

GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

THE PERSPECTIVE

www.goldeaglecoop.com



LOCATIONS

Eagle Grove

448-4775

800-873-1797

–Feed Mill–

515-448-5392

800-722-3966

Thor

378-3314

866-210-9734

Goldfield

825-3161

800-825-3331

Renwick

824-3214

888-824-3214

Hardy

824-3221

866-210-9733

Livermore

379-1843

888-576-1843

Corwith

583-2462

888-581-2462

Wesley

679-4272

866-212-3890

Titonka

928-2272

866-203-9656

GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

Our spacious new shop in Eagle Grove will become operational this March.

How's Business?

By Brad Davis
General Manager



How's business at your business? I'm talking about Gold-Eagle Cooperative, which is owned 100% by you and your neighbors.

Some of these neighbors are also board members who serve as guardians of your cooperative's assets. Did you know your business continues to operate profitably and sustainably, with no term debt owed to our financial partner, CoBank?

"There's no smoke and no mirrors here – just straightforward numbers you can add up if you have the last 10 years of annual reports for your business."

During the last 10 years:

- Gold-Eagle allocated taxable patronage out to our membership equal to \$33.8 million.
- Gold-Eagle distributed cash to members for current patronage portion and equity revolvment equal to \$28.4 million.
- The percentage of total cash distributed versus taxable patronage allocated was 84%.
- Gold-Eagle spent cash for new facilities, equipment and member cash distributions totaling \$116 million.
- Before-tax savings at Gold-Eagle were equal to \$103.2 million.
- Number of other cooperatives in Iowa that have exceeded \$100 million in savings in the last 10 years: 4.

There's no smoke and no mirrors here—just straightforward numbers you can add up if you

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Myths Versus Facts with Dicamba-Tolerant Beans

Dicamba-tolerant soybeans remain one of the biggest topics of conversation, from our plot tour events last year to agronomy meetings this winter. There are still a lot of misunderstandings about this technology, so here are some myths versus facts to help clarify things.

Myth: If you plant Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans, you must spray them with XtendiMax™ herbicide.

Fact: You don't have to use XtendiMax just because you plant Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans.

Myth: You don't have to know what auxins are if you're growing dicamba-tolerant beans.

Fact: It's important to know your terms. Auxins are plant growth regulators, and synthetic auxins are used for controlling broadleaf weeds. Auxins are a group 4 product. All the products you'd spray on dicamba-tolerant soybeans are auxin herbicides, including XtendiMax, Engenia® and Fexapan®.

Myth: You don't have to be overly concerned about timing when spraying XtendiMax herbicide.

Fact: Timing is essential to proper stewardship and protecting your crop. The rate on XtendiMax is 22 ounces per acre. As a rule of thumb, this should be sprayed within 22 days of planting. If you plant on May 1, for example, you need to have XtendiMax sprayed by May 22.

By Chris Petersen
Seed Sales Manager



In that 22-day time period, you'll probably wonder why you need to spray when you don't see any weeds. Now's the time to stop weeds before they start. Also, there isn't nearly as much plant foliage at this stage. I recommend using a product like Warrant® herbicide in the mix to provide residual weed control.

If you plan to use XtendiMax, it's vital to use a pre-emerge weed control program. Also realize that the window for effective weed control post-planting can be quite small.

By the time you plant soybeans and give yourself a couple days to finish applying your pre-emerge soybean herbicides, finish rolling the soybeans, spend some time scouting and replanting; several days have passed. Spray your corn post-applied herbicides over the next two weeks and before you know it with the potential for a wet spell or unfit weather conditions you have only a few days left to get your soybeans sprayed with XtendiMax.

You can see how the window of opportunity closes fast. If you can't spray 22 ounces of XtendiMax within 22 days, you need a backup plan. Consider a conventional crop protection system—maybe a Roundup®/Flexstar® type program instead. ◀



For more information on these topics, I encourage you to visit with your Gold-Eagle Cooperative agronomist. You can also check out www.RoundupReadyXtend.com, www.RoundupReadyPlus.com, and www.Xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2018 GRAIN OUTLOOK MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday,
Feb. 27, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Renwick
Community Center

WHO: Peter Nessler,
Linn and Associates
Commercial Broker &
Head of Structured
Products, will present
timely information to
help you navigate the
grain markets.

How Does Tax Section 199A Affect Me?

There's been a lot of talk about new federal tax code provisions for 2018, including a Section 199A deduction of 20% of net income less capital gains and co-op dividends. Section 199A offers huge advantages for doing business with a cooperative like Gold-Eagle Cooperative.

It does create an unfair playing field, though, between co-ops and private, grain-related businesses. Will the government repeal or replace the 199A tax provision? We don't know, but even without the 199A tax provision, there are many advantages to doing your grain business with Gold-Eagle, including:

- **Competitive grain bids.** We work hard to provide the best margin opportunities for our members and customers.
- **Trusted advice.** Our grain team can help you determine which marketing tools might work best for you.

If you're already doing business with us, thank you for your support. If

you're not working with us yet, I encourage you to give Gold-Eagle a chance to earn your grain business.

Specialty contracts are working well

Those of you taking advantage of Gold-Eagle's specialty grain-marketing programs are discovering how these can add value. The Accumulator contract is one of these tools.

Rather than settle for the current market price, the Price Accumulator grain marketing contract can help you achieve strategic price targets to establish your futures reference price. If prices go higher, you may sell additional quantities.

If you're interested in learning more about Gold-Eagle's specialty grain-marketing programs, contact me or any member of Gold-Eagle's merchandising team at 800-825-3331. We look forward to serving you. ◀

By Brady Hess
Merchandising
Manager



Have You Checked Your Bins Lately?

If your grain bins and other grain storage sites were filled with dollar bills, you'd probably check your bins quite often. You may not have actual dollar bills in storage, but you do have something equally valuable—the grain you harvested last fall.

If you have on-farm storage, now's the time to be checking it, especially as daily temperatures start to warm up. Core your bins, as necessary. The amount of wet grain in the country was significant by mid-January. Be sure to protect your investment.

Gold Eagle's 2018 Bulk Crop Protection Storage and Loading Sites

Corwith

- PowerMAX®
- Resicore™
- Volley® NXT

Eagle Grove

- PowerMAX®
- Resicore™

Goldfield

- PowerMAX®
- Harness®

Hardy

- PowerMAX®
- Ledger™
- Volley® NXT
- Resicore™

Livermore

- PowerMAX®
- Harness®
- Resicore™
- Halex GT

Renwick

- PowerMAX®
- Harness®

Titonka

- PowerMAX®
- Ledger™
- Harness®
- Volley® NXT

Wesley

- Acuron™
- Prefix®
- Ledger™
- PowerMAX®
- Resicore™
- Volley® NXT
- DiFlexx® Duo



Gold-Eagle Invests in New Agronomy Equipment

Considering how dry it was last summer, it's hard to believe how high the yields were at harvest. Superior genetics, fairly cool temperatures and excellent farming practices definitely contributed to both the yields and Gold-Eagle Cooperative's record and near-record fertilizer sales.

Thank you for these excellent results. Our sales of dry fertilizer reached near-record tons of potash, phosphate, and zinc. We also had record sulfur sales and record fall anhydrous ammonia sales. We almost doubled our custom anhydrous ammonia (NH₃) acres, compared to the fall of 2016.

Thank you to all of Gold-Eagle's floater and tender operators, employees at our Gold-Eagle locations, and our agronomy sales team. Their hard work ensured that you received the timely, professional service you need.

Investing in new anhydrous ammonia equipment

Our new NH₃ facilities at Wesley, Hardy, and Livermore (complete with extra storage and faster pumping capacities) were also a real asset last fall.

Speaking of NH₃, our record acres of custom NH₃ last fall allowed Gold-Eagle to purchase a new 60-foot toolbar (24 shank) for custom application this year.

We'll have this toolbar available for spring, although we don't anticipate using it on many acres, considering the record acres last fall. We'll rent an additional tractor this coming fall to increase our capabilities for custom NH₃.

By Stu Pannkuk
Agronomy Sales Manager



Our existing custom bar has been moved to Titonka and will be thoroughly inspected and repaired so it's field ready for this coming spring. This area needed a 60-foot toolbar, so this was a good fit.

The location is also getting a new 40-foot toolbar (16 shank) completely equipped with colters, disc sealers, a Raven NH₃ controller, and N-Serve injection. These toolbars are great additions to Region 3's existing fleet.

Focusing on dry fertilizer tenders

Gold-Eagle's board of directors approved and allocated funds to purchase two 24-ton tenders with top unloading augers.

The tender has three 8-ton compartments with the center 8-ton compartment split into two fours. Having the center compartment split this way allows us to haul two separate, smaller quantities, such as sulfur and zinc, without having to tie up the full 8-ton capacity.

One 24-ton tender will be assigned to Region 3, mainly for the Corwith location. The other 24-ton tender will go to Region 2 and will mainly tender our New Leader 5000 G5 crop-nutrient applicator that's mounted on a new 7300 Terragator. We expect to have this new rig in July. Watch for more details. ◀



Applicators—Are You Up to Speed?

By Stu Pannkuk, Agronomy Sales Manager

Attention crop growers! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made updates to the herbicide labels for the application of XtendiMax™ from Monsanto, Engenia® from BASF, and FeXapan™ from DuPont, and you need to make sure you're ready.

You must have a restricted-use pesticide license. You also have to attend a mandatory dicamba training class. Note—you must have your restricted-use pesticide license before you attend the dicamba class, and you must attend the entire dicamba session. You can't just sign in and leave early.

Following this training, you will receive a certificate allowing you to purchase and spray dicamba products labeled for use in the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® crop system.

Contact your local Gold-Eagle agronomist for locations, dates, and times of this mandatory training. ◀

How's Business

Continued from page 1

have the last 10 years of annual reports for your business.

We're ready to build on this success as we guide your business into the future. Sometimes your business has the best price in the area, sometimes it does not, but your business is always competitive.

Staying competitive, adapting to changing times and remaining rooted in our communities have helped your cooperative serve local farmers for 110 years. These strategies also hold the key to your business's success going forward.

Thank you for your continued support of Gold-Eagle. This is your business, and we appreciate the chance to serve you and help your business thrive. ◀

Rain-Fast Times for Products in Stock at Gold-Eagle

(Clip this list and keep it handy throughout the crop season)

This information does not take the place of product label directions.

PRODUCT	RAIN-FAST TIME IN HOURS
ACURON™/FLEXI	4
APROACH®/PRIMA	1
ARMEZON®	1
ATRAZINE	1 to 2
AUTHORITY® ASSIST/ELITE/FIRST/MAXX/MTZ/XL	1
BALANCE® FLEXX	2 OR LESS
BANVEL®	4
BRIGADE® 2EC	WHEN DRY
BUCCANEER® 5 EXTRA/PLUS	1 TO 2
CADET®	4
CALLISTO® 4SC/GT	1
CALLISTO® XTRA ENHANCED	4
CAPRENO®	1
CLETHODIM/SHADOW/VOLUNTEER®	1
COBALT®/ADVANCED	WHEN DRY
COBRA	½
CORVUS®	2 OR LESS
DICAMBA/HD	4
DIFLEXX™/DUO	4
ENGENIA®	4
ENLITE®	1
FEXAPAN™	4
FIERCE®/XLT	1
FIRSTRATE®	2
FLEXSTAR®/GT 3.5	1
FOREFRONT® HL	2
FUSILADE® DX	1
GRAZON® P + D	4
HALEX™ GT	1
HEADLINE® EC/SC/AMP®	1
HERO® EC	1
HORNET®	2
IMPACT®	1
LAUDIS®	1
LIBERTY®	4
LORSBAN™ 4E/ADVANCED	2 TO 3
MARVEL™	1
MILESTONE®	2
OPTILL®/PRO	1
PASTUREGARD® HL	6
PREEMPTOR™ SC	WHEN DRY
PREFIX®	WHEN DRY
PRIAXOR™	WHEN DRY
PROVINCE®/II	WHEN DRY
PURSUIT®	1
QUILT®/QUILT XCEL®	4
REALM® Q	4
REMEDY® ULTRA	4
RESICORE™	1
RESOLVE® Q	4
RINGSIDE®	1
ROUNDUP POWERMAX®	1 TO 2
SELECT® MAX	1
SHADOW/CLETHODIM/VOLUNTEER®	1
SOLSTICE™	4
STATUS®	4
STEED™	WHEN DRY
STRATEGO® YLD	WHEN DRY
THUNDERMASTER™	1
TRIVAPRO®	4
VALOR® EZ/SX/XLT	1
VOLUNTEER/CLETHODIM/SHADOW®	1
XTENDIMAX®	4
2,4-D AMINE	6 TO 8
2,4-D ESTER	1 TO 3

Start with the Soil: Prepare for the Biological Age of Crop Production

The biggest revolution in agriculture involves some of the smallest organisms around—and it's all right under your feet.

Did you know your land's profit potential depends greatly on microbes in the soil? The most productive, healthy soils contain the greatest number of diverse, beneficial microorganisms. Tapping into this power with biologicals is the next frontier in farming.

Restoring microbial health to cropland contributes to enhanced soil tilth, an improved seed bed for better seed-to-soil contact, uniform emergence, and more nutrient-efficient plants. Biologicals prepare your soil to give more so your crop can take in more and produce more.

We invite you to attend our informational meetings on March 21 and 22 on biologicals, where we'll cover the basics of soil health and explore how microbials from Biodyne can help enhance your soil and your profit potential. Contact your Gold-Eagle agronomist for more information. We appreciate your business. ◀

**YOU'RE INVITED
MARCH 21 AND 22**



Learn more about Biodyne products and how to put biologicals to work for you in your soil. Gold-Eagle will be hosting meetings on March 21 and 22 in the local area to share more information, along with lunch.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS SOON.

Why I Choose to Do Business with Gold-Eagle Cooperative



*Jeff Morris, Gold-Eagle board president,
Titonka area corn, cattle and hog producer*

"Local" and "long term" come to mind when I think of Gold-Eagle. This co-op has been a local business for decades, owned by farmers like you and me. We elect the board members who guide the management of our cooperative.

Local control is important. Since decisions are made close to home, not thousands of miles away, the co-op evolves as farming evolves in our area. The co-op is in it for the long haul. Adapting to members' needs allows the co-op to last for generations, not just a period of years like some competitors.

When we do business with the co-op, we're serving ourselves and benefiting our local communities, now and for years to come. ◀

**CONTACT YOUR GOLD-
EAGLE SALESPERSON**

**Save \$1/Acre
on Spring
Grid Sampling**

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS



It's Time to Take an Inventory

Producing the best possible yields on every acre is one of the biggest challenges you face. Fortunately, you don't have to go it alone.

As a leader in variable-rate technology, Gold-Eagle is here to help with your precision ag needs. When you use Gold-Eagle's Eagle Vision Acre program, we'll work with you every step of the way, from planting prescriptions to the analysis of all your different layers of information after the combine is put away for the season.

If you want to visit about Eagle Vision Acre 2018 and how it can fit your farm, call your local Gold-Eagle salesperson for an appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Grid soil sampling after planting

There's no better time to grid soil sample your fields than right after you plant, especially with our current promotion. You can save \$1 per acre by soil sampling in the spring, compared to soil sampling in the fall.

We recommend 2.5-acre grid soil samples, since they give the most accurate mapping for the money, especially when applying nutrients with variable rate technology. We also offer 4.4-acre, 10-acre, and 20-acre grid samples, if that's what you prefer.

Another big advantage of spring grid sampling? You'll have your results back in plenty of time for you and the Gold-Eagle team to create a plan for all your fields. Then when you're ready to fertilize in the fall, you'll be one step ahead.

I recommend that you grid your fields every fourth year. That way you get an updated set of recommendations as your soil's nutrient strengths and

By Bruce Burns
Eagle Vision Precision
Farming Services



needs shift. Research has shown that the results of spring versus fall grid samples are not that much different. The key is to stay consistent with the same time frame when you resample.

Note—spreading your grids out by doing a fourth of your fields yearly also spreads out your investment in grid sampling.

Knowing beats guessing

Taking a grid of your fields is just like taking an inventory to find out what nutrients need attention and where you need to take action. Knowing beats guessing. In our experience, pH issues are the main reason to take 2.5-acre grid samples, since there's a significant return in investment on applying lime where it's needed.

Phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and micronutrients like zinc (Zn) and sulfur (S) are a bonus, and we can make a solid plan for you, based on your grid sample results. Gold-Eagle uses some of the best software available to produce the most reliable recommendations in the industry. When you combine this with our knowledge of your fields, you maximize your return on investment.

All of us at Gold-Eagle Cooperative would like to thank you for your continued business. Have a safe spring, and stay in touch. If you have any questions, contact me (515-605-5113) at the Renwick Agronomy Center office along Highway 17. ◀



TRY FIELDVIEW™ PRO WITH A RISK-FREE TRIAL

Want a simpler way to manage seed and fertility at the zone level to get the most out of every acre? Here's your chance to try FieldView Pro with a risk-free trial.

- Eligible farmers include all farmers who purchase FieldView Pro between February 5 and April 15, 2018.
- No-worry offer: Get a full refund of the purchase price, if you're unsatisfied with your FieldView Pro experience.

When you try this service, you'll create a minimum of one advanced seed script or view a minimum of one field of zone nitrogen status. Interested in learning more? Contact your local Gold-Eagle agronomy salesperson for more details. ◀

GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

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Goldfield, IA 50542-0280

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Eat Like a Pig

One lesson that's stuck with me since my grad school days is that "pigs are just horizontal humans." There's a lot of truth to that, since the biological systems of pigs and people are similar.

Pigs and people are omnivores (meaning we eat both plants and animals), and we're monogastric (meaning we only have one stomach). The acts of digestion and even the location of our organs are nearly the same, too.

There's no doubt that feeding pigs is a science, and one that humans could learn a lot from. We've been phase feeding swine since the 1980s, and it's really no different than raising kids.

I think about the challenges of feeding my 2-year-old son and his 17-year-old brother. It's clear that different people have intolerances to certain ingredients, just like young pigs do. There are also different nutritional needs at various growth stages. We're in the "late nursery phase" of child feeding as we keep introducing new foods and shift my

young son's diet to be more similar to ours as adults.

When it comes to our active teenager, the school lunch program could have definitely taken a page from swine nutritionists. We don't feed all growing pigs the same, so why would it be ok to feed all kids the same?

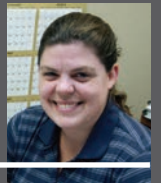
As people and pigs grow, their nutritional needs change. Phase feeding in swine adapts the feed to meet those changes. This maximizes performance and prevents nutrients from being wasted.

A growing pig only needs so much phosphorus, for example, so feeding him extra phosphorus doesn't cause him to store it for later use. It only gets excreted into the manure. Ingredients can be very volatile in price, and this kind of waste can be costly.

We're here to help

There are lots of opinions as to how many phases are best when feeding pigs, but ultimately your operation

*By Rachel Howdyshell
Customer Sales and Support*



will dictate what works best.

When you work with Gold-Eagle, we'll get to know your operation so we can tailor a feeding program to suit your needs. Maybe you need to hit a particular market window. Did you know we can alter your feeding program to help you do that? If you grind feed on the farm, we can look at different nutrition packages, whether that's a bulk vitamin or a 50-bag of premix. We can also help you answer the question of whether it pays to use DDGS.

We primarily work with Purina but aren't limited to this partnership as we tailor solutions for you. If you have any questions or want to sit down with some closeouts to see if there are opportunities for improvement, call us at 515-448-5392, or 800-722-3966. We look forward to working with you. ◀