OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER - 2021 ISSUE 3

CD ACRES/DEWITZ FEEDLOT

The Quarterly Landowner/Employee Newsletter

CONTACT US AT

CD Acres/Dewitz Feedlot
Chase Dewitz
3721 30th Ave SE
Steele, ND 58482
Cell Phone: 701-527-3386
Email: Dewitz_7@hotmail.com
Website: www.cdewitz.com
Facebook:
CD Acres & Dewitz Feedlot

UPDATE

Harvest continued this fall into November. The few rain events we had were welcomed bringing moisture to the growing cover crops and dry soil. October was a busy month between harvesting soybeans, harvesting corn, sorting cattle, applying fall weed control and moving the grain to storage facilities. This November we were thankful the weather was conducive to letting us complete the harvest activities and clear some more rock off the fields. In December we continued with equipment maintenance activities.

CROP PROGRESS, PASTURE CONDITIONS, AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

During the winter months there isn't any growth happening in the fields and pastures. Although we have been blessed with a blanket of snow for moisture, some areas have not been so fortunate. Plans are being finalized for next years' crops to be planted on each field and we have started to do some marketing for risk management. A large portion of all the crop inputs have been purchased and the products are on site. Supply chain disruptions are significant within the Ag sector for input products now. All the home raised feeder cattle and purchased livestock are still being feed at the feedlot. We will continue to sort and size as intentions are to market the majority of the animals from March through May to go to a finishing yard. We will continue to feed the heifers to be bred in late June. Some of them will be retained in the herd and some sold as bred heifers.

Continued on Next Page

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates

Crop Progress, Pasture Condition, Livestock Development

Management Practices

Weather Update

Commodity Prices

Technology

Upcoming Area Events

Feeding conditions had been next to ideal. Weather conditions changed quickly around Christmas with beautiful straight down snow fall. The beautiful conditions didn't last long as the wind blew and the temperatures fell well below zero. Livestock intake of feed increased significantly with lower temps although it seems they don't mind. The cattle continue to be healthy. Preventative maintenance will be continuing through the winter in our shop. Year end inventory was completed.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

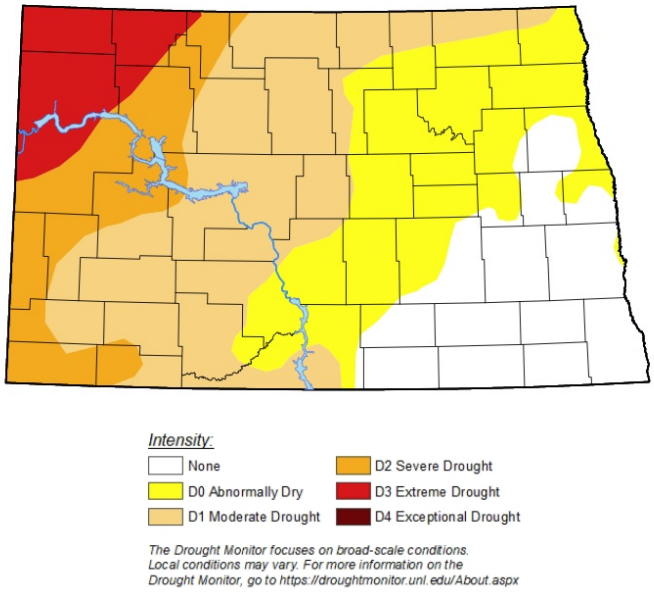
With the extended good weather, we applied a fall weed management practice. This management practice is achieved by applying a herbicide, specifically a residual material, in late fall or early winter to rid fields of nutrient-robbing fall weeds that may also harbor over-wintering insects and diseases.

Another example of a management practice is routine soil testing. Soil testing is the foundation of any successful soil fertility program. Without knowing the nutrient levels and soil pH in your crop fields, it is difficult to manage nutrients and fertilizer applications for peak crop production.

There are several reasons why collecting soil samples for soil testing in the fall is a preferred time period. First, soil sampling in the fall after crops have been harvested lets you walk or drive through the field to collect soil cores without going over a standing crop. Next, the soil has usually moistened up a bit, so it's easier to get a soil probe in and out of the ground. Finally, you will receive the results from the soil testing with enough time to make a solid plan for fertilizer and manure applications for the coming year.

EVERY DAY IS A GOOD DAY TO BE ON THE FARM

WEATHER UPDATE



For row crop planning, this is the time of year for reflecting on how the calendar year turned out, and start watching how winter and spring will unfold. First and foremost, drought remains alive and well in North Dakota (Map Released Jan 6) even though the current drought depiction has shown considerable improvement over the past few months. The developing La Niña, this winter could be colder than average, with the precipitation being predicted as having greater amounts of snow than last winter. However, the overall cooler weather pattern expected lends itself to better preservation of what snow is received for the eventual spring melt season. When we put this all together, it suggests there's a greater chance of having a near normal to above normal snowpack come spring, contrasted with the very dry winter of last year. Also, since the soils are no longer desperately dry, this should help provide healthy runoff and even more moisture added to the soil, all while helping keep the risk of widespread flooding to a minimum. We will soon find out this spring.

COMMODITY PRICES

Every year in January, USDA reports on last years' total production and forecasts the production in South America. This is a highly anticipated report and much of the focus is typically on USDA's "2021 final" crop estimates for corn and soybeans. January crop reports tend to swiftly move markets since there's so much data. Given the big potential record for 2021 corn and soybean crops throughout the United States, there is risk USDA will find more bushels than traders expect.

Continued on Next Page

BEING A FARMER/RANCHER ALSO MEANS BEING A:

MECHANIC
METEOROLOGIST
FINANCIAL MANAGER
SCIENTIST
MACHINE OPERATOR
AGRONOMIST
COMPUTER OPERATOR
ANIMAL CARETAKER
FAMILY MEMBER

China continues to be a strong buyer of U.S. sorghum, and considering the weather and crop concerns in South America, China could come in with more interest in corn from the U.S.

Last quarter we talked about the high fertilizer prices. Prices continue to rise for many fertilizers, although they aren't climbing as dramatically as they were just a couple of weeks ago. Urea is the one to watch because it is publicly traded.

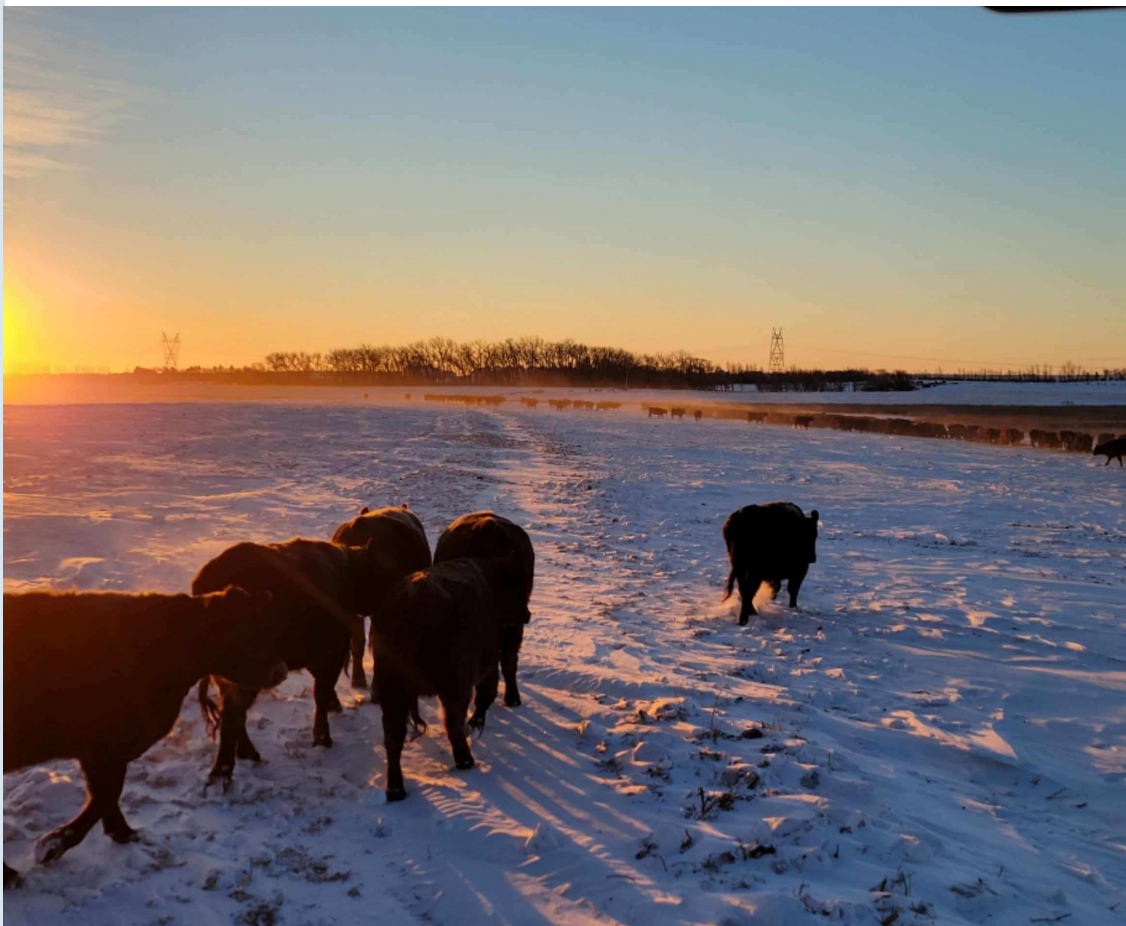
TECHNOLOGY

We continue to use the farm at hand app for the grain movement tracking as semi-trucks deliver grain. A picture of the grain slip from the app on the driver's phone can be applied directly to the correct contract. The program will then keep track of all grain inventories in real time.

As has been widely publicized by national media, John Deere introduced a fully autonomous tractor. I personally feel this tech will have rapid adoption. I think as tractors become operational without a person to drive them, the machine size will reduce with more potential of having more tractors being in operation. I remember a children's book I had as a child depicting what we are seeing now, I have since read this book to my children. Crazy times ahead.

We continue to look at an individual animal tracking/health ID tag. There is a large opportunity for this type of technology. I'm confident this fall we will be doing a trial on the products that track individual animal health based on there temperature and movement activities. I'm really excited to see this tech.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

ND Corn/Soy Convention - Monday, February 21, 2022 - Fargo, ND

Bull sale season