

August 2018

It has been quite a summer with Ontario getting to the brink of serious drought damage to the crop, then some rain arriving just in the nick of time. The corn and beans have responded well to the rain over the past couple of weeks, but the 'onioning' nature of drought-stressed corn still appears on a lot of fields in our area. Hopefully we have now passed the initial stages of growth for both corn and beans, at which time drought can really cause significant yield loss. With normal rain ahead, yields should be good.

It's interesting to see how a few people from one country in the world can almost turn things upside down for so many different industries and so many people around the globe. It is hard to predict the pattern that protein ingredients for food might take over the next few months with so many variables creeping into the equation. It is anyone's guess how the impact of tariffs on US pork by China and Mexico will impact Canadian pork prices in the future. These countries will undoubtedly take less US pork, but it appears that there are a number of other world pork buyers who may be interested in taking advantage of the lower prices to do some shopping. We'll hope the cash price doesn't drop as far as futures prices would presently indicate.

***Jeff Buchanan***

**Commodities**

---

As is typical, the summer months of 2018 are seeing Ag markets experiencing significant volatility. Throw in global trade tensions and some less than favourable weather globally and you have some very interesting if not stressful days. Leading the way was wheat. Indications are that global Wheat stocks will see a dramatic drop. As a result, during the month of July prices increased by \$18/mt (It was also up another \$7/mt at time of writing this). The days of Wheat being a cost-effective replacement for Corn are likely gone for a while. As far as Corn goes, values increased by \$13/mt during July. In addition to Corn values being pulled up by Wheat, part of the increase can be attributed to basis levels increasing dramatically as a result of the continued export program at the ports. Soymeal was less volatile as prices increased by only \$7/mt.

Looking forward, I don't see an end to the volatility until Harvest nears completion.

***The Dairy Team***

---

It was nice to see the weather cool down and to get some much-needed rain. I would like to start off by thanking Brendan Diefenbacher for hosting our 'First 60 Days' Calf Meeting July 18<sup>th</sup>. The venue was superb. We would also like to thank Dr. Tom Gutteridge from Zoetis, Dr. Kristen Edwards from Tavistock Veterinarian Clinic, and Brittany Todd from Grober. I think everyone that attended went home with some valuable information.

Once again, this year Molesworth Farm Supply will be hosting a Corn Chipper Day in September. We will keep you posted on the date and location.

Let's talk a little bit about predicting the best time to cut your corn silage. This really starts back at planting time when choosing your hybrid and hybrid maturity along with the planting date. As the

season goes along it is a good idea to note the tasseling date of the crop. Corn is relatively consistent with its grain filling period. It takes between 42-45 days after tasseling for corn to reach 50% milk line in the kernels. It's a good idea to start checking your crop for harvesting when the milk line reaches 80%. Chop some stalks and use your Koster moisture tester to determine the dry matter of your crop. Once you know the moisture, assume about a half percent per day drydown rate to predict when the crop is going to be ready to harvest.

If you would like a dry matter done on your corn silage before our Chipper Day, please get in touch with one of our dairy team members.

### **Jan Morris Farmer Dies in Grain Bin Accident**

---

Hardly a week goes by without a headline like this coming to my Inbox. And it's so unnecessary. Follow Best Management Practices for grain entrapment prevention. Don't let someone you love become a statistic.

1. Warn family, employees and visitors of the dangers of flowing grain.
2. Place warning signs on all bin entrances and gravity wagons.
3. Develop a ZERO Mentality. Stay out of bins, if at all possible.
4. NEVER enter a bin alone. Any bin entry should be a 3-person process, with a supervisor, an attendant or watcher and a person to enter the bin.
5. ALWAYS use a body harness with a lifeline secured to the outside of the bin and maintain control of the lifeline. Your lifeline is USELESS if it is not secured properly.
6. Shut down and lock out all equipment involved in storage, drying and material-handling systems during all entry, service and maintenance operations.
7. Provide annual, hands-on training for anyone who may be required to enter a bin or assist in an entry.
8. Emergency Preparedness – check with your local fire department for expected response time for this type of incident and make sure they are equipped to handle a grain entrapment emergency.

### **Pierre Lemieux Early Morning Deliveries**

---

We regularly receive phone calls or electronic requests for “first thing tomorrow am” deliveries. We strive to fulfill your needs but we stand the best chance of succeeding when we have as much advance notice as possible. By 2 or 3 pm on most weekdays we often have the entire fleet committed to the first runs the next morning and are starting to make that feed. Similarly, by about 4pm on Fridays we typically have the entire fleet dedicated and routes already worked out for “first thing” Monday deliveries. Orders received after 2pm on Fridays for “first thing” Monday will likely be delivered on second or possibly even third runs on Monday. If we have the space on a truck we will try to accommodate you, but the best approach is always to give as much advance notice as you can.

\* \* \*

It's hard to believe but the (end of summer) Labour Day Weekend is just ahead of us. We would respectfully request your assistance in getting through this holiday by planning your feed inventories during the last week of August in anticipation of our mill being closed on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you once again for your kind consideration of this holiday and thank you sincerely for your continued loyalty.

Sincerely,

*Ron*

***Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others; it is the only means.***

Albert Einstein