



AGRONOMY • GRAIN • ENERGY • LUMBER • HARDWARE
CONVENIENCE STORES • AUTO REPAIR • FEED

MAY

2010

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

What a nearly perfect April it turned out to be for our producer members anxious to get their crops in the ground. Abundant sunshine and ample wind helped those in most of our trade territory get a big jump on planting this year. As I write this on April 26, reports are that many of our members are over half done planting corn and will soon be moving to soybeans. The weekend rains we just received were welcomed by most after a hard few weeks with very little rest. Certainly the soil was ready for some rain and I haven't heard of any reports of the "gully washers" we experienced the past couple of springs. Hopefully now the winds will die down some so we can get out and treat the crops with the crop protection solutions that will lead to record yields for our growers.

This weekend (May 1) we will be holding our annual open house at our Mt Horeb Lumber Do it Best. In addition to many excellent door prizes, we will be returning about \$780,000 in cash and another \$430,000 in equity to our members for the business they did during our 2009 fiscal year. With our patronage based earnings lower this year than the past several, the board made the decision this year to pay back 57% of our patronage refunds in cash. In addition, we will be retiring about \$230,000 of eligible retirement equities to members that reached age 67 in 2009. This is only possible because of the tremendous support of members like you and the dedication of our staff to providing all of you with quality products and services. Thank you all for your continued support.

With what we hope will be another record crop to harvest this fall, the board of directors has approved expanding our grain handling at the

new Mineral Point feed manufacturing facility into a full service grain drying, storage, and merchandising location. The board discussed several options before deciding on Mineral Point. In the end, the ability to take delivery of the crop from the field to the final "end user" (the feed manufacturing will use most of the grain on site) location was a major factor. In addition, we already have significant equipment, power, and staff infrastructure in place for the addition. Finally, with the amount of CRP ground in the area coming back into production today and in the future, and not a lot of storage available in these heavy CRP areas, the present need and future growth potential is very strong. Before fall harvest, we will be installing a 750,000 bushel corn bin, a 30,000 bushel oats bin, a new tower dryer, converting the current oats bin to wet corn storage, and installing the legs and conveyors needed to complete the project. When finished, your company will have about 1.1 million bushels of total storage at this site (with room to expand), in addition to the 1.5 million bushels at the Mazomanie location. If you are considering marketing your 2010 crop soon, give Jon Accola a call at our Mineral Point location (1-866-987-2667 or 987-3100). We will have trucking available this fall to get your crop from the field to either grain facility.

We have five more months left in our current fiscal year, and I know the staff at Premier Cooperative will continue to work very hard to earn your business every day and follow through with products and services that we all hope will exceed your expectations. I want to thank you for your past support and ask that you continue to utilize your company for all the products and services you can

so that we can help continue to build a company you will be proud to own and our employees will be proud to work for.

Finally, I'd like to wish all Mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day May 9. I've thought many times that if men had to go through the whole motherhood process, there certainly wouldn't be many concerns about future overpopulation. With Memorial Day later this month, I hope everyone has a chance to honor the brave men and women that have sacrificed their lives to protect our constitutional rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. God bless them all. Have a great May!

Andy Fiene
General Manager

Open Account Payment Terms

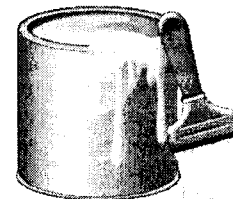
The credit terms for open charge accounts at your cooperative remain unchanged from prior years. For those that are new members, and a refresher to all, open account balances are **due in full no later than the last business day of the month following when the charge occurred**. For example, all charges in the month of March are due in full no later than April 30. Any balance remaining on May 1 will be subject to a 1.5% finance charge (18% APR). Accounts that are not paid monthly and/or exceed their credit limit may be put on a cash only basis. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our charge accounts current.



Hanging Basket Specials
 May 7th & 8th
 Just in time for Mother's Day
 Only \$12.99

Memorial Day Paint Sale !

\$5 mail in rebate on all one Gallon Best Look Paints
 \$20 mail in rebate on all five Gallon Best Look Paints
 All sheens on sale



Do it Best Hours and Service

Mon—Fri 7 am—7 pm, Sat 7:30 am—5 pm, Sun 9 am—4 pm

**Rental * Key Cutting * Glass & Screen Repair * UPS Shipping
 DNR Licenses * Propane Fill Station * Bulk Bark & Decorative Stone
 Computerized Paint Coloring * Home Design * Installed Sales**

Use your Co-op charge account for your purchases and pay only once a month!



The following essay was written by Mitchell Wedig, son of Joe & Kim Wedig, Darlington. Mitchell was one of the twenty-three \$500 scholarships awarded at Premier Cooperative's 117th Annual Meeting. These scholarships are funded by contributions that the Co-op has made over the years to an educational fund administered by the Co-operative Network (fka Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives). Mitchell plans to attend the UW-Platteville.

The Role/Importance of Cooperatives in Rural America

By definition a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise. But, to rural America it means so much more. By pooling our resources, farmers can receive optimal prices for their produce and also get quality products in large quantities for a good price by negotiating in volumes. In hard times like these, it is critical that we have these opportunities available in rural America. It helps small farms as much as it helps large farms, which is essential to sustaining rural communities such as ours.

One of the main reasons is that the local farmer has a say in the local economy, by being a member owner. With their vote they can help steer the co-op in the right direction. It also helps to keep the peoples hard earned money in the local community. By being a member-owner a person has some say in how the business is run. If you don't like some of the policies you can use your vote to either change the policy or vote for a different Board of Directors. You can talk to other area members and if they agree with you, they can also use their votes to make a change, the power of numbers. By knowing that the local member-owners can vote to change a policy or board, the manager or board of directors are likely to do things in the best interest for the local area.

When a farmer patronizes a local cooperative, he is fueling the local economy in many different ways. First of all, he is providing jobs for local people who work at the co-op. Then, the employees spend their money in the community and so starts the chain of local spending (until someone goes to Wal-Mart with their money). He is also giving money to the coop so they might find better or more efficient ways to do things.

Growing up in rural Wisconsin I have learned to appreciate the way we come together for common goals. Premier Coop is an excellent example of how co-ops work and help rural Wisconsinites fulfill their dreams.

“NUTRISOLUTION” 2010



Are you ready to take your yields to the next level and get the most from your genetic investment? We have partnered with Winfield Solutions to offer a plant tissue sampling program to identify and correct micronutrient deficiencies. The program is called “NutriSolutions®” and the sampling reveals exactly what a plant needs, when it needs it most.

Consider a few of corn's micronutrient needs at each growth stage:

5-leaf stage: Zinc influences ear size.

Tassel stage: Boron builds healthy pollination tubes.

Grain fill stage: Copper aids starch development, moving it into the ear to form kernels.

If key micronutrients are deficient at any plant development stage, yield will be lost. While correcting micronutrient deficiencies mid-season can minimize yield loss, the plant's full potential has already been sacrificed. Timeliness is a key. Many times we are called out to a farm when visual symptoms show up in the crop. This program is design to be ahead of the stress and give you a chance to correct or prevent a problem from occurring. When tissue samples are taken at the correct growth stages, our proprietary NutriSolutions® Tool will translate results into custom recommendations that help each crop reach its full potential.

A full-year tissue sampling program costs less than a bushel of corn per acre, and the insights and action plan provided by the NutriSolutions® Tool add value that no one else in the industry can match. Please contact your local agronomist today and maximize your crop's genetic potential.

USDA 2010 DCP and ACRE Sign Up Ends June 1, 2010

John Palmer, County Executive Director of the Dane County Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that June 1, 2010, is the deadline for the 2010 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the traditional Direct and Counter=cyclical Program (DCP). Annual contracts are required to be signed to receive program benefits. This is a mandatory deadline for all participants and USDA will not accept any late-file applications.

“It is critical for producers to begin the enrollment process as soon as possible,” said Paler. “Producers must contact their local county office to set up appointments well before the June 1 deadline.”

All signatures of producers receiving a share in DCP?ACRE payments are required by the June 1, 2010, deadline.

For more information about the DCP/ACRE programs please visit your local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

News from the Propane Department

It's grilling time! If you need your 20lb cylinder refilled, please visit the propane filling stations at either our Do It Best Hardware in Mt. Horeb or the Super Mart in Black Earth. One of our well-trained staff would be happy to help you.

Contracts will end on May 31st. If your last delivery was before April 1st, we'll be out to top off your tank before the end of May. If you have money left over from your contract it will be moved to your regular account on June 1st.

We will be mailing new contracts the week of June 21st and they will be due on June 30th. You will have an opportunity to sign up for prepay or booking contracts. You'll also have the option to sign up for our budget program at that time. If you have any questions about the contract after you receive it, please give us a call. Thank you for trusting us to keep your family warm and safe this past winter.

Bunker/Bag Management

The key to putting up good haylage can be summarized in just a few words- harvest at the correct moisture, maturity and particle size, pack to remove oxygen, cover to eliminate exposure and use the best inoculants available to help insure fermentation. Sounds simple doesn't it? Anyone who has put up silage knows that it's seldom that easy. But in order to come as close as possible to hitting the mark we need goals, or a target if you will.

Let's focus on one of those targets. Consider this statement- *more silage failures are the result of harvesting and storing silage at the wrong moisture than any other single factor.* Again, anyone who has put up silage would have a hard time disagreeing with that statement. Here are the consequences of missing the moisture target. Haylage put up too wet has a high potential for a clostridial fermentation that is indicated by protein degradation, dry matter loss, low digestibility, butyric acid and a high incidence of ketosis. There's also the environmental concern of run-off. Haylage put up too dry will not pack well, aerobic spoilage is likely, heat damage occurs, protein is destroyed, digestibility suffers and the result is often low dry matter intakes. So where's the bulls-eye on the moisture target? For bags and bunkers the x-ring in the center of the bulls-eye would be 35-40% dry matter or 60-65% moisture. (A little drier for silos and much drier for oxygen limiting units) Some producers have been able to manage silage as low as 30% dry matter but all of the aforementioned management factors including particle size, packing, covering and fermentation must be right. For this discussion let's say the nine-ring on the target is 33-38% dry matter and the eight-ring is 30-45% dry matter. That's still pretty good shooting but the closer to 35% dry matter the better. Notice that there is slightly greater latitude for haylage on the drier side and that's because the greater danger is in putting up haylage too wet. Butyric acid is seldom seen in haylage that is 30% dry matter or greater. On the other hand, clostridial fermentation and the associated butyric acid are very common and even likely in haylages less than 30% dry matter.

In our area silage bags are very popular and deserve a few extra comments. Forage density in bags can be a special challenge so consider adding a tunnel extension to help improve packing. Check the teeth on the bagger and sharpen if needed. Dull teeth will tend to mash forage material. Measure the stretch marks printed on the bags to insure the best possible density and to avoid over-stretching. Over-stretched bags allow large quantities of oxygen to penetrate the plastic. Finally, consider venting silage bags after they have been filled. Place one or two vents per bag above eye level and vent for 2-3 days post filling. It's best to leave these vents open only 10-15 minutes at a time several times a day. There are commercially made vents but the same can be accomplished with a small slit and good bag material tape.

In conclusion, for successful forage production, harvest at the correct maturity, moisture and particle size, pack for optimum density, cover quickly and use the best forage inoculants available. It's not always easy but the pay-off is huge!

Rich Strutt, ARPAS, Dairy Production Consultant

**** Prices good thru May. Prices shown may not include applicable sales tax. ****