

# R&M Farms / Walters Ag, LLC



## Fields of Green



### Spring Update

This spring the calendar is moving quickly but the weather is not wanting to warm up as quickly as we had hoped. Through the month of March and early April, the majority of our cows have calved and there are a lot of tiny calves running around our lots. We hope to start planting corn here Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April if the weather cooperates. This year the soils have not warmed up to provide good planting conditions and temperatures to place the seed into. We hope that with the advances in seed treatment technology and genetics of the seed in recent years that we won't have to worry as much about seedling diseases but that is always a possibility when we have cold weather, snow and wet soils late into the month of April.

### Still No Action on Property Taxes in Nebraska

This year the Nebraska Legislature had the opportunity again to fix Nebraska's high property tax burden on rural landowners and once again they failed to agree on a solution. There were several proposals offered to them by senators, but none could get the 33 votes needed to pass. ...Continued pg. 2

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### Staying Involved

In March, Wade and Abby traveled with the Nebraska Soybean Association to the American Soybean Association's annual meeting at Commodity Classic in Anaheim, CA to discuss policy priorities for soybean farmers and how to best advocate for the soybean industry.

Prices 4-20-17 @ Shickley Grain

#### Corn:

May Delivery \$3.34

Harvest Delivery \$3.50

#### Soybeans:

May Delivery \$9.39

Harvest Delivery \$9.42

LB 947 was the main proposal that would have given some incremental property tax relief along with some income tax relief, but it was unable to advance. The main point of contention with providing property tax relief is that the legislature has yet to be able to figure out how to fund education should property tax revenues decrease dramatically. There is talk of an interim special session to fix both the education spending and property tax relief jointly, but it is uncertain if this will happen.

There is one last sliver of hope for property tax reform/relief this year and that is in the ballot initiative led by Reform for Nebraska's Future and backed by the state's commodity groups. The initiative is currently in the process of collecting signatures to place their reform on the November ballot for Nebraska's 2<sup>nd</sup> house the citizens to decide. The ballot language would if passed would provide Nebraskans with income tax credits equal to 50 percent of the property taxes paid to school districts. That would amount to roughly 30 percent of total property taxes.

As written, the credits would be refundable, meaning that people would get a check from the state for the amount by which the new credit exceeded the amount of their income taxes.

This would amount to approximately \$1.1 billion reduction in property taxes paid in the state and would force the Legislature to act to find a better way to fund education in the state of Nebraska. This proposal is drastic, but I feel that right now it is the only way to get senators' attention and force them to act on this issue. I would encourage each of you if you live in the state to sign the petition and vote for property tax relief in the hopes that if this passes your property taxes will decrease by the 30% the petition drive estimates. For more information about this initiative visit <http://reformfornebraskasfuture.com/>

## New Member of Farm Team



On March 13<sup>th</sup> Spencer and Kelsey welcomed their first son Weston Allen to the family. This marks the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to live on the land we farm.