

The Grain Mill



Southwest
Grain

FEBRUARY 2024

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FROM THE BOARD ROOM

Hello SWG friends and producers

I will start by saying winter is not over! I am writing this on February 6 and we are being reminded by Mother Nature that it is still February and snow is on its way back!

January had to be the most roller coaster month of weather that we have experienced in a many years. Starting the New Year off in the 40's to hitting record low temps and wind chills by the second week of the month to tie & break many all-time records. Yikes, brrr and ouch! Temps like that hurt anything that tries to move. It is amazing how cattle, wildlife, and other animals can bear the knife-cutting temps that spear us to the bone. Then two weeks later we are all sporting tee-shirts in the 60+ degree spring-like weather! I was looking up old wives' tales and folklore on if weather trends like this January could even be predicted. Meteorologists from way back and farmers that follow the weather patterns could predict the severity of a winter, but not a swing like we had that month! We all remember and know the talk about the onion peels, but that typically has to do with moisture amount month by month and needs to be done over

New Years. As farmer and ranchers, we always need to be prepared for the changes Mother Nature lays in front of us to dictate our strategy for the day and year ahead.

On to other "business"... Thank you to all producers for the past year of business

you brought to SWG. From the beginning of the year selecting and purchasing your needs, to getting the planting season started, the use of the agronomy staff in helping you pick plant nutrients, your seed selection and crop protection, to getting your grain to the local elevators. All of this keeps the spring and summer busy and especially the calm days of spraying, which has become the new recreational sport of farmers. It seems to take the place of a golf outing or an evening baseball game. But that grain bin full of the year's production is always a good feeling to experience! We do not want to forget those farmers and ranchers that did not get to experience that feeling with the lack of moisture and long dry periods resulting in a below average yield and a higher percentage of cows that did not breed back. We can, and should, thank the cattle industry in helping ranchers receive a nice price for calves and feeders they sold in the last few months. It was a well-deserved victory for the battle ranchers have fought to get a rewarding return for their hard efforts. Thank you for choosing SWG for all your feed, supplements, and vet supplies throughout this past year.

The days are going fast, the daylight is getting longer, and that great season of calving is knocking at the door of ranchers around the countryside. The many years of our March calving season brings back many memories of snow and cold and all-night

checks. Let's not forget the wet straw too. One day, pens are all bedded down with a dry fluffy layer of straw just to have to go out and fork it all again the following day! Ah the daily routine of spreading fresh straw... I cannot wait! Haha! I have to say that the March calving season would not be complete without basketball games to watch weekend after weekend! With a 3 Class Division this year, and including the girls games, we have basketball almost all month! Throw in College basketball with March Madness and we have lots of enjoyable games to look forward to as they battle through the brackets to the Final Four and Championships. The talent those men and women display on the court is always something to watch.

As we go into the 2024 season on our farms and ranches, SWG staff and employees in all our departments are looking forward to helping you with all your needs. As the years go by, our operations change, planting intentions & commodity prices fluctuate, but SWG is ready to accommodate those changes to help you achieve the goals you set for the new year.

In closing, I know I may talk about the weather a lot, but I think there are three things that influence our day-to-day decisions in all our operations: Family, health, and weather. As farmers and ranchers, if you are blessed with good health and a happy family, your day-to-day activities, whether it be working with livestock or in the race



Shane Sickler

to get crops planted and harvested, we live in an industry that is totally dictated by the weather! We have to love it! We cannot nor should not dwell on last year, but instead, be ready to start a new season with hope and love for success.

Here is to a great season in 2024! Be safe calving and planting and take time to enjoy the signs of spring. Be sure to thank all the people in your lives and operations for their continued support and the helping hand they offer. And do not forget to take care of each other!

Shane Sickler
SWG Board Chairman

Lemmon Agronomy Meeting

On January 31st Lemmon hosted an Agronomy Meeting at the Palace Theater. Scan the QR code below with your phone and listen to the recording.



Southwest Grain Scholarship



Southwest Grain is committed to investing in the future of rural America, agriculture, and cooperative business through education and leadership development.

SWG will be offering eight \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying students pursuing careers in an agriculturally related field or a profession that contributes to benefitting rural communities.

Any student planning to attend a college or university for the 2024-2025 fall and spring semesters may apply for a scholarship. Feel free to apply again even if you have previously received a SWG scholarship.

A committee made up of Southwest Grain board members and employees will select recipients based on career goals, essays, extracurricular involvement, and academic transcripts. The committee takes into consideration not only "agricultural" goals per say, but also professions that contribute

to the agriculture industry and/or community, e.g. nursing, teaching, and banking, just to name a few.

Applications are available now from your local Southwest Grain, your school financial aid advisor, or online at www.chssouthwestgrain.com.

Applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 15, 2024, to be considered.

Mail to:
Southwest Grain
ATTN: Dani Pierce
3645 98th Ave. SW
Taylor, ND 58656
OR Email:
Danielle.Pierce@chsinc.com

If you have any questions, please contact Dani at 701-483-6212.

Southwest Grain, working hard to help you grow value... today...and into the future.



Brannon Peterson

Greetings from Lemmon

We have reached February. This marks the halfway point of the winter season. This year has been a welcome change from last year's brutal temperatures and winter storms. Except for two weeks in January, this winter has been mild. These warmer temperatures have created unique challenges, however. Muddy roads and farmyards have created difficulty getting this large crop hauled to town. Feed deliveries have also been difficult with most deliveries made in the morning before feed yards become too muddy. These are good problems to have however, and more seasonal temperatures are forecasted. Hopefully, this will allow growers to get the 2023 crop marketed before spring work starts.

Crop prices look to be lower across the board going into this planting season compared to last year. This seems to have created some indecision on what to plant in 2024.

Lemmon has several varieties of spring wheat to choose from including Dagmar, Ascend, and Frohberg along with oats and barley. Mike and Marla also have a broad selection of corn, soybean, and sunflowers to choose from. Please call Mike or Marla for any of your seed needs.

One bright spot going into 2024 are reduced input costs for fertilizer and glyphosate products. Both Nitrogen and Phosphate products are roughly 7-10% below what they were a year ago. The fertilizer market looks to be strengthening a little as we get closer to spring. Now might be a good time for growers to lock in some of their spring needs. Glyphosate is also lower and is approximately 35% below last years in-season price. This could be a significant savings for producers in 2024.

Southwest grain hosted an agronomy update meeting in Lemmon the last week of January. Delane Thom, Brian Fadness, Dan Haberling, Michael Van Beek, and Marla Varland all gave presentations on different topics. There is a QR Code available to scan in this edition of the Grain Mill. This code will take you to the you tube video of their presentations. I would encourage producers to watch the presentations. There was a lot of valuable information given on assorted topics from weed resistance, tank programs, general agronomy, and marketing.

Again, I would like to thank our patrons for their business. For any of your grain marketing, agronomy, petroleum, feed, or animal health needs please contact us. We would be glad to assist you.

Brannon Peterson
Location Manager
Southwest Grain - Lemmon, SD

GRAIN DIVISION REPORT

Corn, Beans, Wheat Climbing

The February USDA Supply and Demand report came out with mostly neutral data and did not give the market anything to provide direction, so the market will trade what it knows. The market knows that there was a good US crop, and it knows that ending stocks for US corn, beans and wheat are climbing. This February report did confirm that much. Continuous charts of wheat, beans, and corn help tell us a story. All three of these charts look similar with a definite long term down trend.

As usual in February, the soybean export program is winding down. The industry has emphasized loading cars with soybeans to get them to the export facility while there are still boats to load. This is also reflected in the strong number of soybeans that inspected for export over the last five weeks. New export sales are weak, also indicating the program is winding down. Soybean values have already started to weaken with the export market losing its viability.

Corn, on the other hand, has seen good sales numbers recently. Total sales are ahead of last year and right down the middle when compared to the last five years. Loadings are following in line with the five-year average.

With beans and corn taking the space in the export houses, wheat has been forced to the back seat. This is indicated by total loadings well behind the five-year average and last year. Export sales have been lackluster for most of the year. They are trailing the last five years until December, when a big sale of soft red winter was made and pulled 2023/24 sales out of last place. Spring wheat sales are okay some weeks and very weak other weeks. The US remains the residual supplier of wheat to the world with Black Sea wheat dominating the world wheat market.



Brian Fadness

For those that grow sunflowers, Cargill and ADM announced that they will not be accepting ANY Nusun sunflowers for the next crop year and will be fully transitioning to hi-oleic only. Please take this into consideration when making your plans.

I cannot remember a year when every crop grown in our area did not have a production issue. However, this year is that year. As I stated earlier, the market knows that there are large crops. Seeing a sustained rally seems unlikely. Make sales on the up days and plan to move grain consistently the remainder of winter and through the spring and summer. If this crop waits to move until last half of June and July, like it has the last several years, there will not be time or space to push it all through the system ahead of harvest. Please plan ahead so we can plan ahead and help make sure there is on farm and elevator space available for the 2024 crop.

Brian Fadness, Manager
Grain Division

Greeting from Employees at Regent

Road restrictions are applied on The Enchanted Highway, so we are not able to transfer grain to the terminal at this time. We do still have some room for spring wheat. We are starting to prepare for spring. We have the following varieties of spring wheat seed: Torgy, Frohberg, Shelly, Lang, Ascend, and Dagmar. Call us if you are interested in booking some. Ranchers will start calving soon. We are stocking up on animal health products. If you need a prescription drug, please call us ahead of time and we will send a form to the vet for a prescription. We have a good supply of Smart Lic tubs and other feeds and minerals. If you need a specialty feed, let us know and we can order it from the feed plant. If you had a stock tank crack from the winter weather, we have a couple 1000-gallon poly tanks. I will get our grain cleaner ready shortly to clean spring



Terry Hartman

wheat seed. Please call to make appointment.

Thanks for your patronage.

Terry Hartman, Manger
Regent Elevator

Got Fly Problems?



Heather Dykins

As many of you already know, or experienced it firsthand, last year the flies were horrible! The horn fly is our most aggressive fly and costs our industry over a billion dollars a year. The horn fly will decrease milk quality and yield, decrease pregnancy rates by up to 25%, and decrease body condition score. As a result of decreased milk production and body condition, we see lighter calves at weaning. On average flies increase stress, reduce grazing, and increase blood loss. This causes an estimated \$40/cow production loss.

So how do we control this? If you have not heard about it, we have one mode of action against flies called IGR or Insect Growth Regulator. IGR (Altosid or Clarify) is a feed through chemical and does not

kill the adult fly but instead stops the life cycle as larvae. As a result we do not have to worry about resistance, like we see in pour ons, and it is also safe for the dung beetle population. Altosid is designed for the horn fly specifically and Clarify is designed for horn flies, stable flies, face flies, and house flies. Now you are probably wondering, which one is right for you? That is simple. We ask you "which fly are you trying to control?" That helps us decide which product is right for your program. We can add Altosid or Clarify into any mineral!

IMPORTANT: We do not want to wait until you see flies. We want to get it fed through the cow and into the manure before the fly season starts. This is 30 days before the last frost in the spring (April 15th - depending on year) and you want to feed it 30 days after the first frost of the fall (October 15th - depending on the year). This is key to the success of IGR!!! We also recommend using TWO forms of actions, such as spray/back rubbers or fly tags.

We are here to help and get you on the right program so give myself or your local SWG a call and we can help you with this decision!

Thank you for your business!

Heather Dykins
CHS Nutrition Consultant
701.320.8947



Dustin Elkins

Prevent Trouble This Year

As I write this article it appears mother nature is still trying to decide which season she wants this week. We can at least be glad that she is leaning towards the warmer side this winter and has decided to pay her portion of the feed bill this year.

The USDA recently released their cattle inventory numbers showing that the total number of cattle and calves is at 87.2 million head. This is the lowest it has been since 1951. The beef cow inventory is at 28.2 million head which is the lowest since 1961. These low inventory numbers and heifer retention down 1.4% in 2023 will hopefully continue to be bullish for the calf market during the next couple years.

As we look forward toward calving and upcoming breeding season, now is the

time to analyze both your supplementation and vaccine programs. This is important to make sure you are getting the most pounds you can out of every calf born on your place this spring. This critical period right before calving is the last chance you will have to increase the mineral status of the calf and improve their immune system until they start consuming mineral themselves a few months down the road. In one research project at Oregon State, cows that were supplemented the Availa 4 trace minerals, like are found in our Payback Ultramin Elite line, weaned calves that were 53 pounds heavier than the control group.

On the vaccine side of things, I would also encourage you to take some time and analyze any of the challenges you had last year, whether it be with hoof rot or sick calves. We have many resources within our SWG locations and many supplier partners that can help you troubleshoot those issues and prevent them for the upcoming season. One other issue to also keep in mind is if you have added any new cows into the herd and you are not sure of their previous vaccine program, be very careful introducing them to modified live vaccines. If done at the wrong times, this can cause some open cows or abortions.

Thank you for your business and if there is anything we can do for you please reach out to one of our locations or myself.

Dustin Elkins, Manager
Feed & Animal Health Department

Give your herd the FlaxLic® Advantage

FlaxLic® is a one-of-a-kind supplement for cattle made by New Generation Supplements. FlaxLic® includes a balanced level of Omega 3, 6 & 9 along with protein, vitamin and Availa 4 mineral package. This is a low moisture and low intake tub.

When FlaxLic® is fed to bulls 60 days prior to breeding or breeding soundness exam it has proven to increase sperm quality and fertility.

FlaxLic® fed to cows and heifers 45 days before breeding has shown to increase progesterone and estrogen resulting in more and higher quality follicles being produced, more eggs being fertilized, more embryos surviving full term, resulting in more live calves at calving time.

Talk with your local Nutrition Consultant at Southwest Grain about incorporating FlaxLic® into your spring breeding program



Sarah Thompson

and give your cattle herd the Flaxlic advantage.

Sarah Thompson
Feed Consultant
Lemmon Terminal

Save Time This Year



Larry Doerr

Calving season is about here for most of you so Murphy's Law tells me it will start snowing and raining in the next few weeks. Moisture is much needed in our area and would be welcome. A reminder that we carry a good supply of mineral and protein tubs, along with Stresslic tubs for your cattle. Now is the time to put that in front of the cattle to keep them in good shape before calving. Flaxlic and Bio-Mos tubs are also on hand. Bio-Mos is a good way to give the calves a head start before they are even born.

Chemical prices have seemed to level out. Some have come back down but supply can still be an issue. We can do a prepay contract for you to lock in your price on the chemical. Call early so we can get what you are looking for. At this time, we are still looking for our first RT-3 load but they tell us it will be here in time, as long as work does not start this week.

Those of you applying NH3 this

spring should inspect your tanks. Also check the hoses and valves for replacement dates. Again, we can come out and help you with that. It can save time this spring if they are ready to go. The fertilizer and chemical prepay is available still so stop in and take advantage of that if you have not yet.

Like always, we are able to test your water, feed, and seed. Call us to have someone come out or bring your sample in and we will get it to the lab for you. It is important to know what is in your feed bunks.

Our seed wheat should be here soon. We already laid in some common hay barley for those needing a bit more hay. We should have a good supply of German millet and Sorghum grasses this spring and any custom mix is just a few days away. Call or stop in for a quote on what you are looking for, we will help you find it.

Once again, if there is something we can help you find, or if you need us to run something out to the farm for you, please call. We are here to help you get the most out of your investment so let us use our resources.

We would all like to say good luck to you all and everyone be safe out there. Spring is always a busy time for us all so be careful and as always, thank you for your business.

Larry Doerr, Manager
701-853-2302
Southwest Grain, Reeder, ND



Mark Baar

Greetings from the Belfield

We are looking forward to the spring season and seed cleaning. We will be ready to take appointments to clean spring wheat for

you to get ready for spring. We only clean spring wheat and oats. In the fertilizer department, we are increasing the size of our fertilizer blender from six tons to twelve tons to try to increase efficiency. This will shorten the wait to get loaded.

Calving season is around the corner. Do not forget that we have a wide selection of animal health products in Belfield. We also have a good supply of forage supplement product to help the hay to keep the mother cows in good condition for calving. It is very important for the cows to be on a good mineral program before calving for the health of the calf and to help the cow recover from breeding. We have floor stock products and can do a custom mineral to fit your program. We appreciate your past patronage, and we look forward to serving your needs in the future.

Mark Baar, Manager
Belfield Elevator

New England Looking for Seasonal Help

This weather is beautiful for this time of year. We are running a sale on some Smartlic Tub, minerals, and some animal health products. With the upcoming spring work, we will be looking for a seasonal worker to load dry fertilizer. This job will be posted on the website. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please send them our way.

Chelsie Clenvenger, Manager
New England Elevator



Chelsie Clenvenger

FlaxLic: The Block Everyone's Talking About

Item	Control	Linolenic Acid
5-10 mm follicles on day 5	1.6	1.4
5-10 mm follicles on day 15	1.8	3.4
Max diameter of 1 st dominant follicle, mm	13.3	15.6
Max diameter of preovulatory follicle, mm	17.0	18.3

Larger follicles >>> greater estrogen

FlaxLic now has a U.S. Product and Process Patent for elevating Lipid Blood Levels in Livestock.

Here's What They're Saying

FlaxLic® is an all-natural supplement containing a high level of Alpha-linolenic acid, an omega-3 fatty acid. Fatty acids are used by cattle for energy, cell membrane structure and integrity and regulating hormones. This unique supplement is the first low-moisture block to contain a high level of ALA beneficial for optimal performance.

In addition, FlaxLic is highly fortified with essential vitamins and minerals. This block is produced using a state-of-the-art, patented process that provides a unique 24-hour feeding system.

Get your herd ready for breeding season!

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Thank You for choosing Southwest Grain!

Southwest Grain Petroleum Department

Now that you have read at least four different descriptions of the weather this winter and what is expected this spring, I am going to give you a quick fun fact instead to get you started. Then we will dig into Energy!

Did you know the ISS (International Space Station) is going to be decommissioned and sent to a slow crash to the earth. It was first dreamed up in 1984, launched in 1998, and then slowly built on for the past 26 years. The ISS has been home to over 250 crew members and 20 countries were involved in its service. Now it has outlived its life and structural stresses are slowing tearing it apart. NASA says it will start the process to decommission in 2026 and final entry and debris recovery will happen in 2031. What a way to Crash and Burn!

Energy at a Glance:

- **Propane** prices did go up mid-January with the cold snap for several weeks and low inventories across the nation. 5.3 million gallon draw on propane stateside has kept prices from falling but also keeps it from floating too much higher. Propane has been detached from the daily volatility of Crude oil over the past couple months. 67% of LP production goes overseas to exports. This ebb and flow may affect prices more than anything, as we are seeing regionally now.
- **Propane Monitors:** A successful program to our customers is the use of the Neevo propane tank monitors. These are a cell phone connected digital tank level monitors telling the customer and



Jared Bookhardt

our staff your propane levels. This is a no charge service we offer to our automatic customers. If you are interested in seeing your tank levels anywhere at any time and allow us to keep you from running out of propane, give us a call at the office for more details. (Insert pic of lp Neevo Monitor here)

- **Diesel and Gas** continue to be volatile. Future contract prices are very elevated and the best time to get fuel looks to

be now. If you have room for fuel, you may want to seriously consider filling up or topping off your tanks for spring and summer. Could there be a larger price drop in fuels and crude? There is always that possibility, but with spring coming, future prices high, World Geopolitical events very unstable, and refinery maintenance scheduled from April to May, I think there is more pressure for the upside as we move forward. Just this week (Feb 8th) we saw local rack prices rise as much as .26c in a three-day period. This may be the new normal.

- **Contact your CES for updates on Fuel prices and market trends!** Savannah Meier & Wendy Halloran.
- **Lubricants:** The annual **Oil Sale** goes from now until Feb 29th. This a staple here at SWG and it runs the same time each year. It corresponds with Cenex's Gift cards for gallons, which is a \$50

Visa card for every 100 gal of qualifying oils during this time period. Get with Savannah, Wendy, Nick, or myself for more details. This is the best time of the year to purchase your lubricant needs.

- **Fuel Tanks and Pumps:** We have a very good supply of tanks and pumps in stock. From 500, 1000 to 2000 gal tanks. Pumps range from 115v 20 gpm and 35gpm pumps to 12v 25gpm pumps and combo. Do not let those old Gas Boy pumps break on you when you are in the middle of spring planting or Harvest. Check in at the store and see what model is best for you and your operation. (Insert pic of Pumps here)

Thank you for your Patronage and feel free to call the office with any questions you may have.

Jared Bookhardt, Energy Manager
701-483-5157



Prebooking Available

Greetings everyone from the Elgin Southwest Grain. I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. We have been lucky with the weather this winter so far, except for that 2-week cold snap. Granted, we still have a lot of winter left to go, but we are on the home stretch of it. January is that time of year when producers start the calving process and we have all the calving supplies such as ear tags, sorting paddles, and other accessories are on hand. We also have a large variety of vaccines and colostrum replacers and supplements for all your calving needs. Also, bulk cow cake and calf creep is available here at the elevator. We offer delivery for all these products, or you can swing in, and we will load you up. If you are looking for any cattle tubs to help this winter, we have a good selection of Smartlic stress tubs and mineral tubs to cover all your needs. If questionable hay is the issue, we offer Forager 40. This is a liquid feed used to offset the short comings in the hay. We can deliver this to the yard in lick tanks to help assist with protein and

mineral shortages in the hay. Any questions on anything animal health related, you can always call Kristine and she will gladly help you with all your needs at 701-866-2827.

It is also that time of year to start thinking about what you will plant this year and what inputs you will need. It is nice to see the input prices come down in price for a change. We offer a full line of options, but we have had a few changes since last year. We have a new agronomist here and her name is Ashley Roth. She has full range of products to offer you this spring. We also have an applicator here now. His name is Caleb Becker. He will be able to handle all ranges of spraying from burn down to applying fertilizer to in-crop needs. The other news here is that we will be offering liquid fertilizer in bulk. We are in the process of getting our liquid fertilizer plant set up and hope to be ready to go when the spring season hits. If you are looking for any pricing on that for delivery or to pick up, please give Ashley a call. Prebooking is available now to help lock

in some of those prices before they go on the rise again. If you would like to swing in and talk about different options, and maybe book some, Ashley or I would gladly help you be ready when the time comes. If you have any questions on seed pricing or anything relating to liquid fertilizer or chemical, please give Ashley a call at 701-260-5690.

Lastly on the list to talk about is our energy side. This is the time of year to keep an eye on your propane tanks to make sure you do not run out of propane. Make sure you keep your tank on the fuller side. If you let it get too low, and it gets super cold, issues could arise as a result of pressure issues which in turn can cause furnace issues. With all the wind and blowing snow, make sure your regulators' vents are free of snow and ice. If you do need propane, please give us a call at 701-584-2152 and we can take care of that for you. If you can keep a clear path cleaned to the tank, it will be greatly appreciated. This helps us make sure our drivers do not get hurt and get home safe-



Jeremy Imhoff

ly every day. We also have our annual oil sale going on here too. There are some great buys on quarts of oil to bulk oil. On almost our entire line of products there are great buys and gift cards for gallons. If you buy 125 gallons of any of the lubricants, you get a \$50 Visa gift card. Stop in and check out what we have to offer and for any bulk questions please give our rep, Savannah, a call at 701-260-6415.

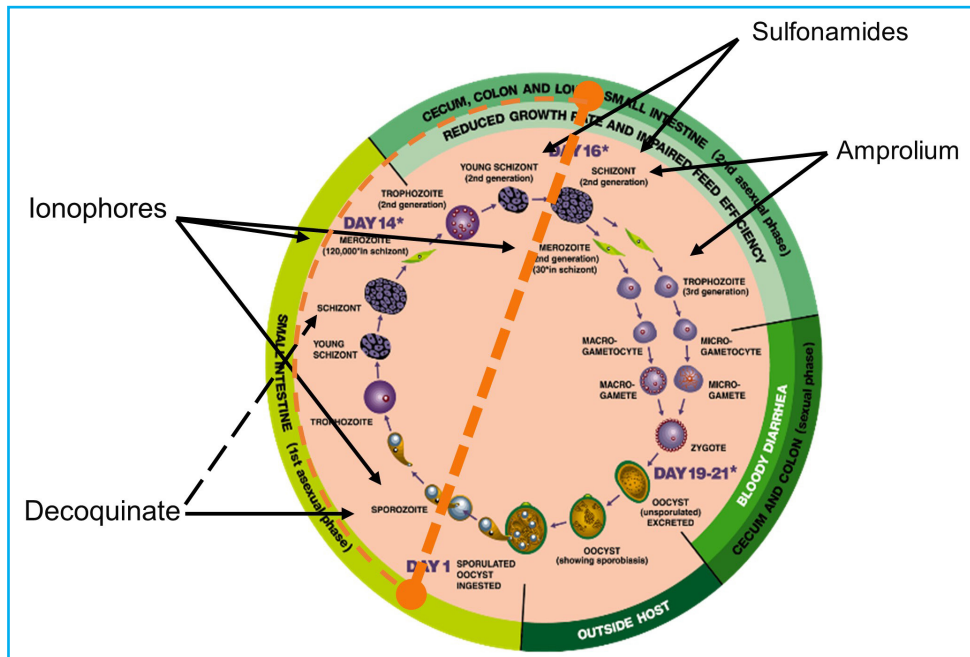
Thanks for your time and business!
Jeremy Imhoff, Manager
Elgin SWG

Coccidiosis: The Tip of The Iceberg

Coccidiosis is a costly disease, as it is one of the top five economically impacting diseases primarily affecting young calves. Calves from all environments and operations are at risk of coccidiosis. Cattle from one month to one year of age are the most commonly affected, however it can infect all ages of cattle.

Coccidia is a protozoan parasite which is very host-specific, meaning only bovine coccidia will cause disease in cattle. Other species-specific coccidia will not cause disease in cattle. Coccidia have the ability to rapidly multiply in the intestinal wall of calves, resulting in rupture of the calf's intestinal lining. This damage affects the calf's ability to absorb nutrients. A calf can handle a few coccidia eggs, but when there is stress and a heavy load of eggs we see clinical disease. Stressors include but are not limited to: inadequate colostrum in a newborn, crowding, unsanitary conditions, weaning, shipping, nutritional changes, other illnesses and the most common – weather changes. Cold weather changes cause animals to group together, multiplying the risk of infection. Coccidia are extremely hardy in the environment; frequently found in water, feed and bedding and are difficult to remove from the environment completely.

Signs of coccidiosis are diarrhea, with or without mucus or blood or both; poor hair coat; weakness; straining; rapid dehydration; off feed; weight loss; chronic poor doers; and death. The signs of coccidiosis will vary depending on the stage of disease. Up to 95% of economic losses from coccidiosis may be due to subclinical disease. The clinical signs are not always visible until three to eight weeks after the initial infection. In mild cases the calf may only display watery diarrhea. In most cases blood will be found in the feces. Diarrhea has a dilution effect which can sometimes make the coccidia count seem not as bad. Coccidia causes

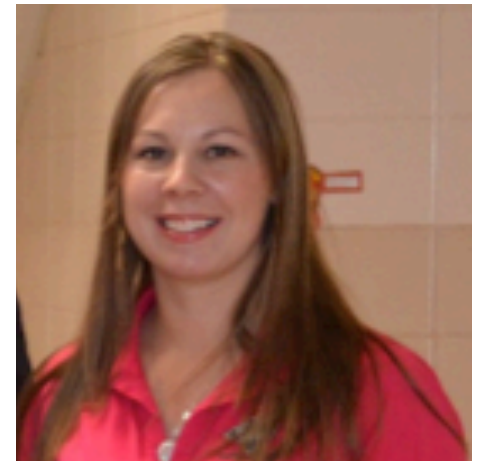


disease in intestine, when the intestine is diseased, it naturally draws fluids in to dilute the number of coccidia. By the time a calf has diarrhea, the affected calf is almost done shedding the eggs into the environment. Once a calf shows signs of coccidiosis, it is likely the rest of the calves in the group have been exposed – The tip of the Iceberg.

Prevention: Stop the loss before it starts!

Even though there are treatment options out there for coccidiosis, I am only going to focus on the prevention. There is no vaccine against coccidiosis. Prevention is crucial and therefore two-fold! A single ingested coccidia oocyst has the capacity to replicate into more than 20 million new oocysts, which only 50,000 can cause severe disease and death. The key to prevention of outbreaks is minimizing heavy fecal contamination by reducing the amount of eggs being shed in the environment. As far as environmental is

it best to increase the amount of space per cow during calving season and use a clean area that is free of contamination for calving. Feeding an additive (coccidiostat or ionophore) to the cow herd prior to calving and throughout calving helps by decreasing the numbers of coccidia eggs shed into the environment. The coccidiostat and ionophores are not antibiotics and do not require a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Even though the mature cows are not showing any signs of disease from coccidia, they are still carrying coccidia, but have developed an immunity from exposure when the cow was a calf. Rumensin is the most potent feed additive for prevention and control of coccidiosis, when fed at the labeled dose. Rumensin is the only ionophore approved for mature beef cows and kills coccidia at three different stages of the life cycle. By using Payback supplements, we have many options avail-



Kristine Koeplin

able from mineral to cow cake to liquid feed and more, where we can add Rumensin or customize the supplement to fit your operation. Another option is to feed a coccidiostat such as Decoquinates (Deccox) to hinder the multiplication of coccidia when fed for at least 28 days. Deccox is effective in preventing coccidiosis by stopping the development of coccidia early in the life cycle (see diagram). We have many options to incorporate Decoquinates (Deccox) in your cow ration as well. Most common form is through a mineral that can be force fed or free-choice mineral option. Deccox can be added to Payback starter feeds and calf creep at levels which only require a small amount of intake by a young calf and is effective in preventing coccidiosis by stopping the development of coccidia early in the life cycle.

Thank you and have a safe calving season!

Kristine Koeplin
Livestock Nutrition Specialist
New Salem & Elgin
701.866.2827

References:
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November 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024

In addition to the Gift Cards for Gallons promotion, Southwest Grain is offering our annual oil sale.

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OSHA® Agricultural Safety Fact Sheet



Preventing Farm Vehicle Backover Incidents

Backing up farm equipment and vehicles is a daily occurrence in the agricultural industry. Backover incidents occur when a backing vehicle strikes a worker who is standing, walking, or kneeling behind that vehicle. These incidents can be prevented. Backover incidents can result in serious injuries or deaths to farmworkers. Employers are responsible for maintaining a safe workplace for every worker. This fact sheet provides employers with information about backover hazards and safety measures.

Preventing or Minimizing Backover Hazards

Most backover incidents are due to the employer's failure to train vehicle operators and enforce proper backing up techniques and preventive safety measures. Employers should ensure that unnecessary backing up is avoided. In addition, employers should also ensure that both the operator and other workers are always aware of their surroundings. Moreover, employers should develop and require the use of alternate travel routes and backover safety systems, which are effective safeguards to prevent backover incidents.

Hitching Farm Equipment and Implements

Helpers often assist operators in backing up and hitching farm vehicles (e.g., truck or tractor). However, helpers working behind these vehicles risk becoming caught and crushed between the vehicle and the equipment being hitched. Employers should require the use of the following hitching and backing up safety measures.

Hitching operations without a helper:

- Inspect the equipment, including the hydraulic and electrical connections, drawbar hole and hitch pin, and the three-point hitch.
- Ensure that no one is standing or working behind the vehicle.
- If available, use the vehicle backup camera and alarm to ensure that objects are not in the vehicle's path.
- Back up the vehicle slowly to align the hole in the drawbar with the hole in the implement hitch.
- Stop and put the vehicle in park, or lock the brakes.



Farmworkers on foot are at risk of being backed over by a farm vehicle.

- If required, dismount to connect the electrical and hydraulic connections and safety chains.
- Hitch the equipment to the vehicle.
- Release the parking brake/lock, place the vehicle in gear and slowly drive away.

Hitching operations with a helper:

- Inspect the equipment, including the hydraulic and electrical connections, drawbar hole and hitch pin, and the three-point hitch connection if applicable.
- Ensure that coordinated ASABE hand signals are understood and used (see below for coordinated hand signals).
- Back up the vehicle at the slowest speed possible toward the equipment.
- Until the vehicle is stopped, the helper should stand outside the path of the vehicle.

- After the drawbar and equipment are aligned, stop and put the vehicle in park, or lock the brakes.
- Signal the helper that it is safe to approach the vehicle for a close inspection and to prepare for hitching operations.
- If required, attach the electrical and hydraulic connections and safety chains. Move the vehicle forward or backward a few inches, if needed, to allow the helper to drop in the hitch pin.

To prevent backover incidents, employers should:

- Regularly assess each work location to determine if a traffic control plan is needed.
- Establish drive-through or circular turnaround areas. If this is not possible, provide adequate space for operators to perform a three-point turn.
- Ensure that all turnaround areas are level, firm, and well-drained to prevent vehicles from tipping over.
- Determine if a backup camera or system is needed.
- Never allow workers to eat lunch or rest near active working vehicles and equipment.
- Identify where workers might stand or walk unexpectedly.
- Determine if a spotter is required.
- Instruct workers and operators not to use personal mobile phones, headphones or any items that could create a distraction.

Working Conditions

Working at night

The lack of light can increase the operator's blind spots, as well as impair his or her ability to see other workers. Employers should provide sufficient lighting for the worksite and vehicle, and require workers to wear reflectors or high-visibility vests to make them more visible.

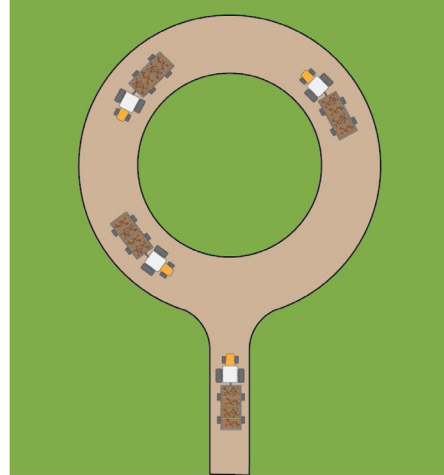
Working in bad weather

Bad weather, such as heavy rain, can pose particular hazards to workers and operators. Strong rain can reduce the operator's visibility and make it very difficult to recognize workers and other vehicles that may be nearby. If the workers are at risk due to bad weather, employers should stop the work and ensure that the workers stay clear of moving vehicles until it is safe to return.

Training

Employers should train vehicle operators to:

- Become familiar with backing up hazards and worksite safety measures.
- Back up only when necessary and for as short a distance as possible.
- Check the surrounding area for obstacles, other workers, and equipment.
- Understand the limitations of their vehicles and equipment, and operate them only in the way they were intended to be operated.
- Keep mirrors clean and adjusted properly to minimize blind spots.
- Know the vehicle's blind spots — mirrors never give the entire view.
- Check that backup alarms, sensors, and cameras are functioning properly.
- Look under vehicles and trailers for workers; remember that some workers may not respond to verbal or mechanical warnings.
- Honk the vehicle's horn and turn on the 4-way flashers, if necessary when backing up.
- Roll down cab windows, and if necessary, open the vehicle's doors so that a person shouting can be heard.
- Understand that snow, mud, slush, or ice may prevent sudden stops and cause the vehicle to move in an unexpected manner.
- Understand that bad weather may compromise the operator's ability to hear or see warnings.
- Always back up at a slow speed and watch carefully in all directions.



A circular turnaround area is the safest way to allow safe entry and exit of farm equipment and vehicles.

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Employers should train farmworkers on foot to:

- Stand where they can see the vehicle's mirrors whenever possible.
- Never go between a moving vehicle and any equipment that is hitched or being towed.
- Never stand or linger in a vehicle's path.
- Never rest or sleep next to or under an agricultural work vehicle or equipment.
- Inform other workers when vehicles are approaching.
- Listen for the vehicle's backup alarm and watch the vehicle's movement.

- Never assume that the vehicle's operator can see them.
- Never wear earbuds or headphones when working near farm vehicles and equipment.

Using Hand Signals and Spotters

Distance and noise can make voice commands very difficult to hear or understand in some agricultural locations. Agricultural hand signals have been developed for farm machinery operators by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE/E19). Hand signals can prevent accidents and save time. Learning

hand signals will give workers and drivers an easy and effective way to communicate. Employers should train and require drivers and spotters to use the ASABE's hand signals in all agricultural operations, especially when noise or distance is a factor.

Vehicle Safety Devices and Warning Systems

Many safety devices and warning systems, including backup alarms, large backup lights, sensors, alarms that beep continuously while the vehicle is in reverse, and rear-view cameras, have come on the market and are now essential components of modern day farm vehicles. Older agricultural farm vehicles may lack these safety devices and systems. Planning ahead, establishing sound safety procedures, and adding safety warning devices to farm vehicles can help prevent backover incidents and injuries.

Workers' Rights

Workers have the right to:

- Working conditions that do not pose a risk of serious harm.
- Receive information and training (in a language and vocabulary the worker understands) about workplace hazards, methods to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to their workplace. Review records of work-related injuries and illnesses.
- File a complaint asking OSHA to inspect their workplace if they believe there is a serious hazard or that their employer is not following OSHA's rules. OSHA will keep all identities confidential.
- Exercise their rights under the law without retaliation, including reporting an injury or raising health and safety concerns with their employer or OSHA. If a worker has been retaliated against for using their rights, they must file a complaint with OSHA as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days.

For additional information, see OSHA's Workers page.

American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE/E19) Hand Signals

Start the engine. Move arm in a circle at waist level as though you were cranking an engine.

Stop the engine. Move your right arm across your neck from left to right in a "throat-cutting" motion.

Come to me — may mean "Come help me" in an emergency. Raise arm vertically overhead, palm to the front, and rotate in large horizontal circles.

Move toward me — follow me. Look toward person or vehicle you want moved. Hold one hand in front of you, palm facing you, and move your forearm back and forth.

Move out — take off. Face desired direction of movement. Extend arm straight out behind you, then swing it overhead and forward until it's straight out in front of you with palm down.

Speed it up — increase speed. Raise hand to left shoulder, fist closed. Thrust fist upward to full extent of arm and back to shoulder rapidly several times.

Slow it down — decrease speed. Extend arm horizontally at your side, palm down, and wave arm downward (45 degrees minimum) several times, keeping arm straight. Don't move arm above horizontal.

Raise equipment. Point upward with forefinger while making a circle at head level with your hand.

Lower equipment. Point toward the ground with forefinger of one hand while moving the hand in circular motion.

This far to go. Put hands in front of face, palms facing each other. Move hands together or farther apart to indicate how far to go.

Stop. Raise hand upward, arm fully extended, palm to the front. Hold that position until the signal is understood.

Images courtesy of American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers

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For questions or to get information or advice, to report an emergency, fatality, inpatient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye, to file a confidential complaint, or to request OSHA's free on-site consultation service, contact your nearest OSHA office, visit www.osha.gov, or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627.

For more information on ATV safety and other issues affecting farmworkers, visit OSHA's Safety and Health Topics Agricultural Operations website at www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations.

For assistance, contact us. We can help. It's confidential.



This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.



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We never know the importance of a farmer/rancher until we loose one!



NOTICE

North Dakota Law Directly Prohibits **Filling** or **Using** Non-Compliant Nurse Tanks (NDCC 4.1-37)

Any person violating the law is guilty of a class A criminal misdemeanor (NDCC 4.1-37-16)

Any person violating the law may also be subject to a civil penalty of **up to \$5,000 per offense** (NDCC 4.1-37-16)

Nurse Tank Requirements

- The data plate must be readable and not painted over or obscured.
- No more than ten percent of the tank surface can be corroded or missing paint. Tanks must be painted white or aluminum.
- Container markings and decals must be in place.
 - "1005" department of transportation decal must be in place on sides and heads.
 - "ANHYDROUS AMMONIA" decal must be in place on sides and heads.
 - "INHALATION HAZARD" decal must be in place on each side.
 - Legible transfer and safety decals must be in place.
 - A legible decal depicting first-aid procedures to follow if injured by ammonia.
- The container must be numbered and identified with the name and contact information of the owner.
- A department of transportation-approved slow moving vehicle sign must be in place and in good condition.
- A container liquid level gauge must be installed and must be operable.
- A pressure gauge graduated from zero to four hundred pounds per square inch and designated for use in anhydrous ammonia service must be installed.
- Container safety valves must be date current and in operable condition- safety valves must have rain caps in place.
- Protective caps must be in place for the main liquid and vapor connections.
- "ACME" type fitting must be used to secure the transfer hose.
- The transfer hose, if installed, must be date current and not be weather checked or cut to expose the cords. If the transfer hose is not installed on the nurse tank, a male "ACME" fitting with protective dust cap must be installed on the liquid withdrawal valve.
- Protective gloves and Z87 rated goggles must be in a safety kit attached to the container or the frame of the wagon.
- Five gallons of clean water in a container must be carried on the nurse tank.
- A hydrostatic relief valve or approved built-in hydrostatic relief must be installed at the main liquid stop valve. This hydrostatic relief valve must be date current and equipped with a rain cap.
- Excess flow valves must be in place on the liquid and vapor connections at the tank. Excess flow valves may be incorporated into the main stop valves on the tank.
- The wagon tires must be in a safe and serviceable condition, with no cords showing, and a tread of at least two-thirty-seconds of an inch.
- The wagon must be equipped with two suitable safety chains and a hitch pin.
- The wagon tongue and undercarriage must be in a condition to provide safe transport.
- The pressure vessel and appurtenances must be leak free in service.
- Fittings and safety valves must be protected from physical damage, such as rollover, by roll cages or other protective devices.

More information, including free nurse tank checklists, may be found at www.ndda.nd.gov

