

R&M Farms / Walters Ag, LLC



Fields of Green



Summer heat brings quick finish to crops

This summer our crops have been growing faster than ever with the early summer heat we are about 1 week ahead of our normal growing season schedule and may be harvesting by mid-September. This year we have had up and down weather with the heat came dryness that stressed the crops and required prolonged periods of irrigation and now it has been about average with some nice rains coming in during the middle of August to give us a break from irrigation. We have been fortunate this year so far to have missed out on any of the damaging wind and hail that some farmers across the state have had to deal with. Right now, we have just finished destroying male rows on our seed corn fields and spreading cover crop seed. We sit patiently waiting for the crops to finish out to find out what yields the corn and soybeans will have this year. As I have mentioned before we also have beehives on our farm and we have kept busy this summer with checking on the hives, extracting honey, and selling the honey at local farmers markets.

Trade Not Tariffs

This year has been a rollercoaster year for farmers when it comes to marketing our crops some of it due to plentiful ending stocks and others due to tariffs the Trump administration has imposed on several major trading partners important to agriculture in Nebraska.....continued page 2

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Interesting Trade War Facts:

Hot-rolled steel has risen from \$600/ton in October to \$908/ton this week, a 51% increase.

Galvanized steel has risen from \$834/ton in October to \$1106/ton in August, a 33% increase.

These increases have added \$30,000 to the cost of a combine or 35-45% increase in the cost of a grain bin.

Staying Involved

In July, Wade travelled to Washington DC to attend meetings of the American Soybean association and to conduct Hill Visits. Wade got to meet with all 5 members of Nebraska's Congressional Delegation and educate them on issues important to soybean farmers.

Prices 8-17-18 @ Shickley Grain

Corn:

Harvest Delivery \$3.25

FlintHills Harvest Del \$3.46

Soybeans:

Harvest Delivery \$7.69

Cargill Harvest Del \$7.87

Continued from page 1.....Starting in the first part of June President Trump began imposing tariffs on several exports from the US. After these tariffs were announced the other countries began slapping retaliatory tariffs on our commodities that are exported. The commodity hurt worst by this was soybeans and specifically soybeans destined for China because the past few years they have typically purchased around 60% of total soy exports or nearly 1 out of every 3 rows of beans grown in the United States. This stop in trade between us has caused great hardship to US soybean farmers because since mid-May when soybeans were at their yearly highs of \$10.31 per bushel on the board of trade they have fallen nearly \$1.50 per bushel or 20% to their current board price of \$8.70. Luckily most of our old crop bushels were already priced at that time but looking forward to the new crop it is going to be hard to make a profit when cash soybean prices are stuck under \$8/bushel. In talking with Nebraska's US senators and Congressmen in Washington DC this past July they tell us that they wish the administration would have an endgame designated in these trade wars, but they have been given no sign as to what type of deal the president is even seeking. We as farmers hope that this trade dispute can be solved in the near future to reopen our markets to long established trading partners such as China. On corn the tariffs have not hurt us as bad, but the prices have declined as NAFTA trade talks have stalled as Mexico is a large importer of US corn. There is talk though that NAFTA with Mexico may be completed in the near future so that should give a boost to corn. However, that alone will not solve the fact that there could be another record crop produced by farmers across the country. As always, we as farmers would rather let the free market work to sell our product and not have to be worried about artificial barriers that are put in place to stop us from doing business. As the new tagline goes we would like free trade, not tariffs and trade not aid.

New Website

 Walters Ag, LLC

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This summer we started a new endeavor and launched our first ever website for our family farming operation www.waltersagllc.com This site is a great way to view photo updates from the farm and also we plan on having our newsletters posted on the site starting with this newsletter.