



Two Rivers

Cooperative

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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

June, 2006



Fuel Facts

By
Scott
Bensink

LP CONTRACTING: Two Rivers Co-op kicked off its **Fall LP Contracting** program on June 1st, and we will be offering you an opportunity to lock in your 2006-07 fall/winter needs with us between now and **August 31st**.

Again this year we are requiring a **Non-Refundable 10-cents per gallon down-payment** to lock in your contracting price and gallon amounts.

Prices for contracting LP are slightly higher than they were a year ago at this time when we introduced the 2005-06 program.

However they're also considerably lower than what LP eventually peaked out at in-season, which climbed steadily as the season unfolded.

Our LP markets no longer trade in the fairly narrow ranges they once did ten or so years back, when price increases occurred in increments of pennies and it typically took a very severe winter season and/or some sort of problems/concerns about supply availability to push the market significantly higher.

These days LP closely follows whatever is taking place in the crude oil marketplace, therefore prices for LP closely mirror our crude price volatility, uncertainty and speculation.

We also offer a **Pre-Paid Contract** for those customers interested in that type of program. This enables the customer to receive a **5-cent per gallon discount** off the posted contracting



We Look Forward To Seeing You At The Great Iowa Tractor Ride Tractor Pull Southern Iowa Fairgrounds Raceway In Oskaloosa

Two Rivers Cooperative Is Pleased To Join Other Iowa Ag Businesses To Support This Year's

GREAT IOWA TRACTOR RIDE

June 25th Thru June 28th

And To Be The Official Sponsor Of This Year's

TRACTOR PULL CONTEST

June 25th At 7:00 p.m.

price for pre-paying.

I think it would prove to be an eye-opening experience to go back any number of years (3, 5, 10) and add up just how many energy dollars you have been able to save by contracting your LP needs in advance with us.

Savings of that significance are just too great to be ignored, or to let slip through your fingers by not contracting to lock in prices, and finding out later just how costly that delay turned out to be.

DIESEL CONTRACTS: We have also had a few calls to inquire about contracting diesel fuel for fall, and at this particular time, with the markets still relatively unstable, uncertain and volatile, we have not as yet established fall prices.

I am hoping there will soon be a break in demand to allow the market to seek a stable level, and at that time we will lock in our needs with our suppliers and establish a fall fuel contracting program and price to offer our customers.

The Fuel Team will make every attempt to contact our customers by

phone and/or with a special mailing to announce this program as it is established, but feel free to touch bases with us periodically, just in case this opportunity comes up unexpectedly.

DOUG'S DEPARTURE: Doug Broderson has announced he has taken a position in industrial equipment sales.

We want to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Doug for the fine job he did serving Two Rivers and all of his customers during his time here, and of course wish him the very best for the future in his new career.

TRACTOR PULL: We look forward to seeing a good turnout of our Two Rivers Cooperative Family in Oskaloosa for the **Tractor Pull on Tuesday, June 25th**, sponsored by your Two Rivers Cooperative in conjunction with the **WHO Great Iowa Tractor Ride June 25-28**.

There will be a lot of fun and excitement throughout the evening as the competition for prizes brings out the best tractors and owners throughout the area, and we're sure you'll want to be a part of all the action.



**Crop
Talk**
By
**Robby
Wilson**

We're starting to see a few signs of **Bean Leaf Beetle** activity out in a number of the fields that have been scouted recently, with a number of farmers and our field scouts reporting stems and cotyledons being chewed on by these bugs.

Of significant note have been numerous observations of side-by-side comparisons of fields with soybeans treated with **Cruiser Maxx** and non-treated fields showing the treated beans are being left alone.

Customers we've been talking to who have been out there checking on these and other developments also report their Cruiser Maxx treated soybeans are better looking breaking the soil surface and coming out of the ground, plus they are growing faster and look healthier and hardier than non-treated beans.

Once again during these critical early stages of the season, therefore, we're seeing a clear-cut and decisive advantage demonstrated for taking the time and making the investment in a seed treatment strategy.

Those of you with un-treated soybeans in the ground need to pay extra close attention to them for signs and symptoms of Bean Leaf Beetles, as well as for any other health and/or insect threats the young, emerging crop is so ultra-sensitive to.

If you see Bean Leaf Beetles pose a threat to the yield and/or economic value of your bean crop, insecticide treatments can be applied, and there are several products to choose from in the pyrethroid category.

A word of advice, however: **Use Low Rates**, since with the dry conditions we're experiencing at the time, we need to avoid piling on additional levels of stress to an already-stressed bean crop during this time of higher vulnerability and sensitivity.

Speaking of checking on things out in the country, as May comes to an end we have definitely entered **Prime Time** for everyone to be checking fields on a regular basis to monitor fast-changing, fast-developing situa-

tions of all kinds.

Bean Leaf Beetles are, of course, of immediate concern, and one of the challenges in dealing with this particular bug is it looks very similar to a lot of the other bugs you'll see as you scout.

We've therefore included a close up photo elsewhere on this page to aid in proper identification. Bean Leaf Beetles also vary in color, from tan to red to yellow and various stages of all three.

A color version is available on our web site at www.tworivers.coop for you to check out.

On a **Very Important Note** related to scouting **Please Keep In Mind** that as of today it's likely a lot of the pre-plant and pre-emerge chemistries that have been applied this year are nearing the **Notification Deadline of 30 Days!**

In fact, many chemical suppliers are declaring **June 10th as Final Cutoff Date** for handling any questions/complaints on performance.

Get Out & Scout Now so we can address any specific issues that need to be dealt with in the most timely and effective manner **Before The June 10th Deadline**, since waiting until after it's gone just isn't an option.

Finally this month, I want to express my personal thanks and appreciation in recognizing **All Two Rivers Employees** for their hard work, long hours and the many sacrifices in personal and family time/activities each of them have made to keep things moving along smoothly and efficiently in serving our customer's needs.

The guys in the Agronomy Team have once again done a remarkable job, and they have been backed up at every turn and in so many ways by employees from the Feed, Petroleum and Seed Teams, as well as by the crew that's normally handling grain at our location elevators.

Two Rivers has a Great Team, one that rises to every occasion and challenge to give their very best to this

company and to each customer.

I appreciate working with them, I recognize and thank them for their efforts, and I hope you will as well.

**Seed
&
Stuff**
By
**Jay
Van Woerkom**



Soil crusting and strong winds. Insect pressures and some diseases.

Prolonged cool temperatures, some mechanical snafus plus a host of other variables.

Add them together and you have all the ingredients to create less than desirable stands of corn/soybeans, leading to the **Number One Question** many are faced with this time of the year: **Do I Re-Plant Or Not?**

In many cases, the initial stand, even a depleted one, can yield as good as and often even better than a re-planted crop.

Of course you'll need to consider variable factors such as the actual/optimum plant population varies crop to crop and even within different hybrids/varieties, along with other variables such as soil types, drainage, rainfall patterns, growing season length and so forth.

Weed/insect pressures, herbicide issues, grain prices, fuel costs, planting date comparisons are other factors that must be fully evaluated in making the best possible decision.

Your Two Rivers Agronomist can assist you in getting a firm handle on your existing stand and stand count, along with assessing all of the other variables involved, so you can make the most timely, effective and econom-

SEED & STUFF
Continued On Page 3



**Proper Identification
Is The Key To
Bean Leaf Beetle
Management & Control**
**Look For The Black Triangle
Positioned Just Behind The Head
To Distinguish Bean Leaf Beetles
From Other Insects You May See**



Two Rivers

Cooperative

4-H & F.F.A. SUPPORT PROGRAM

Purpose: Two Rivers Cooperative is proud to show its support to ALL 4-H and F.F.A. county and state fair participants who are the sons and daughters of our members.

Requirements: There are only three basic requirements necessary to qualify:

- 1.) Parent must be a member of Two Rivers Cooperative.
- 2.) 4-H and/or F.F.A. participant must complete leader-approved project exhibited at the local county/state fair.
- 3.) 4-H and/or F.F.A. participant must complete and submit a 1-page information sheet related to project experience to Two Rivers.

Financial Reward: Two Rivers will review all information sheets received and shall award a \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond (Series EE) to all qualified participants (with limit of one savings bond per participant) on September 1st following the conclusion of all county fairs.

Project Information Sheet

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Social Security Number: _____ *(Required For Savings Bond Issuance)*

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Project Description(s): _____

What I Learned This Year: _____

Participant's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

4-H/F.F.A. Leader's Signature: _____



**Feed
For
Thought**
By
Jason Smit

I am pleased to introduce **Heather Steffen** to our customers this month. Heather will be working closely with our Two Rivers area beef producers and dairy operators, and we're very pleased to have her join our team.

Heather has just graduated from ISU with degrees in Animal Sciences and Dairy Sciences.

She is originally from the northeastern Iowa area near the small town of Garber, where dairy operations are much in evidence.

Please welcome Heather to our cooperative, our community and to your farming operation as she stops by to introduce herself in the near future.

Moving on to business items, now that we have warmer weather arriving you'll want to be sure to get some higher levels of fat into swine rations to compensate for the natural decline in consumption that occurs in warmer weather.

Also be sure to re-balance rations and/or to have your Two Rivers Team assist you with re-balancing to account for any modifications you make for summer feeding.

We include DDGS in all swine rations we manufacture in the to help deal with heamorigic bowel.

I also encourage everyone to be sure they are taking care of the mineral needs of their cattle during this change in the seasons.

If you need any assistance with these programs, be sure to have one of the Two Rivers Team assist you and/or answer your questions.

One other item to touch on as we get into the warmer weather months ahead is to be sure you are providing ample supplies of fresh water to all your household and farm pets.

It's often easy to overlook their water needs as it gets warmer and/or to assume these pets always have a source of supply they can get to at any time, when they actually may not.

Check their water supply and try to keep a fresh, clean supply available at all times to all pets and livestock, since their water needs can increase dramatically when it gets hot outside, and only you can supply them.

ATTENTION PORK PRODUCERS

If You Are Attending

WORLD PORK EXPO

June 8th & 9th In Des Moines

SEE JASON

For Free Luncheon Tickets Served At The
Land O'Lakes Hospitality Tent

SEED & STUFF

Continued From Page 2

ical decision on a field-by-field basis.

Robby has touched on **Bean Leaf Beetles** elsewhere, and I have some additional comments to offer.

As June arrives, we're either just coming out of the over-wintering population of these pests, or soon will be.

The first generation that hatches from the eggs of this over-wintering population will begin showing up in mid-to-late June, followed by a second generation that arrives in early August.

The first step in making the decision on whether or not to treat is dependent upon whether or not pod mottle virus is or is not a concern.

If it is not, the general economic thresholds are as follows for different stages of soybeans:

Seedlings: 1 cotyledon destroyed per row foot and/or 50% defoliation and soybean growth is not keeping ahead of insect feeding.

Before Bloom: 30% to 50% defoliation.

Bloom To Start Of Pod Fill: 20% to 25% defoliation.

Pod Fill To Maturity: 15% defolia-

tion and/or 5% to 10% pod damage.

If pod mottle virus is a concern, then you need to scout beans as they emerge and treat when the first bean leaf beetles are found to assure seed quality, yield and a proper harvest.

Also this month, you'll need to be checking for potato leaf hoppers in your alfalfa fields just as soon as you have the first couple of inches of re-growth appearing after the first cut.

Existing fields as well as new stands need to be monitored for signs and symptoms of leaf hopper feeding, and control measures need to be taken just as soon as the economic threshold levels have been reached.

And remember, although some of our newer lines of alfalfa have bred-in hopper resistance, this does not "kick in" until the stand is established.

SPECIAL PRICES

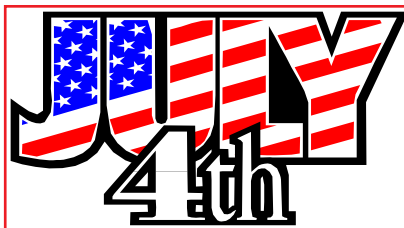
On All In-Stock

PKC 26/18

DOG FOOD

\$12.00/50 Lb. Bag

While Supplies Last



**ADVANCE NOTICE
HOLIDAY CLOSING**

All Two Rivers Locations

Will Be Closed For Business

TUESDAY, JULY 4th

In Recognition Of Our Nation's Birthday

**Please Welcome
Heather Steffen
To The Two Rivers Feed Team**

We are pleased to welcome Heather Steffen to the Two Rivers Cooperative as she begins her duties with us to serve the nutritional needs of our area's beef and dairy producers.





As I See It
By Tracy Gathman
General Manager

SCALE PROJECT PROGRESS: As of this writing heading into the Memorial Day holiday weekend, we're expecting the demolition work to remove the old scale has been completed.

The next phase will be to prepare the site for installation of the new scale which, as I discussed last time, will be relocated several feet farther away from the office building to provide for added maneuverability of scale traffic.

As I also mentioned in my May newsletter article, in looking to the long term operations of the scale to better serve the needs of Two Rivers Cooperative and its customers, and to further assist in addressing the future scale needs of others within the area's business community, the new scale will be enlarged by an additional 10-feet in length, making it 80-feet long.

At this point I would like to call your attention to the boxed item that appears elsewhere on this page for information related to the new scale that is being installed.

We have greatly appreciated the outstanding cooperation and close working relationship we have had with the representatives from Vermeer Manufacturing on this project, who have stepped to the forefront to work hand-in-hand with your Two Rivers Co-op to expedite this issue as quickly and smoothly as possible.

It has indeed been a pleasure to work with and to be associated with such an outstanding leader in our area's business community, and to join forces in making the best decisions for replacing the damaged scale with a system that will meet everyone's needs more effectively and efficiently for many years into the future.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE: Two Rivers Cooperative has a long and proud tradition of showing positive support for the young men and women who are active in the local 4-H and F.F.A. chapters, and who demonstrate their interests through participation in the area's County Fairs.

Two Rivers Thanks Vermeer Mfg.

By Tracy Gathman

From the very outset of the incident at the Pella location's scale, the people of Vermeer Mfg. have assumed a positive leadership position in helping your Two Rivers Cooperative to best resolve the situation, and to do so in the most expeditious manner possible.

Vermeer Mfg. has also taken a pro-active stance in assisting your Two Rivers Cooperative with fully investigating various alternatives and options for a replacement scale.

In the process, they have graciously stepped forward to make a significant commitment and contribution to address not only the immediate needs Two Rivers will have to handle scale operations for the upcoming fall season as harvest begins, but, in a much broader sense, to also look to the future with us so that the new scale will serve the longer term needs and objectives of Two Rivers and other members of our local business community.

As a result of their commitments and the positive, progressive approach Vermeer and Two Rivers have brought to resolving the issue of replacing the damaged scale, the decision was made to relocate and upgrade the size of the scale with a new scale 80-feet in length.

We want to therefore take this opportunity to recognize Vermeer Mfg. for all of their cooperation in assisting Two Rivers to move forward with this scale replacement, relocation and upgrade project, and to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to them for their most generous contribution to help pay for a substantial portion of the additional costs being incurred for moving the scale and expanding its length over and above the basic replacement costs.

As I have discussed on various occasions, the County Fair is so much more than ribbons and trophies, and indeed there is so much more of lasting value in the learning experiences these youngsters benefit from through their participation at the fair than any of the financial rewards that may come to them through the auctions.

Through the planning processes, the hard work and commitments, the dedication and determination these young men and women demonstrate in developing, nurturing and displaying their projects for the fair, they learn values that will last them a lifetime, ones that will help guide them well throughout their adult lives.

A year ago at this time we mailed out information related to our program of awarding a **\$50.00 Savings Bond** to 4-H and F.F.A. County Fair exhibitors, regardless of the type of project they were engaged in (i.e. Livestock, craft, homemaking, etc.).

For whatever reason, it appears to me this information was perhaps not fully relayed to these young men and women, or to their parents as completely as we had hoped for.

Therefore, this year we have included this information as a separate insert in this month's newsletter, and I hope all of you with children or grandchildren will be sure to contact us if there are any questions.



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