



THE PERSPECTIVE

SPRING 2024

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LOCATIONS

Galt 515-825-9673	Hutchins 641-843-3828
Clarion 515-532-2881	Kanawha 641-762-3251
Corwith 515-583-2462	Kiester, MN 507-294-3697
Eagle Grove 515-448-4775	Leland 641-567-3341
Eagle Grove Feedmill 515-448-5392	Livermore 515-379-1843
Forest City 641-585-2814	Renwick 515-824-3214
Galbraith 515-825-9695	Thor 515-378-3314
Goldfield 515-825-3161	Titonka 515-928-2272
Hardy 515-824-3221	Wesley 515-825-9680
Holmes 515-825-9675	Woden 515-825-9693

Welcome New FCA Members

We were thrilled to hear the final turnout and tally from the FCA vote that occurred a few weeks ago. The FCA board did a great job communicating with and educating the membership on what a merger with Gold-Eagle would look like. Ultimately, that resulted in FCA's class A membership voting 95% in favor of the merger; I'm very proud of that number and I think it is a wonderful testament to the synergies between the two cooperatives. We've heard a lot of positive comments from both FCA and GEC membership and look forward to integrating the two teams to most efficiently serve our membership.

Gold-Eagle has been diligently working to ensure a smooth transition come July 1st. We are excited to integrate the employee teams and all the FCA members into the fold. We do not take lightly the trust that FCA members have placed in us and are thankful for the opportunity to expand our services further north.

The projects in Eagle Grove are, for the most part, on pace. The bins and corn receiving at the feed mill are coming along and the landscape is definitely changing in that part of town. The

fertilizer tower rehabilitation in Wesley is also going well and we are anxious to be able to utilize this site more efficiently.

Our customer appreciation lunches are in full swing and it has been nice to chat with many of our members. We have one more market outlook meeting to be held in Eagle Grove and a couple more months of lunches throughout the territory; please join us at one or more if you can. We are looking forward to hosting an open house at the Galt feed mill mid-July; if you haven't had a chance to haul there (or even if you have), we'd love for you to come check out the updated facility. While it was always our intention to eventually update this facility, the derecho of 2020 forced our hand early. The site was functional mid-harvest 2023, but we are excited to see it in full harvest swing this fall. The ability to dry corn and take soybeans in Galt has been a game changer for our members in that area.



CHRIS BOSHART,
GENERAL MANAGER

Remaining Summer Schedule for GEC Customer Appreciation Events

Wednesday, July 3 Hutchins	Wednesday, July 31 Eagle Grove <i>Market Outlook with Kevin Riesberg</i>	Wednesday, August 21 Bear Creek <i>GEC Member Golf Outing</i>
Wednesday, July 10 Galbraith	Wednesday, August 8 Clarion	Tuesday, August 27 Kanawha
Thursday, July 18 Galt	Tuesday, August 13 Hardy	Wednesday, August 28 Spring Valley <i>GEC Member Golf Outing</i>
Wednesday, July 24 Goldfield	Tuesday, August 20 Thor	

GOLD-EAGLE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Tracy Studer
Wesley, Iowa
Term Expires 2025

VICE PRESIDENT

John D. Myers
Hardy, Iowa
Term Expires 2024

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Laurie Johnson
Belmond, Iowa
Term Expires 2024

DIRECTORS

Scott Anderson
Thompson, Iowa
Term Expires 2026

Wendell Christensen, Jr.
Wesley, Iowa
Term Expires 2026

Jim Moore
Clarion, Iowa
Term Expires 2025

Josh Murra
Buffalo Center, Iowa
Term Expires 2025

Brian Spellmeyer
Dakota City, Iowa
Term Expires 2026

Kevin Steenblock
Kanawha, Iowa
Term Expires 2024

Aaron Thompson
Kanawha, Iowa
Term Expires 2026

Justin Ullmann
Woden, Iowa
Term Expires 2025

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jerod Hatcher
Humboldt, Iowa

Ross Miller
Forest City, Iowa

Meet Board Member, Scott Anderson

Scott has served on the FCA board of directors for the last seven years; he was the secretary for a time and, most recently, has served as the Vice President. He was one of the members selected to now serve on the Gold-Eagle Coop board starting July 1st. Scott farms right on the state line, north of Thompson near Kiester, MN. He and his wife, Arin, have been married for 26 years. Scott has farmed for the last 28 years and Arin is the computer science teacher at North Iowa Community Schools. Scott and Arin enjoy going to concerts and sporting events; they like new experiences. Scott is active in the Winnebago County Farm Bureau and North Central Iowa Ag in the Classroom. Welcome to the GEC board, Scott!

Q: What excites you most about the unification with Gold-Eagle Cooperative?

A: I was part of the group that had a very informal meeting with a small group from Gold-Eagle about five years ago. That was shortly after Gold-Eagle's CEO, Chris Boshart, had started in the role and he, along with the board members and management team, all impressed me. From then on, I was more tuned in to watching how well Gold-Eagle was run. I'm excited for our employees and our members to be a part of this organization; in my opinion, they'll get big coop benefits with the small coop attitude. Gold-Eagle continues to encompass that "old-school" coop atmosphere where employees are treated well and service is at the forefront for members.

Q: What are your goals for serving on the board?

A: My biggest goal is to always serve the membership to the best of my ability. There are so many opportunities as a board member to learn and share knowledge. It's great

to tie what I've learned in my own operation to my knowledge as a board member and vice versa.

Q: How did you get involved with the coop board?

A: My father served as a board member for Kiester Elevator way back when. I admired his service to the board and I was always interested in being a part of the full picture so that ultimately led to me running for a seat on the FCA board.

Q: How do you like to keep up with industry news?

A: I find that following the right people on Twitter and other social media sites provides a lot of good information, or at least the start of information that I can look into further. I also subscribe to several print magazines for industry news.

Q: What is the key to being a successful board member?

A: Board members have to be open-minded and level-headed. You never know what could happen and remaining open-minded to opportunities and other's opinions are, in my opinion, the keys to being a successful team member on the board of directors.

Q: What's a fun fact not many people know about you?

A: If I hadn't become a farmer, I'd like to think I would have been a roadie for a rock band.



**SCOTT ANDERSON,
GOLD-EAGLE COOP
BOARD MEMBER**

Essentials To Help Beat Heat Stress In Cattle

If you're a kid at the swimming pool, the heat of summer can be delightful. But for cattle, summer heat can be dangerous, even deadly. Heat stress in cattle is not something to be taken lightly; below are a few precautionary steps essential to help cattle through hot weather.

Watch Cattle Waterers

The most important essential to avoid heat stress in cattle is the availability of clean, fresh water. Water intake can increase by up to 50 percent during extreme heat. Water not only prevents dehydration, but many animals will place their tongue and nose in the water to help cool the body.

Here are some cattle water tips:

- Consider adding cattle water trough space when existing water sources are crowded. The recommended standard linear space for cattle waterers is 0.75 inches per head, but increasing linear area to two or more inches per head has been shown to decrease heat stress.
- Monitor calves carefully for water intake. Calves are small and they get dehydrated quickly. Cows typically drink first, making calves second in line. Make sure there is enough water flow for the calves after the cows have been at the water source. After a few long hours

in the heat, the last thing you want is calves to return to empty cattle waterers.

- Ensure water sources are an appropriate height for calves to access. The height of some cattle waterers makes it hard for calves to access, discouraging water intake.

Use Cattle Fly Control

Controlling flies is another essential strategy to prevent heat stress in cattle. Biting, irritation, and blood loss caused by flies adds stress to the animal. To protect themselves from flies, cattle often group together, but this behavior can cause animals at the center of the group to become overheated.

Here are some go-to cattle fly control methods:

- For pasture settings, use fly control mineral for cattle containing Altosid to target horn flies.
- In feedyard settings, consider a custom Purina supplement with ClariFly to control house, stable, face, and horn flies.
- In any environment, cleanliness is critical. Scrape manure out of lots, remove excess feed along the outside of bunks, and cut weeds to help reduce fly populations.

More Hot Weather Essentials

In addition to water management and

cattle fly control, here are a few more essentials to help combat heat stress in cattle:

- Offer shade if at all possible. Shade can't always be provided but, when available, it can help reduce heat stress in cattle.
- Consider air flow; a 5-10 mph wind helps to cool the animal's body temperature. Avoid the use of pens with limited airflow (i.e., pens surrounded by tall cornfields or bales) or remove potential windbreaks. If you do use pens with limited airflow, build mounds within them to help raise cattle to an elevation with airflow.
- Don't handle cattle in the heat. If possible, consider waiting to process until a cooler day. If you must work animals, do so in the morning when the temperature tends to be lowest.

A few small changes can help keep cattle comfortable when the summer temperatures rise.



Construction is progressing nicely at the feedmill in Eagle Grove.

How Much Does It Cost To Plant A Cover Crop?

To meet minimum NRCS standards for cereal rye incorporated, you need to plant 40 pounds to the acre and if you broadcast on top, it is 60 pounds to the acre. You need to have planted by November 15. Winter killed covers like oats or radish need to be planted by September 22nd. I have priced rye seed at \$0.25 per pound, so the seed cost would be \$10 to \$15 per acre. ISU has custom no till drilling at an average of \$20 per acre. If we assume you will need to make an extra pass with glyphosate, then that cost is \$7 per acre and 1 quart of glyphosate is \$12.50. So, if you were to drill the rye, then the cost comes in at just under \$50 per acre. For corn extension, the recommendation is to kill the cover crop 10 to 14 days before planting. For soybeans, planting green is an accepted process. The cost to plant oats as fall cover that will winter kill is \$0.33 per pound and the NRCS MINIMUM rate is 60 pounds per acre, so the per acre cost is \$20.



**CHUCK CORNILLIE,
CONSERVATION
AGRONOMIST**

Managing Drown Out

We've had a touch more rain than expected this Spring/early Summer. Some have called it the wettest drought we've had in a long time. With all that moisture inevitably comes some areas of drowned out crops. As we get into mid-June, replanting your intended crop may be futile; however, not doing anything will be detrimental to subsequent years' crops.

Drowned out areas are prime spots for weeds to pop up. Weeds in these areas will spread and, when you go through them at harvest, will get distributed even further in your field. Left unattended, drowned out areas can become overrun with weeds leading to increases in the weed seedbank and impacting weed control for years to come. The other potential problem with doing nothing in these drowned out areas is that fallow ground syndrome can occur. This happens when there is not enough living root material for beneficial soil mycorrhizal fungi to survive. Maintaining the "good" fungi is essential to facilitate uptake of phosphorus and other nutrients with limited mobility in the soil such as zinc.

Instead of abandoning these spots, consider mowing them if they are easily accessible. Mowing the weeds before they produce seed can help prevent contributions to the weed seedbank. If mowing isn't a viable option, use tillage. If you can get tillage equipment to the affected areas, throughout the season, that can be a great alternative and will help prevent weeds from getting out of control.

While the above options are preferable to doing nothing, the best option for these spots at this point in time is cover crops. Planting a low-cost cover crop seed that can be broadcast or applied via aerial or high clearance would be the best in preventing weeds. Ryes and clovers are good cover crops that require little maintenance, especially if you choose a variety that would die off over the winter. Please consider which herbicide(s) you've applied to be sure that a cover crop would be able to grow. The following website is a great tool to give you further information regarding herbicide interactions with cover crops: <https://z.umn.edu/ccandherbicies>

Keep your soils working by providing them with microbial activity, biomass, and roots to ensure it keeps performing the way you want it to. Reach out to your trusted Gold-Eagle agronomist and we can help you choose the best methods for your individual operation.



**BOONE MORGAN,
SALES MANAGER,
AGRONOMY DIVISION**



← **Scholarship committee member, Shane Davis, presented Ava McIntire of Humboldt with one of two Gold-Eagle \$500 scholarships at their awards night. Colin Kirstein of Clarion was the other scholarship winner. Over 20 applications were submitted this year and the committee was very impressed with the candidates – thank you to all the graduates who took time to complete the application**

FCA Brings Opportunity For Feed Business Expansion

Summer is here, after a cooler than normal spring followed by easy rains, we are off to a great start.

The transition to two mills after shutting down our Goldfield mill is going well; we were able to absorb those tons into our Galt and Eagle Grove feed mills. Tonnage is still strong going into summer, but we expect to see some pull back on tons with the summer heat affecting consumption. Our poultry customers are on high alert with HPAI rearing its ugly head in Iowa. There have also been at least four dairies in northwest Iowa that have contracted the disease. Biosecurity is critical; rest assured that Gold-Eagle is doing our part.

The grain facility going up just west of the Eagle Grove feed mill continues to

be built. Several towers are in place and the bins will soon be going up.

Gold-Eagle's merger with Farmers Cooperative Association, which will officially start on July 1, has opened some new opportunities for GEC feed. We are meeting with their feed department regularly and are working to establish expectations that their feed customers can count on once the merger is complete. We are getting acquainted as a staff, understanding each other's roles, which will help us maintain the existing business and look to expand in the FCA territory. We will also find ways that the Leland and Kiester mill may help Gold-Eagle with some of the smaller accounts that are in that area. Kyle Greiman, our feed sales specialist, will play a key role in

establishing relationships and becoming the "go-to" person for their customers. Our goal is to grow the feed business in that area.

With a couple of recent hires, we are approaching our normal headcount for mill operations, maintenance, and feed transport. We continue to look for qualified candidates to fill those positions still open.



BRAD DE VRIES, FEED DIVISION MANAGER

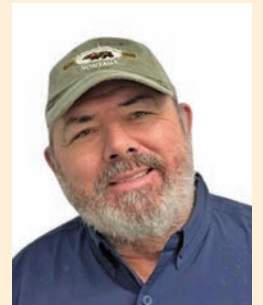
Welcome Chuck Cornillie, Gold-Eagle's Conservation Agronomist

Chuck joins Gold-Eagle as the first conservation agronomist, paving the way for improvement of water quality practices and to ensure members are set up for success when carbon incentives inevitably work their way into field level practices. Chuck grew up on a farm in Michigan where he worked on the farm and got into a district conservationist role. He earned an agronomy degree from Michigan State and has spent time in the country of Lesotho in Southern Africa as part of the Peace Corps. He credits his time in Lesotho as having the most impact on his desire to be involved in conservation. The erosion in South Africa is so prevalent that it often drives people to leave the area and is directly caused by poor land management. He has also

worked as a consultant for fertilizer and pest management and has spent the last four years managing organic farms in Illinois and New York. He likes to keep his focus on regenerative agriculture, mimicking natural systems as closely as possible within the constraints of commercial farming operations. Chuck believes that the scale of agriculture in North Central Iowa and the capacity of the local soils to sequester carbon, allow for small changes to have big impact.

Chuck has two daughters, one of which just entered the working world and the other is attending college in Michigan. In his free time, Chuck enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, fishing, and sports. He is anxious to continue to meet Gold-

Eagle members and engage in conversation around how he can best help your operation take advantage of cost share programs and set yourself up to get as many benefits as possible from carbon credit programs that are in the works. To get in touch with Chuck, please call 515-364-0652 or send him an email at cornillie@goldeaglecoop.com.



CHUCK CORNILLIE, CONSERVATION AGRONOMIST

Gold-Eagle's Carbon Programs

With all the buzz out there about 45Z, 40B, and carbon credit programs, I thought I would take a minute and try to clear up any confusion. Carbon credit programs are programs that pay farmers for reducing their carbon footprint and sequestering carbon. They are usually funded privately by companies looking to offset the greenhouse gases they produce in the process of doing business. Because they are looking to reduce the total volume of greenhouse gases, most of them operate on the principle of additionality. So, if a practice that reduces CO2 emissions is already in place, then companies do not want to pay for it; those practices have already had an effect on the total volume of greenhouse gases. Without this principal, companies may pay for preserving forest land that was never under any threat of deforestation or the owners could claim that it would be logged just to get the payment. To those of us in agriculture, this seems very unfair because it keeps farmers who have been doing conservation practices from participating in the very programs designed to benefit them. Gold-Eagle is acting as an agent for two carbon credit programs and the single most important reason we chose these programs to represent was because one (Truterra) does not operate on the principle of additionality and the

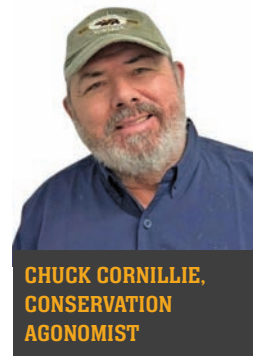
other (Bayer) operates on qualified additionality. In the Bayer program, a practice qualifies if it was begun after 2018. Carbon Intensity programs like 45Z do not operate on the principle of additionality; they are practice based as opposed to outcome based. The CI score for a given practice is generated by the GREET Model which is designed to assess the energy, emissions, and resource used in the production of transportation fuels. In the case of agriculture, we think it will also take into account carbon sequestration in our soil. They are also government funded through tax cuts.

We found out on April 30th, when the government released the 40B rules for Sustainable Aviation Fuel, that you will not be able to participate in both a carbon credits program and a carbon intensity program like 45Z. Although the rules for 45Z (the ethanol tax credit) have yet to be released, we can assume that the rules in this regard will at least be the same as 40B. So, why sign up for a carbon credit program if it is going to bar you from participating in the Z45 program? Truterra is a one-year contract, but you actually do not sign a contract until December and, by that time, we should have the 45Z rules and you should have an understanding of how you can profit in a CI program or a carbon credit program so you can

choose. Plus, with Truterra, at least you will get a CI score. Even with Bayer, the contract is five years but it is not binding; you can leave whenever you want.

Participating in a carbon program will give you an idea of how these programs work and what practices will net you the most money. We are also looking at other options to get farmers CI scores, especially on land that does not qualify for a carbon credit program. Although the two programs are different, the same levers are going to drive payments in both programs. The two major drivers are going to be cover crops and less tillage, but nitrogen efficiency is going to factor in as well and other inputs and field trips

We have until August 1st to sign up for Truterra's program; there is no deadline for Bayer. These programs are unaffected by USDA cost share programs. In order to be sure you are able to get enrolled in Truterra's program, please contact me as soon as possible so I have all the data ready to enter come August 1st.



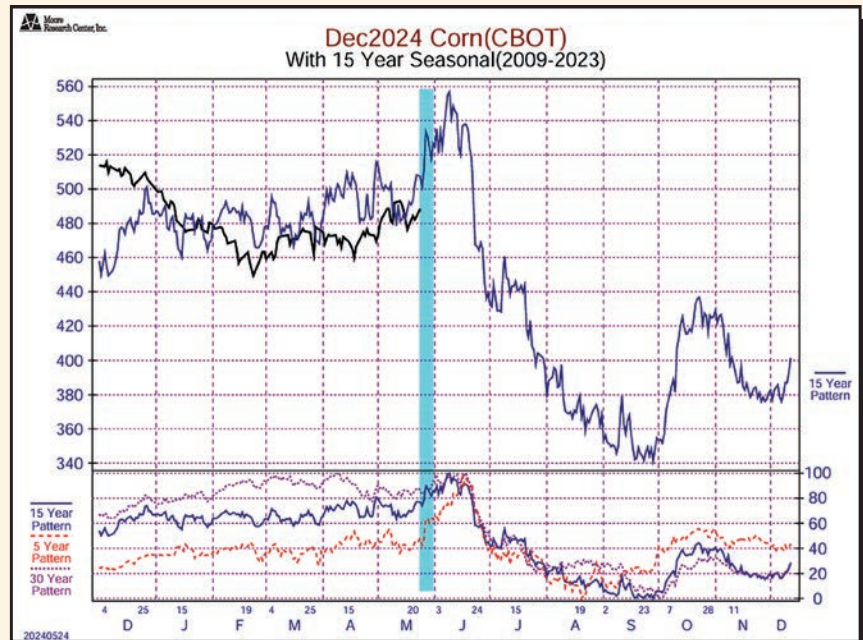
A nice sunny day for a customer appreciation lunch hosted in Corwith.

Spring Recap On Grain

While not as big as we expected, there is still a large Brazil corn crop coming and the large old crop carryout will keep weather rallies in check. The funds in corn covered shorts; from the end of April to mid-May, corn shorts covered 146,869 contracts and July corn rallied 31 cents during that time. In that same time frame, bean shorts covered 106,571 contracts and July soybeans rallied 97 cents during that time. Wheat got excited as dry and warm weather in Eastern Europe threatens production outlook.

- Most of IA experienced one of the wettest April 1 thru May 23rd periods ever
 - o For NW and NC IA, it was the 3rd wettest on record, going back to 1893
 - o For C IA and NE IA it was the 4th wettest on record

- o The bulls will argue for lost corn acres, the bears argue the drought is gone
- Bean crush margins are not great compared to the last few years
 - o Some seasonal shut-downs occurring
 - o Oil demand for renewable diesel has been disappointing
 - Used cooking oils imported from China takes away potential demand
 - o Numerous crush plants taking extended downtimes this spring/summer
 - o Some of the downtimes have been years in the making
 - o Plants have delayed upgrades as margins the last two years were too attractive to take extended breaks



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The first lunch and learn of the summer hosted in Wesley. Jason Sagebiel from StoneX gave a market outlook update while members enjoyed lunch.

Awaiting Effects Of A Wet Spring

The saying that it doesn't take a long time to get wet, but can take a lot longer to get dry held true so far this season. Rainfall amounts varied a lot throughout Gold-Eagle territory. The largest amount of replant was in the Northern parts of the territory. Pallet after pallet of replant seed was ordered. When you look at the high replant areas, I think I am safe to say that they had at least a 10% replant. I don't know how all those acres will turn out. Most of the replant was due to drowned out areas that were replanted and then refilled again with water. We have not experienced this in many years and a lot of things have changed since the last time we did. For many of us, the hybrids and soybeans that we planted several years ago are totally different. We have heard a lot of talk about tar spot that started in the winter of 2022 and 2023. How will the change in weather effect that and will a lot of disease that we have not had to deal with in many years suddenly return? With the high amounts of rain, will the winter months that would have supported a successful overwintering population of rootworms drown them out? All good questions! As a farmer, you roll with the punches. Most of us have dealt with worse issues and, in the past few years, we have never versed away from the practices and methods we have used to achieve optimal yields and this year will be no exception to that.

We have an existing line up as well as some new products for next year in our plots that we will be keeping our eyes on. Bayer and Corteva have very robust product lines and continue to pump out next level genetics that will keep pushing that high yield mark. We will stay focused on how they perform and share local yield results with you this fall.

I would also like to welcome Chuck Cornillie to the agronomy sales team as Gold-Eagle's first conservation agronomist. Chuck's number one purpose is conservation. Chuck has several articles in this newsletter and can help talk you through the programs that have caught our attention such

as carbon programs and programs like 45Z. Most of these programs and practices are the same as water quality programs and cost share programs from NRCS and help meet the goals of Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy. One thing I have learned from Chuck is that not everything is clean cut and dry. Most questions I hear is what is my carbon score and how will I be compensated for that? I wish it would be as simple as answering a couple questions and giving you a correct answer. The rules that govern what your carbon score is change and practices, as well as the outcomes of these programs, all have to be taken into consideration to give you an accurate number. What I do know is that, in order to take advantage of these programs, good record keeping is of utmost importance. Things like practice changes in tillage, nutrient management, and the use of cover crops are changes I think are going to be a must to capitalize the most from these programs. Chuck lays out some great opportunities to work with some of these practices and learn from them. My hope is that you try this out on some acres, learn what works and what does not for you. Everyone will be different in the ability to manage different programs. What I don't want is the opportunity for our growers to capitalize on carbon programs and incentives tied to a 45Z and not have any hands on experience with the practices and changes that would have to be made to capitalize on those incentives.

Early commitments to programs as mentioned by Chuck will allow us to work closely with you. We can help you learn from others that have been successful and hopefully help take some of the worry away from you that would come with them.



**CHRIS PETERSEN,
SEED MANAGER,
AGRONOMY DIVISION**



← Location agronomists met to hear from seed representatives about new products as well as farmer programs that new conservation agronomist, Chuck Cornillie, is promoting. They also heard from Bryan Martin and Elizabeth McOllough who went over the farmer GPR program.

Imagery Available All Growing Season

Field Health Imagery is included with your FieldView Plus subscription for you to utilize. Make sure you check these images out as they may help you detect any problems that may otherwise go unnoticed until harvest! If you need assistance on anything with FieldView, including where to find these field images, don't hesitate to call me!

If you don't have Climate FieldView Plus, or you want more advanced imagery, please give me a call or contact your personal salesperson to find out more information! Prices start around \$1/Acre and go up depending on what source you want and how many images you are wanted per field. Satellite imagery is the most reasonable and then airplane and drone images are higher per acre, but the more acres

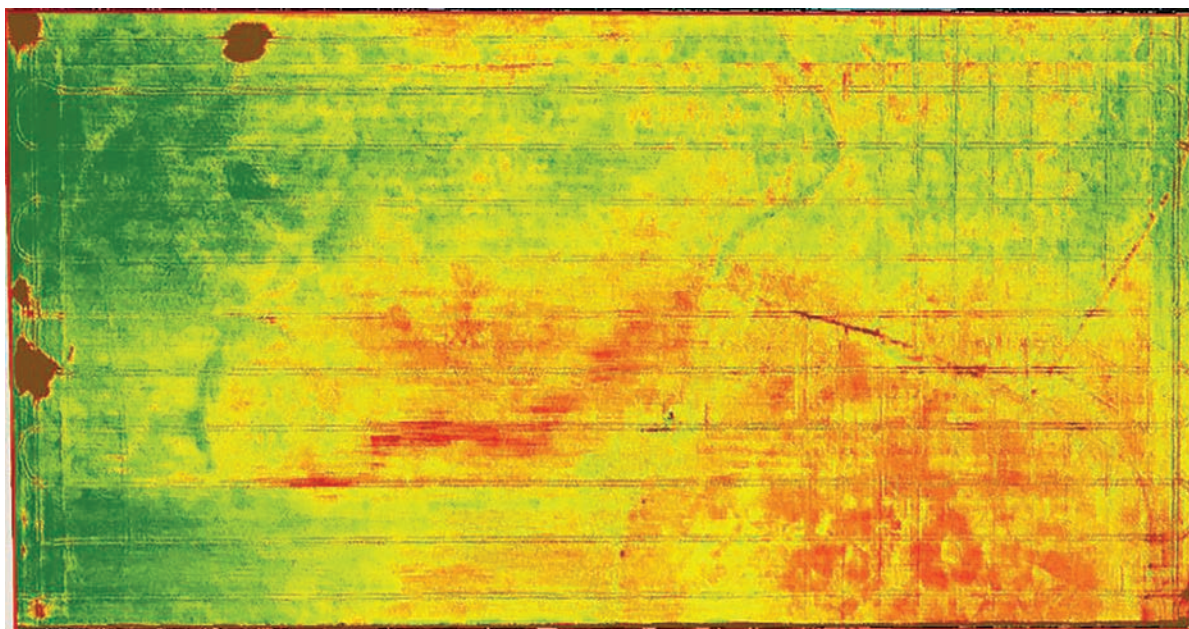
you fly the better price per acre. Benefits of this imagery is way more detailed spots in your field. You may find out that your field lacks nitrogen or has a "hot spot" of insect pressure or disease. For more detailed information and a demonstration on what images would be included in this package, Call Bruce @ (515) 825-9655. bburns@goldeaglecoop.com

Thanks for doing business with Gold Eagle Coop, we appreciate it!



**NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index)
0.25 M resolution**

Red to Green on every Map. Red not necessarily bad, jut that Green is showing more vegetation at that given time, but need to invetigate areas.



Imagery from a Drone



Some shiny new equipment from Hensley arrived at the truck shop in Eagle Grove recently.

Bring in 2024 Planting Data for Processing

Gold Eagle Coop Eagle Vision Services would be more than happy to import your data into our system and process it for you! This includes any 2024 Planting Data that you may have collected, plus any other Harvest data that you may have on Storage (thumb) Drives, Cloud services or even on your Computer Hard Drives. Bring your data to your local salesperson or we can come out and assist you with getting your Planting or Harvest data from your sources to our mapping program. MORE Data is key to gain MORE bushels per acre!

This is a free service to take advantage of and would include a PDF emailed to you.

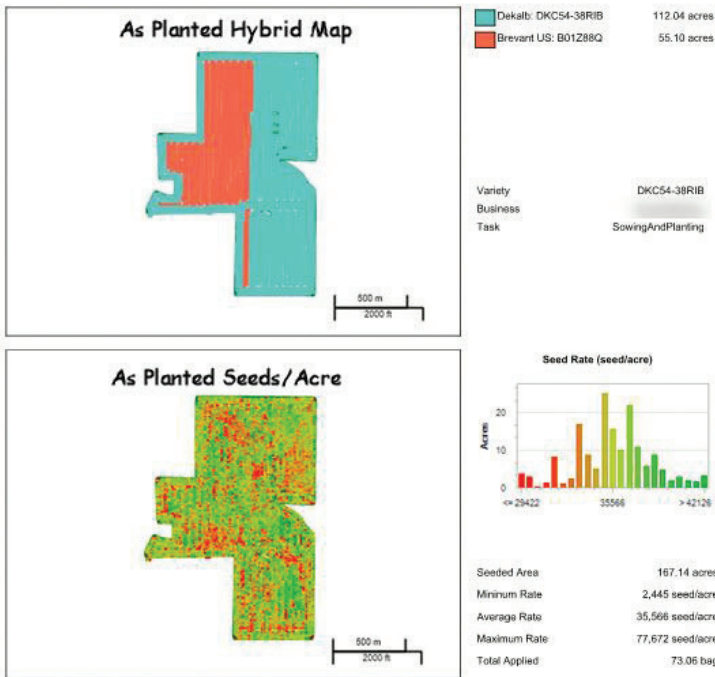
(Printing would be a minimal fee charged)

Printing and further Mapping programs are offered with the Eagle Vision Acre program that features all of our Precision Ag Services by Gold-Eagle Cooperative!

Read my article on Eagle Vision Acre for further details in this newsletter!

Planting data can be edited if you have the wrong Hybrid/Variety number on any given field.

Planting Date(s): 5/14/2022



Eagle Vision Bundle

*Grid Sample 25% of Total Farm Acres at 2.5 Acre Grids or 4.4 Acre Grids Yearly (3 Attributes Levels, your choice)

Gold-Eagle manages what fields are up for sampling we review with you yearly. (Adjusted by actual acres sampled, as we know it's impossible to land right on the 25%)

*Variable Rate Prescriptions (Planting, Fertilizer)

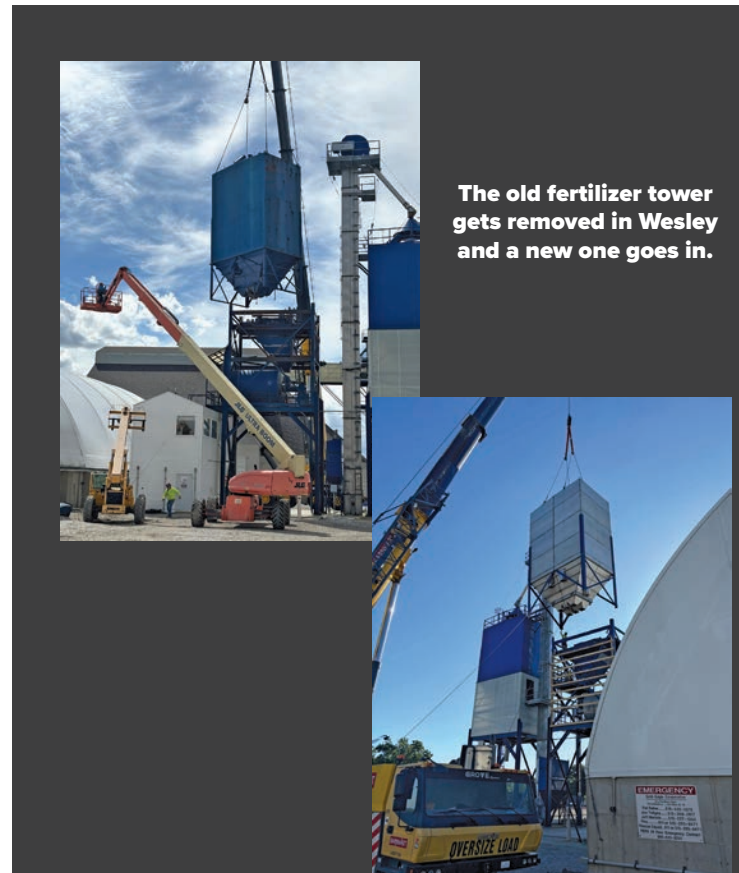
(Advanced Scripting in Climate FieldView Platform is an additional charge per acre)

*Yield Map Deluxe (Side by Side Trials and any type of Fungicide Treatment Comparisons)

*Monitor/Controller Support in your tractors and Combines including assistance on Grower/Farm/Field setup along with Hybrid/Variety input (Most Monitor Brands supported)

*Climate FieldView Plus is included with 2 out of the 3 bundles we offer. You don't have to utilize that platform if you don't want to. You won't be charged for it!

*Any Size Operation can participate! Cost is based on your total Farm Acres and what package is chosen.



Q&A On Saturated Buffers

What is it?

A saturated buffer has a sub-surface control structure that diverts flow from a tile outlet to a perforated distribution pipe that runs along the buffer. The water table is raised in the buffer where the soil filters nutrient removal before naturally entering a stream or a ditch. A saturated buffer is considered an edge of field practice. It can be paired with a control structure in the main or submain to raise water levels in the field during dry periods.

Where is it used?

Saturated buffers are best suited near low grade ditches and flat fields, where a subsurface main drains at least 15 acres, where soils have a restrictive layer and no sand or gravel layers, where a high water table can be maintained, and/or where there is at least 1% organic matter in the top 30 inches of the soil profile. It does not interfere with farming. The ground surface along the distribution pipe should be at least 24 inches lower than the ground surface at the edge of the cropped field.

Why install it?

Saturated buffers reduce nitrogen and phosphorous discharges from subsurface drainage outlets and they enhance or restore saturated conditions in riparian zones along streams or ditches. When paired with other drainage control structures, they can help you maintain soil moisture levels during dry periods. During wet times, you can bypass the buffer and route water directly in to the tile outlet.

What is the effectiveness?

In a study of 8 locations in the Mid-West, 40% to 100% of the subsurface drainage water was diverted into the saturation buffer and the removal of the nitrates from the diverted drainage water range ranged from 30% to 85%. Phosphorous removal can be up to 20%. An Iowa study saw 35% to 59% diverted into buffers throughout the first four years. The average reduction in nitrate concentration was 91% for water passing through a buffer root zone.

What other considerations do I need to look at?

- Once constructed, it is relatively self-sustaining.
- A controlled drainage structure is required to divert subsurface flow into the buffer.
- A vegetated buffer 30 feet wide is recommended to maximize saturated conditions and soil plant interactions.
- Soil organic matter and a restrictive layer are the most critical factors to the saturated buffer performance.
- Once constructed, adjusting the stop logs in the controlled drainage structure a similar amount of management as a conventional controlled drainage practice.



CHUCK CORNILLIE,
CONSERVATION
AGONOMIST

What are the costs?

100% cost share is available through State and Federal programs! Costs are site specific, but in a study of 15 saturated buffers in four states the average cost was \$6,500.

How does it work?

Diverted drainage water is treated naturally as it creates saturated conditions in the soil profile. Roots, plants, and microbes work to remove nitrogen from the water. Sediments associated with Phosphorous flow into the soil profile where they can be trapped. After drainage leaves the pipe, it can flow unrestricted into a ditch or stream.

Contact your local NRCS/ SWCD Office to get more details and technical and cost share assistance information.
Kossuth County District Conservationist: Brian Tumey
515-295-5156 brian.tumey@usda.gov
Humboldt County District Conservationist: Kelsi Sieren
515-332-3337 kelsi.sieren@usda.gov
Wright County District Conservationist: Kevin Barber
515-532-2165 kevin.barber@usda.gov
Hancock County District Conservationist: Jason Moore
641-923-2837 jason.moore@usda.gov

Save The Date – GEC Member Appreciation Golf Outings

Gold-Eagle will be hosting two customer appreciation golf outings later this summer. Due to previous years' popularity, these events are limited to members and active farm hands only. These events will be four-person best shot formats with lunch provided. Registration starts at 8:00 AM and tee off is at 9:00 AM. If you would like to join us, please pick one

of the dates and send your team information in to Elizabeth McOllough at emcollough@goldeaglecoop.com.

Bear Creek, Forest City – August 21, 2024
Spring Valley, Livermore – August 28, 2024



GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

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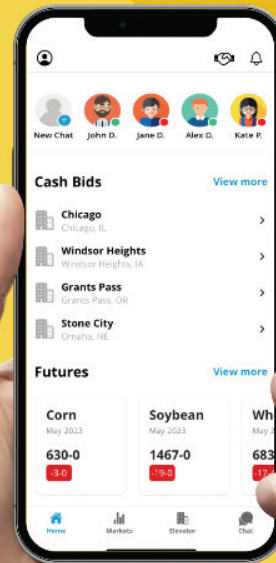


Newsletter Photos

If you have a photo or photos that you think would make a great addition to the Gold-Eagle newsletter, please share them! We are always looking for action shots of fieldwork, a cool perspective, or a shot of you and your family working together to make your operation a success. If you would like to submit a picture, please email it to emcollough@goldeaglecoop.com with a brief caption of who is in the photo and where it was taken. We love to feature local photos of Gold-Eagle's membership hard at work!

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