

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Schmitz
Steve Fuller
Dave Manning
Ron Kepler

Vince Wiedenfeld
Dave Unbehaun
Brad McCauley
Brian Denman
Steve Williamson

PLAN TO ATTEND

The Annual Stockholders meeting for Consumers Cooperative will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, 2006. Notices will be sent to active stockholders prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Courtyard, Center Lanes, Richland Center. The meeting will begin with a lunch at 11:45 and will be followed by the Cooperative's annual report and the announcement of newly elected directors. Only active stockholders will receive a notice of the meeting, but all members are welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, and did not receive a notice by March 1st, please call the office so that we will have an accurate meal count. Patrons that are eligible to vote will be sent a ballot in the mail. There will be no voting at the meeting.

All voting will be done with mail in ballots only. Ballots must be received in the main office by 9:00 a.m. on March 7th, 2006 in order to be counted. The candidates appearing on this year's ballot are Dan Hillberry, Brad McCauley (incumbent), Steve Fuller (incumbent), and Jeff Monson. Resumes for each of the candidates will be sent along with the ballots.

This year the Cooperative will be paying a refund of about 2% on qualified purchases. The refund will be mailed after the Annual Stockholders meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 8th, 2006 to get a complete financial report of the Cooperative.

Jim Husnik
General Manager

GET ADVANTAGES WITH ETHANOL

Clean your fuel system as you drive. It is especially important to maintain a clean fuel system during the winter. Having a gas line freeze, or a fuel problem during the winter is no fun, and it usually happens when the temperature is 0°F or colder.

You can avoid these problems by using our super unleaded fuel at XPress 24. Our super unleaded gasoline contains ethanol, a corn based fuel, which helps maintain a clean fuel system. **There is no need to add gas tank antifreeze when using and ethanol based gasoline.** The few extra pennies spent for ethanol fuel is well worth reducing the risk of gasoline freeze or other problems. Using ethanol also helps to support our agricultural economy, and it is a renewable resource. Start using super unleaded gasoline at our XPress 24 today. If you don't have a XPress 24 card, stop by the office today. Remember, new customers get the first \$5.00 of fuel on us.

Jim Husnik
General Manager

WEDDINGS, PARTIES, FAMILY REUNIONS AND GRADUATIONS

If you are planning a special celebration let Grand Rental Station help by putting a personal touch on your party. We provide excellent quality rental equipment, from party tents, and canopies to banquet tables, chairs, table linens or just about anything you need to make your celebration unforgettable. We provide outstanding service at great prices, with a strong emphasis on superior quality tenting.

We rent audiovisual, concession equipment, cooking equipment, party supplies, games, and inflatables to make your event special. We provide quality wedding and party equipment for indoor or outdoor settings. Family gatherings, graduations, anniversaries, or anytime parties can be an unforgettable event with our quality equipment, service and great prices. Ask about our set-up and delivery policy. You can rent an affordable 20 x 20 tent for only \$80.00. Call today and make your reservation for your next event (608) 647-5278.

Mary Foege
Grand Rental Station Manager

NUTRISAVE FORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Nutrisave System is a complete forage management approach to saving more of the valuable nutrients you grow. The Nutrisave System includes management recommendations for forage harvest, storage, and feeding to retain more nutrients from harvest to consumption at the quality and consistency that will give your animals the best opportunity to perform.

Nutrisave's goal is to control the microbial population to inhibit mold, yeast, and aerobic bacterial growth while optimizing lactic acid bacteria growth. Nutrisave offers specific products incorporating the latest technology in fermentation, preservation, and bunk life. The products used will vary based on forage types, stress levels, and moisture of the harvested crop. The Nutrisave Program includes both bacteria and acid base products, so you can use the one that best fits your operation.

To get the most current strategies on preservation of your crops, contact Consumers Co-op at the feed mill or Croplan Center.

Joe McDonald
Livestock Production Specialist

CROP SCOUTING

We do have a crop scouting service available. Crop scouting is available for each crop. Scouting charges are based on a certain number of visits during the growing season. Scouting includes checking plant populations, scouting for weeds, insects, diseases and nutrient deficiencies. If you are interested in crop scouting, have questions, or need more information, please call the Croplan Center at 647-8894.

Greg Ballweg
Croplan Center Manager

SPRING OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our one-day Spring Open House on **Wednesday, March 15, 2006**, at the Courtyard at Center Lanes. There will be representatives from the Agronomy, Feed, and Fuel Departments providing information on the latest products. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please check your local papers for more details.



Consumers Cooperative

Feed	Petroleum	Croplan Center
608-647-6173 800-232-1014	608-647-6749 800-232-1014	608-647-8894 866-470-6136

CROPLAN CENTER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED

SPRING SEED NEEDS

We have a good supply of seed. The Croplan Center will have corn, alfalfa and soybeans. The Richland Center Feed Mill will again have a good supply of seed oats, Oats & Peas, alfalfa, clovers and grasses for your spring seeding or CRP land.

Some products are only available when specifically ordered, like certified seed oats. Most special order products can be shipped quickly to Consumers Cooperative depending on availability. I would like to strongly encourage you to plan your spring needs as far in advance as possible to insure we have the products that you need. Call the Croplan Center at 647-8894 or 1-866-470-6136 with your order or any questions.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Consumers Co-op Croplan Center can help you with your Nutrient Management Plans (590 Plan). We can help you by writing the plan for you or pulling soil samples, or you can pull your own samples. Please call the Croplan Center for the services you need.

SOIL SAMPLING

Soil Sampling is a valuable tool available to use in your farming operation. Higher fertilizer prices drastically increase the value of soil sampling. You may be applying more nutrients than you need and increasing the cost of inputs unnecessarily. It doesn't matter if you are writing a Nutrient Management Plan or just a simple crop plan; the value of soil sampling is greater than ever. Please call the Croplan Center as soon as possible for your sampling needs.

NO-TILL DRILL AVAILABLE

Our no-till drill is available for rent on a per acre basis. This drill is a 15' Case-IH no-till drill. The drill can be used for conventional as well as no-till seeding and soybeans. Drill rental costs will be the same as they were in the past at \$12.00 per acre, or get a \$2.00 per acre discount if you buy the seed from Consumers Co-op. There is a minimum charge of 15 acres per ½ day of use.

MANURE ANALYSIS

Manure Samples are an essential part of any fertility management program. Manure samples are relatively easy to take. Stop by the Croplan Center, or ask Steve or Vaughn for a sample kit. Take an average sample of your manure when it is loaded in the spreader using the plastic bottle included in the sample kit. Freeze the sample and fill out the sample sheet provided. Place the frozen sample and the completed form in the mailer tube and send out on a Monday or Tuesday to insure it doesn't sit in the post office over the weekend. The results will be sent to the Croplan Center in approximately 10 days. Manure samples should be tested once per year, or every time you empty your manure storage.

CORN AND SOYBEAN CONTRACTING

Consumers Co-op can forward contract corn or soybeans for delivery to our grain plant next October or November. If you are interested in a price for your grain, please give Jim Husnik a call at the main office (647-6171) or call Greg Ballweg at the Croplan Center (647-8894) for details and prices.

AGLIME

We have three grades of aglime available. We have 80-89, 60-69, and 50-59 Dolamitic lime, and we also have Calacitic lime. **New Volume Discounts are available on aglime. Ask us for more details.** We will custom apply the lime, or you can rent our lime spreader and apply it yourself. If you need lime this spring, call us as soon as possible.

BULK SOYBEAN SEED TREATING

Consumers Cooperative has a Bulk Soybean Seed Treating System. The system will be set up at the Croplan Center on Hwy 14 near Sextonville. This system will treat your beans with fungicide and/or inoculants. Bulk beans come in 50 bag units. This system is the most uniform way to treat or inoculate your soybean seed. The cost of seed per acre, along with higher yields, has been the leading factors in the increased popularity of treating seed with fungicide. Please call the Croplan Center if you have any interest in bulk beans. Consumers Cooperative will have a gravity box with and auger available for rent. Our 15' No-till grain drill may also work for you.

ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS

With the extra cost of Roundup Ready Soybeans it is tempting to some people to plant bin run beans. I would like to remind you that when you buy Roundup Ready Soybeans, you sign a contract stating that you will not do this. There is a patent on Roundup Ready Soybeans. Monsanto has taken the position that anyone planting bin run Roundup Ready beans will be sued. The information I have received indicates that they are winning these cases. The lawsuits have been in the thousands to tens of thousands of dollars. To insure the soybeans were purchased and are not bin run, we are required by law, to have a copy of your sales receipt for your Roundup Ready Soybean seed, before we can spray Glyphosate type products on any beans.

There are a few farmers in our area that plant some bin run conventional soybeans. This practice is not recommended for the following reasons:

1. You may have lower seed germination percentage, which can result in lower plant population and/or the need for an increased seeding rate.
2. Splits and broken seed coats will also reduce plant population and increase the seeding rate.
3. Diseases: There are several diseases that can be transferred from field to field by infected seed. White mold can also be transferred from field to field from soybean contamination.
4. Yield losses of 3%-5% of original variety can be expected, as can yield loss from not planting new, improved varieties.
5. When considering the extra cost of buying vs. planting bin run beans, it just makes good sense to buy your soybean seed.

For all your seed and agronomy needs, or if you have any questions, please call the Croplan Center at 647-8894.

Greg Ballweg
Croplan Center Manager

THE NEW COMMERCIAL DIXON ZTR MOWER

No one considers weekend mowing a form of recreation. Not even us. That's why our newly designed Dixon ZTR mower delivers so much power and efficiency. It makes quick work of mowing and it's fun. Computer engineered weight and balance distribution resulted in a stronger, more stable machine. Dixon mowers weigh less than comparable mowers meaning less soil compaction, turf-friendly handling and longer component life.

The new Grizzly ZTR and Kodiak ATR feature commercial grade construction, hydrostatic pumps and wheel motors, and Kohler engines. Dixon's high back seat provides superior operator comfort during long mowing sessions. These Dixon mowers are recommended for lawn service professionals, large businesses, farmsteads, and large residential lots. We have the Dixon that's just right for you.

Stop in soon and see our new Dixons and experience the power and performance with a mower that is right for you.

Mary Foege
Grand Rental Station Mgr.

COMPLETING PROJECTS . . . ECONOMICALLY

Bad weather, equipment failure and trying to complete a project without the proper equipment are all factors that can lead to costly downtime, added cost, and delays in completing your projects. Today more homeowners are spending more time at home and want to enhance their surroundings. The trend in home beautification will continue to be popular as homeowners try to save money on remodeling projects. Renting the proper equipment for specific projects is a big advantage.

Having the right equipment is critical to the success of any project, large or small. Our customers are amazed at the broad range of items we have to rent at the Grand Rental Station. It just doesn't make sense to invest in expensive equipment and take on the burden of maintenance, repairs, and storage when you can rent for a fraction of the cost.

Most importantly, the quality and reliability of the brand-name products available at the Grand Rental Station assures the customers that we have the most efficient tools of the trade for each project they're doing.

Renting equipment can often make more sense than buying it, especially for homeowners. Buying new tools or machinery is costly and, in most home improvement cases, will not be needed again for a long time. Also, when you rent, you don't have to worry about maintenance, repairs, or storage. Stop in and see what we have in store to help you complete your projects.

Mary Foege
Grand Rental Station Manager

FROM THE BOAZ COUNTRY STORE

Spring will be here soon, and Turkey season is just around the corner. Stop in and get your turkey license right here at the Boaz store, or maybe you need a license to go fishing. We can get what you need. Boaz Country Store is also a vehicle license renewal agent. We are able to distribute decals for vehicle license plates.

New at the Boaz store; Taco Tuesday is back. Stop in and try our walking Taco's served fresh every Tuesday from 11:00a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or try our new sweet classics cheesecake bites. It's our dessert by the bite. They're popped into the fryer to deliver a freshly made and tasty treat. Try some today. We're your one store for all of your convenience needs and we're here to serve you 7 days a week.

Ann Gerner
Store Manager

FROM THE CREDIT DEPARTMENT

As the winter starts to wind down, many of you are making financial plans for the crop season, which is not too far away. It is good to get your financial reports together now so that your lender will have plenty of time to arrange the credit needed for another year. Start early. Many of you use WHEDA loans, which can be arranged fairly quickly with certain lenders. Others use direct loan financing for the credit needed and that can involve new appraisals of security and updating financial statements. We would appreciate it if you would outline your needs with us as soon as credit is worked out.

There is still time to do some prepaying for spring expenses, which is a good program to use for the best prices. Also, if you do not have a card yet for the XPress 24 for your vehicle fuel needs, just let us know that you need a card and we'll be glad to get it for you.

Accounts receivables have been down some after the year-end, but will start to jump up again with spring inputs. Thank you for all your patronage, and a special thank you to all of you that seem to find a way every month to keep your account current. Heating fuel receivables have been on the rise and so we hope that during the next month or so we can see some reduction in this build up.

Although this winter has been fairly easy compared to some in the past, it will still be nice to look forward to spring and the green grass again and the wonderful season that follows.

Arnie Pharo
Credit Dept.

SOYBEAN RUST

Asian Soybean Rust is something that could possibly be a production issue every year. The likelihood of it coming this far North however is unknown. I would not plan for Asian Soybean Rust control measures when considering production costs. If and when control measures are necessary, we will try to notify as many people as possible. The likelihood of Asian Soybean Rust being an annual production challenge is low. It most likely will not reach this area until July. Listen to agriculture reports and you will be able to stay informed about the progress of Asian Soybean Rust throughout the country.

Steve Marr
Certified Crop Advisor

GREETINGS FROM THE PETROLEUM DEPARTMENT

We hope you are enjoying our warmer-than-ever winter. Last year was a warm winter, and this year we are about 200 degree days warmer than that. We have spent a lot of time this mild winter setting new L.P. tanks. If you or your neighbors are not current fuel oil or L.P. customers, give us a call and let us show you what we can do for you!

We will be having some great specials on oil this spring so be ready to stock up on oils and lubricants for your farm equipment and personal vehicle needs. We will also have a blowout sale on some discontinued brands and weights of oils.

Have you checked out our XPress 24 automated pay at the pump station in Richland Center lately? We installed new pumps about a year ago and people just love them. There's no waiting in line because we have 12 gasoline dispensers and 5 Diesel fuel dispensers and there's nobody holding up the line buying donuts or lottery tickets when you're in a hurry. Plus you can use your Cenex Credit Card, Visa, Master Card, American Express or your cardrol card. Best of all if you use your Cenex Credit Card you will receive additional discounts on your fuel purchases at the XPress 24. Credits for your gas purchases appear right on your Cenex Credit Card statement, so there's no need for in-store purchases to redeem your credits. Also at XPress 24 we now have off road diesel for your convenience. Call 647-6171 and ask Judy how to apply for your new Cenex Card and start saving now.

Have a great spring and watch for our Spring Open House specials.

Dale Servais
L.P. & Petroleum Dept. Mgr.

NATIVE GRASSES AND WILD FLOWERS

Please contact the Croplan Center for your Prairie Seed Needs. The availability and price of Prairie Seeds changes frequently. Please call for current prices. All seed is ordered as needed. Contact Greg at 647-8894 or by fax at 647-8710.

INVEST THROUGH LANDSCAPE PROJECTS

So what if your neighbor has a beautifully groomed lawn with carefully mulched flower beds just bursting with blooms and your yard looks like the "before" photo in a garden magazine. Spring is coming and you still have plenty of time to plan your landscape projects. Let us help you make your lawn the envy of the neighborhood. We have a large selection of decorative rock and colored mulch as well as landscape fabric to keep your landscaped areas weed free.

Aside from the idea of having a beautiful landscaped lawn, there is another very practical reason that should influence your decision to landscape. Every dollar spent landscaping will increase your property value by approximately \$3.00. Not a bad investment. Plants and landscape material does not have to be expensive. It just needs to be well thought out and well placed. Stop in and check out our large supply of decorative rock and colored mulch for your next landscape project.

Mary Foege
Grand Rental Station Manager

CONTROL BRUSH & MULTAFLORA ROSE

Controlling brush can be done several ways. You can simply apply a ready-to-use product, such as Tordon TRU, to fresh cut stumps with the squirt bottle applicator. Be sure to wet the cambium area along the inner bark. This treatment controls stump growth year-round.

Crossbow is another option. The same four percent Crossbow plus oil solution used for basal, or dormant, stem treatments also works on cut stumps. That allows a person to take along a chain saw, basal treat smaller stems, and then cut and treat stems larger than six inches in diameter. Thoroughly wet the cut surface and stump to soil level. Crossbow is an ester formulation, so you don't have to treat immediately after cutting. Crossbow also works very well on other woody plants including multiflora rose, prickly ash, berry briars, most broadleaf weeds as well as most varieties of thistle. Cimarron is another effective treatment for multiflora rose and brush. It is used much the same way as Crossbow.

Granular applications toss out brush problems. Spreading granules below a plant's drip line allows the herbicide to gradually move to the "targeted species" root zone. It then translocates throughout the plant. Applying a granular herbicide, such as Spike, keeps the applicator out of thorns, which can take their toll on clothes, skin, and a person's disposition. This product is also useful for tough-to-control species, such as oaks, or as a long-term solution for problem brush. For further information call the Croplan Center at 647-8894.

CARING FOR YOUR LAWN

Once you have achieved the perfect lawn you will need to maintain it to keep it beautiful and healthy. Mowing is the most misunderstood part of lawn care, and almost always done incorrectly, because we mow our lawns too short. Each grass type has a proper mowing height. If your lawn is cut at the proper height it will look better, be healthier and most importantly last longer. The higher you mow the deeper the roots will grow, and you'll need less watering. Once your lawn is established it makes sense to maintain it and spend a little time to keep it watered, especially after seeding, and you will have the lush grass you desire.

New seeding should be watered daily, or even twice a day until the grass is out of the ground and about 3" tall. Then you can mow the new seeding with a new blade. Slowly change your watering schedule to once or twice a week and water for longer periods of time to soak the ground to 6" deep to encourage deeper root growth. Watering at night will encourage fungus to start growing; once a fungus gets started a fungus application is needed to kill it out.

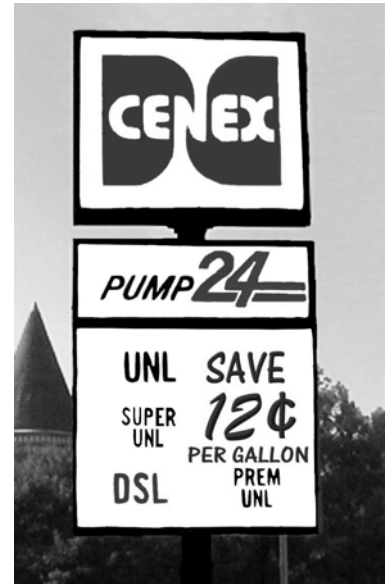
Fertilizing the grass does more than just make it green, of course it will make it grow too, but lots of things happen when you fertilize. Fertilizing helps to make the seed get out of the ground sooner. It makes the grass thicker, greener and much healthier. Most lawns will benefit from four fertilizer applications a year. Spring fertilizer gets the grass off to a fast start, giving you that rich, green color everyone wants.

Controlling weeds in a new or existing lawn is vital to the overall appearance of the lawn. A beautiful lawn gets most of its good looks from the fact that it is smooth with no weeds sticking up above the turf. There are two types of weed control, pre-emergent and post-emergent. Pre-emergent controls weeds before they germinate and come up. Post-emergent kills existing weeds. One reason homeowners become discouraged with doing their own weed control is that they use the wrong weed killer on the wrong weed. Good control is achieved only when you use the right product, on the right weed, at the right time. A good program for weed control is making the first application in the early spring and the second application about 45 days later. A good fertilizer and weed control program is an investment and should be applied properly to get the best results. That is why at the Grand Rental Station we have certified applicators to get the best results for your lawn. For a free estimate, give us a call at 608-647-5278.

Mary Foege
Rental Store Manager

XPRESS 24

You can now **SAVE 6%** on your gasoline and diesel (6% = **12¢/gallon** based on a \$2.00 gallon cost) purchases at XPress 24 when you use your Cenex Visa card. Apply for your Cenex Visa card today. You can pick up an application at any of the Department offices, the main office, or the Grand Rental Station. Your Cenex Visa card can earn cash back at the XPress 24 in Richland Center, and at the Boaz Country Store. You can also **save 2%** on all other purchases when you use your Cenex Visa Card. After the first 2 billing periods you will still save 3% on Cenex fuel purchases and 1% on all other purchases. Apply for your Cenex Visa card today and start saving money.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

National Agriculture Day is March 20. To celebrate Consumers Cooperative is again sponsoring a National Ag Day Poster Contest for area students in grades Kindergarten through sixth grade. This is the 14th Annual Ag Day Poster Contest. The top eight posters from each grade will be displayed at the Annual Meeting on March 8th so that patrons attending the Annual Meeting can vote for their favorite posters. The students that create the winning posters receive a certificate of recognition, a gift certificate for a local restaurant and a ribbon.

SULFUR FOR INCREASED CORN PRODUCTION

Sulfur is an important nutrient for raising corn. It is considered to be a necessary secondary nutrient for corn. With optimum soil test level, a corn crop will require a total of 30-40 lbs. of sulfur per acre. This total can be split between sources such as manure and applied fertilizers. Manure is considered to be a source for sulfur, however the sulfur only becomes available as organic matter breaks down. UW studies show that approximately 2.8# of sulfur per acre per 1% of organic matter becomes available each year.

There are specific field conditions that will equate to sulfur deficiencies. The first deficiency causing soil condition would be saturated, or waterlogged soils. Deficiencies may occur in these field conditions because the bacteria responsible for breaking down organic matter, and releasing the sulfur, cannot survive in an anaerobic environment. The second deficiency causing soil condition is sandy, excessively well-drained soils. These soil conditions result in sulfur deficiencies because organic matter levels are low, and sulfur is more prone to leaching than nitrogen. Due to the very slow release of sulfur from organic matter, and the high leaching of sulfur, use of soil applied sulfur with Ammonium Sulfate or elemental sulfur will most likely result in a positive, cost effective crop response.

Steve Marr
Certified Crop Advisor

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE

Spring is almost here, which means a very hectic time for you as you try to get crops in. As spring arrives some of our employees will go to the Agronomy Department to help through the planting season. I would like to ask you to give us at least a two-day notice for feed deliveries if possible. With the high price of fuel and the shortage of labor, your advance notice of orders would help us coordinate our feed deliveries and be as efficient as possible.

We have a large selection of seed oats, oats and peas, grasses, clovers, and alfalfas available at the Richland Center Mill. For those of you that show cattle, hogs, or sheep, we also carry a complete line of Honor Show feeds. See the difference when you feed Honor Show feeds.

Consumers Cooperative is also carrying bunker covers, silage bags and bale wrap again this year. Stop in and check our very competitive prices.

Beef calves arrive in spring; so don't forget to supply your cow with proper nutrients to get a healthy calf. Beef prices are good, so it really pays to take good care of both the cow and the calf to have a heavier calf at weaning time.

Are you putting your cattle on pasture this spring? If so, make sure you are providing proper minerals. We have a new product called Rangeland Year Round 8 Mineral for cattle on pasture or in dry lots. This mineral is weather resistant and does not get hard when it comes into contact with moisture. The Co-op also carries mineral feeders for your mineral feeding needs. Also you should de-worm your cattle going to pasture for the season. We have Bounty wormer with Safeguard, which is cleared for milking cow, as well as heifers or steers on pasture.

Don't forget about our bagged route delivery system. We deliver on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to designated areas each day. For more details call the Richland Center Mill at 647-6173.

We hope you have a prosperous spring and summer. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. We look forward to working closely with you in the upcoming months.

Bill Tracy
Feed Dept. Mgr.

WEED MANAGEMENT IN ALFALFA STANDS

Weeds will compete with young alfalfa seedlings resulting in reduced yields in the following years. Weeds also invade established alfalfa and reduce forage quality and quantity. Effective weed control begins before seeding and continues throughout the life of the stand. The most important factor in weed control is to establish, and maintain, a vigorous alfalfa crop. Proper soil fertility, pH levels, variety of seed, and seedbed preparation, are factors that affect the establishment and longevity of good alfalfa stands.

Herbicides are an important part of maintaining a healthy alfalfa stand. Always carefully evaluate alfalfa stands prior to applying herbicides. Velpar can be impregnated with fertilizer and applied to established alfalfa stands. Application must be done before alfalfa is 2" tall. Velpar will control broadleaves such as Yellow Rocket, Velvetleaf, White Cockle, Shepherds Purse, Pigweed, Mustard, Lambsquarter, Dandelion, Burdock, and other tough broadleaf weeds. Velpar also has activity on some grasses. It is not recommended that you apply Velpar to thin stands of alfalfa because you cannot plant corn or soybeans in that field if you decide your alfalfa stand is not adequate.

Post-applied products may also be used to control weeds in alfalfa. Products such as Raptor and Pursuit can be used to control broadleaf weeds. Products such as Poast Plus or Select can be used to control grasses such as Foxtail, Fall Panicum, Crab Grass, and Barnyard Grass. Select is also good on perennials such as Quack grass and Orchard Grass. Please contact Greg, Steve, or myself at the Croplan Center for help putting together an alfalfa management program.

Vaughn Ramsden
Agronomy Sales

NEW CUSTOMERS GET FREE STARTER*

I have the opportunity to tell you about two great things offered at the Feed Department. Both have the potential of making an impact on your dairy's daily growth and profitability.

The first opportunity is a new Electrolyte product from Land O'Lakes. Do you know the cost of your current electrolyte? Minimize stress and maximize profits by using the right electrolyte at the right time. The new Land O'Lakes Electrolyte System is cost effective way to get your calves back on track. When you anticipate stress on calves – shipping or receiving stress, heat stress, or at the first sign of scouring – use Land O'Lakes Electrolyte BASE for prevention. The cost of this Base prevention is ONLY 27¢ per treatment. When calves are stressed, dehydrated, or have more severe scouring, use Land O'Lakes Electrolyte BASE plus ADD Pack for treatment. Only pay for what you need! Your calves will thank you.

The second opportunity is a great promotion from Land O'Lakes Purina Feed on Amplifier Max and Cows Match Milk Replacer for NEW Customers. *If you have not used Amplifier Max or Cows Match in the past you are eligible to receive two FREE bags of starter with every bag of Amplifier Max or Cows Match you buy, with a maximum of 40 bags of milk replacer. We carry two great starters made by Purina that qualify for this promotion. The first is an 18% that calves love called Startena®. The second starter is a 22% called Cornerstone that works very well with Cows Match. Producers have given good feedback on both these starters. This promotion ends April 30, 2006 so take advantage of this promotion now and watch your calves grow!

These two opportunities can make a difference in your calf program and your calf health. Please contact me today if you have any questions, or would like to take advantage of these offers. I would be happy to help.

Amanda Daniels
Livestock Production Specialist

INSECTS, WHAT TO EXPECT?

INSECTS IN CORN

Many insects that are a concern every year over-winter here. This winter there has been an absence of frost. Due to the absence of frost there could be high pressure from first generation European Corn Borer (ECB) in early June. This in turn could also increase the potential for high pressure from second and third generation ECB in July and August. Corn rootworm pressure should also be expected to be high. All corn on corn acres should be planted with either corn rootworm resistant varieties or insecticides. Be sure to have your corn planter insecticide boxes calibrated. The anticipation of higher insect pressure is a good reason to use Bt and CRW hybrids, insecticides, and seed treatments. You can be sure there will be pests again this year, and it only takes a few to cause economic levels of damage.

INSECTS IN ALFALFA

Last year we had moderate Potato Leaf Hopper populations. With normal weather conditions the Potato Leaf Hopper populations should be similar or heavier. Regular scouting of fields can determine if economic thresholds are exceeded. There are several spray options available to control leafhoppers. Call the Croplan Center for more information.

INSECTS IN SOYBEANS

The major pests of concern in soybeans are Soybean Aphids and Bean Leaf Beetles. Soybean aphids reproduce very rapidly. They remove nutrients from soybean plants and can also transmit diseases. Aphids usually become a problem in July. Two hundred aphids per plant is a general threshold. Hot, dry conditions are favorable for high aphid populations and they can cause significant yield loss.

Bean Leaf Beetles are defoliators. They feed on the leaf tissue of beans. Bean leaf beetles can be a season long pest. The control threshold for Bean Leaf Beetles is 50% defoliation of the soybean plant. Scouting fields for aphids and bean leaf beetles and signs of damage will allow us to make recommendations to prevent significant yield loss.

Steve Marr
Certified Crop Advisor

SEEDING AND FERTILIZING PASTURES

Spring is a good time to seed your pastures. Abundant moisture and cool growing conditions will help establish your legumes and grasses in your pasture. You may use a conventional tillage system or a no-till system to establish your pasture. There is a wide range of seed options available for pastures. The choice depends on your needs. Fertilizing pastures will help with seeding establishment, yield and feed quality. The type of fertilizer and amount of fertilizer will depend on the pasture type and soil samples. Another option for existing pasture is to frost seed into the existing stand to increase tonnage. Frost seeding of clovers into pastures can increase tonnage and feed quality. Please call the Croplan Center with any question you may have.

Greg Ballweg
Agronomy Department Manager

ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA IS HERE

Roundup Ready Alfalfa was granted a license to be grown in late August 2005. This brings a new opportunity to growers looking for more yields and higher relative feed values (RFV). Studies have shown that Roundup Ready alfalfa had a 2% higher yield and 10% higher RFV over conventional alfalfas when sprayed with conventional herbicides. These figures are based on the first year of production.

Establishing a good stand of alfalfa and keeping weeds out of the seeding are essential for maximizing yields and quality for the life of the stand. Young alfalfa plants are not competitive. Early weed control removes weed competition allowing new plants to establish a healthy crown maximizing disease resistance and winter hardiness. Roundup is a great way to control the weeds without injuring the Roundup Ready Alfalfa plants. Roundup can be applied anytime to Roundup Ready Alfalfa from emergence to 5 days before cutting without injury to the plant.

Most conventional herbicides only control certain weeds and have restrictions on the weed and crop heights. They also can injure seedling alfalfa plants and can reduce yield and still not control all the weeds. Last season, it was tough to control Lambsquarter. By the time the alfalfa was tall enough to spray, the Lambsquarter were too big to control with most herbicides. This reduced the plant stand and the feed quality. Roundup will control weed in this situation and can be applied every year to help continue to control weeds like chickweed, clovers, burdock and grasses. Controlling weeds means increased feed quality and bigger yields from your alfalfa.

Vaughn Ramsden
Agronomy Sales

READING YOUR ALFALFA STAND

Alfalfa stand evaluations should be done this spring to determine if a stand should be left in production or rotated out. Call Consumer Coop to do a root evaluation for you. If we do a root evaluation for you this spring, **you will receive a \$50 credit** towards the purchase of alfalfa seed this spring. You will receive the credit even if the stand we checked does not need to be rotated out of production. We simply want to show you the value of evaluating your stands properly. Our Agronomy representative will evaluate your stand based on the condition of the roots. They will score your stand according to the following chart. They will also evaluate your plant population. There is a limit of one credit per farm. We will do as many evaluations as time will allow. Call us to schedule your stand evaluation.

RICHLAND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

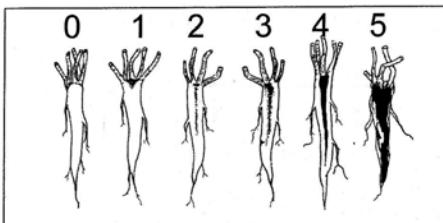
Rich-land Wildlife Products will help you feed wildlife all year round. Grow forages for your wildlife with Rich-land wildlife blend. We have Rich-land Perennial Wildlife Management Blend available. This blend contains palatable forage plants that provide quality nutrition for wildlife. We also have an annual wildlife blend in addition to corn and soybeans for your plots available at the Croplan Center. For more information on Rich-land Wildlife Products, call the Croplan Center at 647-8894.

RICH-LAND



Reading the Stand

Reference: Alfalfa Management Guide, © 2000 by the American Society of Agronomy, Inc., Crop Science Society of America, Inc., and Soil Science Society of America, Inc., Page 43



- 0 = Healthy plant
- 1 = Some discoloration
- 2 = Moderate discoloration & rot
- 3 = Significant discoloration & rot
- 4 = Greater than 50% discoloration
- 5 = Dead

the Spirit Shows