



APRIL 2013

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Our Mission:

To be your business of choice,
 anticipating customer needs,
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Grain Comments By Doug Biswell

Another month another USDA report. This one was a biggie, March 1 grain stocks and also 2013 planted acreage intentions. The stocks numbers across the board were not friendly, higher on all the major crops. The planted acreage intentions came in line with previous estimates. This report sets the trend for the next 60 to 90 days, of course weather will play its normal role in price direction through the spring but with the larger available supply futures may struggle for a while. The thought that I have had since harvest was completed in 2012 was that the USDA continues to use too large of a harvest acreage number – especially for corn – but they have stuck to their number. Year over year March 1 stocks on corn shows 624 million less bushels of corn, 375

million less bushels of soybeans, with wheat stocks slightly higher. Basis levels across the Corn Belt this winter and early spring have been 30 to 50 cents above what are considered normal levels. Basis is nothing more than the difference between the futures price and the local cash price. As of this writing corn basis delivered to one of our elevators is ten cents over the May 2013 corn futures contract. Last year at the end of March our local basis was 30 cents under the May 2013 corn futures contract. May futures in 2012 at the end of March were near six dollars this year they are near seven dollars, so if you believe that the market does its job with price discovery 624 million bushel of corn is worth \$1.35.

As always if you have any questions or comments please feel free to give me a call.



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Alta Vista News
By Rick Lucas

We have received some moisture during the month of March which has been great. I have heard 1.12 to 1.5 inches of moisture this is a start but not near enough, but defiantly has been good for the wheat crop.

With planting time just around the corner you need to make plans for your spring crops. As you well remember last year, weed control was not that great. The days of planting and spraying with Roundup is not going to work, as weeds are becoming resistant to Roundup. You need to put down a pre-plant herbicide to help control the hard to kill weeds and then hit the escapes with Roundup before they get 4 inches tall for the best kill. Stop by or give us a call and we can come up with a plan for your farm.

We have hired another spray rig driver, Travis Mayer. He lives in Manhattan and grew up on a farm and

ranch north east of Alta Vista. Travis knows the area and will be a great asset to the Coop. We only have a few acres of brome left on the books to fertilize. Since we have received moisture it would be a good time to put on that fertilizer you have been putting off.

We have all of your fencing needs at the Coop and if we don't, we can get them. If you need stock tanks we have them stored inside so stop and check them out. I will sell you the tank but I will not haul the water. We also have bale feeders and gates out back.

Our Mineral Sale runs **March 15 thru May 15** so get your orders in.



Cutworms vs Corn
By Craig Miller

If you plan on putting down a pre-emerge or early post chemical for your corn, it is also a perfect time to add an insecticide to your tank mix for cut worms. Cut worms have not been bad for several years, so we may be due. Many producers believe that because they plant traited corn that they have protection. That is simply NOT TRUE. Even the traits such as smart stack that give you protection requires that the insect eats the plant to kill it and a larger instar (bigger bug) may eat a lot of plants before he gets enough to kill him. Cut worms can show up by the hundreds or thousands, so even a field that is trait protected can be devastated. The good news is that the insecticide is usually pretty inexpensive (around 3-\$4/ac) and can give you protection for 2-3 weeks or longer. That's pretty cheap insurance for \$100/ac seed.

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Pro Phos 12% Phos AU 3500	\$23.50	\$23.00	\$22.50
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Cattle Mineral 8% Phos AU 5600	\$19.70	\$19.20	\$18.70
Cattle Mineral 8% Phos AU 3500	\$18.25	\$17.75	\$17.25
Cattle Mineral 12% Phos AU 3500	\$21.50	\$21.00	\$20.50

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