



June 2017

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## Looking Back and Planning Ahead

By Jeff Nelson



As we are preparing our June newsletter, Aspinwall Coop is holding its 73rd Annual Meeting. I offer a big thank you to all those who attended.

Aspinwall Coop was privileged to have two busy fertilizer seasons in fiscal year 2017. The fall of 2015 fertilizer application season was cut short due to weather but we caught up in the spring of 2016. Then the fall of 2016 had a much better climate to apply fertilizer and ag lime than the year previous. Even with the downturn in grain prices, we did not see a big pull-back in application rates. The overall cost of fertilizer did drop pretty dramatically last year which helped soften the blow.

Chemical sales were down a bit for the year. We felt pretty good about the final results, all things considered. Seed sales for FY 2017 were steady with the previous year.

Fuel sales held up well in 2017. I don't know why fuel prices need to be on such a roller coaster! However, I don't see anything on the horizon changing that anytime soon.

Our outside corn pile at Aspinwall Coop received more rain and warm weather than we would have liked. The ending quality of last fall's pile was much better than the year before. To this point, the Board is giving consideration to adapting a ventilation and tarp cover system for any future outside piles of overflow corn.

While we did generate local earnings, they were not to the level where patronage could be allocated to our members. The Cooperative will pass through unused Section 199 tax credits to its members based on the grain business they did with us during the fiscal year just completed. This marks the first time Aspinwall Coop will do this.

Section 199 tax credits, or the Domestic Production Activities Deduction, are earned by the Coop from grain purchased from Aspinwall Coop members. Aspinwall Coop utilizes all the tax credits it can and will pass through remaining unused tax credits to our members who did grain business with us. Members will be notified by mail of these credits later this year.

***Thank you for your business, your support, and your membership in Aspinwall Coop.***

## From the Aspinwall Coop Board of Directors

In late February, Manager Jeff Nelson informed the Board of Directors he would retire from his position on August 31, 2017. Jeff was hired on November 15, 2010. We wish him well in his next stage of life.

After some discussion, the Board has decided to hire a new manager. A search firm from Land O'Lakes has been hired to assist with the process. After meeting with them, the position and job description has been posted. In late June, the Board will meet with the search firm and go over applicants for the position. Our expectation will be to have a new manager hired sometime in July.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

John Halbur, president

## Planning for Post Emergence Success

By Roger Kenkel, CCA



As we move into the early part of the summer, our focus on your crop moves towards post emergence applications. Our main post emergence herbicide remains to be Roundup, however, Liberty is definitely gaining momentum, especially in soybeans.

With the mix of Roundup Ready crops and Liberty Link crops, it will be very important to be specific with us about what is planted where on your acres. Communication will be extremely important.

Waterhemp is still a major weed of concern in row crop production. There are good tank mix partner herbicides for both corn and soybeans that are very effective in the control of waterhemp.

All of us on the agronomy team at Aspinwall Coop are here to help you design and implement the best crop protection options for your crops. Feel free to reach out to our team for help.

### Condo Storage Units for Purchase

If anyone is interested in purchasing condo storage units with the Aspinwall Grain Storage, LLC, please see Donna Hacker. There is a current member who is interested in selling some of his units.

There are 5000 bushels available in each unit.

## May Showers Bring...Challenges

By Ryan Webb, CCA



As I'm writing this article in May, our trade area has had upwards of three inches of rain over the last few days with rain and cool weather forecasted for another three days. By the time the sun finally does shine I'm sure everyone will be ready to get out outside and soak it up. It would be a good idea to spend some time in your fields to observe the impact this unfavorable weather has had on our crops. I've listed a few things to look for here.

**Emergence Problems:** Expect to see some emergence problems in fields planted just before heavy rains. Tilled fields will be more prone to emergence problems than no-till, mainly due to crusting. Periods of heavy rain and cool temperatures followed by a rapid warm up with lots of sunshine and wind set up the perfect conditions to cause serious crusting issues. I would expect that some rotary hoeing to help plants emerge will be necessary.

**Seedling Diseases:** Seed and seedling diseases can decrease plant populations and result in replanting and production losses. Wet and cool soils favor most pathogens that cause damping off in corn and soybeans. Slow growth, compacted soils, and heavy clay soils increase chances of seedling fungal infection. The first areas to inspect for seedling diseases are wet spots and low laying areas of the field. Treated seed and in-furrow fungicide applications will combat these diseases.

**Stripping of Residual Chemical:** Take note of areas of erosion where the topsoil was stripped by heavy rainfall and runoff. Residual control chemical was attached to this eroded soil and you no longer have protection from weeds in these areas. This is especially important in one-pass chemical programs. Expect to need to come back on a post emerge application sooner than normal with higher weed pressures. Adding another residual herbicide on early applications is a very good idea and can be done for as little as \$3 to \$5 per acre.

**Loss of Nitrogen:** Any time soil temperatures are above 50 degrees and saturated, nitrogen loss is occurring. With long periods of saturation and continued rainfall during this time, I'm sure there will be pockets of nitrogen deficiency and possibly some widespread nitrogen deficiency. Surface applied UAN and urea applications are at a higher risk to loss. Anhydrous applications made with N-Serve will largely be protected against loss at this time of year. Look for yellowing and stunted corn with a V yellowing pattern running from the tip of the leaf towards the base. Side or top dress nitrogen applications can be done in fields with nitrogen issues.

**Give your Aspinwall agronomist a call to visit any fields you feel may have any of these issues!**

## Grow with Us!

## Evaluating Corn and Soybean Stands

By Cody Rolfes



This spring brought higher than average amounts of rainfall (and sleet), paired with what seemed like a roller coaster of temperatures. One of the most frequent questions that I was asked this spring was, "Should I be planting, or am I doing the right thing by waiting it out?" Well...every situation is different.

How much corn do you already have planted? What is the date? Is the upcoming forecast looking favorable?

Corn planted a day or two right before the April cold/wet spell will typically see some uneven stands/loss. It will probably not be very noticeable from the road and not near bad enough to replant. However, I think some yield might have been left on the table on those fields.

The soybean fields I have scouted so far also seem to be looking very good. Looking ahead a couple points to keep an eye on - final soybean stands if the rain doesn't shut off (damping off/chlorosis) and scouting for bean leaf beetles. Thankfully with all of the rain we have been getting, crusting hasn't been an issue noticed in May.

**Thank you again for all of your support!**

## Watching Weather and Effect on Yield Trends

By Jeff Hargens



The May USDA supply/demand report had corn planted acres at 90 million and a trend line yield of 170.7 bushels per acre. These numbers would have the US producing a 14.06 billion bushel corn crop, leaving carryout at a comfortable 2.110 billion bushels. World corn carryout is down about 13 percent, and China, France,

and the US all are planting less corn acres this year. With any weather concerns, the funds could quickly cover their large short position.

Soybean acres are projected at 89.5 million acres up from 83.4 million acres last year. Trend yield of 48 bushels per acre would leave US carryout at 480 million bushels.

Early planting conditions in much of the US haven't been ideal, so trend type yields will be discussed for months. End users seem quite comfortable going hand-to-mouth with needs, as ample supplies are expected to get them to new crop. Weather will dictate price direction as we go forward.

## In-season Scouting

By Chance McDonald



Now that planting has come to an end and the hot days of summer have set in, it's time to be out scouting for potential risks that can be a detriment to your final yield. As we experience warmer temperatures and the crops really start to grow, we may start to see increased pest pressure. The growing degree

days have reached levels that indicate there should be pest activity. It is good to be aware of what pests you have out in your fields so if the pressure starts to reach the threshold level you can take action and prevent any significant damage. If you have any concerns as the year goes on, whether it's now or later in the summer, do not hesitate to call and we will be happy do some scouting for you.

### Corn Pests

**Black cutworm** - Best time to scout is mid to late May until corn reaches V5. Look for wilting and cut plants right at, or below, the soil line. More prevalent in no-till fields or fields that have heavy weed pressure. Larvae feed at night or during cloudy days but hide in the soil during bright daylight.



**Corn rootworm** - Best time to scout is in June when the majority of the larvae can be found on the roots. Adults begin emerging from the soil during early July. The larvae chew on roots, which can lead to lodging plants and the adults will also chew on the silks and reduce pollination.



### Soybean Pests

**Bean leaf beetle** - Scout for adult beetles as soon as seedlings emerge and once pod-filling starts, scout to determine whether insecticide treatment is needed. Injury occurs when adults feed on young soybean plants that have just emerged. Significant damage may also occur if there is heavy feeding on the developing pods.



**Soybean aphid** - Begin scouting soybean fields in mid-June. Start by checking the upper trifoliolate leaves and stems. Aphids use piercing-sucking mouth parts to suck sap out of the plant.



The feeding can also promote the growth of sooty mold. Yields may be greatly reduced from large populations of aphids. Economic threshold: 250 aphids per plant.



**Contracting:** Remember spring contracting is due the end of June. Please take the appropriate actions to pull these gallons before then to avoid any cancellation fees. We had an abundance of gallons contracted, so we look for the month to be very busy.

It turns out, for the most part, this was a very good move, as the markets continue to be very volatile at this time. OPEC is trying to extend their production cuts at least another six months if not more! Their cuts haven't brought crude prices back up to where they seem to want them! On the other side, the United States has been steadily increasing oil rigs bringing

our total rig count to over twice what it was last year at this time! The market seemed to have kind of a bearish tone in early May, but the production cut talks seemed to keep the bottom from falling too far out. Now the markets seem to be acting on that news alone.

I know a lot of you also contracted for fall, but if you haven't, don't be afraid to check with me. I calculate them on a daily basis, so they are constantly changing. I know it seems a long ways out, but we can even look at 2018 if interested!



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**Text Messaging from Aspinwall Coop**

Aspinwall Coop would like to have the option of sending informational text messages to our members. For example, we could send text reminders of meetings and events.

In order for you to sign up for the text message option, Aspinwall Coop needs to know your cell phone number, cell service provider, as well as your email address (if you have one). This information will only be used by Aspinwall Coop and will not be shared.

**Please fill out this form and return it to Aspinwall Coop. Thank you!**

Do you have interest in receiving informational text messages from Aspinwall Coop? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide the following:

Cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell service provider \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Member name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Grow with Us!**