



# Two Rivers

## Cooperative

Monroe: 259-2232

Otley: 627-5311

Pella: 628-4167

Tracy: 949-6411

[www.tworivers.coop](http://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

July, 2007



## Crop Talk

By  
Robby  
Wilson

**FUNGICIDES:** As of this writing heading into the final weekend of June, we already have several thousand acres of corn lined up for fungicide treatments using Quilt, with the field maps in and all the details noted so the aerial applications can be performed at the optimum time.

There is still time remaining to get additional acres scheduled for aerial applications of fungicide, however that time is rapidly disappearing so you need to be prompt about making definite arrangements with your Two Rivers Agronomists if you want to have any of your corn acres included.

Additionally, there are several other key issues that need to be addressed if you're going to want any of your corn sprayed, and first and foremost among them is that it is an **Absolute Must** that we get the most recent **FSA Aerial Map** of the acres to be sprayed brought into us.

You should also be aware that with the heavy demand for aerial applications and the relatively narrow window of opportunity to get fields sprayed, the aerial services and pilots are somewhat particular about the “type” of fields they'll take on for treatment.

For one thing, they aren't accepting odd shape, patchwork or small, isolated pieces.

Also, they are being a bit choosy about how the fields lay, so I would imagine any of the roller coaster-like



### The Skyline Is Changing In Monroe

*The first of the Two Rivers two 88 foot tall steel grain storage bins has been erected, with work on the second underway and progressing ahead of schedule.*

ground and fields with all sorts of obstacles to aerial application might be rejected.

With the potential for this to be a very good crop, and with the kind of weather we have been having, namely lots of moisture and humidity that are so favorable to fungi, the application of fungicides like Quilt would appear to be a solid decision.

Results conducted on this strategy the past couple of years have shown an increase of between 15 and 20 bushels per acre for fields that have been sprayed with a fungicide compared to those that haven't.

With the strong price there is for corn these days, those extra bushels and the additional value per acre they will generate certainly make this something you need to consider, so talk to your Two Rivers Agronomists soon!

**BEAN SPRAYING:** We were just getting up a good run on post-emerge soybean spraying when this latest round of showers pushed through the area, and with the amount of rain

some parts of the trade territory received, we could be on hold for a bit waiting for field conditions to improve so spraying can resume.

While we wait, of course, the weeds and the crop will both continue to grow taller, so whether you're spraying yourself or you are having the Two Rivers Custom Application Team spraying for you, the **Most Important Thing** for you to be doing during this lull in the action is to **Scout The Fields!**

And when I say “**Scout The Fields**” I am talking about more than just rolling by and checking them out the window of the pickup from the road.

You definitely need to get out there to identify the different weed species causing the greatest problem, along with the height of those weeds, plus the height and stage of development of the crop.

**CROP TALK**  
Continued On Page 2



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

**LP NOTES:** Our **LP Summer Fill** and our **LP Contracting** programs are moving along nicely as the month of July gets underway.

I once again encourage all of our LP customers to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity to lock in gallon volumes and to lock in the price on the LP you'll need for the 2007/08 fall and winter season.

As a reminder, customers who are on one of the **Keep Full LP Routes** will automatically have their tank summer filled when their driver is in that particular area, unless the customer has called in to specifically request we not fill the tank.

Those customers who are on a **Will Call In** basis to place their orders need to contact any Two Rivers office to ask for Summer Fill.

As far as **LP Contracting**, like I mentioned last month, there are two forms of LP Contracts we offer at Two Rivers:

**The First** enables you to lock in the price for your fall/winter needs at the current posted price on whatever number of gallons you choose with only a **10-Cent Per Gallon Non-Refundable Down Payment**.

**The Second** is our **Pre-Paid LP Contract**, which locks in the current contracting price at the time you contract on the gallons you pre-pay, **Less 5-Cents Per Gallon** off that price for pre-payment.

Please keep in mind the **Deadline For Contracting Is 8-31-07**.

I know that date seems like a long way off, but with everyone's busy summer schedule those days always seem to disappear very quickly. Just don't let the deadline slip up and past you!

**FUEL NOTES:** At the present time the price for gasoline has eased back quite a bit from the highs that were put in during the final stages of May, and at least for now the roller coaster ride seems to have leveled out somewhat.

Unfortunately, diesel fuel prices were not following the downward trend gasoline prices took, so as of this writing with a little over a week left in June, diesel prices were higher per gal-

lon than gas.

As a result of this, we have continued to monitor the diesel marketplace closely looking for any signs of relief and for opportunities to contract, and while there have been a few minor dips occur, thus far we haven't seen a favorable environment for contracting fall needs.

**PLANNING FOR FALL:** Obviously, it's way too soon to know just how much of this year's corn crop will need to be dried in the fall, Mother Nature and the calendar will tell us the answer soon enough.

However, with so many more acres being planted to corn, it's never too early to start planning and preparing for the possibility of putting your grain drying equipment at home through the paces.

Jerry is available to handle any grain dryer repairs, service or maintenance work, so get a head start on preparing your system by calling to have him stop by.

**TALK TO ERIC:** In closing I also want to encourage you to get in touch with us to have **Eric Moorman**, our **Cenex Fuel/Energy Specialist**, stop by your farm to visit with you about our products, programs and services, including the **TMS Warranty Program** and our **Bulk Oil Program**.

Eric can answer your fuel/energy questions and assist you in finding ways to get the most value and the best performance from your farm machines and personal vehicles too.

If you haven't spoken to Eric yet or had him stop by your farm to discuss your fuel/energy needs, set aside some time and give him a call to arrange a visit.

You'll definitely find it to be time well spent.

**CROP TALK**

**Continued From Page 1**

These are the critical pieces of information that not only help us select the right herbicide or herbicide mix and the rate of application, we also can customize the tank mix with a choice of different surfactants and/or adjuvants to enhance control for the specific problem(s) we're dealing with.

So again, **Take Time To Scout** and make your scouting efforts more effective by getting out into the fields and **Up Close & Personal** with the crop, weeds and conditions.

**BUGS:** As of this time there really aren't any specific insect problems we're facing, but of course July is just arriving and there are still some insect situations we'll need to be monitoring as we scout fields.

Cutworms were a major problem in some areas this season, particularly in the low bottom ground, areas along creeks, and in many of the no-till fields or those with significant weed growth, and in certain cases there were stands almost totally lost.

**ALFALFA:** We're trying to put together a special **Pasture & Alfalfa Fertility & Management Meeting** at which we can present information that will help you make the best management decisions for your pastures and alfalfa stands which, as everyone knows, were really knocked for a loop by Mother Nature this season.

As soon as we are able to hammer out all the specifics we'll be sending out invites.

So keep watching your mail and, if you're particularly interested in attending, let one of the Two Rivers Agronomists know so we can be sure you're on the mailing list.

**Please Welcome Jake Stien To The Two Rivers Agronomy Team**

*We are pleased to welcome Jake Stien to the Two Rivers Cooperative Family as he begins his duties as our Tracy Location Agronomist.*

*Jake is originally from the Newhall, Iowa area, which is located just west of Cedar Rapids, and grew up on the family farm operated by his parents, Doug and Debbie Stien.*

*He is a May, 2007 graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Agricultural Studies.*

*Jake, who enjoys working out in the gym, playing golf and enjoying numerous outdoor activities with family and friends is engaged to be married to Katie Soukup, with an November 24th wedding date planned.*



**Seed  
&  
Stuff  
By  
Jay  
Van Woerkom**



The first order of business is to ask for the **Full Cooperation** of all of our seed customers to make sure they **Return All Seed Pallets** to us just as soon as possible.

Your cooperation with this request will be greatly appreciated!

Next, as Robby has mentioned, we're in the process of putting together arrangements for a special **Pasture & Alfalfa Management Meeting** to be held soon, so keep watching for complete details.

Among the topics we want to cover are how the spring frost has devastated these acres, addressing timely insect management strategies for alfalfa weevils and potato leaf hoppers, pasture and alfalfa nutrient management strategies that assure optimum performance, quality and/or yields from every acre.

We'll also be talking about the best cutting management, and of course selection of the best seed genetics to provide the best disease and insect resistance packages, while also creating the maximum winter hardiness.

On a related issue, some of you have some new oats seeded this year, and these acres are the most highly susceptible to the disease and insect threats which appear to be poised to give us additional problems.

You therefore may want to consider spraying these fields just as soon as the oats are off.

**CORN COLORS:** The impact of our wet spring is demonstrating itself in various ways, among them multi-colored corn with both yellow and purple corn in amongst the green.

Some areas have received double or near triple their normal moisture since mid-April, along with cooler weather, and those stresses which translate into a poorly developed root system are likely the cause of most yellow corn, rather than nutrient deficiencies.

The difference in crop vigor in corn-on-corn compared to the normal corn-soybean rotation is also more obvious as a result of these weather stresses.

In most cases, once secondary root systems are more fully developed and

the temperatures warm the plants will recover, though lingering effects such as uneven plant height and/or stand reductions may occur, which would reduce yields.

If you have any questions on what you're seeing in any of your fields, contact a Two Rivers Agronomist so we can arrange a time to meet you at the field for a look-see.



**Feed  
For  
Thought  
By  
Jason Smit**

**WELCOME TO ASHLEY:** We are very excited about having **Ashley Paddock** joining the Two Rivers Team as our new **Beef Specialist**, and I hope all of you will welcome her to our Cooperative Family, our communities and to your livestock operations.

Ashley will be arriving at Two Rivers on July 9th to begin her duties, and next month we'll have a photo and some additional biographical information in the newsletter to introduce her to all of you.

Ashley will ultimately be focusing a great deal of her time making calls in the country to visit with our beef producers at their farming and livestock operations, and she is certainly looking forward to getting out to meet with all of you.

However, during these initial stages of getting settled in, she will be spending more of her time becoming familiar with our product lines, feeding programs and other business practices and procedures.

Once those details have been taken care of, Ashley will be coming

by to introduce herself to you in person on your farm so she can get to know everyone and the specific characteristics and needs of their beef operations.

Should you happen to be stopping in to the Pella location before Ashley has had the opportunity to stop by your farm, please feel free to pause for a few moments if she is here so she can meet you.

**THANKS TO ALL:** I want to express the thanks of the entire Two Rivers Feed Team to all of our customers for the great cooperation given during the 2-day period when the Pella location mill was down to install a new leg and to perform additional service and maintenance.

**HOT WEATHER TIPS:** July and August are historically the months when **It Gets Hot In Iowa**, and we're expecting this year to be no different.

It's not uncommon for swine to back off their level of feed consumption during hot weather, and often we'll see them eating only minimal amounts during the daylight hours when temperatures are the hottest, then over-consuming during the cooler nighttime period.

Such wide shifts in the level of feed being consumed is one of the main contributing factors to the increased incidence of hemorrhagic bowel in swine.

Keeping swine cooler and more comfortable during the day will help even out consumption.

Hot weather means plenty of flies, and the horn fly is one of the most troublesome and costly of the different fly species in the beef industry.

Altosid is a great product that works wonders to keep horn flies in check, and it's also convenient and economical, making it a top choice for livestock operations everywhere. Make sure you're using it!

**We Look Forward To Seeing You & Your Family  
At All The Great Events At The County Fairs**

**County Fair Agenda**

**Marion County Fair July 13th To July 19th**

**Mahaska County Fair July 16th To July 22nd**

**Jasper County Fair July 20th To July 26th**

**Be Sure You Attend The County Fairs This Year**

**To Show Your Support For Our Outstanding  
Young Men & Women In The 4-H And F.F.A.**

**We Also Look Forward To Supporting Our Area Youngsters At The  
IOWA STATE FAIR - AUGUST 9th TO AUGUST 19th**



**As I See It**  
By Tracy Gathman  
General Manager

**MONROE PROJECT UPDATE:** If you haven't traveled by the Two Rivers Monroe location for a few weeks, you're in for quite a surprise when you see the changes that have taken place as work on our construction project continues to progress rapidly.

For one thing, there's an entirely new presence on the skyline, since the crews have completed erecting the walls and topping off the first of the two new steel bins, and work is moving along nicely on the second bin.

In fact, barring any unforeseen delays, my guess is that this second bin will likely be approaching half-way complete by the time this newsletter is mailed, or perhaps be even a bit further along than that.

I hesitate to tempt Mother Nature or The Fates by stating the work on these bins has been proceeding so well that we're actually ahead of schedule.

And yet I do so to recognize and thank the hard working, dedicated crews doing this work for the great progress they have made each day to keep this project moving forward smoothly and steadily.

We are therefore confident that all of the work on the new bins will be completed in ample time prior to harvest arriving, and the approximately 650,000 bushels of additional space these bins will be providing will certainly be an asset to all of the customers who will deliver the crop to Monroe.

I'm also very pleased to update you on the great progress being made on the new office and scale portion of this project, which is also progressing very well as we come to the end of June.

The floor and majority of the concrete work have been completed as of this writing, and it would be my guess that the walls of the office will be going up when you are reading these words.

I have been in contact with the people who will be installing the new 12 x 70 foot scale, and they have told me they are expecting the excavation work to begin early during the week of

June 25th, pending weather and site conditions, of course.

Once the underground portions have been readied, the concrete will be poured and the scale system installation will follow shortly thereafter.

As I have mentioned in previous articles and in discussions with quite a number of our customers, all of us at Two Rivers are very excited to see these new assets taking shape at our Monroe location.

Additionally, we are looking forward to the enhanced customer service capabilities these new bins, the office and scale will bring to our Monroe location, enabling Two Rivers to provide more timely, efficient and effective services to our loyal customers in Monroe and the surrounding area this fall, and for many years to come.

I also want to thank the many Monroe area members and patrons who have called and/or who have stopped into the office to express their appreciation and to share their thoughts and feelings about this exciting new project with me.

Several of the Directors and some of the employees have also mentioned having Monroe area customers come up to them to comment on the work being done, the new facilities that will be available, and the much anticipated improvements they will certainly make possible to handle this and future crops.

Speaking for all of them, and of course for me personally, I can assure you that your comments and compliments about this project are very much appreciated. **Thank You** for taking the time to express them to us.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Amazingly, July will be here in just a very few days, and

for some reason the summer always seems to start disappearing very, very quickly once the 4th of July Celebrations have been completed.

The local County Fairs begin their run, followed by the Iowa State Fair, and in what seems like the blink of an eye the kids are heading back to the classrooms, football season is underway, and plans and preparations for a new harvest season take on ever-increasing intensity.

Considering all the early season challenges our crops have been through this year, the prospects for this to be a good crop, a large crop, look to be gaining momentum.

As we review the nitrogen sales volumes for the 2007 season, it would appear our Two Rivers area farmers have followed along with the national trend of planting more acres to corn.

Therefore I sincerely believe it's not too early in the game to start looking ahead to make some firm plans for handling the potentially very large volumes of corn that will be harvested.

We have already sold a significant amount of space in the Two Rivers Condo Storage program, plus we have quite a few customers who have called or stopped in for additional information and to ask questions who will be evaluating this opportunity and making their decisions in the weeks ahead.

I feel owning space in **Two Rivers Condo Storage** is a sound, solid opportunity that you need to thoroughly investigate, and that it's a very good business investment for your farming operation that will provide you with added convenience and flexibility to meet your grain storage needs more effectively, efficiently and economically now and for the future.



P.O. Box 47  
Pella, Iowa 50219

Presorted Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Permit No. 2929