

Tracey Hamilton Scale Clerk, Clutier



I grew up in Traer which is where I still reside on an acreage outside of town with my youngest son, Trey, who is in 4th grade. I also have two grown sons. Cody and his wife Bailey custom

feed cattle in rural Traer. Kelon also lives in Traer and recently attended college for CNC machinist and is working on being self-employed. I am a very much an outdoors person with a passion for fishing and hunting. I love spending as much time as I can with my family and friends and also playing the piano. I was recently employed at Syngenta Seeds Inc. until their closure in July of 2016. I never thought I would ever find great co-workers like I had at Syngenta, but I definitely have at Tama-Benton Cooperative and feel blessed to be able to be part of this amazing team!

What's Happening in Clutier Bob Hermsen

Harvest is pretty much here. We have been busy emptying storage space for new crop. We will be empty for harvest. A new auger has been added to unload beans. Growers will be using the same paths to dump beans as last year: come on the scale from the north, heading south. We will dump beans on the corn side as needed for shipping. You will be advised at the scale.

Corn is also the same as last year: come on the scale from the south, then head north around the bins to unload. Dryer is being serviced mid-September, so it will be ready to go when needed.

TBC will be adding another 28% storage tank for the 2017 season. All NH3 equipment will be serviced for fall use. Let us know if you plan to fall-apply NH3, P and K.

Our fall harvest hours will change as demand changes. We will do everything we can to be available to dump grain. If you have any questions, please call me at 319-327-0905. With the addition of the extra dryer last year, we should be able to dry more grain in a day than in the past. Hopefully this will reduce the time of having to wait for the dryer to catch up. Have a safe harvest.



CLUTIER, IOWA 52217

TELE. (319) 479-2242

DYSART, IOWA 52224

TELE. (319) 476-3666

VINTON, IOWA 52349

TELE. (319) 472-4791

October 2016

Grain Comments Charles Gabehart

It was a tough month in August as we made new contract lows in the corn market. Most farmers holding grain into the summer, waiting for the hot/dry weather pattern to develop, were caught off guard as prices continued their downward spiral into harvest values. The index funds continued to pile onto their short corn position reaching nearly -200,000 contracts at one point. With nearly ideal growing conditions and exceptionally high weekly crop ratings, the trade now seems comfortable talking about a 15 billion bushel corn crop come harvest time. The September 12th USDA report estimated corn yields of 174.4 with total production at a burdensome 15.093 billion bushels. The 2.384 billion bushel corn carryover estimate on September 1st 2017 could certainly weigh against any significant rally during the first half of the marketing year. USDA raised their yield estimate on soybeans as well at 50.6 with total production of 4.201 billion bushels. This would place the 2017 soybean carryover estimate at a hefty 365 million bushels. Traders will be looking closely at the September 30th World Supply/Demand Report and any opportunities it may offer the market down the road along with any signs of weather issues in the U.S. or in South America.

The 2016 harvest grain policy posted on our website will remain the same as last year with the exception of a small increase in the grain storage rate following the 90-day storage period or on-farm grain delivered after January 1st. Since propane and natural gas rates are still low, the moisture discounts and drying costs will remain at their reduced rates. You are welcome to pick up a copy of the harvest grain policy at any of our 3 locations. We have several new cooperative employees working the truck scales during harvest and appreciate your patience as they get into the rhythm of the operational flow. Remember to follow safety procedures during this busy harvest season and to be watchful of children and students attending after school activities and evening sporting events. We wish everyone a bountiful harvest.

New Employees

As many of our customers know, we have had quiet a few changes go on at Tama Benton Cooperative and a major one was employees leaving and new ones joining our team. In June we said good-bye to Amy Fisher who was our Office Manager in Dysart and in August we said good-bye to Mike McGowen who was our outside elevator help at the Vinton location. Since June we have hired 6 new employees to include 4 new office ladies and 2 men for outside labor.

Dysart -Rita Kamback (Bookkeeping), Jamie Pokorny (Agronomy Sales), Brian Sparks (Outside Labor).

Vinton- Marlys Crane (Office Manager)

Clutier- Tracey Hamilton (Scale Clerk), Lane Votrobeck (Outside Labor)

Below we asked some of the new employees to write a little about them for all our customers to get to know them a little better.



Rita Kamback Bookkeeping, Dysart

I grew up in La Porte City, but currently reside in Vinton with husband Gene and our two cats Callie and Minnie. I have two grown children. My son, Andrew and his wife Stephanie, live in

Cedar Rapids along with their 8 year old son Ethan. They are expecting a daughter in October! My daughter Hannah and her husband Corey reside in Vinton with their 3 year old daughter Baylee.

Summer weekends are spent boating, camping and fishing at our home away from home in Prairie Du Chien, WI.

I love Hawkeye football and spending time with family and friends. My hobbies include sewing, wood crafts and gardening when time allows.

Marlys Crane Office Manager, Vinton



I grew up on a Heritage farm just east of Vinton. I have been married for 18 years and have 2 very active girls, Hannah and Haley, ages 12 and 8. We recently built our dream home on my family farm. I enjoy many outdoor activities that include running, gardening, taking care of our horses, and driving the Ranger around our farm with our corgi, Chesty.

I am excited to be a part of the Tama-Benton team and look forward to serving the Vinton area farmers.



Jamie Pokorny Agronomy Sales, Dysart

I was raised on a farm in rural Clutier with three other siblings by my dad, Mark. My love for agriculture and being involved on the farm took me to Iowa State University upon graduating from high school. I spent the

last four years majoring in Agricultural Studies and minoring in Agronomy at ISU. After graduating from college, I accepted a job at Tama-Benton as an Agronomy Sales Representative and I am now living on an acreage outside of Dysart with my fiance, Grant and dog, Hazel. I look forward to this opportunity at Tama-Benton and working alongside the farmers in the Clutier, Dysart, and Vinton areas.