

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Schmitz  
Steve Fuller  
Dave Manning  
Ron Kepler

Vince Wiedenfeld  
Dave Unbehaun  
Brad McCauley  
Brian Denman  
Jeff Monson

### PLAN TO ATTEND

The Annual Stockholders meeting for Consumers Cooperative will be held on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Notices will be sent to active stockholders prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Community Center, Richland Center and 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in order to be counted. The candidates appearing on this year's ballot are Vince Wiedenfeld (incumbent), David Unbehaun (incumbent), Raymond Schmitz (incumbent), and Robert Page. Resumes for each of the candidates will be sent along with the ballots.

This year the Cooperative will be paying a refund of about 2.5% on qualified purchases. The refund will be mailed after the Annual Stockholders meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to get a complete financial report of the Cooperative.

Jim Husnik  
General Manager

### ECONOMICS OF ALFALFA-CORN ROTATION

Did you know the highest yields and highest quality alfalfa are harvested in the first two years of a stand? New stands also have less disease and are less susceptible to winter kill. These are only a couple of reasons that you should speed up your alfalfa rotations.

Taking out an existing stand of alfalfa to plant corn will give you a nitrogen credit of about \$60.00/ac, your savings for not needing to apply insecticide (vs. corn-on-corn) equals about \$15.00/ac. Add to this the enhanced yield of first year corn at a value of \$30.00/ac and the approximate total value received is \$105.00.

Do you know how much your cost to reseed alfalfa really is? The cost of proprietary alfalfa seed ranges from \$50.00 - \$60.00/ac and the cost of tillage and planting the seed is from \$20.00 - \$30.00/ac for a total on the high end of \$90.00/ac. As you can see from comparing your value of going from alfalfa to corn of \$105.00/ac to the cost of seeding alfalfa at \$90.00/ac, it is very economical to rotate your crops often.

Greg Ballweg  
Croplan Center Manager

### SPRING OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our one-day Spring Open House on **Thursday, March 15, 2007**, at the Community Center in Richland Center. 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.

### FEED PLANT PROGRESS

The construction of the new feed plant is slightly behind schedule, but who can predict Mother Nature! Our recent cold spell made working conditions pretty unpleasant for the building crews.

By the end of February the new building should be nearly finished. The next step will be to move equipment from Boaz and Richland Center to the new site to be installed. It is projected to take from 4 to 6 weeks to complete the installation of the equipment.

In late March the Boaz Mill will be closed down to remove the equipment. After that equipment is installed, the Richland Center equipment will be taken out and installed. In addition to present equipment, a new feed load out system and a bulk mineral storage system, along with additional oats and shell corn storage, was added to make the new plant more efficient.

To accommodate customers from the Boaz area, we have put up a small feed warehouse at the Boaz Country Store. At that location we will be selling convenience feeds such as Horse feed, Calf feeds, salt mineral, milk replacer, and many other items that we floor stocked at the Boaz Mill.

Customers will be able to pick up feed 7 days a week; our hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This service at the Boaz store has been well received by our customers. For our customers with larger feed orders, we are providing a bag delivery service.

We will make every effort during the change over to take care of our customers needs. If there are any concerns, or questions, about the new operation, please talk to Bill, Joe, Amanda or myself for an answer. Thank you for your support.

Jim Husnik  
General Manager

## **CROPLAN CENTER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED**

### **SPRING SEED NEEDS**

The Croplan Center will have good supply of corn, alfalfa and soybeans as well as oats, oats & peas, clovers and grasses for your spring seeding or CRP land. All the seed will be available at the Croplan Center.

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.

Greg Ballweg  
Croplan Center 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 an XPress 24 card, stop by the office today. Remember, new customers get the first \$5.00 of fuel on us.

Jim Husnik  
General Manager

## **HEADLINE FUNGICIDE**

Headline fungicide protects your crop and investment to make your corn and soybeans more productive. Headline can reduce disease and stress on your crop while enhancing plant growth. In 53 on farm side-by-side trials in Wisconsin and Northern and Western Illinois, Headline treated corn out-yielded the untreated check 98.11% of the time with an average gross income increase of \$42.44/acre. For more information go to our website at [www.consumerscooperative.com](http://www.consumerscooperative.com) and read more about Headline Fungicide.

## **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 light to moderate Potato Leaf Hopper populations. With normal weather conditions this spring and summer the Potato Leaf Hopper populations should be higher. 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

## COMPLETING PROJECTS . . . ECONOMICALLY

Bad weather, equipment failure and trying to complete a project without the proper equipment are all factors that can lead to 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 and homeowners try to save money doing remodeling projects themselves. 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 CREDIT DEPARTMENT

Winter weather, at least on the calendar, will soon be replaced with the warm weather of spring. So it is a good time to make plans for the season ahead. Prepaying crop inputs is always a good way to take advantage of the best prices. Some of you have already prepaid and for those of you who haven't, it's not too late to do so. If you are going to need credit for this year's crop inputs, this is a good time to talk with your lender and get things started. This year you may also take advantage of using credit thru Farm Plan. Farm Plan offers two options for financing, their regular monthly pay plan and also a seasonal plan. You may want to look into Farm Plan as another option.

The home heating season will probably continue for quite a while yet, but consumption should be at a reduced level as the daytime temperatures warm. We have an increased number of customers wanting to use our Budget Payment Plan. This helps to level out your payments for fuel so you don't have to pay large amounts all at one time. You will be hearing more about this plan as the time draws near to the plan start date again.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have reduced your account receivable balances. Many of you always find a way to keep your account current, or paid, and this is much appreciated. Account receivables are at a high level right now and we ask those who have receivables outstanding to try and bring them current as soon as possible.

Remember, the big spring push will be here soon. Enjoy the spring weather and have a safe planting season.

Arnie Pharo  
Credit Dept.

## 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 enrolled in local schools. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ag Day Poster Contest. The top eight posters from each grade will be displayed at the Co-op's Annual Meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> so that patrons attending the 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 levels, 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 soil condition causing deficiency 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 soil condition causing deficiency 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

## FROM THE BOAZ COUNTRY STORE

We're your one stop for all of your convenient needs. And now open to serve you with our new addition, to the Boaz store is our Boaz Feed Center we're offering a good selection of feeds from calf, cow, horse, chicken, rabbit, and dogs foods and much more. Stop in and get a punch card, every time you purchase a 50lb bag of any of our feeds we will punch your card you can mix or match when you have filled your card with 40 punches you will receive a free item from the store. The month of February we are giving away a tombstone pizza. March is a half gallon of your favorite flavor of ice cream so stop in and get started with buying your feed and filling your punch card. Our Feed center is open 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 5:00pm. We're your one stop where you can get your fuel, renew your license plates, purchase your hunting and fishing license, get something to eat from our deli, or warm up with a hot bowl of our soup and now get your feed we also have bird seeds were your one stop with our fast friendly service. Stop in soon.

Store manager  
Ann Gerner

## 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 multaflora rose, prickly ash, berry briars, most broadleaf weeds as well as most varieties of thistle. Cimarron is another effective treatment for multaflora 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. Before mowing, be sure the mower blade is sharp. A dull blade will bruise and tear the grass tips, and they will eventually turn brown. Mow when the grass is dry to, eliminate shredding and whipping of the grass blades.

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 keep it watered, especially after seeding, and you will have the lush grass you desire.

Watering is of primary importance to your lawn. Recognizing when to water is not always easy. It is important to water often enough to keep adequate soil water in the roots at all times. The amount of watering needed depends on the kind of grass and the day-to-day temperature. Most lawns require about one to two inches per week. It is important to measure the amount of water applied, so that the soil is wet deep enough, but not over-watered. During drought periods, it is better not to water the lawn at all, or infrequently with a deep irrigation, than to tease the grass with light sprinkling. The grass may turn brown and become dormant, but will be revived with the next good rain.

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 helps it grow too, but other things also happen when you fertilize. Fertilizing helps 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 it that rich, green color everyone wants.

A beautiful, smooth 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 for the weeds. 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

## FROM THE L.P. & PETROLEUM DEPARTMENT

Spring will be here soon! Hard to believe it will arrive when all we saw in early February was -15° to -20° each morning. Degree-days are getting a little ahead of last year. As of February 8<sup>th</sup> we were at 4500-degree days.

March will be here soon and spring fieldwork is right around the corner. We will be contracting off-road diesel fuel for your spring, summer, and fall needs. We will be contacting our regular contract customers soon. If you are interested in a fuel contract, and we do not contact you, please call the office at 647-6171 and let us know.

Prepay on L.P. was a good buy again this year. Thank you to all our customers who prepaid or budgeted their fuel this year. It makes it very convenient for our drivers and office staff to keep your fuel tanks filled with no worries for you. Have a safe and happy spring.

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

## ORPHAN LAMB TIME

Land O'Lakes Ultra Fresh™ Lamb Milk Replacer is specially formulated with specific milk proteins, animal fat, and mineral levels to get lambs off to a fast and healthy start.

Here are some management tips to help with feeding orphan lambs:

- ✓ Lambs should receive colostrum milk soon after birth. Cow's colostrum will work if ewe's milk is not available.
- ✓ Remove lambs from ewes on the day after birth, if possible, and start lambs on Ultra Fresh™ Lamb Milk Replacer. Lambs should be removed from sight or hearing distance of the ewe.
- ✓ Feed Ultra Fresh™ Lamb Milk Replacer at body temperature.
- ✓ Keep milk replacer feeding equipment clean.
- ✓ Fresh, clean water should be provided at all times.
- ✓ Provide a warm, dry, draft-free area to start lambs. Lambs may require some assistance the first day or two to teach them to nurse on whatever feeding device is used.

▪ Joe McDonald  
Livestock Production Specialist

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Statistics show that women are the best calf feeding and health managers?**

An independent evaluation done several years ago ranked the best managers of calf operations as follows:

1. Women
2. Children of owner
3. Herdsman of dairy or hired calf manager
4. Owner of the lactating dairy (due to lack of time, owners ranked fourth)

Why do women make better calf managers? Could it be that...

- *Women have tender loving care and nurturing characteristics?*
- *Women pay attention to detail?*
- *Women have a sixth sense allowing quick identification of problems?*
- *Women have a unique ability to figure out what works and they stick to it?*

Men or women with a combination of these attributes make great calf managers. Calf managers, play an important role in the performance, health, and income of the dairy herd. Health, nutrition, and management during the first six months of a calf's life will have a dramatic influence on the performance of the cow, and ultimately, the financial health of the dairy.

Increasing your knowledge about your growing calves will always ensure your future success whatever the reason. We can help you with conventional, or intensive, fed calf feeding programs. We have calf health products, and industry leading milk replacer and calf starters. If you'd like more information on our calf product line up, or help evaluating your calf management, give me a call. Thank you for your time.

Amanda Daniels  
Livestock Production Specialist



# Consumers Cooperative

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

## 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 will help us coordinate our feed deliveries, and be as efficient as possible.

With any luck we will soon be operating from our new facility near the Croplan Center. We have a large selection of seed oats, oats and peas, grasses, clovers, and alfalfas available at the Croplan Center. For those of you that show cattle, hogs, or sheep, we also carry a complete line of Honor Show feeds at the Mill. 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.

With the closing of the Boaz Mill and the Richland Center Mill, don't forget we'll have feed available at the Boaz Country Store and the Grand Rental Station. The Boaz Store will carry most of the same feeds that the Boaz Mill carried. Grand Rental will carry pet foods and birdseed, and maybe a few other feeds. For all the people that did business at the Boaz Mill and don't want to pick up feed at the Boaz Store, don't forget about the bagged route delivery system. Call the Richland Center Mill at 647-6173 for more details about the route.

Even with feeder cattle prices down from what they were a year ago, it's still important to supply your beef cows with proper nutrients to get a healthy calf, and to help in breeding back for next year's calf. We carry a good line of minerals and blocks for beef cows. We also carry mineral feeders.

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

## RANGELAND HCP STRESS TUB

Rangeland HCP Stress Tub is a free choice supplement designed for young cattle and breeding animals prior to or after stress. This product is recommended for use in pre-weaning, hospital pens, and to the breeding herd 60 days prior to calving and through the breeding season.

Rangeland HCP Stress Tub is a highly palatable, molasses based supplement that provides the key nutrients needed for a fully functioning immune system. So that cattle are fully prepared to face of recover from the stresses. Rangeland HCP Stress Tub provides key nutrients involved in reproductive performance to positively impact fertility and estrus.

Rangeland HCP Stress Tub is low moisture cooked molasses product, which enhances consistent intake and nutrient delivery that helps eliminate over-consumption.

Rangeland HCP Stress Tub contains Zinpro's Availa-4 Complex Trace Mineral meeting 100% of trace minerals needs. Diamond V Yeast product, for better feed digestibility helps make more nutrients available to the animal for absorption, performance, health and production.

Joe McDonald  
Livestock Production Specialist

## ROTATE YOUR CORN HYBRIDS

In this area we depend primarily on long-term cold weather to kill disease inoculums on corm trash. Since we have not had long term cold weather in the last two winters you can be sure that disease pressure is increasing along with insect pressures in your corn-on-corn fields.

Corn hybrid susceptibility to diseases can greatly depend on the genetics of each hybrid. Planting the same hybrid corn-on-corn, in the same field year after year, will lead to an increased level of disease inoculums that the hybrid is susceptible to.

One very simple management tool you can use to reduce your risk for yield loss is to rotate the hybrids in your corn-on-corn situations. This can drastically change the spectrum of disease susceptibility in each field and prevent the build up of variety specific disease inoculums.

## 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, which maximizes 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 weeds 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

## 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, and 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 inflatable toys to make your event special, with a strong emphasis on superior quality tenting.

We provide quality wedding and party equipment for indoor or outdoor settings. Family gatherings, graduations, anniversaries, or anytime parties can be unforgettable events 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

## SEEDING AND FERTILIZING PASTURES

Spring is a good time to seed your pastures. Abundant moisture and cool growing conditions will help establish legumes and grasses in your pasture. You may use a conventional tillage system or a no-till system to establish 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 and perennial grasses into pastures can increase tonnage and feed quality. Please call the Croplan Center with any question you may have.

Greg Ballweg  
Agronomy Department Manager

## 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

## 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 Greg, Vaughn, or Steve at Consumers Co-op to do a root evaluation for you. Our Agronomy representative will evaluate your stand based on the condition of the roots. They will score you 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.

## 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 ZTR 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.

## SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODES ARE HERE

Soybean cyst nematodes (SCN) are a serious soybean pest in the United States, and are responsible for millions of dollars in yield losses each year. Many growers do not know their fields are infected with SCN because it often causes no specific diagnostic symptoms. Yield losses up to 30% can occur without obvious symptoms.

SCN is a parasitic, microscopic roundworm that invades the soybean root vascular system as juvenile forming specialized feeding cells. SCN remove nutrients disrupt water uptake and retard root growth. Nematode damage also makes soybean roots more susceptible to invasion by root-rotting fungal diseases.

Soil sampling is the best way to detect the presence of SCN. Cost for SCN sample is about \$25.00; however we do have a limited supply of soil test kits available at no charge. Please call the Croplan Center if you would like a soil sample pulled to see if SCN are present in your fields.

Vaughn Ramsden  
Agronomy Sales

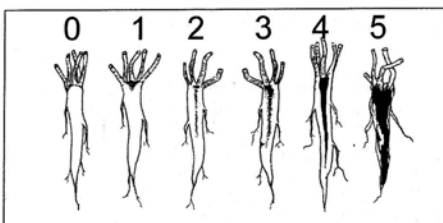
## FARM PLAN FINANCING PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Consumers Cooperative now accepts Preferred Farm Plan Account transactions. You can use your Farm Plan Preferred Account for everyday needs such as feed, fuel and agronomy inputs with monthly payments, or you can use it as a seasonal loan for spring expenses with the balance due in December 2007. For more information or to apply for your Preferred Farm Plan Account, please call the office at 608-647-6171.



## 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*