



# Two Rivers

## Cooperative

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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

June, 2007



## Crop Talk

By  
Robby  
Wilson

Well, we're at that key period of the season when the time you spend out in your fields **“observing”** crop conditions can be as important as the time you spend in them actually **“working”** on crop chores.

It seems I focus on this particular issue every June, and for some very good reasons, since this is the time of the season when so much is happening, so much is changing, and all at a very rapid pace.

It's also the time of the season when your crops are so much more vulnerable and at risk to changes in the environment, attacks from insects or diseases, competition from weeds.

Year after year I have seen numerous cases where the difference between a great crop and a good crop, or the difference between a good crop and a crop that's basically just an average one, has been determined by the timely observation, detection and response to one or more of these early to mid June crop challenges, or the lack thereof.

So let me pose some questions:

**1.) With all that you have invested in crop inputs, including the remarkable traits and technologies in today's seed corn hybrids and soybean varieties, the N-P-K nutrients, the herbicide, insecticide and in some cases seed treatment products and programs, don't those investments merit spending some extra**



### Work At Monroe Progressing Smoothly

*The twin load out bins (right) are in place and work is progressing nicely on the remaining concrete bin foundation (north bin) as we go to press this month. See the “As I See It” article on page 4 for an update on the latest developments.*

*time out in the country checking on crop conditions, crop progress and if there are any threats developing?*

**2.) With the value of every bushel of yield you're able to pull from your fields, and every extra bushel of yield that timely observation, detection and response to address potential yield losses can add to the bottom line, I'll ask again, don't those added dollars merit spending some time out in the fields to check crop conditions, progress and on the potential of any yield threats?**

As always, if you see anything amiss, anything you're not sure of, anything that you'd like a second pair of eyes to look at, just pick up the phone or stop by and let one of the Two Rivers Agronomists know you'd like to have one of us stop by for a look-see at the situation.

But be sure that call or visit to the office is made right away, because at this stage of the game days and even

hours can and will make a difference, and the longer you wait, the more damage can be done, the fewer options there may be to turn to, and the less flexibility we may have to deal with issues.

While on the subject of **TIME**, let me also remind everyone as I also do at this time each and every season that the **Deadline For Notification** on any **pre-plant and/or pre-emerge** chemical treatment is **30 Days From Date Of Application**.

When it comes to any of the **post-emerge** products, the **Deadline For Notification** is **15 Days From Date Of Application**.

**NO ROOM FOR ERROR:** As post-emerge spraying picks up steam and intensity in the weeks ahead, we want to be **Absolutely 100% Positive** that we're spraying the right combination

**CROP TALK**  
Continued On Page 2



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

**FUEL PRICES:** Gasoline prices took off on a wild ride in mid-May, reaching some of the highest sustained levels we've ever seen in this part of the country heading into the Memorial Day weekend, as I was writing my article for this issue of the newsletter.

Virtually all terminal locations are reporting gasoline shortages as of this writing, and while there have been several significant refinery problems that have contributed to reduced production output, the main culprit once again has been the strong and steady increase in the amount of driving being done by the consumer.

It would seem the driving public is accepting these higher fuel costs, since there has been no noticeable shift in driving habits, the volume of vehicles on the roads or at the pumps, and little or no outcry in either the public or private sectors.

I'm anticipating there may be some sort of leveling off in prices with Memorial Day, and perhaps there may even be a modest easing off in fuel costs to follow one of the biggest driving weekends of the year.

Yet with continued pressures on supply, our antiquated production infrastructure, unchecked demand, and the always volatile international picture, it seems we've pushed the bar still higher on what we can now consider to be a "bargain" fuel price.

Diesel fuel prices have also moved higher, though not as fast or as far as gasoline.

Still, the contracting price that was locked in for spring diesel fuel by our customers has once again proven to be a very good price, and thus the contracting in advance decision has again been a money-saving one.

**SAFETY NOTES:** Our annual LP Safety Information has been mailed to all of our customers, and I once again encourage all of you to spend some time reviewing the different safety procedures and pointers, and then to make sure that the members of your family are also familiar with them.

Even if you have done this in previous years, it's always a good idea to

spend a few moments going over this information as a refresher, just to be sure you and everyone knows what to do to prevent accidents and injuries and, even more importantly, what you need to do in case any emergency situation arises.

One safety procedure we're again stressing this year is **the replacement of any/all LP Regulators that are old and outdated** (over 15 years old), since they pose a significant hazard due to the increasing risk of failure.

We have all seen or heard enough stories about the consequences of a leak in the LP system developing to know that it is something we never want to experience at our own homes or farming operations, so please have your LP regulator inspected and, if it is beyond 15 years old, have it replaced this summer, before a new LP season arrives.

**BUDGET BILLING:** Thanks to all of the customers who have responded to and signed up for Budget Billing for the 2007/08 heating season.

Robin is in the process of getting these contracts listed in the system and I am sure you will be very glad you are participating, since it appears we're once again in for a very volatile, wild and pricey LP marketplace.

If you did not sign up for Budget Billing this year, please give it some thought for next season, since we feel you'll definitely enjoy the difference of having one firm heating cost in your monthly budget rather than experience those big, budget-busting heating bills that arrive following an extended winter cold spell.

**LP CONTRACTING:** In closing I want to mention that we're now **Contracting LP** for the 2007/08 heating/drying season ahead.

We offer two different **LP Contracting Opportunities** at Two Rivers to provide our customers with additional options to save.

The first sets your LP price at the cost of the product posted at the time you contract on the specific volume of gallons contracted, and requires a **10 Cent Per Gallon Non-Refundable Down-Payment** when you contract

with us.

The second is our **Pre-Paid LP Contract**, which sets your LP cost at the posted contracting price at the time you contract on the gallons contracted, **Less 5 Cents Per Gallon Off The Posted Price For Pre-Paying.**

**The Deadline For LP Contracting Is August 31st**, so be watching the market for pricing opportunities and don't miss them when they are available.

**CROP TALK**

**Continued From Page 1**

of seed traits and herbicide products in your fields.

Here again, we come to the issue of taking a few minutes of your time to check and then double check to **Make Sure you have informed us what you planted and where in terms of seed/herbicide matches.**

**ALFALFA:** Last month I talked a bit about alfalfa stands, and this month I'll touch on them again, since you need to be scouting alfalfa in the weeks ahead for **Alfalfa Weevils & Potato Leaf Hoppers.**

I also strongly recommend you take a closer look at and give added consideration to fertilizing the stand after the initial cutting, since given the added value we're seeing for good quality alfalfa these days, P & K will be a good investment.

The stands took a big beating from Mother Nature this winter and spring, and an added dose of potash in particular will be a definite plus to get the best value while also helping to rebuild stand vitality.

**THANKS TO ALL:** It's been a very busy, sometimes challenging, sometimes hectic and always interesting season thus far, and in closing for this month I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers who have been great in cooperating and communicating with us.

Speaking on behalf of the entire Agronomy Team at Two Rivers, I want all of you to know that your business, the cooperation, support and the great communications have all been very-very much appreciated! **Thank You!**

**ADVANCE NOTICE - HOLIDAY CLOSING**

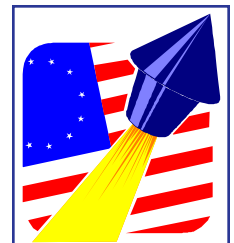
**All Two Rivers Locations Will Be Closed**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 4th**

**In Recognition Of Our Nation's Birthday**

*Please Plan All Supply-Service-Business Needs In Advance To Accomodate This Mid-Week Holiday Closing*

**Have A Safe & Joyous 4th Of July**





# 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):

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What I Learned This Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Feed  
For  
Thought  
By  
Jason Smit**

I regularly receive some excellent information via e-mail from our regional feed suppliers on various livestock issues, management, nutrition for different species (beef, swine, sheep, horse), plus buyer card pricing sheets that can be used to evaluate cost/return variables.

It occurred to me that perhaps some of you might find some of this information of interest as well, and if you have a particular interest in any of these materials for any livestock that you have at your place, I'd be more than happy to send it along and share it with you.

All you need to do is provide me with your e-mail address and I can forward along the information that is pertinent to you and that you have specified an interest in, so please feel free to give me a call, stop in, or send me an e-mail at jsmit@tworiverscoop.net and I'll include your name and interests on my forwarding list.

As warmer weather settles in, we can expect to see an increase in the amount of hemorrhagic bowel in swine due to the increased levels of fat that will be fed to compensate for reduced levels of consumption.

Therefore, be sure to keep the animals as cool as possible, and also be sure to get in touch with the Two Rivers Feed Team about the use of DDGs in rations to help reduce the incidence of hemorrhagic bowel.

Warmer weather also means more flies, and if you have horn fly populations mushrooming in your operation, now is the time to get our loose Altosid Mineral working to control them.

**Seed  
&  
Stuff  
By  
Jay  
Van Woerkom**



I've got a couple of issues I want to touch on this time, the first of which is corn stand progress and evaluation.

**PLANTING DATE IMPACT:** Even though all corn follows the same general pattern of development, the time between the different growth stages and total leaf numbers can vary depending on hybrid selection, planting date, location, and environmental.

For example, early maturity hybrids may develop fewer leaves or progress through different growth stages faster than later maturing hybrids.

Also, since corn development is directly related to temperature, the length of time between developmental stages can vary as temperatures vary season to season, year to year.

The V3 stage is a time when corn begins to change development, since this is when root hairs are growing from the nodal roots and the seminal root growth has all but ceased.

The growing point of corn generally remains below the surface until V5 or V6 stage, where it's protected from damage by light hail, wind or cold.

However, flooding can kill the plant much quicker, often in just a few days depending on temperatures, when the growing point is still below ground.

Side-dressing of nitrogen is usually done to corn around the V3 stage, especially if liquid N is the source.

However, NH-3 can be side-dressed up to the V8 stage, as long as excess root pruning can be avoided.

Herbicide applications are almost always restricted to corn that is at V6 or less to avoid the potential of excessive crop injury.

Applications made later in develop-

ment require drop nozzles to prevent herbicide from concentrating in the whorl, and so the product can penetrate the canopy to reach the weeds.

**BEAN LEAF BEETLES:** We're hearing some reports of Bean Leaf Beetles showing up in portions of Missouri and extreme southern Iowa, and since this is a potential threat that bears watching, here are a few timely reminders.

Emerging beans are very attractive to the over-wintering population of Bean Leaf Beetles, which start appearing in mid May, with the population peaking in late May.

The first true generation arrives in mid-to-late June and peaks in mid-to-late July, followed by a second generation that arrives in early August and is with us until up to mid-September.

It's especially important to monitor the over-wintering generation in fields with a history of Pod Mottle Virus and/or in fields intended for soybean seed production.

Bean leaf beetles can vary a great deal in color, ranging from yellow-tan to red. They normally are around a quarter of an inch in length and have 2-4 black spots and a black border on each wing cover

The photo below shows you what to look for, and specifically that's the black triangle just behind the bug's head, which distinguishes it from other similar looking insects.

**SEED RETURNS:** If you have any seed corn you want to return for credit that has not been returned by the time you're reading these words, you need to get it back immediately as the deadline for returns on corn is June 1.

As for soybeans, any seed beans that are to be returned much be brought back to us by June 15th for credit to be given.



**Look For The  
Black  
Triangle  
Behind The Head  
To Identify The  
Bean Leaf Beetle**

**ATTENTION  
PORK PRODUCERS**  
If You Are Attending The  
**WORLD PORK EXPO**  
**JUNE 7TH OR 8TH**  
In Des Moines  
See Jason For Free Luncheon Tickets  
At Land O'Lakes' Hospitality Tent

Final Stand	CORN YIELD AT VARIOUS PLANTING DATES AND STAND LEVELS				
	Planting Date				
	4/20-5/5	5/13-5/19	5/26-6/1	6/10-6/16	6/24-6/29
	Relative Yield Potential				
28,000-32,000	100%	99%	90%	68%	52%
24,000	94%	93%	85%	64%	49%
20,000	81%	80%	73%	55%	42%
16,000	74%	73%	67%	50%	38%
12,000	68%	67%	61%	46%	35%



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

**MONROE PROJECT UPDATE:** As we go to press with this issue of the newsletter heading into the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the activity at the Two Rivers Monroe location is continuing to build as work on our projects progresses at a steady pace.

I've intentionally emphasized the word "**projects**" above, since there may be some of you who have not as yet heard about the most recent addition that has been included for the Monroe location's upgrade.

At their regular meeting on April 30th, just as we were sending out the May issue of the newsletter, the Board of Directors approved construction of a new office and warehouse facility, along with the installation of a new 12 x 70 scale, to further compliment the grain receiving, storage and handling project already underway in Monroe.

Workers were moving dirt and preparing to pour the footings for the new office as I wrote these words, and we have established an aggressive schedule for work on this portion of the project so that it will also be ready to serve your needs and ours as the fall harvest season arrives.

For those of you who are not as familiar with the geography of Monroe as customers living in the immediate area, the office and scale will be located on Mills Street to the east of the new bins that are being put up, and east of the high lines that cross the Monroe location property.

I'll have additional information to update you on this project as the work continues, and I hope you share our excitement and enthusiasm about all of the upgrades we're undertaking at our Monroe location to enhance, streamline and improve service to all our loyal members and patrons in that area.

As you can see in the photo elsewhere in the newsletter, work on the grain storage, receiving and handling portion of the project in Monroe has been progressing very well over the past 30 days.

The concrete foundation for the south bin is complete and, by the time you read this, the concrete foundation for the north bin should also be done.

For all practical intents and purposes, therefore, the major concrete stages of this project should all be wrapped up as the newsletter arrives in the mail.

The new 15,000 bushel per hour grain leg has arrived and is on site, as are the conveyor and the tower structure that will support the leg, and I would anticipate you will be able to see work on installing these pieces of equipment underway as June unfolds.

We are anticipating arrival of the steel for the bin along with the crew that will be erecting the steel shortly after the Memorial Day weekend.

Hopefully, their work on the finishing stages of this project will progress as smoothly, steadily and rapidly as the initial stages have progressed.

**CONDO STORAGE:** I am pleased to report that we have had very solid interest and support in the Condo Storage project that I discussed in detail with you in my May newsletter article, and which was outlined in a special mailing to the Two Rivers membership in late April.

We have appreciated the calls to ask questions and those seeking additional details, information and an explanation of some of the many advantages and benefits of this viable and valuable investment opportunity to address your farming operation's grain storage needs now and for the future.

We still have units of space available for sale, and if you have not as yet taken time to investigate this opportunity for yourself, I would strongly recommend that you set aside some time

to look into it, that you ask questions, and that you evaluate the pros and cons to see how owning space can benefit you now and for the future.

I sincerely believe that with the increase we have seen in the number of acres of corn being planted this spring, and which are projected to be planted in the future as the demand and need for corn continues to intensify in the years ahead, plus, with the corn crop now off to what appears to be a very good start, the best time to address and accommodate your corn storage needs for this and future crops is right now.

The dynamics of the market destinations that purchase/use corn have changed significantly, as have the dynamics of the corn market and the corn basis that determine your ultimate return on each sale.

Therefore, owning the space in which your corn can be stored to gain the greatest marketing advantages has become a much more important consideration, since that creates the greatest freedom and flexibility to expand and broaden your marketing options, choices and decisions.

While that space can continue to be built on the farm, we sincerely feel that when all of the various costs of owning space in our condo storage project are considered, evaluated and compared to adding additional bins at home, there are numerous reasons why condo space ownership is the sound, solid business decision.

So I once again encourage you to visit with Craig, Gene, Nick or me about the Two Rivers Condo Storage project, the benefits, advantages, flexibility it offers, and its value to you, your farm and future.



P.O. Box 47  
Pella, Iowa 50219

Presorted Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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