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Iowa Corn Growers Association Crop Fair

January 25 and February 20 at two convenient locations

The Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Corn Promotions Board, Heartland Ethanol and your cooperative, Viafield, are hosting two Crop Fairs to help local farmers gain insight into the newest developments in Iowa Agriculture. Following is information for the Crop Fairs, which will be held in Fayette and Mason City.

Fayette

The meeting will take place on January 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, in the Student Center Ballroom. A FREE lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Industry experts who will speak include:

- Chad Hart, Iowa State University - Ag Economics
- Troy Lust, FC Stone - Grain Marketing Update
- Bruce Gaarder, Iowa Corn Growers, Legislative Check-off Update

Mason City

The second Crop Fair will be held February 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at North Iowa Community College in Mason City, Room NC180. A FREE lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Industry experts who will speak include:

- Steve Dietz, Chief Operating Officer Renewable Products Marketing Group - Ethanol and dried distillers grain (DDG) update

- Curtis Strong, Golden Grains Energy - DDG marketing options

Viafield Sponsors Iowa Corn Growers Crop Fairs

- Chad Hart, Iowa State University - Agriculture Economics

- Bruce Gaarder, Iowa Corn Growers - Legislative Checkoff Update.

Those who wish to attend this event must RSVP. Those who wish to attend the Fayette meeting, please contact Rich Bishop at 563-637-2285. To RSVP for the Mason City event, or for more information please call Brad Foster, Grain Business Team Leader at Viafield at 641.420.5685.

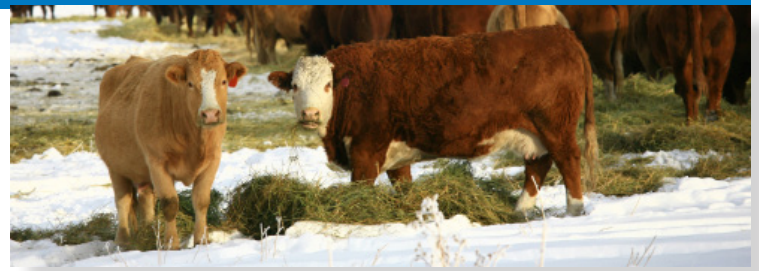


Why Feed Quality Beef Minerals?

Viafield to host four Beef Cattle Seminars for area cattlemen

You probably know it is important to feed your cattle a well-balanced mineral supplement, but you might not know why it is. Cattle with mineral shortages or imbalances do poorly in reproduction, lactation, weight gains, body condition, etc. — all the factors that affect your profitability. But most mineral deficiencies don't show obvious symptoms until it's too late.

In February, you'll have an opportunity to learn more about the effects of a well-balanced mineral supplement, specifically how mineral programs impact grass utilization and weaning weights. Kevin Steward from Land O'Lakes Purina Feed will be joining Viafield's beef team, Mike Kirby and Matt Pearson, at four meetings for area cattlemen:



February 6 – Northwood office, 9:00 a.m.

February 6 – Rockford Community Center, 2:00 p.m.

February 8 – Clermont office, 9:00 a.m.

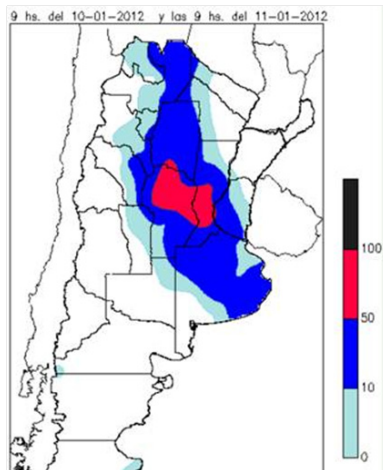
February 8 – Maynard office, 2:00 p.m.

These meetings will also kick off Viafield's annual RangeLand® mineral and tub booking program, which can save you money this season.

For more information about these meetings, please contact Mike at 563-419-9522 or mkirby@viafield.com, or Matt at 641-832-0232 or mapearson@viafield.com.

South American Corn Condition

FCStone's Tomas Dougall Reports



Tomas Dougall took a short trip to south of Cordoba January 7 and drove through some of the main corn belt areas. In a global market what he learned can impact Iowa farmers. Daily temps were over 100°F (37°C) during the last week. Crops were clearly under stress conditions. Some corn fields were being abandoned and given to the cattle for feed purposes.

At first glance the situation seemed to be a little better in southern Santa Fe (Venado Tuerto), but when he stepped inside one of the fields (sown September 15), he was surprised that within ten meters the ear sizes were completely different (see pictures).

In Pergamino and Arrecifes, the situation wasn't any better. To the contrary, leaves were pale yellow with very small ears. Damage was already done in most of the first crop corn fields, and they will not improve much despite recent rains. The recent rains will ease drought areas for a couple days, but more rain is needed to reverse dry conditions.



January 11 rains (see map) favored Cordoba, Buenos Aires and southern and western Santa Fe, covering around 60% of the corn and soybean fields with between 0.5 and 2 inches in some places, and locally 3.5 inches. According to the weather maps, rains will continue in Cordoba, northern and central Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and far northern areas.

Rezoning Approved for Oelwein Grain Facility Construction Project

Viafield will continue to move forward with plans to construct a grain facility near Oelwein, Iowa, after Fayette County Supervisors unanimously approved your cooperative's rezoning request for 22 acres in Jefferson Township. A complete story on this project will be featured in the February issue of the Connections Newsletter. *For more information call Grain Business Team Leader-Brad Foster at 641-420-5685.*

Agronomy Team Grows More Than Crops

Viafield summer agronomy interns

Every year Viafield has the privilege to work with young people as interns. Mitchell Lensing and Ben Tweeten are two of those individuals. Their experiences are discussed in this Q and A.



Mitchell Lensing - Clermont

What inspired you to choose a major in a agriculture related field?

I grew up on a dairy and grain farm near Calmar, Iowa, and I really enjoy the industry. It just seemed like a natural fit.

What have you enjoyed about the Viafield Internship Program?

I've mainly handled agronomy work in the Clermont area. I've had an opportunity to attend meetings with representatives from Croplan Genetics® and Winfield Solutions, LLC, so I've learned a lot about their agronomy programs. I've also helped with tissue sampling and have been in on writing reports. All of these activities combined for an overall enjoyable experience.

Can you describe some of the jobs you have been doing during your internship?

As part of my internship I have worked with John Swehla and Lonny Johansen to sit down with farmers and learn about their agronomy

needs. I've also done tissue sampling and worked in the seed warehouse.

Where would you like to be and what kind of work would you like to do after college?

I would like to pursue a career in agriculture. What that is, I am not sure. Something I have enjoyed about this internship is that it has allowed me to find out what I like and dislike about the business.

How have you benefited from having John Swehla and Lonny Johansen as mentors?

I talk to John and Lonny about what I want to do, and I get a lot of flexibility with my schedule. Both John and Lonny are available for questions, even after hours. Their patience and knowledge has helped me learn.



Ben Tweeten - Northwood

Why did you decide to pursue an internship with Viafield?

I am currently

a junior at Iowa State majoring in Ag Business. This is my first professional ag related experience. I thought working as a crop scouting intern would help me gain a better idea of what I would like to do after college.

What have you enjoyed about the Viafield Internship Program?

During my internship I worked with Viafield's producers and saw the progression of corn and soybean plants. It was fun to see that process from start to finish.

Can you describe some of the jobs you have been doing during your internship?

As a crop scouting intern, we did tissue sampling, research on the tissue results, and prepared suggestions for the farmers based on the results.

Where would you like to be and what kind of work would you like to do after college?

Although I'm just starting my senior year at college, I already know that I want to pursue a career in agriculture; I am just not sure which particular career. I would definitely consider a job with Viafield.

How have you benefited from having John Julseth and Richard Bauer as mentors?

With John and Richard, every day offers something new and exciting, working with farmers to figure out their needs and suggesting solutions.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 25 - Crop Fair - Fayette - 10:00 a.m. at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, in the Student Center Ballroom

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February 6 - Beef Cattle Seminar - Rockford Community Center, 2:00 p.m.

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February 20 - Crop Fair - Mason City - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at North Iowa Community College in Mason City, Room NC180.



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January 12 Viafield's UAN (32 percent) Liquid Fertilizer Facility became operational. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for pictures from the facility.



Connections

January 2012 Issue

In this Issue

- 2012 Crop Fair Information
- Why Feed Quality Beef Minerals
- South American Corn Condition
- Summer Intern Spotlight
- Oelwein Grain Facility Information
- Calendar of Upcoming Events

Look inside for more information!

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