Farmers Cooperative Association

Ampride - Alta Vista – Manhattan – Onaga - Westmoreland
537 -3635 499-6321 776-9467 889-4226 457-3671

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www.manhattan.coop

Our Mission:
To be your business of choice, meeting customer needs, and growing a viable, progressive company.

"In Business For Your Business"

FEED by Rod Bohn

Calving season is coming soon for fall calving cows. The cow's nutrient requirements are at the highest after calving while the roughage quality in many cases is declining due to the maturing native grass. A top priority should be to maintain the proper body condition of the cow before winter arrives since thin cows take more feed to maintain their bodies than normal flesh cows. If you can see the cow's ribs, backbone or rump bones, they are too thin and need more feed. It's easier to gain body condition in the fall months compared to winter months.

A 1300 pound cow needs 2.8 pounds of protein per day to maintain proper muscle and flesh condition. A big part of the requirement can be met from the roughage. Feed intake should be 30 – 35 pounds of dry hay and depending on the quality, protein will range 4% on native grass to 7% in early cut brome hay. Cows on these lower protein roughages need more protein.

Some of the more popular supplements that we can offer include Loomix liquid at 26 cents per pound delivered to the pasture with intakes of 1.5 – 2 lbs. per day. No free choice mineral, just salt, is needed with Loomix. Rangeland tubs cost 37 cents per pound with intakes right at 1 pound per day plus free choice mineral. Corn gluten pellets are $144/ton plus delivery from the coop with intakes of 2-4 lbs. per day plus free choice mineral and gas costs to deliver to the cattle.

Make sure to feed the fall calving cow properly before winter temperatures arrive and save some hay costs during winter.

SCHOOL DAYS ARE FAST APPROACHING – PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY. WATCH FOR CHILDREN AND STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES.

Grain Comments - by Doug Biswell

July proved to be a very wild month – another in a string of wild months. USDA's grain stocks and planted acreage report on June 30th gave the market a surprise – especially the corn acreage number. We were able to get a good deal of target price orders done on both corn and beans thanks to that report. Many of you were able to get some more new crop corn sold between $3.40 and $3.50, and new beans in that $9.00 area. We certainly have faded off those highs set earlier in the month of July due mostly to the almost ideal growing conditions throughout the majority of the corn belt. Of course we still have some very critical time to get through to make a corn and bean crop but overall things are looking fine for this time of the year. Harvest certainly should be earlier this year than last year given the much warmer summer weather this year as compared to last. Wheat has rallied substantially due to very poor growing conditions in parts of Europe and Russia. They have seen a historically hot and dry summer which has hurt their wheat crop potential. Worldwide we still have plenty of wheat so based on supply and demand the rally we have seen is somewhat overdone, but we should be getting used to the markets overdoing things. Remember $8 corn and $16 beans.

ENERGY DEPARTMENT
By Jared (Jerry) Fenske

Why do we buy from the companies that we buy from? Some people simply shop for the lowest price and don't consider anything else when making a purchasing decision. There are also those that compare like products and chose the one they think provides the best quality and value for their money. Others will just buy whatever is closest and easiest for them to get. Price or product don't matter, convenience is the key for this group. Each of us has our own reasons for doing business with the companies we support.

This brings me to retail fuel advertising and marketing. Have you ever wondered why fuel retailers advertise similar prices on their signs, but have different names beside the prices? In Kansas you see the names "UNLEADED", "REGULAR", "UNLEADED PLUS", "E-10", "ETHANOL" all being advertised on different companies signs. These are five common names for two different products. The two products are UNLEADED (no Ethanol) and UNLEADED PLUS (Unleaded plus 10% Ethanol). Common sense would tell you that whatever the sign says on the pump is what you are actually putting in your tank. **This is just not true in the state of Kansas.** Kansas does not require fuel retailers to post different signage as long as the ethanol content in the fuel is ten percent or less. So retailers can legally sell E-10 fuel and call it UNLEADED on their price signs. The reason they do this is because currently, E-10 is about ten cents a gallon cheaper to buy than regular UNLEADED. The retailers buy a lower cost product so they can resell it at a lower price and also be competitive with others around them. If you want regular UNLEADED and do not want E-10 in your vehicle most retailers can't help you even though their signs say they can. Sometimes just shopping for a price can be deceiving. It is always good to compare products, not just prices.

We here at Farmers Cooperative Association have both UNLEADED and UNLEADED PLUS (E-10) available at Ampride in Manhattan, the Westmoreland Station in Westmoreland, and the Onaga Cardtrol in Onaga. The pumps are clearly marked and the two different products are always available. Our bulk fuel truck also can deliver either product to your home or business. Please call me (785.313.0532) if I can help answer any questions you may have. Thank you for supporting your Manhattan Farmers Cooperative Association.

Views from the Field
By Mike Thompson
Agronomy Production Specialist / Certified Crop Advisor

July is past, and for the most part crop conditions are holding there own as they enter the "back stretch" to finish out. Growing degree units for the Wamego, KS area for the dates of April 1 through July 29, 2010 are 1530, the average for the past five years is 1372 GDU's. For most in the area, crops are ahead of schedule compared to last year.

Corn: Ear pollination appears to have gone well. I have not found many problems with kernel development at this time, and most fields that I have looked at appear to have a good number of kernels developing with good kernel fill potential. All of the corn (as well as other crops) in the area could some additional moisture to help with late ear fill and hasten early maturity. Leaf diseases continue to move up the plant and destroy leaf tissue, this combined with early season stalk disease development could mean a rough harvest period if crops cannot be harvested in a timely manner. Keep your eyes out for problems as harvest approaches.

Soybeans: Bean plants in the area are starting to set pods and elongate. Insect pressure has remained light for the most, but there have been isolated problems with heavy leaf defoliation from web worms. The disease pressure in the bean crop is starting to increase. With all of the excessive moisture from earlier in the growing season, many bean plants have not rooted down well. This lack of root development, along with drier conditions and increased temperatures can quickly develop stress situations that can speed up the disease process. Many of these diseases develop in the roots and stems, so treatment is not possible.

As the growing season starts to come to an end, start thinking about your cropping needs for next year. Start laying out crop rotation options for the next few years. Keep notes of what has worked and did not work this year. Do you have fields that you want to have soil sampled? Compile a list, put together some maps, and let me or your respected branch manager know of what you want done. We can easily pull basic composite soil samples to zone sampling with our Profit Z program, or something more informative as grid sampling. As inputs continue to increase in costs, soil sampling is a small expense that can help you save money and increase yield potential in the future.

If you have any questions regarding any of your cropping needs, or you just want a second opinion; please feel free to give me a call: 785-313-0518. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your crop production issues and develop a plan to solve them.

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.
- Henry B. Adams