

CORN TALK

October / November 2015 A Publication for North Dakota Corn Growers Association Members



IHRY SELECTED AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The ND Corn Council and the ND Corn Growers Association are pleased to welcome Dale Ihry as our new executive director. He will begin his duties on November 2, 2015.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dale as our new executive director. We will benefit from his leadership and experience. He will strengthen the relationship between the Council and our producers," states ND Corn Council Chairman Scott German.

Ihry was the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Director in charge of the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for FSA in North Dakota. Ihry has been in the North Dakota State FSA Office since 1987. As a program director, he was responsible for planning and carrying out all aspects of the ARC and PLC programs in North Dakota. Ihry's position also required close working relationships with other federal USDA agencies, the U.S. Attorney's Office, State government agencies, the Governor's office, congressional offices, commodity groups and agricultural media.

Previous to working in the North Dakota State FSA Office, Ihry served as the County Executive Director at the Ward County FSA Office from January 1984 through June 1987. Prior to 1983, Ihry worked as a field assistant during the summers for the Steele County FSA Office.

Ihry received a degree in Business Administration from Moorhead State University in Moorhead, Minn. He was born and raised on the family farm that produced wheat, feed, grain, sunflowers and cattle near Hope, N.D. Ihry also owns livestock with his family members and enjoys visiting the farm as time permits.

"I'm looking at this position as a new challenge to get a closer working relationship with farmers in North Dakota," Ihry says. "It's an opportunity to work with farmers and their alliances, to push their goals in raising and marketing corn. I am also aware of and looking forward to, the learning curve this new job will require."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 02** | COUNCIL NEWS & GROWERS REPORT
- 05** | E85 RACING HAS SUCCESSFUL RACING SEASON
- 08** | DDGs PROVIDES KEY BENEFITS IN BACKGROUNDING RATIONS

- 10** | BANQUET IN A FIELD SERVES EDUCATION TO CONSUMERS
- 13** | NAGC OPEN HOUSE
- 17** | BIG IRON RECAP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 3, 2015
NDCUC Board Meeting
Fargo, N.D.

DECEMBER 3, 2015
NDCGA Board Meeting
Fargo, N.D.

CORNVENTION
February 3, 2016
Holiday Inn
Fargo, N.D.

COUNCIL NEWS

SCOTT GERMAN, CHAIRMAN



Fellow producers as I write this article from my pick seat and while dumping a truck, it's a sign corn harvest has hit full swing.

One issue that the ND Corn Council has been working hard on is crop insurance.

There are some in this world that think prevent plant is an open checkbook for producers. As we all know, Mother Nature always has the last say on how spring planting goes and sometimes you just can't get your crop planted.

Prevent plant (PP) is vital for producers in the prairie pothole region. There has been many changes thrown around as to how to get rid of PP. Some of those ideas have been

to: 1. Make it a separate rider. 2. Having PP acres count against your Actual Production History (APH) insurance. 3. Consider lower payment rates from 60 to 40 percent of your guarantee.

The Council's public policy team funded a joint study between NDSU and the University of Illinois to show that leaving PP just the way it is, is actually sound. This study compared counties in N.D. and Iowa in crop years 2008 to 2012 and found that North Dakota loss ratio was actually lower with PP than Iowa. Randy Melvin, chair of public policy, who also sits on the NCGA national public policy team was very instrumental in getting this study done. He, along with a group of growers and council members, met with RMA and our star legislators to testify how important it is to let the 1 in 4 rule work that RMA implemented in 2013.

I am happy to say that with the help of U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp and their staff, RMA leadership has indicated that no changes will be made for crop year 2016. Although good news for next year, we must continue to work hard to educate those in the industry on how important this is to N.D. corn producers.

GROWERS REPORT

CARSON KLOSTERMAN, PRESIDENT



I hope this finds everyone busy with a bountiful harvest!

Some good news over the past month has been the progress made on the RFS. By a vote of 7-15, the Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs soundly

rejected an amendment offered by Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), to eliminate corn ethanol from the Renewable Fuel Standard. NCGA President Chip Bowling, a farmer from Newburg, Md., issued the following statement in response to the vote:

"... The RFS works. Today, America has cleaner air, greater energy independence, and stronger rural economies - all because of the Renewable Fuel Standard ... we especially want to thank Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who voiced their support for clean, renewable energy and America's rural economies at today's hearing. Their leadership is commendable ..."

As we all know the RFS has been a great success for rural America and corn farmers. Continued support will always be needed, so please keep your voices heard.

As harvest continues, **PLEASE BE SAFE!**

NEWS FROM NCGA

NCGA JOINS CALL FOR UNIFORM NATIONAL LABELING STANDARD

Representatives of the National Corn Growers Association were on Capitol Hill to urge Congress to pass a uniform national labeling standard for foods made with genetically modified organisms.

The fly-in, organized by the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food, included 125 representatives from the entirety of the nation's food supply chain, from farmers to food companies. Farmers and state staffers from the Indiana Corn Growers Association, Minnesota Corn Growers Association, and Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association joined NCGA in the effort.

"With farming such a vital piece of Minnesota's economy, I was excited by the opportunity to discuss why a uniform, national food labeling standard makes sense for Minnesota farmers today," said Anna Boroff, public policy director for the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. "There is enough unpredictability involved in farming, we certainly don't need more. Unfortunately, if Congress doesn't act soon, that's exactly what will happen. It's time for the Senate to pass reasonable legislation that gives farmers and consumers a consistent, transparent labeling standard."

With Vermont's state GMO labeling mandate set to go into effect in July 2016, participants urged the Senate to quickly take up and pass the national standard. In July 2015, similar legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a significant, bipartisan majority. If passed by the Senate, the bill would ensure consumers have access to the same science-based information in all 50 states. It would also create a national GMO-free certification program, so that consumers who prefer GMO-free foods have a consistent means of identifying those products.



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CAN WE WEATHER LOW COMMODITY PRICES, I BELIEVE THE ANSWER IS YES!



Kent Beadle
Marketing Manager

CHS Hedging/Russell
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As a market analyst whose job is to follow not just grain and livestock markets, but all markets that impact agriculture, I have been bombarded with stories that have titles such as: "The End of the Commodity Super Cycle," "Commodities-RIP," and "The Exodus from Commodity Index Funds." If one was to accept as gospel the tone of these articles, you might get the impression that the price of all commodities was on a fast track to zero. Or at least to the depressed levels of the mid-80's or even the mid-2000's. It certainly is true that commodity prices are in the lower part of the ranges that we have seen since 2007, a year in which many commodities broke through to a "new plateau." Despite our current lower price structure, I believe that the future of agriculture is bright and that there will be many opportunities to profitably grow your production agriculture business over the next several years. Low interest rates, surging demand for agricultural products, strong producer balance sheets, improved technologies and a shrinking world corn balance sheet are all reasons to be optimistic for our future.

As I write this article, the Federal Reserve is contemplating its first interest rate hike since the financial crisis that developed in late 2007 and lasted into early 2009. Short term interest rates are near zero and have been parked there for very long time. An interest rate hike whether it occurs in September, December or in early 2016, will likely be ¼ of a point, and will likely be followed by a series of ¼ point increases every two or three months until short term rates are two to three percent. These interest rates are still extremely cheap in historical terms, and should not have

a detrimental impact to production agriculture. Borrowing costs will remain in the lower part of the historical norm, and that is good for investing in growth. The dollar rally that occurred in early 2015 appears to have priced in the slow gains in interest rates we referred to above. We believe the dollar has made a significant top.

More importantly, we have seen a strong uptick in demand for U.S. agricultural products since the drought of 2012. At that time, it was assumed by many in the trade that the high prices that brought additional world acreage into production, would result in a long term shift in export patterns that would keep U.S. exports small for a long time. In other words, the fear was that we would not be able to regain the export markets that were lost. Instead, corn exports in 2013-2014 rebounded to over 1.9 billion bushels, and are approaching that level in 2014-2015. Soybean exports from the U.S. made a new record this year despite strong South American competition. While wheat has found strong world competition, our total exports of wheat, corn and soybeans in 2013-2014 posted the second highest total of all the years since 1980. No doubt some of that was due to world re-pipelining,^β but this past year was close to that total.

Farm Sector balance sheets made huge strides in the early part of this decade. At the end of 2014, total farm sector equity was reported by the USDA at nearly 2.6 trillion dollars. This was more than double the level reported 10 years earlier, at the end of 2004. Now it is true that the USDA forecast for 2015 is 100 billion lower, at just under 2.5 trillion dollars. Some of the decline in equity is coming due to the recent decline in land values, with the rest due to less valuable inventory. It is also true that farm sector debt has jumped significantly in the past two years (over 50 billion dollars). This would be concerning but for the fact that the low interest rates have encouraged growers to take on debt to finance growth, instead of dipping into their newly found equity. Debt to asset and debt to equity ratios remain solidly in the middle of the ranges that have existed since 2000, meaning the grower is still in very good shape.

While some of the investment in growth has been investment in land, a significant portion of the grower's recent investment has been in new technology. The investment in precision-ag systems that result in both higher yields, and

- CONTINUE TO PAGE 19 -

E85 RACING TEAM HAS SUCCESSFUL SEASON



Photo credit: Speedway Shots by Mike Spieker

Jason Strand and the E85 Racing Team had a very successful 2015 season in the Ethanol-powered racecar, bringing home a record breaking 10 feature wins and track points championship at Norman County Raceway in Ada, Minn. The 10 feature wins included a win at almost every track the E85 Team raced at. The season started out in March at Humboldt Speedway in Humboldt, Kan. and finished off in August at the Norman County Raceway in Ada, Minn.

Other tracks the E85 team visited include ALH Speedway in Mordon, Man., Devils Lake Speedway in Doyon, N.D., I-94 Speedway in Fergus Falls, Minn., Jamestown Speedway in Jamestown, N.D., and River Cities Speedway in Grand Forks, N.D. We had 20 top five finishes and three top 10 finishes. Three nights of a clean sweep, meaning we won the heat and the feature. At the Battle at the Bullring B-Mod Nationals at Humboldt Speedway, Jason was in the top 30 out of 150 drivers. In late June, there was the B-Mod Blitz at Norman County Raceway where the E85 car took the two-night sweep!

Jason was featured in articles in multiple newspapers this summer, including "The Jamestown Sun," "The Grand Forks Herald" and "All The Dirt." He was also featured on two radio shows, "Racing on the Radio" on KRJB and "Midwest Motorsports Weekly" on KTRF. In August, we had North Dakota Corn Growers ethanol trivia night at the races. The crowd enjoyed playing along. Winners received a bag of popcorn and a driver card!

We'd like to thank all of our sponsors including the North Dakota Corn Growers for their sponsorship. We appreciate the opportunity to help promote their business and American Ethanol.

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HYBRID SELECTION FOR 2016



John Flaa

District Sales Manager

Southeast North Dakota/
West Central Minnesota



Selecting corn hybrids is definitely 'Top of List' for management decisions each winter. Every year, you can see 30-50 bushel swings in plots around your area. Some of these differences come from something other than genetics (hybrid selection), but hybrid selection is the starting point of yield potential. I have seen it all...animal damage, population issues, sprayer tracks, compaction areas, etc.

As I write this, I am looking over trials myself, and looking for my dog collars, as pheasant opener is here! Most trials I pay attention to are our internal replicated trials. They are small and have less chance for differences due to changing environment (soil mainly). While perusing through piles of data, I try to make educated guesses on which experimental lines to move forward with and start offering in Proseed's lineup. My criteria are not different from a grower's when choosing hybrids. Considerations are as follows:

Yield...You gotta choose products that have a high yield potential if you want high yields. Some hybrids just can't ring the bell in the good years and good fields. Although some say "It's not all about Yield", it pretty much is. However, you don't want to grab a hybrid that tops yield trials but also tops the stalk lodging trials as well. I never advance a hybrid that tests below the Yield Mean of our trials and prefer them to be in the top 1/3.

Look at as many trials as you can. There is strength in numbers. Look at as many different locations as you can. Differing environments are great to look at. Be as critical as possible when looking at data. I just looked at a trial that had population ranges from 25K to 36K. How do you suppose a very "fixed ear" hybrid performed at 25k? Not well. I use

a fair amount of what I call 3rd party data...someone other than Proseed planting and harvesting our trials. I ground truth these in the summer. Some are excellent and some are crap. You need to know some things about the trials you are looking at as well. If possible, look at multiple years. This is proving more difficult, as hybrid life cycles are much shorter now than a couple decades ago.

Choose hybrids that are in your maturity zone. I watch flowering dates and moistures closely. Looking at performance data of an 80 day hybrid in Fargo is not as beneficial to me as looking at the same product in the zone where it belongs. Longer maturity usually means more corn...within reason. It also usually brings added moisture, however this fall Mother Nature sure helped on drying.

Traits/specific agronomics for your farm. Corn rootworm, European Corn Borer, Corn earworm, Cutworms, Roundup, Liberty, Huge emergence scores, Great Late season stalks, etc. Hybrids need to be placed correctly to perform near their potential. I would recommend different hybrids for corn following corn or other previous crops. Hybrid differences can be seen in different soil type, planting dates, the list could go on.

Ask someone you trust. Seek out information yourself that is non bias. Yield info is easy to find. Agronomic qualities can be read from a book, but are better coming from someone with direct experience...crop consultants, agronomists and seed company reps. Be careful with the last one though, because not everyone knows what they are talking about.

Have a fun and safe rest of the fall harvest/hunting season.

Their certainly is many moving parts to corn yield potential throughout the whole season. At the beginning of the growing season a lot of time is spent by farmers providing the right fertility, herbicides, and other management practices to set the corn plant up for a successful grain fill period. The last half of the season it is up to mother nature to give the final result-yield. While we can try and out guess mother nature by yield estimators and calculators, the ultimate yield calculator is the combine yield monitor and elevator scale! Hope that you have a safe and successful harvest!



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Distillers Grains Provides Key Benefits in Backgrounding Rations

By Colette “Koko” Gjermundson for the North Dakota Ethanol Council

Distillers grain has three key benefits in backgrounding rations: 1) improved nutrition, 2) starting cattle on feed and 3) potential economic savings.

“We’re always short on protein, so for us, using distillers grain is a simple protein fix,” said Travis Bell, Edgewood Ranch, Fordville. While the distillers grain is usually included as a protein, Bell added, “We use it as an energy source, too. It’s a good product.”

Second, Bell explained that feeding wet or modified distillers grain encourages steers and heifers to come to the bunk more quickly and easily than they would without it. The co-product also helps keep cattle on feed.

Finally, wet distillers grain mixes well with poorer quality hay or straw, making cattle more willing to eat and utilize less-palatable roughage. That adds value and saves money. “We can get by with feeding a lot of cheaper feeds that way since a lot of our feed is co-product or by-product anyway,” Bell said, noting that they also feed beet pulp.

THE OPERATION

Edgewood Ranch is a third-generation cow/calf and feedlot operation located three miles west of Fordville in south central Walsh County. Travis, his wife, Corri, and their three children: Lane, Kodi and Cale, and two employees keep the agricultural enterprise going. Travis’ father, Arden Bell, is retired but helps out as needed, as do his two sisters.

The Bell Family has used distillers grains for about 10 years, initially buying the product at Walhalla. “It was nice having a plant an hour away,” Travis said. “Now we’re driving two hours away so there’s a little more freight to it, but it’s still worth getting.” Currently, they purchase distillers grains from Tharaldson Ethanol, Casselton, and Green Plains Otter Tail, Fergus Falls, Minn. Price breaks determine whether the distillers grain is used as a protein source or as an energy source.

Besides using distillers grains in their backgrounding rations, Bells feed distillers grains to cows, replacement heifers and feeder lambs. “We make it



work for everything,” Travis said. “In our cowherd we’re able to feed straw versus hay for several winter months, so our savings per day per cow are significant.” It coats the feed which means the cows like it and eat it that much better. In addition, “We start our replacement heifers on it to get them in condition,” he said. Edgewood Ranch also has a registered Hampshire and Dorset flock and feeds 1,000 feeder lambs annually, incorporating distillers grains into those rations as well.

CO-PRODUCT LOGISTICS

Edgewood Ranch feeds strictly wet distillers grain. “It works best for us,” Travis said, noting that they don’t have bins set up for dry distillers. “We usually have enough cattle around here where we can go through a load of wet cake fairly fast.”

At given times, there are deals on wet product. He explained, “When the plants have shut downs or breakdowns we haul in a surplus of ten to 15 loads at a time.” Since the operation owns and operates its own trucks, using wet distillers grains keeps their employees busier than the dry product would. He smiled, “Our truck drivers want their hours.”

Edgewood Ranch stores its feed on a 75 x 100-foot cement slab bunker with wet cake in one corner, beet pulp is in another and dry feeds in the middle. “We just keep bunching it up and getting it into a corner as much as we can,” Bell said.

RESEARCH WISE

“There are a lot of plusses for using distillers grains in backgrounding scenarios,” said Greg Lardy, Ph.D., department head, North Dakota State University Animal Sciences Department, Fargo. The co-product can compliment grain-based or forage-based backgrounding programs due to added protein, increased moisture for ration conditioning and improved palatability, “It helps cattle get started on feed and stay on feed pretty well,” Lardy said, adding that modified or wet distillers cuts down on dust and increases palatability.

Lardy noted that a nutritionist can help a producer formulate a ration. This includes managing any sulfur concerns as there are potential sulfur toxicity issues depending on the amount of sulfate in the ration components and the water source. Lardy recommends gradually acclimating the cattle to the feed over the course of a couple of weeks.

Details on various in-state studies featuring distillers grains in backgrounding diets are available online at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu>.

Travis Bell concluded, “For the guys who are still out there just feeding hay, I think you’d save some more money by using distillers grains, that’s for sure. If you have the feed wagon and the means to get the co-product, it surely would benefit your cattle.”

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BANQUET IN A FIELD SERVES FOOD AND FARMING EDUCATION TO CONSUMERS

COMMONGROUND NORTH DAKOTA CONNECTS MORE THAN 100 CONSUMERS AND FARMERS

More than 120 people came together yesterday for CommonGround North Dakota's second annual Banquet in a Field. The event, hosted at Peterson Farms Seed [Harwood, N.D.], connected Fargo-area influencers with farmers who raise and produce food. Guests were invited to ask food and agricultural questions as they toured 11 different crop plots. They enjoyed a five-course meal featuring 11 crops and three meats, all products from North Dakota farms and ranches.

"We were thrilled to participate by hosting this great farm-to-plate event. We planted 11 crops – all used in the fantastic meal," says Julie Peterson, owner and vice president of Peterson Farms Seed. "Eating a delicious appetizer and then being able to associate it with the plant from which it was grown, is a unique learning experience."

Dinner and appetizers, prepared by Tony and Sarah Nasello of Sarello's Culinary Events and Meeting Center, included North Dakota-grown potatoes, flax, canola, sugar beets, pinto beans, soybeans, corn, sunflowers, durum, spring wheat and barley – as well as pork, lamb and beef. North Dakota FFA State Officers along with FFA members from Carrington, Kindred, Tappen, Wishek and Wyndmere served dinner.

"Connecting the Fargo community to North Dakota agriculture builds invaluable relationships. CommonGround North Dakota had 21 volunteers from across the state working together to make it possible," says Katie Pinke, CommonGround North Dakota's volunteer coordinator.

Banquet in a Field is supported by a broad-based coalition of organizations including AdFarm, AgCountry, Napoleon Livestock, North Dakota Beef Commission, North Dakota Corn Growers Association, North Dakota FFA Foundation, North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, North Dakota Pork Council, North Dakota Soybean Council, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, North Dakota Wheat Commission, Northharvest Bean Growers Association, Peterson Farms Seed and Sarello's Culinary Events & Meeting Center.

For recipes of the food prepared for Banquet in a Field visit Nasello's blog at: <http://thelostitalian.areavoices.com/>

ABOUT COMMONGROUND NORTH DAKOTA

CommonGround is a national movement of farm women who want to share information about farming and the food they grow. Consumers in the cities and suburbs are more disconnected from farm life than ever before, and that disconnect has led to misconceptions about modern farming and the people behind it. CommonGround is a group of North Dakota farm women working to help dispel myths and build trust in farm families again.



Haley Klosterman greets visitors at the Banquet in a Field corn plot.



NDCGA President Carson Klosterman answers questions from guests at Banquet in a Field 2015.

STALK ROTS ARE DEVELOPING IN SOME FIELDS



Stalk rots are a consistent problem in corn production, causing yield loss through premature death, stalk lodging and impede

harvest progress. When plants die prematurely, the result is poor yield and low test weight grain. If the plant survives the maturity, yield may not be greatly affected. However, rotted stalks will easily lodge, making difficult or impossible. Stalk rots are caused by several different fungi that infect the plant through the roots or wounds in the stalk. The occurrence of stalk rot is increased when the corn plant is stressed during the grain filling stage of development. Any conditions that reduce photosynthesis and the production of sugars can increase the chances of severe stalk rot. Stresses can include leaf diseases, hail damage, drought, saturated soils, lack of sunlight, extended periods of cool weather and insect damage. Insects such as European Corn Borer and Stalk Borer can provide wounds for entrance of stalk rot fungi. Many stalk rot infections can be traced back to stalk boring insect wounds. Early maturing hybrids are more likely to suffer more stalk rot damage than full-season hybrids.

General Stalk Rot Symptoms

Stalk rots have many symptoms in common, and other symptoms that are specific to a particular fungi. Most stalk rots cause deterioration of the pith tissue, leaving the vascular bundle intact, giving the interior of the stalk a shredded appearance. The pith can also be discolored. Discoloration can be multiple colors depending on the pathogen. The discoloration usually begins at the nodes and may have a water soaked appearance initially. Damaged stalks can be easily compressed or crushed when pinched. Stalk rot can go unnoticed if the pith deterioration is the only symptom. The more pronounced symptoms occur when the plant dies before the grain reaches maturity. Leaves wilt and die, turning brown, gray, or sometimes purple, giving the plant a frosted appearance. In some cases, the surface of the stalk may have streaks, another obvious symptom is lodging. Several fungi are common in our production fields and can opportunistically cause stalk rot diseases in stressed plants. The more common of the fungal and bacterial pathogens that can cause stalk rot diseases are summarized below.

Fusarium Stalk Rot is especially common during damp conditions, but may occur anywhere, including in irrigated fields this year. The pathogen, *Fusarium verticillioides*, can sometimes be visible as white fungal growth on the outside

of stalks at the nodes. Eventually, the disease may cause a pink to salmon discoloration of the inside of stalks.

Anthracnose Stalk Rot is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum graminicola*, which also causes a leaf disease and is a common cause of top rot disease of corn. In more advanced stages the disease can cause the development of black lesions visible on the outside of the stalk.

Diplodia Stalk Rot can cause both an ear and a stalk rot. The fungus causing Diplodia Stalk Rot reproduces with microscopic spores inside minute raised black structures (pynidia) that can give the stalk a rough/sandpaper-like feeling.

Management - Nothing can be done at this point in the season to stop stalk or ear rots as affected plants will continue to degrade over time further weakening them. But, you can work to minimize your losses by identifying which fields have the worst stalk rot diseases and adjust the harvest order of those fields. Consider harvesting or chopping those fields that are heavily impacted by stalk rots first or earlier to minimize losses that can occur after lodging. Crop rotation will reduce inoculum, good drainage, balanced fertilization; appropriate plant populations and hybrid selection will decrease your chances of severe damage from stalk rots. If you are in doubt about the identity of a disease or cause of another plant problem, you can submit a sample to your Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic for diagnosis.

Source: UNL Crop Watch Sept. 15, 2015



Have a safe harvest!



THE SEASONS OF MULTI-PERIL



Kristen Huschka
Senior Insurance Specialist



In the MPCl world we have 3 Seasons: Sales Closing, Acreage Reporting, and Production Reporting/Claims. We are currently right in the middle of Production Reporting/Claims season.

The first claims of the season occur before planting is even over, when growers realize that their crop has poor emergence. The last claims of the season are uncovered after harvest prices are announced and production reports are submitted.

There are many "official" rules about claims, but here are 3 easy-to-understand things you can do to enjoy a positive MPCl claim experience:

1. Communicate potential problems as soon as you notice them.
2. Make an accurate and timely acreage report.
3. Complete a production report as soon as possible after harvest, so we can double-check for losses. Insurance companies have the authority to deny a claim if not filed before the appropriate deadline.

Here are some real-life comments that illustrate some of those official rules and changing policyholder concerns as the growing season unfolded. Names have been changed to protect the innocent.

04/08/15: Alan called to ask about earliest planting date for corn and soybeans. I gave him the dates and told him that replant payments are not available on acreage planted prior to earliest planting date.

05/14/15: R.E. Plant is concerned about soybean emergence because of the cold, wet weather. I told him that I would file a replant notice of loss, even though it could be awhile before the ground is fit to replant. I told him that on a replant, acres planted after the final plant date, do not have reduced coverage.

06/02/15: Cal called to say he will have some prevent plant acres. Also, his corn looks tough, but he isn't interested in replanting or destroying corn to plant SB. I told him that he should contact us if he decides to work down any corn, even if there is no 2nd crop or replant.

06/08/15: Earl and Doug stopped in to review their planting situation. They have several quarters that have not been planted yet. I ran the numbers for PP and late-planting and compared the pros and cons. Their PP corn liability is decent, but is offset by a higher premium because they don't qualify for an Enterprise Unit discount.

07/06/15: George told me that he needs to commingle his 2015 wheat with his 2014 wheat to make room for corn. I told him that we need to have both bins measured before commingling production across crop years.

08/17/15: Harry called to discuss the severity of last night's hail damage and wants an adjuster's opinion on yield potential for corn. I filed a notice of loss and asked for an appraisal.

08/17/15: Sam is done harvesting wheat and some of it was hail-damaged. With an estimated harvest price of \$5.19, he would have a payable loss if he produced <52 bu/acre. He is going to review his harvest records and let me know if he has a claim. He says it's going to be close.

09/01/15: Alex called to visit about any potential crop insurance payment for the vomitoxin in his barley. He estimates levels at 2 ppm for most fields. I told Alex that quality adjustments for barley begin at 5.1 ppm. His barley yield was much higher than his guarantee. There is no quality loss and no production loss.

- CONTINUE TO PAGE 15 -

■ NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL GENOTYPING CENTER OPEN HOUSE



Genotyping staff welcomed 50 guests to their new laboratory on the Campus of North Dakota State University on September 23.

Guests included Congressman Kevin Cramer, Jessica Lee, Regional Director for Senator John Hoeven and the National Agricultural Genotyping Center Board of Directors. Guests were able to get a first glimpse of the new NAGC lab and to meet the staff.

An additional open house is planned for the Spring of 2016, once the National Agricultural Genotyping Center becomes fully operational.



NAGC staff and board members welcomed Congressman Kevin Cramer to their open house.



Left to right: Bob Bowman, Denny Maple and Tom Mueller, NAGC board members attend the open house.



NAGC Lab Manager Megan Palmer leads a tour at the open house.

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■ WHY YOUR SEED PROVIDER SHOULD BE A FARMER FIRST



A seed partner's experience and knowledge make the difference each day for growers. For Thunder Seed the roots go back more than three generations. It is a collaboration of three family farms built on a passion for the land and passing down the skills they

know to their sons and daughters. Thunder Seed knows the importance of high quality seed and they want growers to have that same confidence in their seed planted today and in the future.

For more than 20 years, Thunder Seed develops varieties through world-class technology and distributes them to growers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and western Canada. The seed genetics with traits overcome challenges such as pests, diseases and excess moisture and produce a higher for your fields. Thunder Seed breeds its seed under adverse soil conditions in challenging environments to ensure growers have the best varieties capable of adapting to stressful conditions. Its cold vigor germination testing renders the highest plant populations, while specially selected varieties stand up to shattering. Thunder Seed also develops its corn seeds with excellent resistance to drought and diseases.

Thunder Seed also spends years working to create seeds that can handle it all and deliver consistently high yields. And they prove it in their fields first before ever releasing them. So growers know they're getting seeds that have been tried and tested ten times over.

A farmer-first company like Thunder Seed also values and respects fellow growers, regardless of the size of their operation. It understands that farming means hard work, long days and sacrifices. And to get growers through the year, it's committed to being there when they need them, whether its agronomic advice or help with selecting seeds.

So next time you need seed look below the surface; look for a farmer. Look for Thunder Seed.

About Thunder Seed

Thunder Seed sells through a network of distributors and dealers in the United States and Canada. Its mission is to provide customers with the highest quality seed, exceptional service and unlimited yield potential through attention to agronomic detail that is backed by years of trust, experience and integrity. For more information visit www.thunderseed.com, or contact the company at 1-888-6Thunder (888-684-8633) or info@thunderseed.com.

■ NIGHT AT THE F-M REDHAWKS

ND Corn Growers Association members and their families were treated to nine innings of fun at Newman Outdoor Field as the F-M Redhawks took on the St. Paul Saints on August 4.

About 450 members came together to watch the St. Paul Saints defeat the F-M Redhawks 15-4. The loss couldn't dampen the spirits of attendees and everyone had a great time!

ND Corn Growers President Carson Klosterman and "Corny" threw out the first pitch. "It was a beautiful night for baseball and we had a great turnout of members from around the state," said Klosterman. "It was great to get together, watch baseball and relax before harvest."



THE SEASONS OF MULTI-PERIL

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12 -

10/01/15: Travis called and said that they have about 500 acres that are not worth harvesting because of hail damage. I notified the insurance company and asked them to send an adjuster to appraise the acres as soon as possible. I also told him not to destroy until after the appraisal.

My goal as an Insurance Specialist is to help establish meaningful and affordable coverage, manage the annual policy maintenance, and make sure any claims are settled quickly and accurately. I hope this article helps you understand what perils are covered, and encourages you to communicate claims as soon as you recognize a potential problem.

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AND PROFITABILITY
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2015 PHOTO CONTEST

We are excited to announce that we will have another Photo Contest in 2015! The submitted entries in prior years have been outstanding and we are looking forward to seeing the photos that are submitted this year!

- Photographs must be taken in North Dakota.
- Photographs must depict the corn industry.
- Photographs must not be from a professional.
- Photographs must be emailed to jean@ndcorn.org by **Friday, January 9, 2016**. Please include your full name and phone numbers, so we may contact you in the event that your entry is a winner.

- 1st Place will receive \$100
- 2nd Place will receive \$50
- 3rd Place will receive \$25

Submitted photographs will be used in ND Corn marketing and promotional pieces or forwarded to others requesting photos of our industry.

ND CORN SCHOLARSHIPS

The ND Corn Growers Association will offer ten (10) \$1,000 scholarships to senior high school graduates and college students of ND Corn Growers members. Winners will be recognized at the noon luncheon at CornVention (Wednesday, February 3, 2016). There will be one winner from each of the seven grower districts as well as three overall winners from all scholarship applications.

- School transcript
- Activity participation
- Being a child of a ND Corn Grower member.

Applications will be available on our website by mid-November at www.ndcorn.org.



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ASSOCIATION



Membership Form

ND Corn Growers Association
1411 32nd St South, Ste 2 – Fargo, ND 58103
Phone: (701) 364-2250 Fax: (701) 298-7810

To become a member of the ND Corn Growers Association, complete the following and mail to the above address.

Name: _____ Farm/Company _____

I want membership in Farm/Company name: Yes No

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

County _____ E-Mail: _____

Phone Number (Home): _____ Phone Number (Cell/Business) _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Recruiter Name: _____

This partial refund form enables ND Corn Producers to use their corn promotional check-off to pay NDCGA membership dues only.

_____ I have paid the promotional check-off for at least 12,000 bushels of corn entitling me to a free 1-year membership.

_____ I have paid the promotional check-off for at least 24,000 bushels of corn entitling me to a free 3-year membership.

_____ I have not paid the minimum promotional check-off on corn, but wish to become a member.

(Circle one): 1 Year = \$35 3 Years = \$85

New Membership _____ Renewal _____

By signing below, I certify that I have sold and checked off the above numbers of bushels of corn within one year of this date. I authorize and assign payment of the above checked dollars for a membership in the North Dakota Corn Growers Association.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

BIG IRON



Jean Henning, accountant budget specialist and Julie Wagner, temporary administrative assistant, pop a record 250 pounds of popcorn at Big Iron.



ND Corn Grower Board Member Rob Hanson from Wimbledon, N.D., hands out a coffee cup to booth visitors.



ND Corn Grower Board Member Larry Hoffmann from Wheatland, N.D. and Staff Member Jean Henning look through new membership applications.

ND Corn staff and board members attended Big Iron on September 15-17 at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D.

The Big Iron Farm Show began in 1980 in Casselton, N.D. The event celebrated its 35th year this past September. More than 64,000 attendees came from across the U.S. and several other countries. They connected with their peers and attended training sessions.

ND Corn staff and board members interacted with fellow members and also solicited 40 new members. Great conversations were held about the benefits of ethanol, how the 2015 crop is looking and also the latest in farm news.

ND Corn staff popped and handed out a record 250 pounds of free popcorn to visitors at the booth. Board members also handed out 800 free coffee mugs during the first day of Big Iron. The smell of fresh popcorn drew people from the 200 acres of Big Iron Demonstrations.



ND Corn Grower Board Member Kevin Skunes from Arthur, N.D., discusses the latest farm news with Mick Kjar on 890 AM Radio.

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STAND TALL

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- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 -

in lower input costs, is an investment that will quickly pay returns. Investment in "proven" technologies are essential for growers to stay competitive in the current environment.

Finally, the world corn balance sheet is shrinking. Europe had a drought this summer that trimmed over 17 million metric tons from their production. World ending stocks will be about 8 MMT lower. And high input costs due to very weak currencies will likely result in less corn acres in Brazil this fall, and in Russia and the Ukraine next spring. It will only take one weather "hick-up" in an important producing area and we will likely see good marketing opportunities once again.

A financially strong farmer, and continued market volatility makes us believe that yes, we can endure low commodity prices and grow our production agriculture businesses well into the future.

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CORNVENTION 2016

CornVention will be held on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016**, at the Holiday Inn located in Fargo, N.D.

More detailed information will be placed in the December/January issue of CornTalk and will also be posted on our website.

2015

NDCGA Board of Directors

District 1 – Carson Klosterman: Wyndmere (President)
District 1 – Andrew Braaten: Barney
District 2 – Randy Melvin: Buffalo (Vice President)
District 2 – James Aarsvold: Blanchard
District 3 – Darren Kadlec: Pisek
District 3 – Paul Thomas: Velva
District 4 – Robert Hanson: Wimbeldon
District 4 – Ryan Wanzek: Jamestown
District 5 – Justin Halvorson: Sheldon
District 6 – Chris Erlandson: Oakes (Secretary/Treasurer)
District 6 – Bart Schott: Kulm
District 7 – Anthony Mock: Kintyre
District 7 – Clark Price: Hensler

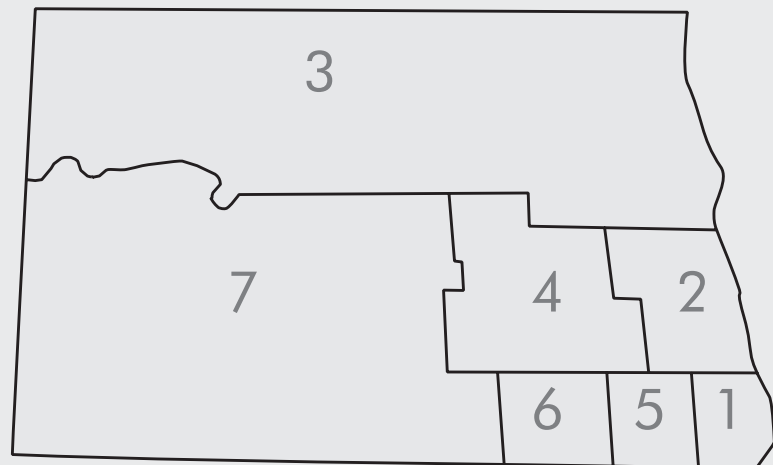
Director-at-large – Mike Clemens: Wimbeldon
Director-at-large – Jeff Enger: Marion
Director-at-large – Kevin Skunes: Arthur
Director-at-large – Larry Hoffmann: Wheatland

NDCGA Industry Directors

Vern Anderson – Livestock Consultant, Carrington
Gary Geske – Latham Hi Tech Seeds, Enderlin
Ray Kotchian – Prairieland Ag Inc., Fargo
Tom Cook – Cargill, Wahpeton

ND Corn Utilization Council

District 1 – Arnie Anderson: Hankinson
District 2 – Jason Rayner: Finley
District 3 – Paul Belzer: Cando (Vice Chairman)
District 4 – Dave Swanson: New Rockford
District 5 – Terry Wehlander: DeLamere
District 6 – Scott German: Oakes (Chairman)
District 7 – Paul R. Anderson: Coleharbor (Secretary)





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