



**GOLD-EAGLE
COOPERATIVE**

www.goldeaglecoop.com

THE PERSPECTIVE

SPRING 2023

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LOCATIONS

Galt 515-825-9673	Holmes 515-825-9675
Clarion 515-532-2881	Hutchins 641-843-3828
Corwith 515-583-2462	Kanawha 641-762-3251
Eagle Grove 515-448-4775	Livermore 515-379-1843
Eagle Grove Feedmill 515-448-5392	Renwick 515-824-3214
Galbraith 515-825-9695	Thor 515-378-3314
Goldfield 515-825-3161	Titonka 515-928-2272
Hardy 515-824-3221	Wesley 515-825-9680
	Woden 641-926-5301

Gearing Up for a Great Year

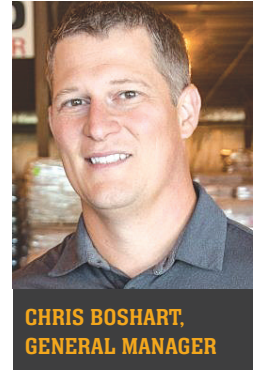
Spring is right around the corner and we are gearing up for a great season. While there is some volatility in grain prices, we are still seeing historically high prices for this time of year. We look to be starting the year out well from a financial standpoint for both Gold-Eagle and our producers. Our location teams are preparing products and equipment for the flurry of activity that will soon be here!

The board of directors and management attended our annual long-term strategy retreat in February. We spent three days in Ames talking about ag industry challenges and what the future looks like. This year, we had a guest facilitator who brought a fresh perspective and encouraged us to have different conversations about our strengths, opportunities, challenges, etc. We spent valuable time piecing together our strategy for Gold-Eagle to continue to provide products and services that our members need today and well into the future.

One of the important strategies of Gold-Eagle is our key relationships in corn processing with feed manufacturing and ethanol. As we have discussed over the past several newsletters, the ethanol industry is in a period of transition. CORN, LP is in a fortunate position to be partnering with Summit Carbon Solutions to be able to capture and permanently sequester the CO₂ emissions. This will lower the carbon

intensity score which will open up new tax credits and markets for the plant. While change is rarely an easy process, we are encouraged by the potential to continue to secure the long-term viability of CORN, LP, our cooperative, and our communities.

One of the challenges that we face as a company is being able to continue to find the right people who want to grow their careers here. We are putting more of an emphasis on this in the last couple of years. We are encouraged by the progress we have made, but as we continue to grow so does the demand for additional people. We stay committed to looking for ways to engage with local schools and colleges to promote the opportunities that we have right here in our local communities. In addition to looking for new employees to join the company, we are dedicated to training and developing the team we have. We recently led our supervisors through training to help develop their skills around behavior-based interviewing. I am grateful for the team of employees that we have at our cooperative.



**CHRIS BOSHART,
GENERAL MANAGER**



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Wesley, Iowa
Term Expires 2025

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Moore
Clarion, Iowa
Term Expires 2025

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Belmond, Iowa
Term Expires 2024

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Term Expires 2023

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Term Expires 2024

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Term Expires 2024

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Term Expires 2023

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Term Expires 2025

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Jerod Hatcher
Humboldt, Iowa

Pre-Spring and Pre-Planting Tips

While spring will be here before we know it, there are some things you can do to prepare for the spring planting season.

1. **Planter Maintenance** - Make sure your planter is FIELD ready before you get there by checking over all your cables (connections, sagging wires that may get pinched or dragged, and any bare wires that may need attention) and getting your row units checked over. Take your planter units to someone that checks them over and replaces any damaged or worn parts. They will also put the unit on a machine that simulates planting and will make sure it has good spacing and drops singles instead of doubles. This is vital to giving your stand a chance before you get planting! REMEMBER, YOU ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO PLANT EACH FIELD! Planting is one of the most important practices you do all year AND you have to look at that field all year long.
2. **Be Patient!** Yes, that is very hard to do as Mother Nature hasn't been too kind the last few springs, but if you hit the fields too early, you will cause major compaction problems that will not only hurt you this year, but potentially for several years.
3. **Make Field Plans** - If you have fertilizer that Gold-Eagle is custom applying for you, for example, 32% Nitrogen along with a herbicide, contact your local salesperson. Together, make maps of your fields and get the products listed that you want applied on each field. This is essential to make sure we are on the same page when the time comes to apply products to your fields. Again, we only have one chance to get it right! Thanks in advance for doing this with us!

Have a safe spring and THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



NOTICE

Beginning March 1, 2023, the Gold-Eagle Coop Holmes location will be open by appointment only.

If you would like to haul grain into this facility, call Todd Ramsey at 515-825-9631 at least 24 hours in advance. Please provide an estimate of bushels to be delivered, number of trucks, and approximate timeframe so we can ensure we are prepared and staffed to meet your needs. We also appreciate notice if you break down or are done for the day.

This location WILL go to full-time operation during harvest.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this new schedule.

Purina Press Release

Purina® EnduraSow™ and EnduraPig™ feed additives can support sows and pigs during health challenges.

Arden Hills, Minn. [Jan. 24, 2023] – Purina Animal Nutrition is pleased to announce two new products formulated to support sow performance and reproductive efficiency and piglet respiratory health and immune function during the post-weaning period — Purina® EnduraSow™ feed additive and Purina® EnduraPig™ feed additive, respectively.

Optimize maternal performance

“Disease challenges can have long-lasting impacts on sow farm productivity,” says Erin Bryan, Ph.D., swine nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition. “For example, sick sows tend to eat less, and sows with low body condition at farrowing tend to lose additional weight during lactation. These sows are at risk of taking longer to breed back or requiring multiple services, which negatively impacts reproductive efficiency across the herd.”

EnduraSow™ feed additive is a low-inclusion feed additive that helps optimize sow productivity during a health challenge, as measured by more pigs weaned per sow per year in commercial trials. The additive also supports optimal sow farm efficiency by reducing the number of days from weaning to first service.

Help piglets thrive through change

EnduraPig™ feed additive helps prepare pigs’ immune systems to address health challenges and supports pig growth performance throughout a respiratory challenge. This is especially important at weaning, when the immune protection from sow’s milk declines before the pig’s immune system fully matures.

“Weaned pigs are vulnerable to disease challenges at a time when they are facing additional stressors such as transportation and comingling,” says Bryan. “EnduraPig™ feed additive supports piglets’ respiratory health and immune function during this critical period. This product can make an impact for pork producers because it promotes pig growth performance throughout a respiratory challenge.”

EnduraSow™ and EnduraPig™ feed additives are part of a portfolio of complete feeds and supplements for pigs in all performance phases from wean to finish.



Spring Gain

Spring time is fast approaching and our minds will once again be focused on planting and the new crop season that is in front of us. We do, however, need to take some time to check bins; maybe pull a load or two out to freshen up and check grain quality. The 2022 crop was harvested a little later than in the past few years and bins that traditionally would lose a few points of moisture with just air in the fall are holding on to more quality risks than in years past. We have opened up free price later and have traditionally higher basis values to aid in laying off some quality risks.

Recently, corn and beans have both had a fairly large reset in prices, with some additional price risks. The problems in Argentina have been well documented and there was a decent amount of weather premium added in, but what concerns me is the Brazilian farmer has yet to price a historically large crop. At the time of writing, the Brazilian farmer has only priced approximately 17% of this year’s YSB. They are well financed and aren’t pressured into sales at this time. That can lead to later than normal sales from Brazil which could hurt potential US beans sales; or, when

they finally need to turn beans into cash, the volume of hedging could potentially be painful for futures. One thing I know for sure is not to underestimate the farmers’ resolve which could potentially catch Funds and Commercials off guard.

With that all said, we will once again be offering the spring average pricing contract for new crop corn. While this hasn’t been the high of the year the last few years, historically this is a great time to get some sales on. As with any contract that we offer, this is just one tool in the tool box and we don’t suggest using it for your whole crop. You can talk to your local Gold-Eagle location for details or feel free to call the Goldfield office and chat with Darren, Elizabeth, or David. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that you all have a safe and prosperous spring.



The Continued Importance of Fungicide Application

Tar spot, virtually unheard of in our area until recently, was widespread last year. The substantial wind events in 2021 and the derecho in 2020 have moved significant amounts of dirt, debris, and residue from other parts of the country, increasing the prominence of plant diseases not commonly found in Gold-Eagle territory previously.

Tar spot is caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis* and appears as small, raised, black spots scattered across the upper and lower leaf surfaces. Spread through residue, unable to break down in dry years, this disease is lying in wait to infect and cause severe yield loss on susceptible hybrids. It is considered polycyclic, meaning it has repeated cycles of infection and usually takes 14-21 days for lesions to appear. It favors extended periods of leaf wetness (7+ hours), high relative humidity (75%+), and average daily temperatures of 60-70 degrees F. Once a leaf is infected, the photosynthesis necessary for ear development and kernel fill cannot occur as usual; therefore, the plant will try to fill the kernels with carbohydrate from the stalk, resulting in lodging and reduced kernel fill which lead to less yield.

Spreading in dry weather and growing in wet, timing of fungicide application will be critical to manage the severity of tar spot. The tricky thing is that the timing depends on the infection and, once you see it, it has already taken some of your yield. From what we've learned so far, the tassel application is still the most optimum timing; however,

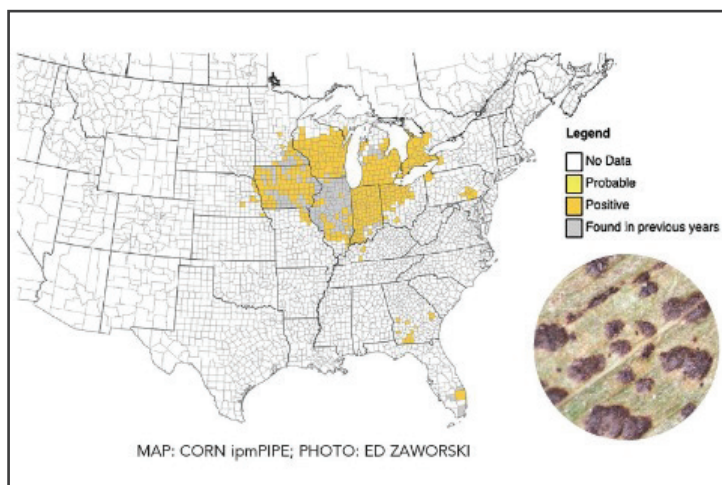


new trials are starting to show the importance of the early fungicide application plus the tassel application. Due to the uncertainty of the timing of the infection, this proactive approach covers that risk and is showing big results in problematic areas. What we thought might be a problem in last year's conditions proved that this disease is far more prominent than we initially thought and we WILL see more of tar spot in the coming years.

It is important to note that having a fixed mindset on fungicide could be detrimental; maybe you've tried it once or twice and haven't noticed a benefit or you are trying to save some money as input costs are already high. I'd like to remind you of a time, not so long ago, when Goss' Wilt prominently took over fields and there was nothing that could be done to remedy the yield loss - thankfully there are answers to tar spot. Fungicides have improved in recent years to include multiple modes of action; so, make sure to chat with your trusted Gold-Eagle agronomist to work out a plan to minimize the potential impact of tar spot (and other diseases) and maximize your yield.



BOONE MORGAN,
SALES MANAGER,
AGRONOMY DIVISION



GEC Donation

Elizabeth McOllough (center) presents a check to members of the North Central Iowa Research Association (NCIRA) board. Gold-Eagle, along with matching funds from CHS, is proud to donate a total of \$20,000 to their capital project. NCIRA is raising funds to construct a new structure that will include a shop, meeting space, and machine storage designed to expand research and extension impact in north central Iowa.



Ramblings of a Feed Guy

When we think of a Cooperative in Iowa, or anywhere in the Midwest, we often think of a few decades back when every little town had an elevator, most of the kids in school were farm kids, and practically every farm had some type of livestock. Quite often, the cooperative elevator in town became a one-stop shop for everything needed on the farm, except for clothes and groceries. However, one could usually buy boots, coveralls, gloves, and even hardware at the coop lumberyard. Over the last half century, things have changed dramatically. Over the last several years, and what looks to be the foreseeable future, farms are becoming fewer and larger and cooperatives are acquiring and merging. Case in point - in 1971, there were 485 grain and farm supply cooperatives in Iowa. In 2022, there were 46. The large coops are becoming specialized in grain and agronomy and a few are specializing in feed as well. Gold-Eagle is one that is involved in all three, as well as fuel.

One of Gold-Eagle's core strategies is to be an end user for the crops our members produce. Thanks to the corn requirements of CORN, LP and Gold-Eagle's feed division, Gold-Eagle consumes approximately 90% of the corn produced and procured from our members. Being an end user allows us to add value to these commodities and essentially export our member corn across other Coops' territories as a value-added product. Also, since

we are a feed manufacturer, we are able to utilize a sizable portion of the DDG's from CORN, LP made from our members corn in the manufacture of swine and poultry feed.

Since we are a feed company, we are able to utilize and source soybean meal (SBM) from AGP which is a value-added product. This is a product that is made from crushing our member's beans. One of the great things about being a member of AGP is that they distribute earnings through dividends. The two ways they distribute earnings is through soybeans they purchase and SBM they sell. Since we do both, we get to participate in those profits through dividends.

The reasons listed above are why feed is an important aspect of Gold-Eagle. We are presently investing in upgrading the Eagle Grove mill. These upgrades will improve the efficiency and allow that mill to be viable well into the future. We are also investing in a grinding tower at our Galt mill. This investment will give us the ability to expand feed production by manufacturing feed for both swine and poultry; presently, we are only able to produce poultry feed.



**BRAD DE VRIES, FEED
DIVISION MANAGER**

Understanding Biologicals

Most everyone has heard about the various different biologicals on the market by now.



**BOONE MORGAN,
SALES MANAGER,
AGRONOMY DIVISION**

These fertilizer and chemical program add-ons enhance nutrient uptake, enhance soil activity, and relieve some chemical stress by adding live microbes into the soil. These microbial based products are non-EPA regulated meaning that labels are not super descriptive and there are few trials on the viability, profitability, etc. We have a few areas in our territory utilizing these products, but I'd like to encourage you to speak directly with your trusted Gold-Eagle agronomist to ask any questions you may have to see if this is right for you. We can always run trials if you are interested to see the performance in your own field(s).



Early Dicamba Deadline

Last year, the EPA ruled that Dicamba application needed to be completed by June 20th. This earlier-than-

normal deadline meant that we missed a lot of application due to the late planting. This year, the deadline has been moved up even more to June 12th; this means that GEC cannot apply any post dicamba products on bean fields past that date. This puts the whole system in a pinch and we will have to base our ability to apply on when our members are able to get seed in the ground this spring.

With that said, if you have a plan and are happy with it, great! BUT, please make sure that you have a plan B and understand what trait package you planted from a soybean perspective to ensure the right chemicals will be able to be applied.

Now, due to this additional stress or, some people are looking to move to Enlist; this change will require swapping potentially both seed and herbicides. Gold-Eagle can do this, but the sooner we know you are looking to change, the better. There is no supply guarantee on seed and chemistry, but we will do our best to accommodate your individual needs.



BOONE MORGAN,
SALES MANAGER,
AGRONOMY DIVISION

Time to Think Spring

Variable Rate Seeding (VRS)

Gold-Eagle Coop is ready to help you with your Variable Rate Seeding (VRS) Prescriptions. We utilize several layers of information which include, but are not limited to: Yield data, Grid Sample data, and Soil Type layers. Contact your local salesperson today to get more information on how to start this process.

Another way of utilizing VRS is through Climate FieldView (CFW) Scripting Tool. Gold-Eagle Coop is a Certified Climate FieldView Agent! Data needed for doing scripting are three years' worth of yield data, with two years being corn. These are the most important pieces that you will need for planting with CFW Scripting. Regardless of how you want to get your scripts made, equipment is another requirement for this to work for your operation. You must have a monitor/controller that can handle Scripts, plus you have to have an electric or hydraulic drive on your planter. Call Bruce today to get a quote on either of these options at 515-825-9655.

Grid Sampling after Planting

Did you know you can save around \$1.00/Acre* by sampling right after planting instead of after harvest? The reason for this savings is to entice after-planting Soil Sampling as it reduces the heavy workload in the fall for both the sampling companies and the soil labs. Another big advantage is getting your results back in plenty of time to make a fall fertilization plan with your Gold-Eagle salesperson. That way, when you are finished with harvest on that particular field, you can simply make a call and line up the plan you made to

be applied!

This saves about two to three weeks of your precious time in the fall crunch, as you probably want to start tillage as soon as possible! Gold-Eagle has a recommendation calculator to maintain and build your nutrients the way you, the

producer, want to build them. In this calculator, your personal budget is a key factor in calculating your custom recommendation. Taking a grid sample in 2.5 acre increments is highly recommended as it gives a more detailed report of your soil. A grid sample at 4.4 acre increments is a decent way of knowing what levels your fields are sufficient or deficient in! Grid your fields every fourth year; that way, you get an updated set of recommendations as your nutrient strengths/needs have surely moved around in your fields. Spread your grids out by doing a quarter of your fields yearly; this will spread out your expenses for the grids. Make sure to figure your grid expense into your fertility plan so you plan the expense and don't view Grids as an "add-on". With the high yields that we have attained the last handful of years, many nutrients are not replaced even to a maintenance level!

(*based on 2.5A Grids)



BRUCE BURNS, EAGLE
VISION PRECISION
FARMING SERVICES



Photo by Aaron Thompson

Treat Your Early Soybeans

Spring is here!! Thank you to everyone for a great seed sales season; we are all looking forward to getting things rolling. All the anticipation of the first-year hybrids and soybean varieties we have sold is high. You need to remember that we have been hearing about these new products for over a year already and to finally get them in our producers' hands and in the ground is an exciting time. We are already starting the process of learning about the new products and traits that will be rolled out for 2024. Seed business is very interesting and fast changing. I don't think there is any other aspect in production agriculture that changes as fast and as extensive as the seed business. Once again, thank you to all our members for your support and your seed orders for this spring.

Seed sales are very well laid out plans. I hope everyone has put the time and effort in to laying out those plans, because a poor laid plan usually results in a disappointing outcome. I am not going to try to change your plan by promoting a certain trait, hybrid, or new variety at this point in the crop process; this should already be done and set up as a plan A with different options that have been thought about and have a basic outline as a plan B or C program. What I do want to get you to think about is protecting and getting the most out of that plan and one thing that we can change or add to that plan A is seed treatment, primarily on soybean seed.

Two years ago, we had a late frost event that came through and hit our emerged soybeans real hard. In low areas or in no till or heavy residue areas, it hit hard where the ground was a little cooler than areas where all you

had was black soil. The hard decision at that time was, "Do I replant? If so, where do I start and where do I stop?" Most of these fields were planted early and, at that time, the field conditions were great. If the field conditions are great, but the calendar says it's a little early, I would encourage growers to plant. Every field that was affected was different in one way or another and, at harvest, it was hard to gauge if the decisions made after the frost event ended up being bad or good. After that year, I assumed that guys would be a little gun shy about pushing that early planting date, but I was wrong! Everyone would take care of getting all the corn planted and the soybean ground all leveled and ready to plant soybeans and then plant. We were a little later this last year, but I believe we had even more producers planting soybeans at the same time they were planting corn. Early planted soybeans are indeed becoming more of the norm.

Soybean treatments are becoming more of a norm as well. The market is always expanding and we are always evaluating what we offer. Soybean treatments can be applied right before the seed goes into the ground and most of the industry offers this as an option they call a downstream treatment option. We offer this option at our locations. My point in bringing this up is that seed treatments protect seed while it is the ground emerging. The longer it takes for soybeans to emerge, the more the seed is exposed to soil borne pathogens, particularly Pythium and the pathogen that causes SDS Fusarium Virguliforme which both particularly thrive in cool, wet soils. Other Fusarium and Rhizoctonia species may also infect seedlings. Infection results in seed

rot, root rot, and seedling death and, consequently, stand loss. I have had producers tell me that they feel no need for seed treatment, because they push their soybean population a little higher

and it compensates for the soybeans that don't emerge. Most feel that if the untreated soybean emerges, then it showed that there was no need for a seed treatment. The fact is, plants infected with a lot of these soilborne pathogens can still emerge and look normal, giving you the false impression that they are just fine until you pull them up and look at the roots or stems. These may be the same infected plants you pull after seed set to count pods or number of soybeans and toss to the ground finding only a few pods and don't think much more about it. That plant could have been infected with a pathogen during emergence and basically grew, didn't produce hardly any seed, and, in essence, was a weed that took away for the rest of the beans.

All this said, I would encourage you to plant soybeans early to take full advantage of the growing season. With early planting, make sure your soybeans are treated. With the high cost of soybean seed, I wouldn't push my population any higher than what is recommended. I would make sure every seed you put in the ground is protected as much as you can provide. Hopefully this helps to bring us to a productive and profitable harvest.



CHRIS PETERSEN,
SEED MANAGER,
AGRONOMY DIVISION

Remember, if you plant soybeans early, make sure to have them treated.



GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

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Newsletter Photos

If you have a photo or photos that you think would make a great addition to the Gold-Eagle newsletter, please share them! We are always looking for action shots of fieldwork, a cool perspective, or a shot of you and your family working together to make your operation a success. If you would like to submit a picture, please email it to emcollough@goldeaglecoop.com with a brief caption of who is in the photo and where it was taken. We love to feature local photos of Gold-Eagle's membership hard at work!

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