

PILOT GROVE COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR, INC.
JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!!!! The fourth of July is celebrated each year in the United States, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, which declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Even though it was adopted then, most of the delegates did not sign the declaration until August 2, 1776.

So whatever your plans, play it safe. Picnic, reunions, fireworks, etc. Sounds like the weather is going to cooperate. The Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. will be closed on Friday, the fourth of July, so that our employees can enjoy the holiday.

Crops are looking good, and now that most of the crops are near canopy with plenty of moisture in the ground, if the rain doesn't stop, we could be set for an outstanding high yielding harvest. Unfortunately, today's government stocks and acreage report did not help the new crop grain prices. Currently, new crop corn is trading at \$3.95, down .22 cents from last Friday, and soybeans are trading at \$11.02, down .71 cents from last Friday. Most of you did an excellent job of getting ahead of the dreaded waterhemp problem in soybeans this year by putting down some pre-emergence weed herbicide. Also, most everyone is getting their crops sprayed in a more timely manner, when weeds are smaller, and we are seeing a lot more control of these hard to control weeds. With an excellent stand of corn and soybeans, there is only one thing left on the table that we have not included in our total crop package this year. That is a fungicide program.

The Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. is suggesting that you apply a 6 (six) ounce rate of Aproach fungicide to your corn crop so that you will have a healthier-looking corn crop to higher yield potential at the end of the year. Some key benefits of Aproach are that you will have more complete coverage because it is rapidly absorbed and moves quickly into and within each plant. This can help compensate for less-than-ideal timing, since weather and other crop demands can make it difficult to plan fungicide applications perfectly. Aproach has the unique ability to redistribute with the crop canopy, increasing protection deeper into the crop canopy, closer to the soil surface where key diseases originate. Studies have demonstrated that Dupont "Aproach" fungicide will provide more reliable plant health and disease control for improved yields you will see with your yield monitor. The best timing for an application is from VT to R2, which generally speaking is late June through July. Apply as soon as you can after full tassel, and before brown silking. For the very best program to get the highest yields, apply an insecticide with the fungicide treatment. Asana XL at eight (8) ounces to the acre will control all the corn insects that chip away at your profit margin.

A fungicide treatment applied by air will cost approximately \$25.47 per acre. A fungicide treatment along with an insecticide treatment will cost approximately \$30.16 per acre. Let this year be the year to try and maximize your profit potential by applying a fungicide and insecticide treatment on your corn crop. Aproach fungicide is also a fungicide that can be applied to soybeans, with the same yield enhancing results.

Give Pat a call today @834-5412 to schedule your aerial application of fungicides and insecticide. Be sure to bring in aerial photos of the fields that you would like to have sprayed. This is a must when the aerial operator needs to locate a field. If you are concerned about the timing, give us a call, and we will scout your fields to determine when the best time for application is.

There are also other fungicide options if you prefer another product. Give us a call and we will be happy to discuss those with you.

NEW GRAIN DRYER If you haven't been to the Cooperative lately, next time you come, look on the hill towards the grain bins and you will see a new tower grain dryer. For the past several years, the Coop's horizontal grain dryer had been having a lot of problems staying operating, because it was worn out. The new tower grain dryer recirculates the heated air, which reduces the amount of gas needed to dry the grain. Also, the grain comes out of the grain dryer cooled, rather than having to be cooled in a grain bin. This new grain dryer also increases the Cooperative's grain dryer capacity by about 2.5 times what we had.

WHEAT HARVEST Wheat harvest will be over soon. The acres were down because last fall's harvest lasted longer, due to the delayed planting season. The yields have been excellent, but the test weights are down due to the continued rain that we have been receiving after the wheat ripened. Most of the wheat has been harvested wet. The Cooperative has a good supply of double crop soybean seed, give Ryan or Larry a call for maturities, and variety.

CROP SPRAYING Crop spraying has been going rather smoothly, despite all the rain interruptions. Give the Cooperative a call today to schedule your spraying. The Cooperative has been spraying mostly Cobra on soybeans to eradicate the waterhemp. In a few cases, some waterhemp have escaped Cobra, even with twenty gallons of water to the acre with crop oil. Cobra tends to bronze the soybeans, but recovery is soon after application, and it doesn't affect yields. It is also important to put an insecticide in the tank when spraying soybeans over the top, insecticides applied almost anytime increase yields.

FEED NEWS Regardless of what segment of the beef industry you are involved in, there is more opportunity for profit than any time in recent history. It seems every week, new price levels are set on both the local cash market and the futures market. The fact is today's market is paying for pounds and with today's feed prices, pounds can be added as economically as any time in recent years. Whether you are grazing some yearlings, or have a cow/calf herd, you should think about adding some additional weight with one of the many feed options that the Pilot Grove Coop has available. The Cooperative can help with a grain mix if you want to hand feed, or if self-feeding is a better option, Kent Feeds has several options available to limit intake while maintaining excellent feed efficiency. For the cow/calf producer, the Cooperative has Kent Creep Feed available that is currently contracted below the spot market.

A pound of beef can be added for an investment of .65-.85 cents per pound. With most classes of beef calves bringing well over \$2.00 per pound, that is an excellent return on investment. Give the Cooperative a call and talk with Robbi or Larry about what would work best for your situation. To help with cash flow needs, Kent Feeds is still offering feeder finance contracts at 0% interest to finance all Kent beef feeds.

Jesse Johnson retired from our feed department, and our new feed department employee is Steven McCreery. Steven has been with the Cooperative for several weeks now, mixing feed rations, loading and unloading feed, etc. Kenny Vollmer has been on vacation for a few weeks, and when Kenny gets back, he will resume making feed deliveries. If you ever have a complaint or concern about our services, please give us a call @ 834-5412. We are the ones that want and need to know, not your neighbors. We thank you for your continued feed business, and hope to earn it in the future.

