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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"**

**Grain Comments
By Doug Biswell**

A hot and dry August added fuel to the futures fire, with concerns over continuing loss of production and what seems to be very little erosion of demand. Only a few months ago USDA estimated U.S. corn yields at 166 bushel per acre, Pro Farmer did their crop tour in mid August and estimated corn yields at just over 120 bushel per acre. What our harvested acres wind up being is an educated guess at this point, but the current number being used is just over 87 million. That is a loss of production of just under 4 billion bushel. It becomes easy to see why December 2012 corn futures went from \$4.99 on May 11th to a high of \$8.49 on August the 10th.

Soybean production is now estimated to be 2.6 billion bushel that is 500 million bushel less than what we thought we were going to have early in the growing season. Just for reference Iowa's production for 2011 was in the neighborhood of 466 million bushel.

Wheat has gone along for the ride, as it can be substituted for a feed ingredient. It has had its own independent bounces due to weather problems in the Former Soviet Union and now a dry weather situation is developing in Australia. For those of you that are thinking about planting more wheat because of the dry weather you might want to consider forward contracting some of your additional anticipated production. Rest assured if you are planting more because of weather conditions you will not be alone.

**Onaga News
By Brent Beck**

Wow...who would have guessed that by September 1st corn harvest would be nearing completion? Considering the weather we have experienced this past spring and summer it's pretty amazing that we have corn to harvest at all. In my opinion, the simple fact that we are harvesting corn is proof of what genetic

improvements have brought to the table. That being said, we fully realize that 2012 is not going to be a banner year, but instead, it will be a year that is completely what we make of it. We are all fortunate that grain prices and livestock prices are what they are...if you have grain or livestock to sell. If you are on the buying end...I'm sure that you are scrambling to minimize your cost inputs. In both instances your local Farmers Cooperative Association can be of help. We offer excellent pricing opportunities if you are storing or selling your harvested grain. We can also be of assistance with your crop input needs (seed, fertilizer, chemical, soil sampling, and application), and livestock feed needs, by working with producers to find ways to minimize their input costs.

It's time to be thinking about seeding wheat. Wheat seed varieties we will be handling include Everest, Art, and 2137. It has proven beneficial for the past several years to plant a blend of 2 or 3 varieties of wheat and we strongly recommend doing so. We also will have a limited amount of triticale, cereal rye, annual rye grass, oats, turnips and radish seed available to be planted for fall and spring forage.

Please let us know your seed needs as soon as possible so that we may insure we have what you need. If you are planning on planting any of these varieties after corn or milo then it will be dependent on the chemicals that were used during the crop growing season.

Make sure to ask about our deferred fall fertilizer program. Remember that at the Onaga location, we have switched from Urea (46-0-0) to Ammonium Nitrate (34-0-0)...I think that brome and wheat producers will be the first to notice the benefits of using Ammonium Nitrate (34-0-0) fertilizer. We are excited to be able to offer this product to the producer. Remember also that your Farmers Cooperative Assn. will begin offering custom anhydrous application beginning this fall.

Onaga News cont.

Stop in and get things lined up for your fall anhydrous and dry fertilizer applications.

Did you notice our prices on Net Wrap?? **64" X 7000' at \$195 and 67" X 7000' at \$200.** Pricing is good on our net wrap and this wrap should work well when baling crop residues and forages as well as normal types of hay.

Cattle supplements are in high demand because of the dry weather. Corn gluten pellets are scarce and hard to get at this time, but hopefully that situation will improve in October. We do have a good supply of dried distiller's grain, range cubes and Rangeland protein tubs on hand. The Rangeland tubs are an excellent way to reduce your livestock forage consumption, as it allows the animal to more completely utilize average or poor quality forage. The key to successfully using any supplement is to begin use at the appropriate time... and not wait, to try to regain lost condition on the animals you are supplementing. These products are moving very well at this writing.

Stock tanks are in demand at this point and we do have a good supply on hand. Ritchie waters are available on order and the turn around time is usually less than a week from date of order.

As soon as harvest is over we will begin going thru our dry fertilizer spreaders and replacing and rebuilding each unit to ensure that our producer customers have reliable equipment to use when applying purchased fertilizer. Our goal is to make every effort to reduce the downtime on these units by maintaining a preventive maintenance program that ensures performance every time the unit goes out. We need your input each time you return a dry spreader or anhydrous nurse tank to ensure we have the opportunity to follow up on any problems you might have noticed while using the spreader or tank.

Thank goodness for the rains we received this past weekend. A little rain at the right time can make all the difference in the world. Have a safe harvest!!

News at Westmoreland

By Jeff Overbey

Westmoreland Farmers Cooperative Association would like to introduce our

new Assistant Manager Nathan Petri. He has been a community member for about 10 years, he attends church at Saint Lukes Lutheran Church where he also does volunteer work. He has a lot of experience and background as an Automotive Technician and would encourage all of you to visit with him about your needs.

Here are a few words from Nathan telling more about himself. Hello my fellow community members, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Nathan Petri, I am 30 years old, and I have recently joined the Farmers Cooperative Association in Westmoreland as the new Assistant Manager. First, I would like to tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in Junction City, I moved to Manhattan after graduation to work and joined the Kansas Army National Guard and served for 6 years. I moved to a little place just outside of Westmoreland after meeting my wife, Michelle, where we now have lived for 10 years. We have a five year old son who is attending kindergarten this year. As the newest member of the CO-OP, I have 12 years of professional experience as an Automotive Technician in all areas to include vehicle inspection, advanced diagnostics, maintenance, repair, and overhaul. I want to be able to provide this area with a name and a company that they can trust and rely on when they want honest, hard work, and a job done right. Please call Westy for your automotive work.

Crop Production

By Ken Diehl

The 2012 growing season has been challenging to say the least, from early March applications to control alfalfa weevil, a dry planting time which caused germination and emergence issues, wide spread drought conditions that prevented the uptake of crucial nutrients, the ability for certain weed species to absorb enough chemical to be controlled, extremely short hay crops, pasture grass that never recovered fully from traditional burning practices and having to haul water for livestock because of dried up springs and ponds. Yet, after all these challenges we still forge ahead planning for the next cropping season.

This season the Coop is offering a

deferred fertilizer program to help with cash flow, any fertilizer applied this fall to brome, alfalfa and 2013 row crop will be applied on your December statement with the option to pay by the end of the year or after January 1. As we can see each day the grain markets are reacting strongly to the weather around the Midwest so in turn the fertilizer market is reacting too. Anhydrous ammonia seems to be the item making the most movement, with an expected 92 million acres of corn to be planted in 2013, the system being depleted from the 2012 crop and the lower than expected yields has put a lot of pressure on the demand for ammonia. Urea, phosphate and potassium markets have stayed relatively even as of yet but do not be surprised to see fast movement as we remove crops and producers make decisions for the next season putting a strain on current supply and the ability to replenish those supplies with the current limitations on movement of those products up river channels to distribution points.

The time is upon us to make decisions on our wheat planting intentions and starter decisions. If you are unsure on starter needs start with when the last soil sample was taken. We can take a sample and have results in about ten days to make an informed decision. For those of you who have baled wheat straw or corn stubble we would like to know how many bales were taken off those acres as well as how much the weigh so we can make a determination as to how many nutrients were removed that need to be replaced. Remember there are many nutrients stored up in the stalks of crops that are returned when the stubble is left on the fields. We will have a good supply of wheat on hand including the ability to treat those units with fungicides (Rancona Pinnacle), insecticides (Nitroshield), growth regulators (Ascend) and micro nutrients (Complete ZMC).

The Coop has made some inventory and equipment additions this season. The Onaga branch will be carrying ammonium nitrate this year and we have added a custom application anhydrous ammonia with dry fertilizer toolbar this year for the 2012 fall season. As always thank you very much for your continued support.