



Two Rivers

Cooperative

Monroe: 259-2232

Otley: 627-5311

Pella: 628-4167

Tracy: 949-6411

www.tworivers.coop

MISSION STATEMENT

"Two Rivers Cooperative Is Committed To Building Profitable Business Relationships Based On Integrity And Quality"

Two Rivers Cooperative

Pella, Iowa 50219

November, 2005



Crop Talk

By
Robby
Wilson

The tremendous fall weather that enabled the crop to dry down so fast in the fields, and which made it possible for the harvest season to progress virtually non-stop from start to finish in a 4-6 week sprint, is now raising both eyebrows and questions as the focus shifts to fall field work.

November has arrived with temperatures in the 70's, and there still isn't even a hint of any moisture coming our way, which would normally be a benefit that would give us additional time to get more work done.

But following a nearly rain-free September and October, our soils are not only remaining unseasonably warm for this time of the year, they are also sufficiently dry enough to cause a number of our customers to call in asking if it's going to be too dry to go ahead and apply their NH-3 this fall.

There's no doubt about it, we definitely could use a nice shower or two to put some additional moisture into these soils to aid in sealing the NH-3 as it's being knifed in by the tool bars.

But in talking with a number of customers who have been applying NH-3 the past several days, they're saying that sealing doesn't appear to be any problem.

Soils may not look and/or feel as though there's sufficient moisture in them, but generally speaking there's plenty of moisture still there to seal NH-3, even if you can't see or feel it.

We Look Forward To Seeing YOU At The TWO RIVERS COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, December 5th

PCM High School In Monroe

Evening Meal Served At 6:00 - Business Meeting To Follow

We hope all members will set aside time to join us and the members of the Two Rivers Cooperative Family at this year's Annual Meeting, where we will present a complete financial report covering the fiscal year of business ending August 31, 2005.

Other business to be completed that evening will include the Board of Director election, and a brief profile of those candidates appears elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

As far as soil temperatures are concerned, it's best to wait until soil temperature has cooled and stabilized to 50 degrees at the 4-inch depth before applying NH-3.

Using N-Serve with your fall applied NH-3 allows you to put it on at soil temperatures that are slightly higher, so feel free to visit with any of the Two Rivers Agronomists for up to date soil temperature information and your N-Serve options so we can keep you posted on both.

The NH-3 season is normally a fast-paced all-out sprint to the finish, since the season is normally a short one. And this fall we could be looking at a very quick season for all.

But even though there will be an all-out push to get the NH-3 applied in the weeks ahead, there are still some things we are asking everyone to keep in mind as the upcoming NH-3 season unfolds.

First of all, we are asking for everyone's cooperation in taking the best possible care of any equipment they are taking out from the co-op, since these equipment assets belong to the entire membership, therefore they need to be taken care of so others can

use them when you're done.

Avoid abusing the equipment so it can be promptly turned over to the next person who is waiting for it, rather than requiring a multitude of costly and time-consuming repairs.

If something does break or malfunction, call it to our immediate attention so repairs can be made before another person takes that equipment out.

As I've touched on in articles I've written for previous seasons, always keep in mind that each customer is responsible for checking the various belts, hoses, valves and settings to verify that all are set right for their particular job, that they are operating properly, and that everything is ship-shape before you start your application.

Our employees inspect and set things up when the equipment comes back in and before it leaves, but having another pair of eyes (or more) look things over is the absolute best way to make sure things go more smoothly and safely for everyone.

After all, it's much better, easier and saves everyone a lot of time finding out

CROP TALK
Continued On Page 2



**Fuel
Facts**
By
**Scott
Bensink**

During the past 30-45 days, we have seen some of the wildest, most volatile and significant shifts in diesel fuel prices that I think I can ever remember seeing.

Our market has been on a roller coaster ride for several years now, with prices moving steadily higher and often at a rate that can be as much as a nickel or more per day.

That's a huge leap in a market where historically price shifts were measured in tenth's of a cent daily, and a nickel change in price typically took a week or more.

Part of the reason why we are seeing such a big surge in volatility is that our fuel/energy markets are now being traded in much the same way as our commodity markets have been traded for the past several years, namely with a lot of fund buyer influence and speculation driving prices.

As a result, the entire picture is no longer being driven by the traditional forces of supply and demand, which have always been the basic market influences that have established price.

In fact, there are increasingly more times when the market is moving in exactly the opposite direction from that which the fundamentals of supply and demand would seem to dictate.

Also, much like our corn and soybean markets, the fuel and energy markets (and prices) are now being influenced to a much greater degree by the use of the basis, and the basis is precisely what was behind the bulk of the big increases we saw taking place in diesel fuel the past 6 weeks or so.

In basic terms, the fund market speculators feared that interruptions in fuel refining caused by the hurricane damage in the Gulf Region had created a severe "nearby" shortage of diesel, therefore the basis was dramatically widened - by over \$1.00 per gallon in just a few days - causing the price to take off.

The good news is that as I am writing this article the first week of November, the basis has already narrowed by over 50 cents per gallon, and prices are in retreat from the highs

Please Mark Your Calendars & Plan Ahead
All Two Rivers Locations Will Be
**CLOSED THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 24th
THANKSGIVING DAY**

We Ask For The Cooperation Of All Customers
In Planning Their Business Needs Early
So Our Employees Can Enjoy This Special Day
With The Members Of Their Family



previously set.

Another issue that may have created confusion came from a story in the media about a waiver the governor signed to allow some portions of the state where diesel supplies are severely short to use high sulfur diesel fuel.

Those using this product must submit documentation to verify all state and federal taxes, which add up to 46.9 cents per gallon, have been and/or will be paid in full.

Our area does not handle this high sulfur, clear fuel product, nor were our supplies as severely tested and/or limited as in some areas..

It should be noted that the use of any dyed diesel fuel (off-road and/or ag diesel product that has not been taxed) in any on-road use remains a violation, and is subject to substantial fines should the vehicle be inspected and found to contain this product in an on-road use.

My final comments center around a reminder to all on the importance of maintaining a good on-farm inventory of LP as the weather turns cold, since we will continue our policy of charging extra for same day delivery.

And of course please also remember there are significant added charges involved if any tank runs out and the system has to be re-inspected with a full pressurization test performed before re-filling.

CROP TALK

Continued From Page 1

something needs to be fixed, re-set or whatever before the job is done, rather

than discovering mid-way through or after you're done.

Another simple but critical reminder relates to the water supply on the nurse tanks.

As everyone knows, water is the initial first aid to turn to if accidentally exposed to NH-3, and there's a supply of water attached to every tank that goes out.

The problem is, as the weather gets cold, the lines in these water tanks can freeze solid, blocking off the flow of water and thus rendering this first option to supply first aid worthless, even if the water supply itself is full and unfrozen.

Our people always try to check the water supply on every tank to make sure it's clean, full and flowing before the tanks go out.

But here again, taking just a moment or two for you to double check them is always recommended, and naturally if you have any tanks out overnight you need to do this before you ever start the day.

Wearing the safety gloves, goggles and other protective clothing/gear is, naturally, a must at all times, so please don't take shortcuts or become overly complacent, since the consequences and costs to you, your family and farming operation's future just aren't worth the risk.

Take every safety precaution and follow every safety procedure you've ever learned about working with NH-3, and you will be taking the first all-important step to keeping this a safe fall season for all.



The Otley Grain Bunker Was Busy Again In 2005

Board Of Director Candidate Profiles

The following individuals have had their names submitted by the nominating committee to be included on the ballot for the position of Director. Class A members can vote for their choice of 1 candidate from each of the 4 Director Area Districts in which a candidate is to be elected, with the individual receiving the highest vote total in each District elected to the Board.

Once again this year, members who will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting in person will be able to cast their vote by mail, using the mail in ballot and envelopes to cast mail in votes that will be sent to all Class A members with their Official Notice of the Annual Meeting.

PLEASE NOTE

MAIL IN BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m. DECEMBER 2nd

If you are mailing in your ballot, please allow sufficient time for it to be processed and delivered by the postal system so that it will be Received At The Co-op 2 Days Prior To The Date Of The Annual Meeting.

Ballots can also be properly filled out, the return envelope signed and brought to any Two Rivers Office location by the close of the business day Friday, December 2nd.

Members who will be attending the Annual Meeting can bring their ballot and voting envelopes with them to the December 5th Annual Meeting, where they can be turned in at the Registration Desk as you enter.

PLEASE NOTE

THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING BALLOTS MUST BE SIGNED TO BE VALID

The signed/sealed envelope assures that your votes remain confidential while providing for accuracy in checking the membership roster to match eligible voting member's name with that on the sealed envelope.

All sealed ballots submitted, whether by mail or in person, will remain sealed until they are opened by the tellers, who will remove the confidential ballot and discard the envelopes prior to counting the ballots.

** Signifies Incumbent Director*

Monroe Area Candidates - 3 Year Term



Ruard Vander Ploeg

Ruard has been farming for 32 years. The Vander Ploeg farm, a member of Vansland Ltd. and Palisades Pork Inc. is located near Reasnor and includes corn and soybeans crop production and a farrow-to-finish swine livestock enterprise.

Ruard and his wife Elizabeth, who is a floral designer, have three adult children: Daughters Jennifer, 33; Sarah, 31, and Kate 29.

A cooperative member for 32 years, Ruard is also a member of the Iowa Pork Producers Association.



Stan Woody

Stan has been farming for 25 years. The Woody farm is located 3 miles southeast of Reasnor and includes corn, soybeans and alfalfa crop production, plus a cow/calf and feedlot cattle beef livestock enterprise.

Stan and his wife Karri, who is the Business Manager for Skiff Hospital in Newton, have two children: Daughter Brooke is 16, and son Devon is 8.

Playing golf and hunting raccoons are the past times Stan most enjoys. A cooperative member for 25 years, Stan is also a member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church in Monroe, and a member of the Farm Bureau. He has served one term on the cooperative's Associate Board.

Candidate Profiles - Continued On Back

Board Of Director Candidate Profiles (Continued)

Pella Area - 3 Year Term



Dennis Bogards

Dennis has been farming for 13 years. The Bogards farming corporation is located 3 miles from Pella and includes corn and soybean crop production.

Dennis and his wife Michelle, who is a Kindergarten Teacher at Sully, have two children: Daughter Abbey is 10; and son Adam is 3.

Playing golf and enjoying a variety of spectator sports are activities that Dennis enjoys in his free time.

A cooperative member for 13 years, Dennis is also a member of the Federated Fellowship Church in Pella; and a member of the Iowa Corn Growers and Iowa Soybean Growers Associations.



David Willemssen

David has been farming for 35 years. The Willemssen farming operation is located 3 miles east of Pella and includes corn and soybeans crop production, plus a SEW pig finishing pork enterprise and a cattle finishing beef livestock operation.

David and his wife Gloria, who works in the payroll department at Vermeer, have three adult children: Daughter Kimberly is 34; daughter Stacy is 27; and son Ryan is 30.

Spending time enjoying granddaughter Ali, along with camping and working with youth groups are activities which David says he most enjoys when he has spare time.

A cooperative member for 35 years, David is also a member of the Third Reformed Church in Pella; a member of the Pork Producers; a member of the Corn and Soybean Growers Associations; a member of T.E.C.; and serves as a 4-H Superintendent.

Otley Area - 2 Year Term



Steve Seekamp

Steve has been farming for 25 years. The Seekamp farm is located 1/2 mile from Otley and includes corn and soybean crop production.

Steve and his wife Gail, who is a Receptionist at Pella Regional Hospital in Pella, have three adult children: Daughter Amber is 20; son Troy is 22, and son Jeff is 18.

Woodworking, antique tractors and serving as a volunteer for T.S.A High School are the activities that keep Steve busy in his spare time.

A cooperative member for 25 years, Steve is also a member of the Third Reformed Church in Pella.



Arvin Vos

Arvin has been farming for 35 years. The Vos farming corporation is located 3 miles northwest of Pella and includes corn and soybeans crop production.

Arvin and his wife Laura, who is a homemaker and works part-time at Hometown Variety in Pella, have 3 adult children: Daughter Jana is 29; and daughter Brenda is 23; son Dale is 32.

Working in his shop and going to farm sales are activities that Arvin enjoys when he has spare time to do so.

A cooperative member for 35 years, Arvin is also a member of Covenant Reformed Church in Pella; a member of the Corn and Soybean Growers Associations, and a member of the Pork Producers.

Pella Area - 3-Year Term



David Nossaman

David has been farming for 12 years. The Nossaman farming operation, which David farms in partnership with his brother Rich, is located 9 miles southeast of Pella and includes corn, soybeans and hay crop production, plus a pig finishing pork enterprise and a cow/calf beef livestock operation.

David and his wife Robin, who is a Nurse, have four daughters: Mandy is 9; Macy is 7; Erica is 6 and Erin is 2.

Playing golf, along with hunting and fishing, are the things which David says he most enjoys doing when he has spare time available.

A cooperative member for 12 years, David is also a member of the Pork Producers.



Steve Nunnikhoven *

Steve has been farming for 21 years. The Nunnikhoven farming operation, which Steve farms in partnership with his father Merle, includes corn, soybeans and hay crop production, plus a cow/calf beef livestock enterprise.

Steve and his wife Lynn, who is a 1st Grade Teacher at Lincoln School in Pella, have three children: Daughter Abby is 4; son Mitchel is 11, and son Zachary is 7.

Spending time with the family enjoying camping and numerous other family activities, plus riding motorcycles are the things which Steve enjoys spending time doing when there is spare time available.

Seed & Stuff

By Jay Van Woerkom



Once again this season, proper seed placement has proven to be a key to reaching the best possible genetic potential of the hybrids and or varieties that are planted, even when faced with a variety of different environmental challenges.

Some families of corn hybrids perform much better in the kind of heat we had at pollination time, followed by the dry weather of September, and there was clearly a noticeable yield advantage for those families as the corn crop was harvested.

In many respects, the weather we had this past August and September were at opposite ends of Mother Nature's weather spectrum, with very cool and wet conditions for this period in 2004, and hot, dry conditions this year.

As you might imagine, therefore, the numbers that performed and yielded at the top end of the ladder a year ago were not the same hybrid numbers we saw leading the yield and performance charts this fall.

It is precisely because of these genetic differences in hybrid families, and the various strengths and weaknesses each are able to exhibit, that your Two Rivers Seed Team not only tries to match your seed to your field and management characteristics, but also helps you to diversify your seed selection through the different genetic families to spread your risks.

This helps prevent your crop from being totally vulnerable and at the mercy of Mother Nature, since limiting your seed choices to just a few hybrids and/or varieties that would perform the best in one particular environment could prove costly if Mother Nature gives us totally different weather.

Be sure you take time to visit with your Two Rivers Agronomists about these different alternatives and how to best cover the bases when selecting your seed numbers for the 2006 planting season.

A CHANGE OF PLANS: Last month I mentioned we were planning to have a **Post-Harvest Meeting & Wrap Up** in mid-November, but those plans need

Stock Up And Save On Your Fall/Winter Needs 10% OFF ALL IN-STOCK TUB PRODUCTS

(While Supplies On Hand Last)

SUPER "YOUR CHOICE" SPECIAL

For Purchases Made Before November 30th

BUY 10 TUBS - GET 1 FREE OR GET FREE DELIVERY

to be changed.

We will try to re-schedule this meeting for sometime in December or early January, so keep watching for details to be announced as we get these arrangements pinned down.



Feed For Thought By Jason Smit

Apologies to all for the confusion in last month's newsletter that had my article repeated a second time rather than the information Mitch had written up.

We were able to make the changes on the copy of the newsletter that went on our web site, so please feel free to check it out there in the archives.

This month, we are announcing **Changes In Grind & Mix, Feed Pelletting and Delivery Rates** that have been implemented to help us address and keep pace with the significant increase in all the costs asso-

ciated with providing these services which have taken place since they were last reviewed.

In checking back, the rates we have been using have been in effect for over 3 years, and in that time utility costs, labor costs, insurance expenses, the cost for permits, licenses and inspections, along with machinery and equipment costs, maintenance and service expenses have all been moving steadily higher.

The way costs keep changing, we are also implementing a policy to review and evaluate all costs every 6-8 months so we can adjust rates to more accurately reflect our on-going costs, and make any changes which take place in them, up or down, in a much more timely manner than has been done in the past.

Please note that all of the discounts which we offer for advance notice, volumes and so forth remain unchanged, therefore it will pay off even more for customers to plan and order their needs to capture the best savings these discounts offer.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the rates as they will be appearing on your statements for Grind and Mix, Feed Pelletting and Delivery.

2005 Two Rivers Test Plot Highlights

CORN

Glen Van Wyk - Pella Area Plot			Paul Hjortshoj - Monroe Area Plot		
Hybrid	Genetics	Yield	Hybrid	Genetics	Yield
Croplan 705	RR2	232.8	DeKalb 62-31	YGCB	215.1
Croplan 668	Bt	214.3	DeKalb 63-79	YGCB	217.5
DeKalb 62-31	YGCB	228.2	NK 70-T9	Bt	213.9
Asgrow 715	Conv.	237.3	NK 76-M5	Bt	216.7
NK 67-W5	Bt	218.6	Croplan 630	Bt	210.4
NK 75-C4		224.3	Croplan 668	Bt	218.9
Dan Wichhart - Otley Area Plot					
Hybrid	Genetics	Yield	Hybrid	Genetics	Yield
Croplan 705	RR2	213.2	Croplan 645	Bt	204.6

SOYBEANS

Glen Van Wyk - Pella Area Plot				Paul Hjortshoj - Monroe Area Plot			
Variety	Yield	Variety	Yield	Variety	Yield	Variety	Yield
Croplan 3253	77.7	Asgrow 3602	68.0	DeKalb 31-51	77.3	NK 32-G5	72.3
Croplan 3595	76.6	NK 30-D4	70.8	Asgrow 3602	79.3	Croplan 3200	71.8
Asgrow 2403	72.4	NK 25-B9	69.5	NK 26-V6	74.3	Croplan 3253	76.0
Dan Wichhart - Otley Area Plot							
Variety	Yield	Variety	Yield	Variety	Yield	Variety	Yield
Croplan 3253	72.4			Croplan 3200	73.0		



As I See It
By Tracy Gathman
General Manager

Before going any further with this month's newsletter article, I want to extend a **Very Special Thank You** to all of the customers who hauled their corn directly to the bunker pile at the Otley location.

Customers hauling their corn direct to the pile were responsible for some 87,000 of the 453,000 bushels that filled the bunker, or right about 20% of the total.

This saved a significant amount of double handling and many extra hours of time and labor, and I feel it was one of several contributing factors which helped to smooth grain receiving and handling during this very busy harvest season.

I can assure each and every one of you who hauled loads out to the bunker that your cooperation in doing so was very much appreciated, and again from all of us, **THANKS!**

In talking with elevator managers elsewhere and hearing about how difficult harvest played out in their areas, I must also say I feel very good about the way we've been able to work together to handle this big crop and how smoothly things have progressed.

I'm especially pleased for the great cooperation, patience, teamwork and understanding that has been displayed here in Two Rivers Country.

I understand numerous other elevators across the state found it necessary to require grain to be sold as it crossed the scales, had a number of periods during which delivery hours were significantly restricted, and/or they had to shut things off completely.

I sincerely believe we can give much of the credit for how well things have gone for our customers and Two Rivers to our pre-harvest planning, along with some of the key logistic decisions that were made leading up to the start of harvest.

And of course we also give credit to the great cooperation we received from so many of our customers, such as that mentioned above, and another

fantastic effort by all of the employees.

That's not to say there weren't a few times during the course of the season when storage didn't get super tight.

And certainly there were a few times when the lines of wagons and/or trucks waiting to cross the scale and/or dump were stretched back further and took longer to get through than we would have liked.

I don't think it makes any difference who you are or where you live, you can't harvest a crop anywhere near as large as this year's crop of corn and soybeans, and harvest it virtually non-stop with no weather delays to provide "catch-up days" along the way, without encountering a few bumps or snags somewhere along the way.

The only totally smooth, fast and trouble-free harvest seasons I've ever seen or been a part of have been those that took place when there wasn't all that much of a crop out there to harvest in the first place, and that's clearly not an option anyone would pick.

I also think that having this year's corn crop mature normally and therefore dry down naturally (and rapidly) out in the fields, helped smooth the pace somewhat.

Last year, I'm sure you'll recall (and who could forget?) the corn crop just hit the wall at a higher than desired level of moisture, and it wouldn't budge from there, thus there was quite a bit of the crop that had to be put through the dryers.

This year, by contrast, most of the corn had dried down nicely by the first part of October, and what dry down we needed to use the dryers for was typically for only a few points at the most.

In a year that has seen natural gas and LP prices nearly double what they normally are, being able to virtually bypass the grain dryer with the bulk of your large corn crop means an additional value you're able to tack on to each bushel by not having a large expense against the crop for drying it.

There are a large enough number of variables involved that it would require more calculations than I'm able to work to nail down an exact figure, but it would be my ball-park guess that you've likely been able to add \$20.00 to \$30.00 per acre in added value to this year's corn crop from the drying expenses you've saved.

One more thing about this year's corn crop that we can be very satisfied with is the high quality of the crop, since in addition to being dry as it was combined, test weights were high and the overall quality of the crop was very solid.

I hope all of you will make a commitment to quality for whatever bushels you tucked away in storage on your farm, since it appears we're already shaping up for some weird weather as we move forward into the post-harvest period.

Here it is the first week in November and temperatures are almost summer-like. Watch your grain closely with the big shift in temperatures from daytime highs to overnight lows, and maintain a good quality crop in storage with timely management.

Details of the **Annual Meeting** and Director election are included elsewhere, and we're looking forward to a good turnout of the membership on December 5th to see and hear the full details about the fine year your co-op has had.



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