



May 2015

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Continual Growth, Improvement, and Success

By Jeff Nelson



Construction of a new grain receiving pit is underway at Aspinwall Coop. When complete before harvest begins this fall, we will have a new system in place so both hoppers from a semi can sit over the pit at once to speed up dumping.

In addition to the new pit, we're also installing a new leg with 20,000 bushel per hour capacity which will also increase efficiency of grain delivery during the busy harvest season. These improvements, along with new conveyors on top, will make a noticeable positive impact on efficiency for our customers.

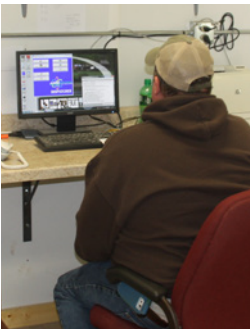
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Annual Meeting – June 11

Make plans now to attend the Aspinwall Coop Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 11, at 8:00 pm. We will meet at the Aspinwall Community Building. For those unable to attend, patronage checks will be mailed the week of June 15, 2015.

Thank you for your business and your membership!



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As part of these changes, we are also improving our wet corn handling capabilities. This upgrade will allow us to place more wet corn ahead of dryers. This steady flow of corn to the dryers will be a significant improvement over our present system.

The old topside conveyor has been removed and dirt work is underway now.

We got off to a good start this spring with the new 32% nitrogen and chemical load-out facility, known as Building 7. We look forward to growing into the facility as time goes on. We already appreciate its efficiency, accuracy, and safety features.

Successful Weed Control Strategies

By Roger Kenkel



As we move into the early part of summer, our focus on your crop moves towards post-emergence applications, with glyphosate (Roundup) as our main priority. At the Aspinwall Coop, we offer quality tank mix options in the form of post-emergence corn applications.

For concerns over resistant waterhemp in corn fields, we have had great success adding Armezon with both Roundup and Liberty applications. In addition to its control of waterhemp, we've found that Armezon effectively controls other annual broadleaf weeds as well.

To ensure season-long residual control in your now emerging corn in a one-pass option, the addition of Capreno and Atrazine, or Surestart and Atrazine, with Roundup has proven to be a quality tank mix.

As for soybeans, the normal application of Roundup, along with the added herbicide for volunteer corn, Flexstar GT 3.5, has addressed the concern of resistant waterhemp quite well. This growing season, no matter what your situation, we at the Aspinwall Coop will be happy to assist you.



Scouting Notes by Calendar

By Dan Konz

Here are a few things to think about as we enter the heart of the growing season.

► Late May/Early June

Cutworms: Time to keep an eye out for black cutworm, however, I don't expect much pressure. We put up a trap in conjunction with the local FFA chapter and have caught very few adult moths.

Bean Leaf Beetles:

Overwintering beetles typically attack the earliest emerging beans in the hood. Untreated beans are most susceptible.

► July

Corn Diseases: There may be an inordinate amount of Northern Corn Leaf Blight inoculum around this year. However, we will still need the right (wet) environment for this disease to get into high gear. We have learned that earlier spraying is better than waiting for brown silk.

Weeds: If weeds don't die, try to figure out why. Was it residual escape? Were they too big? Resistant waterhemp? Is it Palmer amaranth?

► August

Soybean fungicide spraying is best around R2 or R3.

► September

Corn Diseases: Watch for anthracnose and fusarium which can weaken stalks and crowns and schedule harvest accordingly.

► October

Harvest: Target "at risk" fields for early harvest.

Watch for Early Season Pests

By Ryan Webb, CCA



The crop is in the ground and growing so it's time to watch for early season pests in corn, soybeans, and alfalfa.

In your corn acres, be on the lookout for black cutworm. We are just reaching enough growing degree units to allow them to become active and start cutting plants. Watch for wilting and cut plants right at, or below, the soil

line. Weedy, no-till fields are at higher risk for infestations. Economic thresholds are set at 3 to 7 percent stand loss from VE to V4. Control black cutworm when necessary with an insecticide application.

Soybeans are vulnerable to bean leaf beetles. Watch for defoliation on young and emerging bean plants. The most crucial time is from emergence to V1. Damage or clipping of cotyledons can significantly impact yield. Economic thresholds are around 25 percent defoliation on VE-V1 plants and increases with plant size.

Alfalfa producers should be keeping an eye on their first cutting alfalfa. Alfalfa weevils are at peak activity during the vegetative state of first cutting alfalfa. Alfalfa weevils start becoming active around 225 growing degree units. We have surpassed that in our area so it is time to begin looking for these pests. Begin scouting with a sweep net. If larvae are found, then proceed by collecting 30 stems. Economic thresholds are set from one to two weevils per trifoliate stem. As plant height increases, the amount of weevils a plant can take also increases.

Also, I want to remind everyone to continue to plan ahead on soil sampling. There is still time to do any last minute sampling for manure management plans or to just get ahead for next fall. Sampling can be scheduled all summer long so we can be ready to go as soon as you pull out with the combine.



Fuel News and Notes

By Jeff "Spike" Irlbeck



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

creep up at this time. I know a lot of you contracted for fall, but if you haven't don't be afraid to check with me. I calculate contracts on a daily basis, so they are constantly changing.

DEF:

Diesel Exhaust Fluid has been increasing rapidly the last few years. It's my understanding basically everything using diesel will have to add DEF in the next couple years including construction and marine equipment. As demand increases, Aspinwall Coop wants to stay on top of it and be able to supply our customer with whatever they need! We currently

offer DEF in 2.5 gallon jugs, 55 gallon drums, along with 330 gallon totes. As the need arises, I would love to offer this in bulk. Now the equipment for DEF is not cheap, but anymore what is? If you are interested in exploring the options out there, please come visit with me! I would love to get everyone's input on this.



Ready to meet your on-farm fuel needs this spring and year around!

Early Season Crop Scouting

By Brad Renze



Early season scouting is both key to identifying potential problems for the newly emerging crop as well as creating a reference for correcting or eliminating issues in future years. As crops begin to emerge, take a few days and thoroughly look over each of your fields. Evaluate evenness of emergence and take stand counts.

Do you have a high percentage of evenly emerged seedlings, or are there improvements that can be noted for next year? In order to achieve top yield potential, all seedlings need to emerge within 48 to 72 hours of one another or late emerging plants run the risk of becoming “weeds,” or essentially stalks that never produce a viable ear.

As you scout also keep an eye out for any crop abnormalities, deficiencies, or weed issues. Although plant health is crucial at all stages of growth, one of the most critical early stages to have a happy, healthy, low stress growing environment for your corn is during the V6, or 6th leaf collar, stage. It is at this stage the corn plant determines the potential ear girth, or how many rows around the ear, will be as it develops. By identifying potential problems early on, we have the best opportunity to correct any issues before they have a season long negative effect on yields.

If any questions arise as you look at your fields, feel free to give the agronomy staff at the Aspinwall Coop a call. We would be happy to make a visit to your farm to identify and discuss potential solutions to any crop concerns you may have.



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Grain Market Review

By Jeff Hargens



Grain markets have been on the defensive since the first of the year and without some weather situation they may continue to chop sideways or lower. Traditional commodity funds have accumulated large “short” positions in corn and wheat markets, and will maintain them with good weather. On the positive side for the corn market, hogs and cattle numbers are up year over year and ethanol crush is running at projections. China has been back in the DDG market, also. In mid-May, over 20 million

layers and turkeys have been lost to highly pathogenic avian influenza mainly in northwest Iowa and southern Minnesota.

In the soybeans markets, South America is over two-thirds done with harvest and yields have been good. Argentina and Brazil are projected to produce 3.3 billion bushels which is only 500 million bushels less than the US will grow. China continues to be the largest importer of US beans.

Moving forward, weather will be dictating price movement so producers need to be ready to sell rallies for remaining old crop stocks and get started on new crop sales. Stop in or give us a call.