

Consumers Cooperative

Consumers Connection

July/August/September, 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Schmitz	Vince Wiedenfeld
Steve Fuller	Dave Unbehaun
Dave Manning	Brad McCauley
Ron Kepler	Jeff Monson
	Brian Denman

COME TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR

It's that time again when there have been many hours spent by exhibitors preparing to impress the judges with their projects and exhibits.



Consumers Cooperative always supports the fair by helping livestock exhibitors with advice on preparing their project animals, and by sponsoring many of the events with trophies, ribbons and donations. We also have been a major contributor to meat animal sale and encourage everyone to get involved and show their support to the individuals who have spent hours preparing their projects.



As we have for the past 25 years, Consumers Co-op will offer free breakfast to exhibitors and their families on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Come out and enjoy the Richland County Fair, your continued support is important to its success.

Jim Husnik
General Manager

LAWN CARE FOR LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL

Mowing produces a neat, well-groomed appearance, however, improper mowing causes lawn problems. The cool season grasses perform best in spring and fall. Mowing newly seeded bluegrass lawns does not hurt the grass; it encourages spreading and promotes a thicker lawn. Bluegrasses should be mowed at a height of 3" during hot, stressful summer months. Lower the mower blade as the temperature cools to 2 to 2½" during the fall months.

Late summer or early fall is an excellent time to establish a new lawn or overseed thin or severely damaged lawns. Seeding may begin in mid-August and should be completed by September. We have several varieties of lawn seed available including a blend called Madison Parks. This cool season grass blend will make your lawn look great.

An additional application of fertilizer in late summer and early fall is especially beneficial. Lawns, like many other plants populations, are preparing for the winter and soak up the added nutrients if provided. Apply 1 to 2 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet, along with a small amount of phosphate and potash. We have several grades a fertilizer available to meet your lawn care needs. Stop by for a fertilizer consultation.

Thatch is the layer of dead and living plant material that forms between the soil surface and green foliage. When thatch is present in amounts greater than ½", de-thatching may be beneficial. Power rakes are available to rent. Power rakes thin the grass and lift the thatch to the soil surface. The thatch can then be raked from the lawn and discarded. Thatch removal can be done in late August or September. Allow at least four weeks of good growing weather following de-thatching. This gives the grass time to recover before it becomes dormant in the late fall.

Aeration of areas subject to compaction due to heavy foot traffic may be beneficial to the lawn. Use a core aerator in late August or September to remove plugs of soil from the lawn and decrease compaction. Then apply fertilizer to promote recovery of the turf.

Perennial broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions and plantain, can be controlled with the application of broadleaf herbicides from mid-September to early November. Fall applications of broadleaf herbicides are safer and more effective than spring or summer applications. During the fall, perennial weeds translocate carbohydrates to their roots. Broadleaf herbicide applied to the weeds also translocates to the roots, resulting in the complete destruction of the weeds. With gardening activity winding down in fall, the risk of injury from herbicide drifting to vegetable and flower gardens is also reduced.

Grand Rental Station can help you establish and maintain a well-manicured lawn. Stop by, we rent solutions.

Mary Foege
Grand Rental Station Mgr.

FEED DEPARTMENT NEWS

It's hard to believe the fall harvest season is already here with all the hot weather we've had. The corn-chopping season is almost here. Don't forget to use a preservative to help preserve your corn silage crop. Stop in, or call the Cooperative to see what we have to offer.

Corn chipper day this year will be held at the Croplan Center on August 30th. We will be accepting plants from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and serving supper from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is a good way to predict the best time to harvest your corn silage at optimum moisture levels to insure proper fermentation and maximize nutrition retention in the silage. Consumers Cooperative will chop the whole corn plant and dry them down to give you the current moisture levels in the plant and a harvesting date range based on the moisture levels. We need you to bring in 3 to 5 whole corn stalks that represent the crop. These stalks need to be cut at the height that you plan on chopping during harvest. Plants should be fresh cut on that date to insure accurate moisture levels. If you cannot attend, but have plants to test, contact the feed mill or Croplan Center and we will try to have someone pick up your sample(s).

With fall changes in the weather, it is a great time to talk about Aureo 5700 and Aureomycin. Calves stressed by shipping, weaning, and weather are highly susceptible to respiratory and other infectious diseases that can cut performance and profitability. Aureo 5700 crumbles should be fed during the first 28 days of feedlot entry, and anytime stress increases the likelihood of respiratory disease. Aureo 5700 crumbles contain chlortetracycline and sulfamethazine. These are two proven disease fighters for broad-spectrum protection during stress and they help maintain gains in the presence of respiratory disease.

Aureomycin and sulfamethazine are blended with other feed ingredients, then the mix is pelletized and crumbled to uniform specifications. The crumb provides, uniform distribution of medication throughout the crumbles, improved flowability, easy, uniform mixing and less dust and fines.

Aureomycin is a great broad-spectrum antibiotic. It is used for the treatment of bacterial enteritis and pneumonia. It can be fed for up to five days and requires a seven day meat withdrawal. Contact Consumers Cooperative feed department in Boaz or at the Richland Center Mill if you are interested in learning more about this or any other beef products.

Everyone in the feed department wishes you a safe harvest season, and we look forward to working with you this winter.

Bill Tracy
Feed Dept. Mgr.

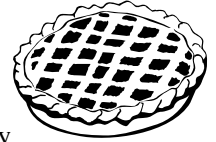
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR FEED CUSTOMERS

Throughout the Ag Industry there have been many changes over the years and local farm numbers are dramatically decreasing. Therefore, in order for Consumers Cooperative to remain profitable, we will be grinding at our Boaz Mill only on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will become effective on September 1, 2006. There will be a double charge for grinding after 4:00 p.m. The Boaz mill will still be open Monday thru Friday for pickup of in-house feed products. This schedule will also allow our employees to have more time to manufacture our own feed products for resale. Thank you for your understanding.

Jim Husnik, General Manager
Bill Tracy, Feed Dept. Mgr.

WALK WITH G.R.A.C.E.

Wow! What a year. Consumers Co-op Cares Walk With G.R.A.C.E. Team raised over \$8000.00. Judy and Mary sold over 8000 cookies. Our pie day was very successful also. Judy and Mary would like to thank Amanda Daniels, Kathy Sobek, Paula Bruckner, Diana Michek, Jane Husnik, Mary Ann Metz, Kris Hauser and Rita Tracy for helping make the pies. We had 68 total pies and 30 different varieties. **The people we would like to thank most, is YOU.** If you had not supported us, it could not have happened. THANK YOU!



Our team members included Bill Tracy, Amanda Daniels, Jerry Annear, Jim Husnik, Diana Michek, Joe McDonald, Barb Pauls, Greg Ballweg, Vaughn Ramsden, Crystal Tyo, Carroll Clark, Steve Marr, Rick Peterson, Judy Shadewald, Mary Hauser, and the Mark Kraemer Family. THANK YOU AGAIN!

The Cookie and Pie Ladies
Mary Hauser and Judy Shadewald

HEATING SEASON IS HERE

Once again we are looking at the upcoming heating season. It's hard to think about that after coming off 90° plus days just a few weeks ago. Prepay contracts for L.P. were sent out the first week in August, so if you haven't received yours, please call our office and ask for Dale or Judy. If you are a customer who only requires a fill once per year, we probably did not mail you a prepay contract. We will try to get a summer fill to you before September. If you haven't gotten a summer fill yet, please call our office.

We don't have any good news about refined fuels to pass on to you. We all know fuel prices are too high and we are not able to get any good contacts for home heating fuel oil or diesel fuel. Thus, at the present time we do not have any refined fuel contracts available.

Here are a few suggestions to help make everyone's fuel cost as reasonable as possible.

- ▶ Have your furnaces tuned up or, if necessary, replaced. Most new furnaces can increase efficiency by 25% or more.
- ▶ Check and change your filters in all furnaces.
- ▶ Check all your doors and windows for air leaks and repair or caulk where needed.
- ▶ Insulate where possible.
- ▶ Tune up your cars, trucks, and tractors.
- ▶ Make sure tires on all your vehicles and farm equipment are inflated to the proper pressure.
- ▶ Shut off engines when stopped. It is not necessary to warm up your car engine to go to work.
- ▶ Plan your trips to make the most of your miles.
- ▶ Try using more Bio fuels when possible. Bio fuels are grown here and can be replenished. The more Bio fuel we grow, the less dependent we are on fuels from the Middle East. We are all in this together, and by working together we will be able to gain control of our own fuel dependency.

Remember, your L.P. budget contracts are due by August 31st and your L.P. prepay contracts are due by September 15th. If you have questions or need more information, contact the fuel department at 608-647-6749, or 608-647-6171.

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

DEFERRED BILLING ON AGLIME

We will be offering deferred billing on Aglime this fall. Aglime delivered this fall may be paid for this fall, with the cash discount available, or can be billed next March with payment due by April 30, 2007, for qualified customers. Deferred billing must be arranged at the time the aglime is ordered and is not eligible for a cash discount.

We handle Calacitic Aglime and three grades of Dolamitic Aglime (80-89, 60-69, 50-59). Please call the Croplan Center for more information on our deferred billing program.

SEEDING ALFALFA NEXT YEAR?

Each year most crop producers spend considerable time selecting the right corn and soybean varieties – but what about alfalfa? Alfalfa seed may not seem very exciting, but if you consider the differences between genetics, and their performance, it should demand your attention!

Current alfalfa varieties can offer you a wide menu to choose from, why not take advantage? After all, you aren't using the same animal genetics today that you did a few years ago. Historically, both public and private variety tests show at least a **1 ton per acre** yield difference from the low-end variety to the high end. That statistic does not take into account the difference in forage quality, stand longevity, or disease resistance. On the farm, it's nearly impossible for a grower to notice that one-ton yield difference spread out over three or four cuttings each year, but it's there! Sit down and talk with your crop advisor for facts and information about alfalfa seed. An uninformed alfalfa seed decision you casually make today could negatively influence your yield for at least three years.

Lack of performance costs money. Money-wise, if good quality alfalfa hay is worth \$100/ton, **that's a \$300 per acre decision! That translates into a decision worth \$1,000 per bag of seed purchased.**

Roundup Ready alfalfa is available to plant in your fields. Roundup ready alfalfa provides a very cost effective way to control weeds in alfalfa year round. The cost of the Tech Fee can be quickly justified. It will cost about \$20.00 per acre less to spray new seeding for weed control and there will be an increase in feed quality and alfalfa tonnage, which can be maintained for the life of the stand.

Long-term, these are the types of decisions that ultimately impact your farms net worth. The additional expense of improved seed is easily justified. The range between the lowest priced alfalfa seed on the market, and the highest priced, is \$80 - \$100/ bag. If you divide the cost over three acres, the difference in expense winds up being about \$30/ acre. Could you invest \$30 for a \$300 return? Don't forget, your fixed costs for land expense and machinery remain the same, regardless of your forage yield. You only make this seed selection about three times each decade. Let's make it count!

Steve Marr

Certified Crop Advisor

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
WHOLE PLANT CORN CHIPPER DAY.
CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE CROPLAN CENTER
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2006
3:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SERVING FOOD FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

WHICH SILAGE CORN SHOULD YOU PLANT?

Traditionally I get a lot of questions about corn silage. Silage specific varieties are very tall and have extra leaves above the ear for tremendous tonnage potential. However, a lot of silage tests don't accurately test the digestibility of the stalk or stover. Dual-purpose varieties may test better on energy because of a better grain to stover ratio, but they may not produce more milk.

For example, a farmer chopped a bag of silage specific and a bag of a dual-purpose variety. Even though his forage test came back saying the dual-purpose variety tested better, the silage specific variety gave him 4 to 6 pounds more milk per cow per day. Why? Because the stover in the silage specific hybrid was more digestible to the cow. Results may vary. Ask your nutritionist if planting a silage specific variety is right for your operation.

Vaughn Ramsden
Agronomy Sales

CORN ROOT WORM VARIETIES

Corn Root Worm (CRW) hybrids are still the best option for corn rootworm control in corn on corn acres. Last winter had very little frost in the ground, and it is probable that many rootworm eggs survived to feed on roots this year. Lodging of corn plants is visible now. A short walk through your corn on corn fields may quickly tell you if you have a rootworm problem in your fields. Rootworm feeding can cost you yield well before you can see lodging in your fields. If you do not see lodged plants, dig up some roots and you will be able to see how much rootworm feeding has occurred. You can be sure that if there is rootworm feeding, you have lost yield.

Consumers Cooperative has the expertise and corn varieties to help you solve your rootworm problems. We will be happy to help you do root digs and access root feeding. We will also be able to help you choose corn hybrids to fit your soil and crop rotations.



Pictured here are the roots of one hybrid with CRW and next to it the same variety with insecticide. The difference in root mass is evident, as is the difference in plant health and grain fill.

Call us today for advise on choosing the proper hybrids for your crop practices. Increase your yields and prevent crop lodging through better seed choices. Contact Steve, Greg, or Vaughn at 647-8894 or 1-866-470-6136.

Steve Marr
Certified Crop Advisor

WANT TO GIVE YOUR CALVING PROGRAM A LIFT BEFORE THE FALL CALVING SEASON BEGINS?

Land O'Lakes Purina Feed has been active in conducting calf research for over 80 years. Consumers Cooperative and Land O'Lakes want to be a valuable industry resource in feeding and managing your dairy heifer calves. We can provide you up-to-date information on feed, nutrition and management of calves in either a traditional or intensive fed program.

A great way to evaluate your calf program is a calf barn **Walk Through**. Using a Calf Checklist, we'll help you review your calf program. A Walk Through will identify areas where new or improved practices could enhance your calves' performance and efficiency.

If you have questions, or are interested in conducting a Walk Through evaluation, I would be happy to help you. It should take only about an hour to do an effective Walk Through. If you are interested in doing an evaluation of your calf program, give me a call and we'll get an appointment set up right away! Thanks and I hope to hear from you soon!

Amanda Daniels
Dairy Production Specialist

PURINA'S EXT NUGGET

Purina's EXT Nugget is available at Consumers Cooperative. Purina's unique, patented technology packs more energy into every mouthful of dairy feed. Purina EXT is the result of an exclusive manufacturing process that enables us to produce a high energy, nutrient dense nugget. EXT Nugget nutrient package allows direct incorporation of dietary lipids (fat) into milk lipids, without disrupting ruminal metabolism. In tests on over 30,000 cows in research trials and commercial herds, EXT raised production an average of 4.5 lbs/day and maintained or increased component yields.

The unique EXT process begins by mixing all natural fats with natural plant proteins and carbohydrates, which are then heated and pressurized in an extruder to form nuggets. Consistent nutrient delivery is one of the keys to EXT's success. EXT provides an easy-to-handle, highly digestible, and extremely palatable form of nutrition.

EXT allows flexibility in your nutritional strategy by delivering more nutrients and energy in smaller packages. Increase the proportion of home grown forages in the diet without compromising energy intake or production. On the other hand, higher levels of energy intake are possible with unchanged forage levels, permitting greater milk production. If you are looking to energize your diet, call Consumers Cooperative Feed Mill and ask about the EXT Nugget.

Joe McDonald
Livestock Production Specialist

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR PLOT DAY

Consumers Cooperative will host a **Plot day on Thursday, October 5, 2006**. Plot day events will be held at Unbehaun Acres owned by Allen and David Unbehaun. The farm is located near the intersection of Highway 14 and Highway 58. Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Plan to attend for more information on the latest corn varieties offered from Croplan Genetics, Dekalb and Novartis by Consumers Cooperative.

SEED PAYMENT OPTIONS

Consumers Cooperative will be offering some seed payment options along with participating suppliers:

- Early order and cash discounts as high as 12% available.
- Deferred Billing – Due October 31, 2007
- Normal Program –5% cash discount due by May 15th or payment due June 30th with no cash discount
- Croplan Genetics Agrilience offers Partners in Production for part or total crop inputs
- Dekalb/ Asgrow offers Flex Plus for seed and/or Crop Protection
- Novartis (NK) -- Agrifit Plan from Farm Plan for seed and/or crop protection.

All financing subject to approval and all applicable conditions. Contact Consumers Cooperative for details concerning financing options.

TIRED OF ASIAN BEETLES AND BOX ELDER BUGS?

Asian Beetles have become an annoying pest the last few years. In the fall they congregate everywhere. Luckily, they can be controlled.

Tempo and Demon are available at the Croplan Center, and both are very effective for control of these pests at an economical price. They also control other pests such as spiders, silver fish, earwigs and fleas. Both products are labeled for use indoors and outdoors, and have excellent residual effects, so one application will last for weeks.

Tempo and Demon are available at the Croplan Center, the Richland Center Feed Mill and the Grand Rental Station. Please stop by or call if you need more information on either of these products.

Vaughn Ramsden
Agronomy Sales

CO-OP FISCAL YEAR ENDS OCTOBER 31ST

October 31st marks the end of another busy year for Consumers Cooperative. Soon the annual audit will begin. We ask that you bring your balances up-to-date by the end of the fiscal year, or as soon thereafter as possible. This is the time of year when account receivables are high. Most of you with past due accounts have been contacted by now. Many of you have charged crop expenses and plan to pay when the crop is sold, or are taking out a Government loan to cover these costs. If there is going to be a delay in paying the account as originally planned, please let me know so we can update our records.

The season for home heating is near. Many of you on our keep-fill program already have a summer fill and will have a good supply of fuel starting out this fall. Please keep in mind, however, that in order to stay on this program you need to keep your account current, or have a repayment plan in place. You may also use you Visa or MasterCard to pay for heating product at the time of your purchase. Please call our office, in advance, for all the details if you wish to use your Credit Card.

The fall season is getting closer. Soon we will know how the crop harvest will be. Let's hope that we continue to have timely rains for the crops until harvest time. Have a safe fall harvest season and thanks to everyone for your business. A special thanks to those who seem to find a way to keep their accounts current every month. We really appreciate this effort.

Arnie Pharo
Credit Dept.

FROM THE CROPLAN CENTER ...

Winter Wheat & Rye

Early order discounts are available now on Winter Wheat seed. We are offering an early order discount of 50¢ per bag on Croplan Genetics Winter Wheat ordered by August 30, 2006. This offer includes treated and non-treated seed while supplies last. You can receive an additional discount of 50¢ per bag if you use 120 bags or more. We have high yield varieties including 8309 and 8302, which are shorter straw varieties. For a taller straw variety we have 569 available. The 8302 variety is bearded for those who prefer bearded wheat. We also have Winter Rye available for your silage or cover crop needs.

It is important to manage your wheat fields carefully to obtain high yields. Based on manure applications and crop rotation, it will be necessary to apply proper amounts of potassium, phosphate, and nitrogen to maximize yield. Plant population and weed control are also very important for optimum yield. Fungicides may also need to be applied to protect your yield potential. Call the Croplan Center to customize your Crop Management Plan.

Nutrient Management/ 590 Plans

Consumers Cooperative has 2 CCA's on staff and are registered to do your 590 plans. Call the Croplan Center with your planning needs at 647-8894 or toll free at 1-866-470-6136.

Grain Drying

Consumers Co-op will be mailing new grain policies to producers in the near future for the 2006 drying season. We will be adjusting the charges for storage, drying, and hauling for this fall. We will be offering a discount for corn brought in early for drying. The early drying discount will help offset the extra drying cost for the higher moisture corn. This will also shorten lines to unload later in November. More details will be included in the grain policy, which will be sent out in September.

Grain Storage

Please call the Croplan Center or Grain Plant to reserve room for your feed storage this fall. Storage space is very limited. We encourage you to call and reserve space early to make sure it is available when you need it.

Grain Hauling

Grain hauling will be done in the order the jobs are called in. Jobs will be scheduled ahead as much as possible. Schedules may change due to weather and the amount of time each job takes. Hauling to the grain plant will take precedence over hauling farm to farm.

We encourage you to use an auger and gravity boxes, or a grain cart to load trucks more efficiently. We would like to ask everyone to plan ahead for grain drying. It may be beneficial to haul early in the day when we are not as busy to reduce your wait at the plant, and avoid possible down time for the combine.

Soil Sampling

Call and sign up for soil sampling this fall. Soil samples should be taken of the whole farm every three years. Fall soil samples will enable you to apply aglime this fall, and have a fertility plan in place on your farm for next spring. Soil samples will reveal where and what your fertility needs are, and may keep you from applying excess lime or fertilizer where they are not needed.

Fall Roundup

Now is the time to decide what fields need to be sprayed this fall. If you take a late cutting of hay, you may not get enough regrowth to spray later. Quackgrass should be 6" tall and Orchard and Brome grass should be 11" to 12" tall to get an effective kill when sprayed. Also remember that if you spray too late, the alfalfa may be dormant and you will not get a good kill.

Do you have hay fields that are going to be corn next year? Do you want to re-seed any fields next spring? Are you going to do fall or spring tillage of hay fields? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should consider spraying Roundup this fall. For more information call the Croplan Center.

Greg Ballweg
Agronomy Dept. Mgr.

TIMING FOR CORN SILAGE REMOVAL

Corn Silage is a major component of dairy rations in this area. Knowing when to begin harvest is the key to maximizing availability of energy and digestibility. Research done by Croplan Genetics shows that harvesting corn at 65% plant moisture provides the best animal feed value and the best conditions for ensiling. A correlation that can be used is to check the moisture of the corn plant is the milk line of the developing kernels. When the kernels are at 50% milk line, whole plant moisture is near 65%, and harvest should be started.

Genetics can affect this correlation to a certain extent. Corn varieties with good late season health will dry down more slowly than varieties that do not have good late season health. With these varieties kernel milk line may be at 50%, however whole plant moisture could be too high for ensiling. If you are unsure of the genetics of the corn variety you plan to harvest, contact your seed company representative and they will be able to answer any questions you may have. Should you find that your corn has good late season health, close monitoring of plant moisture will be needed through testing for plant moisture at least once a week. There will be a whole corn plant chipper day at the Croplan Center on August 30, 2006. Contact the Croplan Center for more details.

Finally, starting harvest of corn for silage early is better than late. The goal is to have corn moisture averaging as close to 65% as possible once it is all in the silo.

Steve Marr
Certified Crop Advisor

FROM THE BOAZ COUNTRY STORE

Summer is winding down fast. Archery season is fast approaching for deer hunters, and it won't be long before gun season is here. To help assist you, we have the new deer hunting regulations pamphlets here. Stop by today and get your hunting license for that big hunt.

We also renew automobile plates; our hours for renewing plates are Monday thru Thursday 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays 6a.m. to 6p.m. and Saturdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

With summer winding down there is still time for those cookouts and family get-togethers. The Boaz Country Store has a good selection of snacks, ice, soft drinks, and now we have new lower beer prices. Stop in and grab something from our fresh Deli or try our hot foods. Were here to serve you 7 days a week with our fast friendly service. Stop in soon.

Ann Gerner
Boaz Country Store Manager

PLANNING FOR NITROGEN FOR NEXT YEAR

Applying and recording manure applications this fall will save you money in spring. Solid manure applied and worked in within 72 hours of application will give you a nitrogen (N) credit of 4 lbs of N per ton per acre. If the manure is not worked in the credit drops to 3 lbs. of N per ton per acre. Liquid dairy manure worked in within 72 hours of application will give you a credit of 10 lbs. of N per 1000 gallons per acre. If the manure is not worked in the credit drops to 8 lbs. of N per 1000 gallons per acre. * This time of year is also the time to spread manure on fields that normally do not receive manure applications during the winter or spring. Manure will increase organic matter levels, which can improve two very important soil characteristics. Higher organic matter levels result in better water holding capacity, and higher cat-ion exchange capacity (CEC). Higher CECs can be very important in times of drought, because plants will be better able to take up the nutrients they need. This is especially true in the lighter, sandy soil types.

Another source of N to take full advantage of is planting into alfalfa fields. Any alfalfa stand that is good (more than 4 crowns per square foot) will provide a full N credit for a corn crop. That N credit has a value of at least \$50.00 per acre. An important detail to remember when spraying out alfalfa stands is that there must be at least 8" of growth to take a full N credit. If the alfalfa stand is on a sandy soil type the maximum credit has to be reduced by 50% of N per acre. If you have any questions about the quality of your stand, or how much of an N credit you can get from the stand, give the Croplan Center a call and we can assess the stand for you.

The key is to make sure that an adequate amount of N is present for your corn crop. Nitrogen affects every aspect of the growth of your corn crop. Most important is the plant's efficiency in taking up water and other nutrients. Just remember that nitrogen will pay for itself and provide a return faster than any other nutrient.

*These are general recommendations. Manure analysis may vary. Running a sample of your own manure source is recommended. We have manure sample kits available.

PLAN YOUR WEED CONTROL NOW

This fall when you are making seed order decisions take into consideration what your weed control program will be next year. Large and smooth crabgrass have become a major problem on many area farms. Over the past few years more and more growers have decided to use post-emerge products, such as Accent, Accent Gold, and Steadfast. None of these products will provide good post-emerge control of crabgrass. The best way to control large and smooth crabgrass is with pre-emerge products, such as Harness or Dual II Magnum, etc. or with non-selective herbicides, such as Roundup or Liberty. Ideally, a pre-emerge product is used with the option of coming back with Roundup or Liberty to clean up any crabgrass or other weeds that emerge.

This also applies to growers who are digging up alfalfa fields in the spring instead of spraying them. By the time perennial grasses have regrown enough to spray, enough heat units will have been accrued that crabgrass has emerged and control will be a concern.

Roundup Ready or Liberty Link corn hybrids should be considered for planting in these situations so that good control of perennial grasses, as well as crabgrass, can be achieved.

Steve Marr
Certified Crop Advisor

VISIT XPRESS 24

You can now **SAVE 6%** on your gasoline and diesel purchases at Xpress 24 (6% = **19¢/gal.** based on a \$3.20/gal. cost) 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 you 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.



FROM THE GRAND RENTAL STATION...

The long hot days of summer are rapidly coming to a close and the cooler, more colorful days of fall are approaching. School will be starting soon and there will be much fall work to be done in the lawns and gardens. The Grand Rental Station has all the necessary equipment to get the job done quickly and easily. We have tillers, weeders, brush cutters, lawn sweepers, vacuums, blowers and mowers to get things spruced up in a hurry. Then you will have plenty of time to enjoy the cool, beautiful days of fall.

The tents, tables and chairs are being booked well in advance for picnics, parties, and the upcoming holiday. We now have a large 30' X 75' tent available for the special occasions and tent sales that are being held this time of year.

The Dixon mower sales and repairs were strong last month, with the timely rain and warm weather; the lawns have grown fast and needed to be mowed often. This has made it necessary for the hard working lawn mowers to be in good running condition. Stop in soon for a free Dixon demo. We will be happy to demonstrate the advantages of being a Dixon owner.

The electrical storms have kept Norm Brewer busy repairing electric fences. We are the warranty center for many brands of electric fences, and would be happy to service any of your fence needs. Stop in and visit us soon at the Grand Rental Station.

Mary Foege
Store Manager

the Spirit Shows