

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR SPRING

By Matt Mette, Feed Manager



From what I've been hearing, it sounds like most of you have been having a good run with your calving so

far. I hope we get all those calves up and going good before the mud shows up.

For your cows, we have a specialized Cattleplus breeder mineral we've been using with good success for the past six years. It is formulated specifically for our area and helps ensure we get those cows bred on the first cycle. For calves, we have a Kent creep pellet that works well. We also make our own professionally blended, grain-based creep feeds, and we'll deliver either right to your feeders.

We have a hi-mag tub to help protect cattle from the grass tetany that can come with the first flush of lush new grass. It's best to put the

tubs out 7-10 days before turnout. And when those signs of spring start showing up, you know fly season isn't far behind. We offer loose mineral and mineral tubs with fly control onboard.

Time to get those pigs, goats and sheep in shape for show season. We carry a full line of show feeds that will have them looking fine.

Finally, we're now a dealer for Vern's livestock equipment. A South Dakota manufacturer out of Wessington, Vern's has a full line of equipment including bunks, tubs, calving pens, bale feeders, creep feeders and more. We'll have some items in stock and can get anything else you need. Their full lineup can be found at vernsmf.com.

As we've said before, we're small enough to know you and big enough to get the job done. We look forward to working with you and your livestock in 2018.



We now carry Vern's livestock handling equipment.

THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

By Glen Danielsen, General Manager



As we get set to begin a new production season, we've concluded another fiscal year at Colton Farmers Elevator. Our auditors will have final financial results soon, and I would strongly encourage all of you to attend our annual meeting. If you haven't received a notice on the time and place for the meeting, you will shortly.

The annual meeting provides a great opportunity to keep up to date on the state of your coop. One of the unique features of the cooperative business model is the fact that our customers are also the owners. You have a voice and a vote, so we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

KEEPING GRAIN IN GOOD SHAPE

I'm happy to report that all of our grain piles are now picked up and under roof, with no damage, spoilage or loss. As the weather warms, make sure to check the condition of the grain in your bins. At the very least, it's a good idea to pull the centers. We have some storage programs available, so check with us to see what options might work for you.

Our new accounting system is up and running, and your April invoice will be the first issued from the new software. If you have any questions about the new format, please give us a call.

I'd like to close with a short quote I really appreciate. "Progress is impossible without change." We're focused on changing to serve you better, and firmly believe the result will be positive progress for both your operation and your cooperative.

Thanks for your business and support. We look forward to working with you to make 2018 a successful year.



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PRECISE PLANTING IS GREAT FIRST STEP

*By Sabrina Klein
Agronomy Manager*



Take a close look at your planters, because it's time to put the 2018 crop into the ground. Where you place that seed is an important first step in achieving

maximum yields. With corn, we're shooting for 2 inches, but no less than 1.5 inches deep. Planting any shallower will affect root development and increase the likelihood of lodging.

Soybeans are best planted at 1.75 inches. It's better to be a bit too deep than too shallow, to ensure that the seed is placed in an area of consistent moisture and temperature. The temptation is always to plant early, but before you get started, check soil temperatures between 8 and 9 in the morning. The temp should be 50 degrees or higher before you plant.

Something else to consider with soybeans is seed treatment or an in-furrow application of insecticide and fungicide. Early planting exposes soybean seed to a greater chance of spending time in cool, wet soils. Seed treatment or in-furrow application helps prevent early-season diseases and insects from getting a foothold. It's easier to prevent them than to perform damage control and try to keep the problem from spreading from plant to plant.

While seed treatment or in-furrow application is extremely important for early planted beans, both deliver positive benefits on later planted soybeans, too.

A REMINDER

I know we covered the importance of getting your pre-products down in the last newsletter, but I wanted to mention a couple of other things to consider. Before you apply on soybeans, check to see if

the beans are cracking the ground. There are a number of products you can't use on emerged soybeans.

Keep in mind that if you're applying a straight fertilizer blend on corn ground, we can impregnate your fertilizer with a pre and save you a pass. Just don't work the fertilizer in too deep to keep the pre in the weed zone.

Finally, when you're planning your post treatment, be sure to consider rotation restrictions. With fomesafen, for example, you don't want to apply after the first week in July or you can run into carryover issues in corn. Do your best to time application so that your windows of residual activity overlap.

Whatever your agronomy needs, we're here and ready to meet them. We'll treat your acres like they're our own.