worth 70.9 bu/acre in 2013!!

I just threw a lot of data out there at you. It can be overwhelming. Don't let it be. We have access to all of this data in a powerful iPad app called the R7 Tool. The best part is that this function of the R7 tool doesn't cost you a penny to use. Use this data! Ask your salesperson to show it to you sometime. We have a massive amount of data at our fingertips. Your crop is too valuable and your margins are probably going to be too tight to leave it to guess work.

Thank you and please be safe this harvest season.

BE ALERT FOR DECLINE IN FORAGE QUALITY

Steve Schilling • Beef and Swine Specialist • sjschilling@landolakes.com

From winter through spring is a difficult transition for cows and cattle producers alike. For the cows, nutritional demands are high, and so are environmental stressors. For the cattle producer, production stresses loom large and labor inputs have increased. During this time, also, the quality of feedstuffs may be low and scarce, making mineral supplements necessary.

Forages have always provided the majority of essential nutrients to cattle. Three components are involved in how the cow is able to utilize forage: intake (selection, ingestion, and regulation), digestibility, and efficiency in converting the product to usable metabolites. Variability of forage quality can result in forage deficiencies and a lack of consistent nutrition delivered to your cattle. Forage quality variability is especially apparent as the season progresses through summer and fall. Environmental changes such as rainfall, soil moisture profile and temperature, combined with normal changing growth stages of the forages, affect quality. By understanding forage quality and how it changes through time, you can get a pretty good idea whether forage is meeting your animals' needs.

THREE STAGES OF GROWTH

All pasture forages progress through three specific stages of growth. Knowing these stages can help you recognize when forage quality is declining. The stages include:

- 1. Lush** - Very green, high moisture with lots of leaf material. Provided adequate rainfall and growing conditions exist, forage is very lush early in the growing season and after each cutting of hay. Pasture at this stage is all leaf and no stem. It is high in quality, containing adequate protein, energy and minerals.
- 2. Transitional** - As the season progresses and forage continues to grow; it goes through a transition stage. In this stage, there is less leaf and more stem development and seed heads. During this stage, quality declines. Protein, energy and mineral content begin to drop rapidly.
- 3. Mature** - After the transitional phase, forage proceeds to full maturity. When it is mature, even though it may still be green, it contains mostly seed heads and stems and very little leaf material. Mature forage is poor in quality and has inadequate protein, energy and minerals to nutritionally sustain cattle.

As forages mature, the concentration of nutrients changes. Crude protein concentrations decline, which can depress forage intake. Along with this comes a deficiency in the ruminal degradable nitrogen that is needed for microbe production and efficiency. This reduces digestion and passage of nutrients out of the rumen. In addition, as forages mature, cattle also find greater difficulty in breaking down fiber.

Thus, to keep the animal in optimal performance condition, more mature, lower quality forages need to be supplemented with minerals on pasture.

Purina Animal Nutrition provides a wide variety of products for protein, vitamin and mineral supplementation of cattle on pasture or range. These products are available as meal, liquid, tubs or pellets.

The RangeLand Tub has a unique design that builds on an effectively proven intake-management technology that assures cattle cannot bite off or chew the product. It must be consumed by licking only, as the surface softens by moisture in the air and moisture from animal saliva. Intake can be further controlled by the number of animals fed per tub. RangeLand® supplement Tubs are formulated to enhance forage utilization by providing consistent supplement intake of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. Each self-fed, nutritionally-balanced RangeLand® supplement Tub will supply protein, energy, and other valuable nutrients in a low-moisture cooked-molasses formula designed to deliver consistent consumption. RangeLand® supplement Tubs deliver the protein and energy your herd needs.





Liquid Feed Supplements for Pasture Cattle

QLF offers a full line of molasses-based protein supplements for beef cows and stocker cattle. Customers realize the ultimate convenience and time- and labor-savings when QLF products are fed free-choice in lick wheel feeders. Management goals of other operations are best met with direct forage treatment or inclusion of QLF liquid feed supplements in bunk mixes.

Lick Tanks

- Several small meals over the course of the day
- Opportunity for less dominant animals to come to the feed unchallenged
- Virtually no waste
- Intake can change as conditions dictate
- Diverse animals in a herd can match intake to individual needs.



QLF LIQUID SUPPLEMENTS PROVIDE A RANGE OF BENEFITS

- Improved forage utilization
 - Convenience
 - Cost-effective returns
 - Palatability
 - Low equipment cost
 - Minimal labor needs
 - Less feed waste
 - Bioavailable sources of vitamins & minerals
-

Liquid Feed for Treating Forages

Applying QLF directly to forages can enhance the utilization of harvested roughages.

- **Treating Large Round Bales**
Dispersing liquid feed supplements throughout a big bale will significantly enhance the nutritional value AND palatability of hay, straw, or stalks. Simply pour on, or probe into, the face of the bale. Application rate is typically 7-10%, by weight.
- **At the bale processor**
Mounting a tank and pump directly on the processor allows addition of QLF to the hay as it is fed. Additional benefits include dust reduction, and ability to deliver forage and supplement in a single trip.

QLF Liquids in Bunk Mixes

QLF liquids in mixed diets offer nutrition . . . and more.

- **Diet Uniformity.** When liquid feed supplements are included in a total mixed ration, ingredients with varied particle size and density are held in place. And trace nutrients and additives contained in the QLF are distributed evenly throughout the ration.
- **Reduced Animal Sorting.**
- **Improved Ration Characteristics.** QLF liquid supplements tie up fines, reduce dustiness, and increase ration density.
- **Increased Palatability.**
- **Convenience.** QLF liquids can meet any or all supplemental needs with a single easy-to-incorporate product. Liquid feed supplements offer ease of application and storage simplicity.
- **Cost Savings.**

PLOT DAY

Jennifer Winch • Animal Nutrition, Agronomy and Office Departments • jennifer@silveredgecoop.com

Our SilverEdge 2014 Plot Day has come and gone; we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend. With the weather not cooperating with us, we were forced to move the location of the meeting to our seed warehouse at the Edgewood location and were unable to go through the plot. If you are ever interested in going through our plot or an Answer Plot please notify your SilverEdge Agronomist, we are always available for individual tours. During the meeting we covered many key topics, here is a recap of what we went through at our Plot Day.



We kicked off the event by going over corn and soybean current events and a 2014 recap of the year to this point. If you have been out in your soybean fields or even driving by them, you may be noticing some disease pressure, most likely, Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS), or Brown Stem Rot. The two look very similar the only way to tell them apart is to split the stem in half. If the stem is brown in the pith you have Brown Stem Rot, if the pith is white but brown on

the sides, then you have SDS. In corn, for disease pressure this 2014 season, we have been seeing Northern Corn Leaf Blight, Anthracnose, Goss' Wilt and rust. The big question this season was fungicide, yes or no? With our margins tighter then what they have been in a while it was hard to make the decision, but it looks like a fungicide application was worth the money this year.

Weed resistance management, we have all be hearing a lot about this, and this is because of one particular weed, waterhemp. One waterhemp plant can have up to **1 million seeds**, once it is in your field, it will always be there. The key is, controlling it and controlling it at the right time. We need to make sure we

are swtiching up our herbicides and targeting these weeds with different modes of action. Weed resistance has become an issue over these past several years due to an over reliance on glyphosate only chemical programs and cutting rates. We have to start managing our chemical programs with mutiple modes of action before weeds like waterhemp become more resistant. Mother nature will always win!

Who has seen this???





We spent some time going over Croplan and Asgrow Soybeans along with Croplan and Dekalb corn hybrids. Your SilverEdge Agronomist will sit down with you specifically and go over new hybrids and discuss with you what will work best on your acres depending on what your operation needs are, your soil types and your fields history. Using the R7 tool your agronomist will strategically place hybrids on your acres for optimal performance. Also, with the R7 tool we are able to use a new feature called the profit mapper that shows you what areas of the field are making you

money and by how much, and what areas of the field lost money and by how much.

We also discussed harvest, markets, grain storage and fuel contracting at the meeting. If you are going to be interested in storage for the fall, we strongly suggest getting it locked in. From what sounds like a 2014 bumper crop and low grain markets, storage capacity will be tight this harvest season. We have growers asking all the time, “when are the markets going to go back up”? We wish we had the answer, but frankly we don’t, we just have to ride this out and see where we go from here. With the fuel markets staying constant over these past weeks, if you are thinking about contracting fuel, that would not be a bad idea.



We wrapped plot day up with talk about harvest. With a combination of the disease pressure we had this year, the cooler temperatures and rain later in the season, we are seeing very brittle stalks out there. We suggest not waiting for the corn in your fields to dry down to 16%, the stalks are only going to get weaker and we all know that harvesting down corn is not a treat.

Once again we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend our 2014 Plot Day.

Soil Sampling

Laura Battin • Agronomy Sales • laura@silveredgecoop.com

Fall is in the air and harvest is right around the corner. Before the combine runs through, one question can be asked. What is going on in my soil? If it's been 4 years since your last soil sampling, you acquired a new farm, or you never had your farms soil sampled, let us here at SilverEdge help you answer that question.

Here at SilverEdge, we provide two options for soil sampling. One is a conventional method, where we pull into the field and take random samples every 20 acres. This is a very broad method with little amounts of samples taken in the field, which works great for that rented acre or brand new farm you are just needing the basics on for the short term. The other option is grid sampling your farm. When grid sampling, we will take a sample every 2.5 acre's. This is a more intensive operation that allows you the opportunity to take advantage of Variable Rate Technology (VRT) when applying dry fertilizer. With grid sampling, you will see on paper exactly what your soil has for nutrients, whether areas are lacking or are efficient. With the grid sampling option, you can decide if VRT is the best option for your operation. In the soil sampling results for your fields with both conventional and grid, you will know the basics such as pH, Phosphorus, Potassium, CECs, and Organic Matter. You can also go one step further and request micronutrients, to know your farm even more.

Many farmers out there are using manure off of their operations for their fertilizer applications. Here at SilverEdge Coop, we can work with your Manure Management Consultant to make sure your farms are up to date on soil sampling and manure analysis needs.

If you are one that is needing to know the analysis of the manure in your pits, give us a call. We have pre-approved containers sent right from the lab that we can provide to you. Once the sample is collected, bring it back and we can send it right to the lab. When the results are back, you will then know the nutrient content in your manure.

So whether you are in need to update soil samples or curious to what the nutrient content of the manure in your pit is, let us here at SilverEdge Cooperative help you out. Give us a call at any of our locations to get you on the list for your soil sampling needs this fall.

Edgewood
563-928-6419

Delhi
563-922-2154

Strawberry Point
563-933-2293