

CULTIVATOR



Season of Optimism

*By Glen Danielsen,
General Manager*

As Will Rogers said, “The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn’t still be a farmer.” Spring is the season of optimism, and there are some positive signs as we make the turn from a tough 2019 and look ahead to planting the 2020 crop. The trade picture has brightened and our weather has been trending toward drier. Like you, we’re ready to get to work.

With last fall’s higher-moisture crops, I’d like to remind everyone to check your bins. If you want or need to move grain out of your bins, remember we are offering free storage for both corn and beans.

As you’re checking the condition of your grain, keep safety in mind. Always have someone with you and avoid entering the bin if at all possible. Wetter grain tends to increase the hazards of bin entry.

I said it last issue and I’ll say it again: be thankful for your loved ones. Appreciating all that we have helps put everything else into perspective.

We have a great team in place at Valley Central, and we’re focused on serving you. Let’s have a great 2020!



Antsy as You Are

By Derik Evans, Agronomy Department

As we wait for spring to arrive, we’ve

been getting all our application equipment ready to go. We station a floater and a sprayer in both Colton and Hartford, but we have the flexibility to move equipment and operators wherever the fields are ready. We have pull-type spreaders available to rent, too.

We have a full supply of fertilizer on hand. While fall soil testing has been and still is the norm, conditions last fall made soil sampling difficult. I want to point out that spring soil sampling works very well, and still gives us time to get the results from the lab, analyze them and put together a fertilizer plan that supports your yield goals. There is still time to meet with us to review your production plans. As

you finalize those plans, know that we can take care of any last-minute seed decisions or changes as we move through planting season. We have Enlist™ beans in our bulk bins and can get more if necessary. We also handle the LibertyLink® GT27™ beans too, as well as a full lineup of other high-yielding choices.

We offer CruiserMaxx® Vibrance® and Seed Shield® seed treatments — both great options — as well as First Up® LR inoculant.

While you’re watching the fields turn from white to black, remember that we’re here to help. Whatever it takes — fertilizer, seed, chemicals and application — we’re ready to get the work done for you.





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Your Cow/Calf Headquarters

By Matt Mette, Feed Department

Wherever you are in the calving process — just getting started, right in the middle or wrapping up — we have everything you need to get calves off to a good start and cows ready to rebreed.

High-quality calving and breeding minerals are must-haves. The impact of a good mineral program on cow and calf health has been well documented. I know margins are tight, but it's important to maintain minerals uninterrupted through the calving and rebreeding cycle to get the best breeding results and bottom-line benefit. Both Purina® and Kent® have excellent breeding minerals formulated for our part of the country.

We have plenty of colostrum and milk replacer on hand. If you have calf huts, we have tubs to help with baby calves at both our Colton and Hartford locations.

Starting calves on creep feed is right around the corner for many of you. We sell a lot of our own calf starter creeps, available in bag or bulk at both locations. We can also add all-natural products to our starters to help with cocci, e-coli and salmonella.

Fly control was tough last year due to pasture conditions. We're ready for this season, with a variety of options including an additive for creep feed. It seems likely we'll have some pretty heavy early grass this spring, so don't forget your hi-mag tubs for grass tetany.

I want to mention that cattle isn't all we do. We mix a lot of lamb creep right in our mill for maximum cost effectiveness. Like our calf creep, it's available in bag and bulk.



Watch for worms

We're seeing worm infestations in cattle at a much higher rate than normal in recent months. This may be due to the wet conditions last fall. With the softer pasture conditions, it's possible cattle pulled up grass roots and all — and roots are where the worms hang out. Hay baled at higher moisture levels also provides a favorable environment for worms.

Why is the problem so persistent? Some of the injectable and pour-on products can only take care of so many worms, and it's possible the cattle took on such a load of the parasites this summer that some escaped treatment.

If you're seeing worms, we recommend Safe-Guard Cattle 0.5%. This product goes right in the feed, and adding it over the course of a couple of days will take care of the worm problem. One pound of Safe-Guard treats 1,000 pounds of bodyweight, and it's safe to use even when cows are pregnant. You'll clean up your cattle for \$3.50-\$4 per cow — and you'll get that investment back in a hurry in improved animal performance.

Quality you can see. Service you will appreciate. Integrity above all.

