

PILOT GROVE COOP

September 2024 newsletter

FROM THE GM: With the finalization of the merger being effective as of September 1st we will now officially be Prairieland FS. We are very excited for the energy, focus, and changes that are taking place and continue to change. In case you haven't heard, the Prairieland FS Board of Directors approved \$3.5 million towards a new building that is slated to break ground this fall. This building will be a new seed treatment facility, warehouse, and a chemical mixing facility all wrapped up into one.

This transition will not come without its own set of challenges. So, as we encounter them, please be patient and know we are doing everything we can to make it as seamless as possible for you. We greatly appreciate and value your business and support. We strive to make your operations as successful as possible.

As we roll into the start of September, I know everyone is eager and gearing up for harvest. This year's version of harvest certainly looks more promising than the ones we have had the past few years. With that being said, we are anticipating longer lines at the elevator, but we will do everything we can to get you in and out as quickly as possible. Please pay attention to the text alerts and signs on which scale house is in operation. If you are unsure, please call Coop to find out before you arrive. We have updated our grain hauling, drying, and storage policies; if you would like to know more feel free to call in and we'd be happy to walk you through the changes. We strive to make harvest around here as safe as possible for the patrons, employees, and the community. We need your help to ensure this happens.

CHEMICAL: We are in the home stretch and all of the hard work this year is about to pay off, but it is not too early to think about next year's crop. As the combines are moving through the field pay attention to any problem areas. We might need to change strategies on those acres next year. One of the tools we have in our arsenal that we might want to utilize is fall spraying. A fall herbicide application for both wheat and next year's crop is a great opportunity to knock out troublesome weeds before they become a problem, and keep the fields clean into the spring. We will be more than happy to help you, talk with us and we can get a plan in place to set you up for success in the 2025 crop year.

Hopefully everyone has a safe and bountiful harvest!

FEED: With what looks to be a good corn crop locally and with harvest just around the corner now may be the time to consider grain banking some of this year's crop and walking it to town through your livestock. The Coop will store your corn for \$.04/month and you can take it out as needed through our feed mill. Corn is still one of the most economical feed ingredients a producer can feed and when mixed with protein or commodities can supply very economical returns.

Do not overlook the opportunity of adding weight and value to your calf crop by creep feeding. Even in years like this one when there is a good supply of grass creep feeding pays. Whether you choose to use a complete, pelleted product or want to do a grind and mix creep with your corn and a product like Exact Beef you will be adding pounds to that calf and the more pounds that calf weighs at sale time the more dollars it will generate. Using current feed prices and average conversion figures it looks like a

pound of gain can be added to a calf for \$.85-\$.95. At today's prices, that is over a 3:1 return on your investment!!! All of our Kent Feeds creep products qualify for 0% financing. Talk with Robbi for more information on creep feeding and the supply of self-feeders the Coop had for sale and rent.

As late summer approaches, we may soon be seeing the beginning of another Anaplasmosis season. A mineral containing chlortetracycline and is labeled for the control of Anaplasmosis continues to be an excellent tool to use against this mid/late summer problem. Before any mineral or feed containing chlortetracycline or any other antibiotic can be sold, a current Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) must be on file with the Coop. All VFD's will have to originate from your veterinarian and are good for 6 months. Any of the VFD's the Coop received this spring will soon be expiring.

September is mineral promotion month with Kent. All eligible minerals will have a 10% discount. Contact Robbi for any additional information you may need.

SEED: As we roll into September and we move into harvest, the Pilot Grove Coop is also moving into a new era as we join with the team at Prairieland FS. We are heading into September and with that harvest will begin and so does the new seed selling season. With this merger there will be additional seed brands available as well as aggressive cash discounts and financing offers available to help you get the best product for your acres. We are excited to make our strong seed lineup even stronger! Let's get that seed locked up before you get too busy with harvest, it could be a long one and we don't want you to miss out on the best pricing. Once harvest is in full swing, fertilizer, cover crops, and wheat will soon follow. We will have a good selection of wheat and cover crops available. If there is a specific product you are looking for give us a call. There will be a few changes as we work through the season, but one thing that will remain the same is the same great service from the same great crew! All of us at Pilot Grove Coop thank you for your support and patronage and look forward to serving you as Prairieland FS