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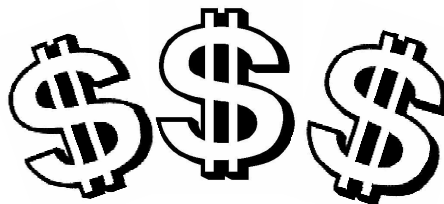
Grain Comments

By Doug Biswell

The futures market is doing its primary job given the production losses we are experiencing – and that would be rationing demand. The United States has not seen a drought event like this one in decades and back then we did not have an ethanol industry standing in line for 5 billion bushels of corn. So prices have to go high enough to back off demand for what may be the loss of 4 to 5 billion bushels of corn production in the U.S. this year. There is no doubt that margins in the ethanol business are negative, as are the margins in feeding livestock. So how high do we go? I wish there was an easy answer to that question. It is going to be easy once this rally is over to look back and say, "Wow why wasn't I selling corn at \$X.XX" or maybe that should be \$XX.XX.

Soybean production is still in question, if the weather pattern happens to change and it decides to rain the production potential is still there. Also, one cannot help but think that South America won't plant every acre available to beans at these price levels.

Wheat is a follower of the fall crops at this point. Fundamentally, it is in the best shape worldwide, not that we are swimming in wheat but at least the supply side of the balance table is ok. Never before have we seen these price levels – EVER. . . .think about that.

**Alta Vista News**

By Rick Lucas

Recently at Alta Vista we have started to get the bins and equipment ready for fall harvest.

With the dry weather, the feed mill has been fairly busy through the summer and it will only get busier through the remainder of the year. With that being said, check your feed bins and get your feed orders in early. The high price of corn is forcing some of the ethanol plants to shut down. You may have to change your rations as distillers will be in short supply as it looks today.

I would like to have all of the farmers to come in this winter and we will make field maps of your farm. We will give each field a name or number. You will have a copy so when you call in we will know each field that needs sprayed and have maps for future references. If you change your field we can print new maps.

With the price of fertilizer, I would like to see more soil test taken so we can make better fertilizer recommendations. The complete program may seem hard to afford, but with a test, we are able to put on a balanced program to maximize your yield and profits.

We have a new employee that starts the 6th of August, his name is Matt Kendrick and he comes to us from the Axtell, Nebraska. His wife has been accepted into the Vet Program at KSU. Matt has experience operating John Deere sprayers and a great mechanical background. Please welcome Matt to the area.

Alta Vista News (cont.)

It is time to decide your wheat seed needs are for this fall. Please let us know early so we can have the seed here when you need it.

Fuel Department By Jerry Fenske

TMS 15W-40 and Qwiklift HTB are now available in 5 gal pails. We will stock them both at the Manhattan elevator and Manhattan Ampride. If anyone is wanting us to keep them in inventory at any of our other locations, please call in and let us know. I am always willing to stock any product someone is willing to purchase.

We have several 1000 gallon fuel tanks on wheels that are for sale. These are old ammonia tanks converted for fuel use. They have been used for construction jobs in the past and should be ready to use for anyone needing mobile fuel storage on site. For questions or comments on tanks or anything else fuel related, feel free to call. Thank you.

Feed News By Rod Bohn

Cattle producers are facing a very difficult situation with the current dry weather causing a shortage of roughage to feed the cow herd. It's tempting to skimp the cows and make them rough it but that may cost more in the long run.

The first point I want to emphasize is don't let your cows get thin going into wintertime. Everyone knows that a thin cow takes more feed to maintain during cold weather than a cow in proper body condition. Still, I see too many cows with their backbone or ribs showing and that is too thin. If there is no flesh over the rump and tail head area that is too thin and you need to improve the body condition to the

point where there is extra flesh over the back and rump areas. The best time to improve body condition score on thin cows is now.

The second point is try to keep the top end of the cow herd so you can capitalize on future cattle market opportunities. Some ideas to survive the next 12 months are:

- Bale up corn stover to stretch the good hay that you have on hand. Corn stover will contain 4%-5% protein and you can pour a 40% protein Quality Liquid Feed supplement on the bales to cut down on feed waste and increase protein content. 5 to 6 gallons per bale of QLF Super 40 will cost \$14-\$16 per bale. I plan to have a trailer with a pump available for customer pickup. It doesn't have a meter so that makes it harder to get the right of molasses per bale.
- Feeding range cubes 3 times per week can help stretch out hay supplies. 14% cubes work best if your grass is short and 20% cubes should be fed if there is plenty of roughage available.
- Feed Rumensin in your cow ration. Elanco claims a 10% reduction in roughage intake when Rumensin is fed.
- Many of you have already baled up straw and treating the bales with anhydrous ammonia will increase feed value.

- A South Dakota State nutritionist talks about feeding 10-11 pounds corn per gestating cow, 2.5 pounds protein, and 5 pounds roughage. I don't know anyone in this area to try this yet, but would definitely reduce hay usage.

No one likes to pay a big feed bill but your cow herd is a valuable asset to protect and you should plan to be in position for future market opportunities.

Stover's Story By Dave Stover

As of this writing, things in the fall crop fields are looking tough all over the territory but some spots are extremely hard hit.

The next thing that is coming up is wheat planting. With the short corn yields, I am sure there will be wheat on some of those acres. One thing to think about in that situation is fusarium head scab. Seed treatments can control this fungus.

As of today, none of our suppliers have a price for seed wheat. I am expecting them the first part of August.

Thank you for your business and be safe.

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