

GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

THE PERSPECTIVE

www.goldeaglecoop.com



LOCATIONS

Eagle Grove

448-4775

800-873-1797

-Feed Mill-

515-448-5392

800-722-3966

Thor

378-3314

866-210-9734

Goldfield

825-3161

800-825-3331

Renwick

824-3214

888-824-3214

Hardy

824-3221

866-210-9733

Livermore

379-1843

888-576-1843

Corwith

583-2462

888-581-2462

Wesley

679-4272

866-212-3890

Titonka

928-2272

866-203-9656

Solid Financials = Full Speed Ahead

By Brad Davis
General Manager



A plan is only as good as those who see it through. Gold-Eagle is fortunate to have a great board whose members are willing to invest several days in strategic planning each year to guide the future of your cooperative.

I'm pleased to report that Gold-Eagle recently completed the first quarter of our 2017 fiscal year, and your cooperative is extremely solid financially. During the three-day board retreat in early February, we spent an entire day analyzing Gold-Eagle's financials and balance sheet. We also spent a day where Gold-Eagle's managers shared business unit updates, followed by an additional day of strategic planning.

We're enthusiastic about the year ahead, especially since your cooperative's financials are so solid. Things are also going well with the CORN, LP ethanol plant in Goldfield. I look forward to seeing many of you at CORN, LP's annual meeting in Goldfield on March 20.

42nd consecutive month of black ink at CORN, LP

I'm pleased to note that CORN, LP's earnings and distributions will exceed last year's. By the end of February, CORN, LP completed its 42nd consecutive month of black ink.

Many signs point to continued success in the ethanol business this year. The summer driving season starts to accelerate by April, which drives demand for more fuel. U.S. ethanol exports have been strong, especially to Brazil, and we expect this trend to continue.

Continued on page 2

5 Reasons Why Every Seed Should Be Treated

By Chris Petersen
Seed Sales Manager



You have great expectations for the seed you're going to plant this spring. Many of you have discovered the value of seed treatments to

protect yield. Here are five reasons why every seed should be treated to help the plant reach its maximum potential:

1. Proven protection against soybean cyst nematode (SCN). It's no secret SCN is the leading cause of soybean yield loss. (Check out the chart on this page to see what I mean.) SCN populations that are capable of overcoming SCN-resistant soybean varieties are common in Iowa. ILeVO® is the first seed treatment for soybeans that offers protection in the seed zone against nematodes, as well as sudden death syndrome, throughout the critical growing period. ILeVO has been working well in our area and is gaining momentum.

2. Control of sudden death syndrome (SDS). SDS has become more of an issue in our area. Compaction is one of the things that brings on SDS. Once the soilborne fungus causing SDS is present in a field, it does not go away. It can also be spread by soil movement to neighboring fields. Did you know SDS infects plants within 72 hours of planting? SDS reduces yield by rotting root systems all season and defoliating plants late in the season. While SDS-tolerant soybean varieties reduce foliar disease, they do not suppress root rot. A seed treatment offers the ideal way to provide protection against SDS infection right from the start. ILeVO protects against both SDS and SCN and makes a good SDS-tolerant bean better. Even in areas where we didn't see much SDS pressure, there were still yield increases with ILeVO, since it helps reduce stresses on the plant.

3. Multiple modes of action to fight pests. ILeVO® and Poncho®/VOTiVO® seed treatments offer two modes of action to combat SCN. Poncho/VOTiVO protects the whole plant, above and below ground, preventing damage to early-season seedlings and roots before pests can strike. Poncho/VOTiVO employs a biological

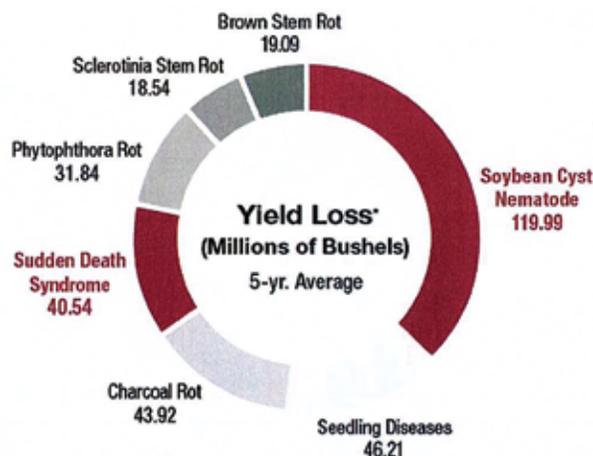
mode of action with a unique bacteria strain that grows with young roots, creating a living barrier that prevents nematodes from causing damage. It also has a systemic agent that's absorbed by new roots immediately, providing control of many critical early-season insect pests.

4. Convenience. Gold-Eagle's on-demand seed treating service means you can mix and match the products you want, and you don't need to give us much lead time. This gives you options and allows you to get the treatments you want.

5. Precision. Today's seed treatments and seed-treating equipment are more precise than ever. That means you don't have to put on any more treatment than you should, but you're getting the full rate to protect your crop.

You can get the full array of seed treatments, including ILeVO, Poncho/VOTiVO and inoculant, for about \$35 an acre. We've found that the growers who go with this option come back the next year and want to do the full lineup of seed treatments on even more acres.

I encourage you to visit with your Gold-Eagle agronomist about seed treatments that can help you reach your yield goals. We appreciate your business and look forward to working with you this spring. ◀



*Estimates of Soybean Yield Reductions Caused by Diseases in the United States, United Soybean Board, http://extension.cropsciences.illinois.edu/fieldcrops/diseases/yield_reductions.php.v

Solid Financials

Continued from page 1

As India and China continue to struggle with smog and pollution issues, their need for clean-burning ethanol remains strong. India has been an especially good customer for CORN, LP's product. We shipped more than 10% of all of India's ethanol imports last year.

None of these achievements at CORN, LP

or Gold-Eagle happen by accident. This level of success requires strong leadership at various ranks, including your board of directors. These dedicated people invest the necessary time in the annual retreat for the discussion, debate and reflection needed to design a viable plan for the future. It's full speed ahead as we guide CORN, LP and Gold-Eagle into 2017 and beyond. ◀

"We're enthusiastic about the year ahead, especially since your cooperative's financials are so solid."

EASY DOES IT: Let Us Help With Variable-Rate Seeding, Planter Monitor Setup

By Bruce Burns
Eagle Vision Precision
Farming Services



Spring isn't far away, and we're ready to help you with your variable-rate seeding prescriptions. We have a couple options in 2017 to produce these prescriptions for you, including Climate FieldView™ Pro or Eagle Vision's VRS Generator.

If you're planting DEKALB® seed, I highly recommend the Climate FieldView Pro Automated Prescription Generator. Contact your local Gold-Eagle seed salesperson to get pricing and more details.

In a nutshell, this program looks at several layers of data on your field, along with the most unique component in the industry today—the specific characteristics of the DKC Hybrid you are planting. If you are planting non-Monsanto traits, you may still get a prescription generated from the software. We would have to receive those layers of data from you, regardless of what form you want to choose, if we do not have them stored already from you.

Know what information makes a difference

Gold-Eagle has our own way of creating prescriptions for your fields. We use basically the same layers of information used with the FieldView System. Some of these layers have important information to gather when placing variable seed populations. Some of the major items we discuss with you when we write variable-rate seeding prescriptions include:

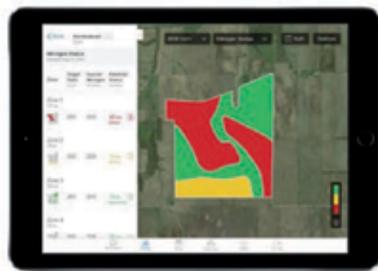
- **Hybrid type—fixed or flexed?** It's important to know the characteristics of your hybrid(s) for the field you're preparing.
- **Corn-on-corn or standard rotation?** Make sure you have the right choice(s) for your fields.
- **Drainage.** Pattern-tiled fields, areas with no tile and everything in between make a big difference with variable-rate seeding.
- **Fertility levels and fertility program.** Prescriptions will depend on whether you're aggressive or passive with this.
- **Soil type information.** This is an important factor in variance of seed. Also consider corn suitability ratings (CSR).

- **Past yield data.** We might not want to use data from years that are not "normal." We can use a multi-year analysis map off of these. This is our base layer if we have enough years to go by.

Contact your local Gold-Eagle salesperson today to get more information on how to start this process. We also have the capability of setting up your monitors with client, farm and field hierarchy, along with the hybrid and varieties you'll be planting in 2017. Most (but not all) modern monitors have this capability.

We look forward to working with you on your variable-rate seeding prescriptions and appreciate your business. ◀

NEW FEATURES FOR 2017



NITROGEN MONITORING BY ZONE

Better understand nitrogen availability in your field with nitrogen monitoring by customizable zones.



ADVANCED VARIABLE RATE SEEDING PRESCRIPTIONS

Optimize your seed investment with customizable variable rate seeding prescription tools that use your unique field data.



YIELD ANALYSIS TOOLS

Analyze seed performance by soil type, field, or even field region so you can pick the best seed for next season.

Spraying Dicamba-Tolerant Soybeans

By **Stu Pannuk**
Agronomy Sales Manager



including Palmer amaranth, water-hemp, marestail, ivyleaf morning glory and other tough broadleaf weeds such as lambsquarter and velvetleaf. Both herbicides provide up to two weeks of residual control and excellent crop tolerance.

Both BASF and Monsanto highly recommend the use of a residual

herbicide along with the application of their dicamba herbicide. This information is for your reference. Always read and follow label directions.

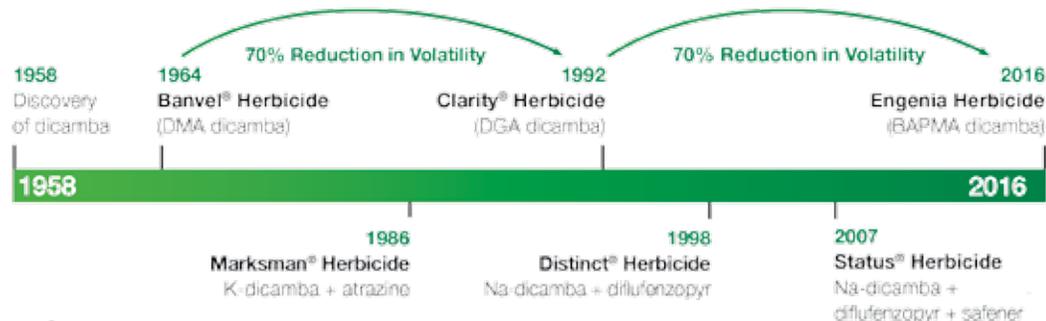
For all updates concerning approved tank mixes, nozzles, spray adjuvants, etc., visit engeniataankmix.com for Engenia and xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com for XtendiMax. ◀

You've probably heard about next-level weed control in soybeans, now that two dicamba products are labeled, including Engenia™ herbicide from BASF and XtendiMax™ from Monsanto.

Disclaimer: When I wrote this in mid-February, the information I'm now sharing was accurate at that time, although the label can change daily, it seems, with these products.

Both Engenia and XtendiMax have labels that list control of more than 200 broadleaf weeds,

A 50+ Year History of Dicamba Innovation from BASF



WHERE ENGENIA™ HERBICIDE AND XTENDIMAX™ ARE THE SAME

- Application timing—burndown through R1 for soybeans
- Weed height—4 inches or less
- Rainfast—4 hours
- Spray volume—minimum 10 gallons per acre
- Boom height—24 inches or less above target (no aerial application)
- Ground speed—maximum of 15 miles per hour
- Do not spray if an inversion
- Approved tank-mix partners—none (no ammonium additives or acidifying water conditioners)
- Sprayer cleanout—triple rinse using detergent-based cleaner immediately after spraying; do not let solution sit overnight
- Areas considered part of a buffer:
 - Roads (paved or gravel surfaces)
 - Planted non-sensitive crops (dicamba-tolerant soybeans, corn, etc.)
 - Agricultural fields prepared for planting
 - Areas covered by the footprint of a building, silo or other man-made structure with walls or a roof
 - Ditches (if they are considered non-sensitive areas)

WHERE ENGENIA AND XTENDIMAX DIFFER

ENGENIA

Dicamba: New BAPMA salt reduces volatility risk adjuvant

Use rate: 12.8 fluid ounces/acre

Respirator: Required for handling Engenia

Runoff restriction: None

Buffer size: 110 feet (when needed)

Spray nozzle: TTI11004

XTENDIMAX

Dicamba: Clarity® with VaporGrip™

Use rate: 22 to 44 fluid ounces/acre (pre); 22 fluid ounces/acre (post)

Respirator: None required

Runoff restriction: Within 24 hours of a rain event

Buffer size: 110 feet (when needed at 22-fluid-ounce rate); 220 feet (when needed at 44-fluid-ounce rate)

Spray nozzle: Visit xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com

WIND RESTRICTIONS

Can spray when wind is 0-15 mph

Four different references:

- Non-sensitive crops
- Specialty crops
- Sensitive non-specialty crops
- Threatened and endangered species

Can spray when wind is 3-15 mph

Three different references:

- Non-sensitive crops
- Susceptible (sensitive) crops
- Sensitive areas



Save \$1/Acre on Spring Grid Sampling

By Bruce Burns
Eagle Vision Precision Farming Services

Want another reason for grid sampling right after you plant your fields? The price is \$1 per acre cheaper, compared to fall sampling.

Another big advantage is getting your results back during the summer. This gives you and Gold-Eagle the opportunity to set up a plan on all the acres you've just gridded. When you are finished with harvest on that particular field, simply make a call and have Gold-Eagle's team implement the fertilization plan you made. This saves about two to three weeks of your time, which is helpful since you probably want to start tillage as soon as possible.

What you need to know about soil sampling

Taking a grid of your fields is just like taking an inventory to find out what nutrients need attention and especially where. Research has shown that the spring soil sample results compared to fall sample results are not much different. The key is to stay consistent with the same time frame when you resample.

Soil pH issues are the main reason to take a 2.5-acre grid

sample, as there is a significant return in investment on putting lime on your fields where needed. Phosphorus and potassium, along with micronutrients such as zinc and sulfur, are a bonus.

We can make a solid fertility plan for you with the results of your soil samples. Gold-Eagle utilizes some of the best software to produce the best recommendations in the industry. We combine this data with our knowledge of your fields to help you maximize the return on investment.

We recommend you grid sample your fields every fourth year. That way you get an updated set of recommendations, as your soil's nutrient strengths/needs have surely changed. Also, sampling one-fourth of your fields yearly will spread out your expenses for the grids.

What about the talk in the agronomy world that sampling is recommended every two years? Do what fits your needs and is cost effective for your operation. Have a safe spring, and thank you for your business. ◀

New Agronomy Equipment Means Even Better Service

We're always investing in upgraded agronomy rolling stock and equipment to provide timelier service for you. Our latest additions include:

- A clean 2013 STS14 Hagie Sprayer for Gold-Eagle's Region 2. This rig is equipped with Viper 4 spray technology for greater precision, a 120-foot boom and comes complete with chemical injection, auto steer, auto boom height and auto boom section controls.
- Three complete new liquid tenders, including two for Region 1 and one for Region 3. Each unit will increase our liquid tending capacity and is equipped with:
 - 3,700-gallon, all stainless-steel construction tank
 - New 36-foot drop deck trailers with air-bag suspension
 - Two 350-gallon stainless steel mini-bulks
 - Complete plumbing with 3-inch transfer pumps ◀



**Gold Eagle's
2017 Bulk
Crop Protection
Storage and
Loading Sites**

Corwith

- PowerMAX®
- Resicore™
- Volley® NXT

Eagle Grove

- PowerMAX
- Resicore

Goldfield

- PowerMAX
- Harness®

Hardy

- PowerMAX
- Flexstar® GT 3.5
- Ledger™
- Volley ATZ Lite NXT

Livermore

- PowerMAX
- Harness
- Resicore
- Hallex GT

Renwick

- PowerMAX
- Harness

Titonka

- PowerMAX
- Ledger
- Harness
- Volley NXT

Wesley

- Acuron™
- Prefix®
- Ledger
- PowerMAX
- Harness Xtra
- Resicore
- Volley ATZ Lite NXT

Consider Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans

While I wasn't sure what to expect in December, many of you helped Gold-Eagle have strong sales of seed this winter. By mid-February, some Gold-Eagle locations had received all their seed corn. We have a good supply throughout the company, especially since there have been two extremely good seed production years.

I encourage you to go over your seeding plans now with your Gold-Eagle agronomist. We are ready to help you get your 2017 crop off to a good start.

There's also a good supply of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ soybeans, and I encourage you to try some. Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans provide tolerance to dicamba and glyphosate herbicides, offering more consistent, flexible weed control.

Dicamba can be a really good product to spray on soybeans to control yield-robbing weeds. With dicamba, you won't get bronzing or

*By Chris Petersen
Seed Sales Manager*



browning of the beans. Don't just try Roundup Ready 2 Xtend this year for the weed control, though. I want you to try them to experience the good yield potential.

If you try some Roundup Ready 2 Xtend beans, don't split the field with another variety. Spraying a dicamba-based program and then switching to a non-dicamba product can create big issues, including the increased risk of sprayer contamination and higher drift potential.

No doubt we'll learn a lot this summer about Roundup Ready 2 Xtend beans. Visit with your Gold-Eagle agronomist about how these new soybeans can fit your acres. ◀





Keep an Eye on the March USDA Report

By Brady Hess
Merchandising
Manager



February is when the markets tend to rally during the winter months. By mid-February of 2017 we were up 15 cents on corn and 18 cents on soybeans. The next big market mover may be the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) grain stocks and prospective plantings report, which will be released March 31.

The pre-report estimates are expecting more corn acres. Expenses have come down with corn production, which makes the crop offer more profit potential than in the past. Because of this, I don't expect a big rally in corn prices, based on the market at press time.

Along with ample corn supplies, there are plenty of soybeans available worldwide, too. Fortunately, protein demand

remains strong around the world. It's also good that U.S. grain exports look competitive through this July.

In the meantime, the managed monies in the market are flowing back into commodities, including grain. These traders are taking long positions. If you're holding on for a rally, it's probably not going to happen. The only strategy right now is to sell the carries.

Specialty contracts are working well

Those of you who are taking advantage of Gold-Eagle's specialty grain-marketing programs are discovering how these can add value. The Accumulator contract is one of these tools.

Rather than settle for the current market price, the Price Accumulator grain-marketing contract can help you achieve strategic price targets to establish your futures reference price. If prices go higher, you may sell additional quantities.

You can still sign up for Gold-Eagle's specialty grain-marketing programs. Contact me or any member of Gold-Eagle's merchandising team at 800-825-3331. We look forward to serving you. ◀

Have You Checked Your Bins Lately?

If your grain bins and other grain storage sites were filled with dollar bills, you'd probably check your bins quite often. You may not have actual dollar bills in storage, but you do have something equally valuable—the grain you harvested last fall.

If you have on-farm storage, now's the time to be checking it, especially as daily temperatures start to warm up. Core your bins, as necessary. The amount of damaged grain in the country was significant by mid-February. Be sure to protect your investment.

GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

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Calling All 4-H, FFA Livestock Exhibitors!

The county fair and state fair season will be here before you know it, and many livestock exhibitors in our area are getting ready. If you are looking for show feed or other products to help your 4-H or FFA livestock thrive, Gold-Eagle is here to help.

It's exciting to see lots of young people in our area take on the challenge of raising livestock for their fair projects. We're here to serve you, whether you raise cattle, hogs, sheep or goats. We stock a number of products through our feed

*By Rachel Howdyshell
Customer Sales and Support*



warehouse in Eagle Grove and can deliver these products to our various Gold-Eagle locations.

Even if we don't have what you're looking for in stock, we can order it. We don't keep a lot of show feed on hand, for example, because we want the feed to be as fresh as possible.

We also provide technical expertise beyond products. If you have any questions about livestock management, our feed team can help you find the answers you need.

I look forward to hearing from you. Just call us at the feed mill in Eagle Grove at 800-873-1797 to start the conversation. We value your business and appreciate the chance to help the next generation learn about livestock production. ◀

