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**Our Mission:**

To be your business of choice,  
anticipating customer needs,  
and growing a progressive  
company.

**"In Business For  
Your Business"**

**Crop Production****By Ken Diehl**

As 2012 comes to an end I would like to extend by deepest appreciation to all the patrons who have continued to support their local coop. 2012 has brought the agriculture world a host of challenges from wide spread drought to wild swings in the grain market. Yet it is still time to put this year behind us and work towards 2013. There is still time to pre pay inputs for the upcoming crop year (seed, fertilizer and chemical).

Wheat was planted on a fair amount of acres this fall, and with that comes time to begin top dressing those acres with fertilizer and/or chemical. If you have doubts about the stand of your wheat crop but do not want to give up on it yet I would suggest leaving your options open when it comes to chemical. An application of 2-4D and Sterling Blue will allow you the ability to control the henbit and mustards leaving your rotation open in case you decide to destroy the wheat and plant corn or soybeans. Please make plans to get your wheat acres covered as soon as possible because when it come to nutrients they need to be in place when the wheat breaks dormancy. On those wheat acres that look good you might consider an application of a fungicide, it can be applied at top dress or the traditional flag application. It is typically a rescue treatment when we apply a fungicide after the disease is present and yield has begun to suffer at this point.

The same applies to brome on the nutrient side. The earlier nutrients are in place the better quality hay you may cut, the later we wait the coarser the hay becomes and the nutrient value goes down. For our alfalfa acres, weed control is constantly on our minds. Remember, for the control of broadleaves the alfalfa has to be completely dormant otherwise damage

can occur and reduce the life of our stands.

Once again have a great, safe and Happy New Year!

**Grain Comments****By Doug Biswell**

It was not necessarily a December to remember in the grain markets, as the trend was lower. Non-threatening weather in South America and games played by some of our major international grain buyers pressured beans which in turned seemed to weigh on the other grains. Improving Lower Mississippi River shipping conditions due to good precipitation amounts received east of here also was a factor. As mentioned before, barges ship raw commodities as cheaply as any of our modes of transportation. So as long as the river is available to ship on the exporters will originate grain from river sources. Freight savings means they do not have to pay as much to get grain to their export houses.

For some reason the end of 2012 seemed a great deal slower than recent years. We have days in a row with very light volumes of trade. I am going to blame it on the fact that our reps in Washington DC didn't really get after the fiscal cliff issue. Most markets do not like uncertainty and what was going on in the last few months of 2012 was all about uncertainty. Hopefully by the time you are reading this they decided to do something.

My guess to what has been done is a 6 month extension of what we had on December 31st, so that they can have 6 more months to decide not to do anything.

Grains are fundamentally well supported so I look forward to many marketing opportunities for the year 2013.

Happy New Year and thanks for your continued business.

## **Agronomy News** **By Craig Miller**

A new year, a new way. The old saying is true, if you do what you always did you will get what you always got. If you liked what you achieved last year then you have your plan but if you would like to change some things then now is the time to look at doing them.

Let's look at weed control on soybeans. Weed control in beans is not going to get easier. The history of a weedy field is it usually stayed clean for several years with Roundup. Then one year a few escapes got by but not enough to worry about. Then the escapes got more and more until something had to be added with Roundup to kill them. This worked for a couple of years but finally got to the point where weeds were being posted multiple times with multiple products. That's when pre-emerge chemicals start playing a major role. This really helps by eliminating a lot of the weed pressure before they get started and drastically reducing the number of escapes. It usually will not eliminate the need to post but may reduce the number of times needed to post.

Hypothetical Waterhemp horror story: You have 1 waterhemp plant/acre that survive completely healthy and produces 150,000 seeds. Of these seeds 75,000 germinate the following year. You spray your first shot of Roundup only and get 95% control. Leaving 3750 plants. You spray again with a heavier dose of roundup plus another product and get 95% control. This leaves 187 plants. You spray again with the highest rate of roundup and the best products added but by now the weeds are bigger the environmental conditions are worse but you still get 95% control. That leaves about 10 plants per acre. Sounds fairly good and 95% control is very good control but those 10 plants are going to make 1,500,000 seeds (750,000 of which are going to germinate the following year) and the cycle just took a major turn for the worse.

You probably know where most of your fields are in this cycle and know what you should do to help them. My whole point in this article is to get people to try new options, especially pre-emerge. Even if you have been getting good control by adding something with roundup, a pre-emerge may limited the number of post trips. If you have been getting by with one shot of roundup, count yourself lucky but adding a pre-emerge may still help by keeping the numbers down and letting you get by with that single application for a few extra years.

If you have any fields that you have questions on please give myself a call or stop by and discuss it with us. Thanks.

## **Alta Vista News** **By Rick Lucas**

Well 2012 is behind us we can look at the daunting task of remembering to write 2013 on our checks and dated documents. With me it usually takes a month.

There is a lot of question about fertilizing brome with little soil moisture. It would be to your advantage to go ahead and fertilize now before we get moisture. The moisture will take the fertilizer down with it as snow melts. As for volatilization on nitrogen, it is cold enough that it won't volatilize much unless the temperatures is above 85 degrees. It would be to your advantage to have brome fields soil tested, that way you don't apply more fertilizer than needed. The test should be good for two or three years.

I am seeing some winter annuals in the fields that I have been in. We can apply Valor XLT in soybeans and Atrazine in corn and if you are not sure we can apply Dimetric.

Thought for the Month: "With cattle prices so low and feed prices so high, do you think I could get the animal rights people to help me get food stamps for my cows?" Not if we go over the fiscal cliff.

We at Alta-Vista wish you all a happy and prosperous NEW YEAR!!

## **Stover's Story** **By Dave Stover**

We are pleased to be among the first to have Dekalb DroughtGard technology available for sale. Below is an excerpt from Monsanto's website describing the products:

DroughtGard™ Hybrids are the newest offering from the Genuity® corn family. They are designed to help farmers mitigate the risk of yield loss when experiencing drought stress. DroughtGard Hybrids combine germplasm selected for drought-tolerant characteristics and the biotechnology drought-tolerant trait, with agronomic recommendations.

Here are some other things you should know about DroughtGard Hybrids:

- They are the agriculture industry's first biotech drought solutions.
- The technology is designed to enhance yield stability when water is limited. With sufficient water levels, the trait performs comparably to existing seed technologies.
- It's aimed to benefit farmers in the Western Great Plains, on dryland acres where average yield ranges from 70 to 130 bushels per acre. That's compared to an average corn yield in the U.S. of 152.8 bushels per acre.
- It's the first in a pipeline of yield and stress traits focused on improving yield and consistency in tough environmental conditions.

We have a limited supply of several different products, ranging from 100 day to 113 day Relative Maturity. If you would like to try some on your farm, call me at 785-313-1648. Thank you for all you do with us at the Farmers Coop and have a safe and prosperous new year.