

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COOP *CONNECTION*



Prairie Central Coop Expands It's Reach

In April, Prairie Central loaded our first BNSF unit train out of the Chenoa location. This train was loaded with corn and shipped to Hereford, Texas. This is the third Class 1 railroad that Prairie Central has shipped grain on out of the Chenoa location.

The TPW short-line connects Chenoa to other Class 1 railroads. These different relationships allow Prairie Central to ship grain to the Southeastern U.S., Southwestern U.S., and to Mexico—all out of the same elevator.



Michael Kilger

Grain Merchandiser

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Happy
4th of July!

Prairie Central Coop will be closed on Monday, July 5th in recognition of Independence Day. We wish you a very safe and happy holiday!



I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives.
I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.

~Abraham Lincoln

Jeff Wilson Retirement: A Time for New Beginnings

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Jeff Wilson as of April 23, 2021. Jeff began his career with Kemp Grain Co. in 1977 and continued when Prairie Central Coop acquired Kemp Grain in 1998. Since that time, Jeff has been a key employee over the years and will be greatly missed by employees and patrons alike. We have all benefited from his endless supply of knowledge and calm dedication as he stepped in to help wherever needed—no matter how big or small the task on hand was. Jeff's willingness to put in extra time and effort to help whenever needed has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that we have come to depend on. What is Jeff looking forward to most about retirement? Sleeping in! But, he says, he is going to miss the people the most of all, as he has developed many long term friendships along the way. Good luck in your new chapter, Jeff!



Karen West is Celebrating 35 Years!



Karen began her career at Prairie Central in June of 1986. Over the years, she has learned and worked in nearly every position in the office, from Scale Operator, Grain Marketing Asst, Accounting Asst and reaching her current position as Relationship Manager. She has adapted and grown tremendously as the coop has gone from hand written scales tickets to the advanced technology we have today. Her positive attitude and vast knowledge is appreciated as she helps the office run smoothly and efficiently. Her favorite part of working at Prairie Central over the years is the people—developing relationships with customers and co-workers alike. She is seen by her peers as a great asset, mentor and friend!

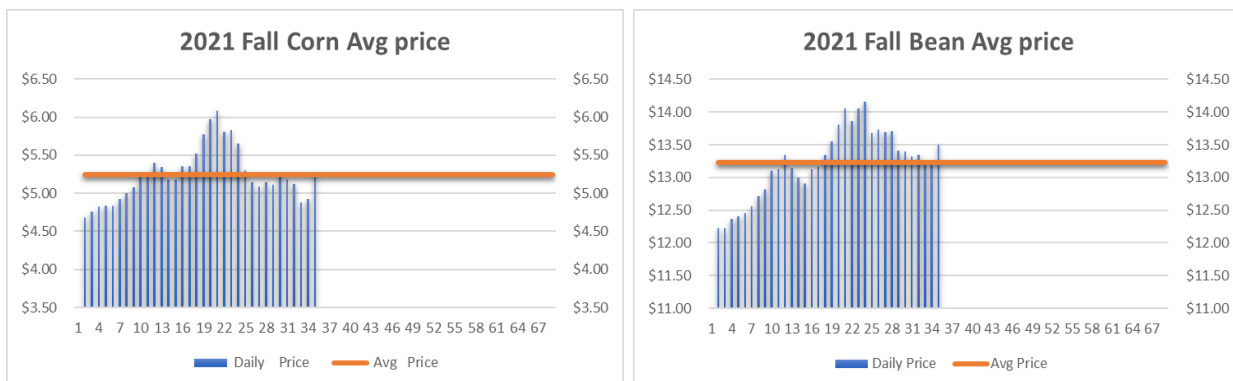
2021 GRAIN PRICES

To say that the grain markets have been unpredictable this year is an understatement. We have gone from fall 2020 corn being \$3.60 off the combine to a whopping \$6.81 at the time of this article. Beans off the combine were \$10.00 in 2020 and today, beans are \$15.37.

There are several reasons for this volatility, with one of the key reasons being China coming back to buy U.S. corn. In addition, 2020 yields were good, but not quite as good as expected. A dry start to the planting season in South America added to the increase in prices, and now dryness in the corn growing areas of South America has gained the attention of traders. Finally, we can't forget the derecho that came barreling through Iowa and Illinois August 11th of 2020. That storm took a bunch of corn production out of Iowa.

There are a couple of lessons to be learned from these events. First, have a marketing plan and then execute on that plan. The lack of execution has cost producers a lot of money in the past. Just because they may get "lucky" and have prices rally is not a substitute for a well thought out and executed plan. Secondly, when prices are above your cost of production, sell some bushels and lock in a profit. If you wait you could have made a little more, but you can just as easily lose a lot as well. It simply isn't worth the risk.

Prairie Central Coop offered our Average Price program again this year, and at the half way point in the program, the contract has a price for corn of \$5.27 and beans are at \$13.23. Here are a couple of charts to show what has happened so far:



Steve Feeney
Grain Marketing Coordinator

As you can see, the contract is performing well this year. Having at least a part of your production marketed early almost always pays dividends because this is the time of year with the greatest uncertainty and the market rewards you for making sales in this uncertain environment. How much to market ahead is up to each individual producer and the amount of risk tolerance they can accept. There are other tools PCC has at your disposal to help you with marketing decisions and we are always happy to give our opinion on the markets. Give us a call or stop by and we would love to visit with you.

Locations

Weston	815-945-7866
Ocoya	815-844-7697
Meadows	815-945-8295
Pontiac	815-844-3121
Fairbury	815-692-4353
Flanagan	815-945-8289
Lexington	309-365-2251
Sunbury	815-584-2051
Chenoa	815-945-8513



the
RECIPE
from PCC

Flag Fruit Pizza

- 2 packages refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 2 packages cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Strawberries, raspberries and 50 blueberries

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a large baking sheet (approx. 12x17). Spread cookie dough evenly and bake according to directions, plus an additional 8-10 minutes or until the whole giant cookie is lightly brown. Cool completely. Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla with mixer until blended and spread onto cookie. Arrange blueberries in upper left-hand corner and alternate rows of the strawberries and raspberries to form the stars and stripes of the flag.

MEET THE TEAM:

SARA CASSON brings over 25 years of experience specializing in legal business compliance, accounting and office management. Sara was born and raised on a farm in Fairbury and after graduating from high school, she went to Parkland College and then later to University of Phoenix with her studies focused on Business Management and completed a paralegal program on the side. Sara recently transferred to Prairie Central Coop from Growmark, Inc. where she was a Tax Compliance Specialist. She looks forward to working with the Prairie Central Cooperative Team!

Sara is raising 2 daughters and enjoys time spent with her family and her boyfriend on the farm or by the water while enjoying activities such as swimming, kayaking and nature walks.



Sara Casson, Office Coordinator

JORDAN BROWN decided to bring his grain experience to Prairie Central when returning to work after spending 10 years as a stay-at-home dad. His enthusiasm for his job is inspiring, as Jordan says he loves every part of what he does at Prairie Central - from always learning many new things to the great people he works with.

Jordan and his girlfriend are raising 12 kids from the age of 3 to 18 and he enjoys anything that has to do with their kids. Specifically, he likes camping, fishing and racing.



Jordan Brown, Elevator Operator

ZOEY FERRARA grew up in Mazon and received her degree from Joliet Junior College in Agribusiness. Zoey was very involved with 4H and FFA all through high school. She attended a career fair at Joliet Junior College and met Karen West, Relationship Manager at Prairie Central. After learning more about the company, Zoey applied for an internship and worked at the Pontiac elevator in the spring and summer of 2020. She became a full time employee in August of 2020 and Zoey says that her experience with Prairie Central has been amazing and allowed her to learn much more about the overall operations of the elevator. In her spare time, Zoey enjoys being outside riding 4-wheelers, fishing, camping and swimming.



Zoey Ferrare, Scale Operator

JORDAN KEE joined Prairie Central Coop when learning about the company through his dad, James. Jordan's dad joined Prairie Central shortly after their family moved to Flanagan. He enjoys working outside and prefers it to working indoors.

During his free time, Jordan enjoys reading, weight lifting and camping.



Jordan Kee, Elevator Operator

TEVIN KING began his career at Prairie Central Coop initially back in the fall of 2018, when he found out from a friend that Prairie Central was hiring for harvest. He moved to Georgia for a short time, but came back to work full time with the coop when he moved back to the area. Tevin enjoys the diversity his job has to offer and likes to keep moving around—something that he wasn't able to do in his previous job at a factory.

Spending time with his family is very important to Tevin, but he still finds time to enjoy another interest of his which is working on cars .



Tevin King, Elevator Operator

ROXANNE NOVAK grew up in Cornell and attended Bradley University after graduating from Flanagan High School. Roxane began her accounting career as an intern in internal audit at RLI, a specialty insurance company in Peoria and then worked full time in their accounting department once she graduated. Soon after, she accepted an Accountant position at LSC Communications (formerly RR Donnelly) in Pontiac where she was promoted to the Accounting Supervisor.

Outside of work, Roxanne enjoys spending time with her husband, 1-yr-old son and their dog Merle. Their favorite activities include camping, boating, traveling to Mexico and visiting family in Colorado, Texas and Alabama.



Roxanne Novak, Controller