

PROTECTING YIELDS FROM WEEDS, PESTS

By Sabrina Klein, Agronomy Manager



You never know what a growing season will bring. After a very late start, unseasonably hot weather helped crops explode out of the ground. With plenty of moisture to work with now, we have a good chance of seeing some good yields.

Post spraying in corn has wrapped up and we're going hard on beans now. Though you can't use Flexstar® past the first week of July due to carryover restrictions, we have other products that will provide good weed control. No post applications should be made after beans flower, as every flower knocked off cuts yield potential.

The next concern in soybeans will be insects, specifically aphids and spider mites. With aphids, the treatment threshold is 250 per plant. That can be deceiving, because the numbers don't look that high on a large leaf. If they are moving onto the stem, you will want to treat.

All aphid control products are not created equal, however. Some also kill beneficial insects, which can then lead to a spider mite flareup. If mites have been a problem in the past or conditions are favorable this summer, talk to us about products to control aphids without setting back beneficial numbers.

We'll be holding our plot day in September at our plot north of Lyons. It will be worth your time to attend, so watch for more information on date and time.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED OF UNIFICATION PLANS

By Glen Daniels, General Manager



Thanks to everyone who attended our annual meeting on April 17. It was one of the best attended meetings in memory, and I appreciate the great support you showed for your local cooperative.

In April, you received a letter from your cooperative with information about the possibility of a unification with Hartford Farmers Elevator. In the letter, we pledged to communicate openly with you to keep you up to date. At this point, I can report that the boards of directors from both cooperatives have met and approved moving forward with the unification.

As we continue through this process, we will send additional mailings and schedule public meetings at both facilities to provide more information and answer questions. The dates for these meetings have not yet been set.

ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

This was quite a spring, shifting from inches of snow to 90-degree heat in the space of a couple of weeks. Then came the June downpour. Thanks for working with us as our team put in the hours necessary to get the acres covered in a very tight window. I hope the growing season settles down a bit and produces big crops. They certainly look good right now, as we've gone from two feet of snow to two-foot corn in two months.

The weather has not been favorable for our road construction project here in town, which is supposed to be completed prior to harvest. We're going to have to hope for the best on that front, too.

As you are all aware, all the uncertainty generated by NAFTA negotiations and tariff threats makes for very choppy grain markets. Along with the weather, these are factors beyond our control. We're here to help you make the most of the things you can manage.

I like the saying, "Price is what you pay, but value is what you get." At Colton Farmers Elevator, we're committed to providing value beyond dollars and cents. We appreciate your business and look forward to working with you through the 2018 growing season.



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FIGHT THOSE FLIES

By Matt Mette, Feed Manager



Flies. You hate them because cattle hate them. Here are a few facts about horn flies and the economic impact they can have on your operation.

- Left untreated, a few adult horn flies can quickly grow to a population of 4,000 flies per animal.
- Flies cause cattle to use more energy to dislodge the insects. This also distracts them from eating.
- As a result, horn flies can cause 15 to 50 pounds of weight loss per head during the summer season. What does that pencil out to at current beef prices?



This already looks like a bad year for flies. Fortunately, it's not too late to control flies and minimize their impact. We have fly control products in both tubs and loose forms, as well as a breeder mineral that incorporates fly control. We can add it whenever you switch pastures to help you keep fly populations low.

We're fully into creep feed season now, and we're moving a lot of quality creep feed, as well as grain mixes. If you haven't started yet, creep feeding is an excellent way to add profitable pounds to a calf and help it transition from the cow to full feed. It's also a good way to take some pressure off your cows and help them get ready for the next calf.

SHOWING OFF

We want to wish all the 4-H members good luck as they get their animals ready

for the county fairs. Remember that we have show feed available for just about any breed at any stage.



Just a reminder that we have net wrap and twine for all your haying needs this summer. Looking ahead to September, we also carry inoculants that can help keep your silage in good condition and protect its nutritional value.

As I talk with our farmers, I often find that they are surprised to learn that we carry certain items—like silage inoculants and net wrap. The next time you plan to buy anything for your farming operation, ask us first. We've have an extensive inventory of farming essentials.