



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

April, 2007



Crop Talk

By
Robby
Wilson

I'll start off this month with one of my standard reminders for this time of the season, one you've all heard before but which bears repeating because it is so important and because it can mean so much to helping us provide you and everyone else with the best service possible this spring:

Please Give Us 24 Hours Advance Notice Before Coming In To Pick Up Chemical Shuttles And/Or Dry Fertilizer Carts.

If everyone cooperates on this, it will make a huge difference on how things flow each day and be a tremendous help to us in providing everyone with their needs as smoothly and in the most timely manner possible.

Your cooperation with this request will be greatly appreciated by the Agronomy Team, and by your friends and neighbors too, since this not only helps us give you the best service, it helps us serve everyone else more efficiently too.

The next item is also one of the standard reminders for this very busy time of the year, and one that I ask all of you to help us out with as well.

When You Have Out Any Equipment (tool bars, nurse tanks, applicators, buggies or whatever) **Please Use It Then Return It Promptly, Or Call One Of Us To Pick It Up.**

We need to make the most timely and effective use of every piece of

The Agronomy Team Is Ready For Spring HOW ABOUT YOU?

There has been a lot of planning, preparation and discussion underway over the past few months as our customers and the Two Rivers Agronomy Team have worked together on the products, programs and management strategies for this 2007 crop season.

This year, the attraction and incentives to plant additional acres of corn has brought a number of new wrinkles into the process, and as the spring season looms just around the corner, it will be very important for everyone to firm up and finalize all of their input needs, and to put the finishing touches on management strategies and crop services.

The increased demand for all fertilizer products (N-P-K) as well as the increased demand for trait and technology specific corn hybrids that are best suited to a corn-on-corn strategy make advance planning and locking in supply/price more important than ever before. In-Season Orders Could Be Very Costly!

With this in mind, we encourage everyone to Double Check Your 2007 Farm/Field Plans so that you can be sure you have all the loose ends tied down and, if you find some needs that are as yet uncovered, that you Contact Your Two Rivers Agronomist as soon as possible to get them covered before the season breaks wide open.

equipment we have by sharing every item efficiently, and only with the cooperation of all customers can this be achieved.

Please keep in mind that if you have something out and you're prevented from using it for any reason, including waiting out weather delays or for field conditions to improve, other crop chores to attend to, or whatever, there is at least one and more likely several of your friends or neighbors waiting to use the same piece of equipment.

With the size of our trade territory there may be times when you're prevented from working in your fields with the equipment you have, but one or more of our other customers living elsewhere can work, if they have the equipment you're not using.

Chances are, that person will be able to finish using the equipment and have it back by or even before you're ready for it, so let us know when these situations arise and we can spread the equipment around to those who are

able to operate when you're not.

The **Bottom Line** in this process is that at some point everyone finds themselves on a waiting list for one piece of equipment or another, so have the same consideration for the customers who may be waiting on you today that you want them to have for you if you're the person waiting tomorrow.

Next we come to an area that everyone who is doing any self-spreading, spraying or whatever else needs to keep in mind all season long.

Don't Guess, Ask Questions!

Double check labels, rates and recommendations.

Double check all equipment settings, and then periodically re-check them as your work progresses to make sure everything remains at the proper setting.

And on a somewhat related issue I

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

SPRING WORK: As we start to get some firming up on the roads and in the farm lots and drives in the weeks ahead, we want to get a good run at getting farm fuels delivered to all of our customers.

Please contact us in advance to firm up and finalize the details of your orders, now and throughout the season, so we can plan our delivery schedules with maximum efficiency on each and every trip out our fuel trucks make into Two Rivers Country.

Please Be Aware we will be delivering the 5% Soy Diesel Fuel to all customers, unless a different product has been contracted by the customer and/or unless the customer specifically requests a different product at the time the order is placed.

We feel the use of Soy Diesel is something our cooperative needs to promote and encourage, not only because it represents a renewable form of energy that helps reduce the use of fossil fuels, but also because it utilizes soybean products grown by our producers, thus creating stronger demand and stronger soybean prices.

Soy Diesel is also a cleaner burning fuel, thus it is a more environmentally friendly product to use.

Plus the added lubrication properties of Soy Diesel means it improves engine efficiency, protects the fuel system of your equipment, and thus promotes longer life while maximizing performance.

We are proud to offer Soy Diesel at Two Rivers, we promote its use in all diesel engines, and we encourage our customers to use it.

Moving on to other spring work items, now would definitely be the right time to contact Eric Moorman and/or Gary Van Kooten for all of your spring oil and lube needs so you can get your hard-working machines serviced prior to that first big rush to the fields.

Eric and Gary have some outstanding savings and great values waiting for you when you call, and you'll want to stock up on all your needs in advance so there will be plenty of these oil and

lube products on hand to perform regularly scheduled service and maintenance on your farm machines as the season progresses.

While you're visiting with Eric or Gary, be sure to talk to them about the great savings available, plus the added convenience you'll enjoy, when you install one of our bulk oil systems on your farm.

For the farmer with lots of acres and lots of different machines on the go, all needing oil, the bulk oil system is definitely the way to go, and both Eric and Gary can give you the full details, answer your questions and show you just how easy it is to put a system in at your place.

In closing, I'll simply ask for everyone's full cooperation in planning and ordering farm fuel deliveries in the weeks ahead to help us provide all of our customers with the most timely, efficient and effective services during the busy season.

I am sure that with everyone pitching in and working together we can once again keep everyone well supplied with their fuel needs as smoothly and efficiently as possible all season.

Take care, be careful, and be safe in all your work as the season progresses.

CROP TALK

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want to urge all of you **Do Not Cheat On Any Application Rates Or Recommendations.**

There has been a huge amount of research and expense devoted to develop the products we're using in the fields for crop performance and protection, and a significant part of those investments have been made to determine the proper rates to use to realize the desired results.

When you use less than the recommended rate of any product, you not only weaken the overall performance of the product, you allow a percentage of the weeds, grass, insects or diseases to survive and, even worse, you are also creating the means through which

resistance to products is developed.

Believe me, if you're cheating on any of the rates thinking you're saving money, you're just fooling yourself.

Product performance will be reduced, weeds, bugs or disease will survive, crop performance and yields will be negatively affected, and that will definitely cost you more in the long run than whatever you might have saved by using less than full rates.

Read the product label to determine recommended rates, or ask your Two Rivers Agronomist for details, and then **Use The Full Rate** that is recommended to get the best results and performance from the products you use.

Finally, and I can't emphasize this enough, **Keep Complete, Detailed & Accurate Records** that you or anyone else can turn to at any time to **Know What You Planted & Where You Planted It.**

We have some amazing technologies and traits to use, and when they're used the right way and in the right combinations, we get amazing performance and yields from them.

Unfortunately, if you get the wrong match of herbicides and seed genetics, it's a crop disaster, one that is unfortunate, one that could have been and should have been easily avoided, but a disaster all the same.

Don't say **"It Can't Happen To Me"**. It can, and all too quickly and easily if you don't get the right match between the seed and the herbicide.

Put Liberty on Roundup Ready corn and you'll see what I mean.

Or put Roundup on a Herculex corn field and you'll find out then too.

And above all else, **Don't Trust/Rely On Memory.**

The customer who feels it's a waste of time to write things down and who "thinks" he will remember what he planted and where two months or so down the road when it's time to spray is inviting a disaster to happen, and sooner or later it will.

Don't let anything like this happen to you. **Keep Good Records!**

**It's Time To Address Show Ring Success
For This Year's County Fair Livestock Projects
SEE THE TWO RIVERS TEAM
For Our Nutrition Recommendations & Rations
Formulated For Top Performance**

Two Rivers Cooperative handles a select line of top quality livestock rations which are especially formulated for animals that are being prepared for competition and showing, plus we can assist your 4-H and/or F.F.A. Exhibitor with selecting the right nutrition products and programs for their livestock projects.

Seed & Stuff By Jay

Van Woerkom



We're right in the midst of the seed delivery process as I am writing this month's newsletter article, and this year it seems like this stage of the seed season is shaping up to be even more challenging and hectic.

Not only has March's weather and mud put a bite on delivery plans and schedules, seed size issues are also presenting us with additional challenges.

Then, of course, the increased number of acres of corn that will be planted this season has pushed demand for all seed corn higher, especially those hybrids that have the specific traits and/or technologies which are the best fit in a corn-on-corn strategy.

On a related issue, more corn acres being planted means the trend to earlier planting of corn in the Grain Belt has driven the demand for the new genetics on hybrids that can be planted early much higher than ever before.

As a result, the major seed companies have been turning more and more to Central and South America as they expand their sites for seed production to meet these needs, and that has lengthened the supply chain significantly, bringing about a variety of logistical challenges in transportation.

We're continuing to contact customers to make seed delivery and/or pick up arrangements so we can move through this process as smoothly and efficiently as possible, and if we haven't talked to you yet, feel free to get in touch with one of us as soon as you have space cleared to stack your seed order.

As always, I am sure everyone is anxious to get started with their planting chores, especially those of you who are putting in more acres of corn and who want to get a jump on the task as soon as you can.

I therefore want to encourage everyone to take a few moments to review some of the **Basic Planting Procedures** that need to be observed as closely as possible if we want to get the best stands, the best performance and yields.

First off, the ideal starting date for planting corn here in our part of the

Grain Belt is April 25th, and while Mother Nature certainly can enable us to vary some, it's still a good idea to use that date as a solid reference point.

Among the other basics to observe is to be sure to get the best possible seed-to-soil contact when you plant, and of course avoid soil compaction as much as possible.

Soil compaction is a huge crop performance and yield thief, one that typically worsens year to year, and therefore one that you need to be aware of and doing all you can to minimize.

We have some very good soil moisture levels for this crop to go into, and the crop should benefit from those, but at the same time let's not get in such a rush to plant that we mud the crop in and/or increase soil compaction problems in any fields.

Additionally, monitor soil temperatures at the desired planting depth so that you plant the seed into soils that are above degrees, and by all means keep a close watch on planting depth to be sure your seed is not planted too deep or too shallow

A planting depth of 1.5 to 2 inches is recommended for corn, and you plant as deep as needed for moisture when planting soybeans.

In closing, I am sure everyone has seen or heard the news about Asian Soybean Rust being detected in Mahaska County this past year, which shows that under the right combination of conditions, this disease does indeed possess the capability to travel this far north in a season.

Clearly, the dry, almost drought-like conditions of last summer were not favorable to the spread of this disease. However, the warm and moist conditions we experienced in August combined with strong southerly winds were very favorable.

This reminds us that even though a

significant outbreak has not as yet materialized in the U.S., the potential is still there given the right combination of conditions.

Feed For Thought By Jason Smit



We've wrapped up our **Twine Booking Program** for this season, and I want to thank all of our customers for their interest and orders as we initiated this new service.

We hope to offer a similar booking opportunity on twine again next year to once again give our customers the opportunity to lock in supplies at great savings.

We're also working on finalizing the pricing and details for this season's **Calf Creep Booking**, plus a special money-saving **Mineral Promotion** that will give beef producers the opportunity to **Save Big** by ordering their seasonal needs.

Details should be complete by mid-April, so check with your local offices where we'll have this information posted.

We're starting to see an increase in the amount of hemorrhagic bowel in swine, as we normally do as warm weather arrives, and as I have noted in previous newsletter articles we have had good results feeding DDGs to reduce this problem.

Keep a close watch for the signs and symptoms of this in your operation, and please do not hesitate contacting us if you have any questions on feeding DDGs as a solution.

Talk To Us Today About The Best In SEED/CROP/YIELD PROTECTION

Today's higher crop values have made the investments in crop protection products and programs even more viable and valuable, and it all starts with providing protection for the seed you will be planting in your fields.

Talk to the Two Rivers Agronomists today about seed treating products, programs and services that will protect your valuable seed investments and, in the process, help promote healthier, hardier, more uniform and consistent stands of corn and soybeans right out of the spring starting gate.

By taking a pro-active approach to Maximizing Crop Health by treating seed, using insecticides and fungicides, you are taking the next key step to providing a healthier environment in which your crops are able to reach their full genetic potential for high yields.

Your Two Rivers Agronomists can recommend the most effective, economical and efficient ways to reach maximum yield potentials in corn and soybeans, so be sure you spend some time reviewing your crop strategies with them today.



As I See It
By Tracy Gathman
General Manager

WORK BEGINS: If you have driven by the Monroe location during the past several days, I am sure you have noticed we have a lot of work that is taking place as we get started on a storage expansion.

Excavation work has progressed very well, and in the days to come we'll be working on the compaction and addition of material to bring the site back up to the designated grade, followed by forming and pouring of the concrete.

The amazing part about all of this, at least to me, is that just 3 weeks ago when March arrived it would have seemed virtually impossible to even be thinking of starting on this kind of work, much less to have so much progress made, and with a week still remaining in March.

As I discussed in my March newsletter article, and as you were notified in a special mailing to the Two Rivers membership during February, the grain storage and handling expansion project we're undertaking is a condominium storage investment offering.

And as I hope you will also recall from my article in the March newsletter, this means there are some very specific guidelines and restrictions the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) imposes on what details can and can not be discussed about the project until its prospectus has been completed and presented.

We are, at the time of this writing heading into the final week of March, in the process of getting all of these documents finalized so that a prospectus and additional details and information surrounding the project can be sent to you.

We are both hopeful and confident this can be accomplished so that you will receive this information in the mail sometime during the mid-April period.

Realizing this can and probably will be a very busy time for all of you as the early stages of the planting season break wide open on your farms, in

your fields and here at your Two Rivers locations, I encourage you to be checking your mail for the arrival of this information at that time.

I further encourage you to take the time to read through the information being sent to you on this project and, of course, I urge you to contact us immediately if you have any questions about any of the items or issues that are being presented.

That's about as far as I am allowed to go in discussing this project at this time, and until the prospectus has been approved and mailed, so be watching your mail closely during the mid-April period and please set aside some time to review and evaluate the merits of the information you receive.

SPRING SEASON: Thinking back again to how the month of March arrived, and how tremendously different the weather is as I write this article, I am again struck by just how fast things can change and how quickly conditions can improve.

The thermometer has already pushed into the upper 60s several times, and beyond into the 70s as well, and the combination of melting snow and several different showers has replenished soil moisture levels nicely, things are greening rapidly, and spring is busting out all over.

All of the planning and preparation that have been done over the past several months to get ready for a new crop season is about to transition into **The Action Stage** as work gets underway in the fields.

The activity will be steadily increasing in the weeks ahead, and as the work intensifies all across Two Rivers Country there will be a lot of different things going on all at once, and a lot of

changes taking place and progress being made each day.

The Agronomy Team at Two Rivers has put in a lot of time and effort leading up to the start of the spring season to prepare themselves, all of the equipment and machines, the corn and soybean input inventories and the individual farm and field programs so that **We Are Ready To Serve Your Needs.**

We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding group of dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable people to respond to and meet the needs of our customers, and I am sure they will be doing everything they can to provide all customers with the most timely, efficient and effective services each day.

In asking you to work closely with them and to communicate your needs to them in advance to help in coordinating the many logistic details involved in the wide variety of services we offer, I also ask all of you to be both realistic and reasonable in your demands and expectations.

I also ask that all of you take whatever time is necessary in all of the tasks you will be performing in your fields and on your farms to make sure that you will be safe from accidents and injuries.

The fact remains that each year many farmers are injured in accidents and, tragically, some also lose their lives as a result. **Do Not Let Yourself Become One Of These Statistics!**

Be careful, cautious and alert to the dangers and risks that you, your family and everyone else will be exposed to during the course of this season, and make sure you are doing your part to **Make This A Safe Season For All!**



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