



To be the best

What is going on at your Local Cooperative

Agronomy Update:

We will be having a NH₃ Farmer Training meeting on February 15th starting at 5:30 pm at the Turkey Hill Grange in Belleville at the junction of Route 15 and Green Mount Rd. On February 2nd we will be sponsoring a Next Generation of Farmers meeting in O'Fallon, IL.

St. Clair wrapped up Spring Fertilizer contracting with over 3800 tons contracted at \$472/ton . Today's price is at \$537 which is potentially saving the consumer \$65!

Energy Update:

We will be having an *oil sale* in February--**Save \$0.30/gallon** for any oil you purchase out of the Belleville location.

Fuel contracts were mailed out on January 18th, if you did not receive one and are interested in contracting fuel in 2017 please give David Tippey a call 618)233-1248. Fuel contract offer expires on February 10th.

St Clair Service Company Grain Department Update

The 2016/17 marketing year for corn has been one for the record books. The balance sheet has been highlighted by both record corn production and record corn demand.. The recent January report the USDA set corn yield at 174.6 Bpa. The aforementioned yield and corresponding total production of 15.148 Bln. Bu. were both records, with the latter number being a new record by almost 1 Bln. bu. The biggest unknown was how it was going to get used. The USDA, in its latest report, is predicting that corn demand for 16/17 will be 14.585 Bln. Bu. This is also a record, this time by some 800 Mln. Bu. A steady increase in livestock numbers and in ethanol use is running near or above record levels. Lastly, corn exports are a 618 Mln. Bu increase over a year ago. Making corn exports the highest level since 2007. Ending stocks estimated at 1,037 MMT, up 77 MMT from a year ago. Records abound this year for both supply and demand for corn in the U.S. and the world. Unfortunately, the record supply outdistances the record demand so far this year, resulting in comfortable stocks heading into the 2nd half of the marketing year.

The 2016/17 marketing year for soybeans is shaping up to be a record year – both in the U.S. as well as the rest of the world. The U.S. soybean crop harvested last fall was estimated by the USDA at 4.307 billion bu. which was 380 million more than the previous record production. This is the third consecutive January that USDA has forecasted both record U.S. and world soybean production. U.S. soybean yield has exploded higher during the past three years with yields at 47.5 48.0 and 52.1 from 2014/15 through 2016/17 from pre- 2014/15 record of 44.0. Acreage has also increased greatly as harvested acres during each of the past three crop years exceeded 80 million, something which never occurred prior to 2014/15. World production is currently pegged by the USDA at 337.9 MMT, 18.1 MMT more than the previous

record set two years ago. Currently, it looks like Brazil will grow its first crop in excess of 100MMT as favorable weather has benefitted the crop which is now estimated by the USDA at 104 MMT. Argentina has had excessive December and January rainfall across central and northern sections of the country has prevented some acreage from being planted and has damaged acreage that did get planted. Demand is increasing again this year, both in the U.S. and around the world. U.S. usage is projected to be at record high levels for the fourth consecutive year with exports projected to be 2.05 billion bu. The first time the 2 billion plateau has been exceeded. Chinese demand has been ever increasing for a decade. U.S. 2016/17 ending stocks are forecast to increase to 420 million bu. From 197 million bu. During 2015/16.

Thank you for your continued support of the grain department. Please give us a call for pricing your grain or check the current prices on our website: www.stclairfs.com