

## Billing Splits

We will have a worksheet for growers who will have landlord splits for the 2020 year. This is a way for the office and sales staff to keep all splits correct for each field and landlords.

Contact Marilyn Marston or Sarah Zerger in the Abilene office for questions or more information.

## Alfalfa Weevils

Alfalfa weevils will soon arrive as the weather gets warmer and alfalfa comes out of dormancy. Be on the look out for alfalfa weevil larvae and contact your Sales Agronomist to ask about control options.



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# CROP SERVICE NEWS

Crop Service Newsletter

Abilene—January 2020

## Pasture Spraying

As spring arrives and pastures begin to flourish, pasture weeds quickly threaten valuable grazing acres. Pastures add significant complexity to ground chemical application. Fortunately, aerial spraying by helicopter is an option. Aerial application allows quick access to fields and pastures at some of the busiest times of the year.

Now is the time to begin considering pastures that are candidates for aerial application. Whether thistles or woody weed species are the concern, Crop Service Center has a solution to fit each need. This year Crop Service Center will be bringing in a helicopter for pasture spraying in May. Details and more information will be sent out soon.

“In no other country do so few people produce so much food, to feed so many, at such reasonable prices. “

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

We hope you and your family had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

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## Corteva Cash:

Any producers who have purchased or will purchase Pioneer Seed by March 2020, will have eligible Corteva Cash to be used on Corteva crop protection products. All Corteva Cash must be used by July 15, 2020. Contact your Sales Agronomist to learn more about Corteva Cash and the products you can purchase.

## Grower Meeting:

We will once again be having the Grower Meeting in early March for all Producers and guests. More information will be sent out soon.

## Top-dressing Winter Wheat

Spring green-up is just around the corner and top-dressing your wheat is an integral step in getting your wheat through the season. In addition to the traditional N, P, & K applications, this is a good time to add chloride and sulfur for overall crop health.

Chloride applications help improve overall disease resistance and suppression and increased yields. Sulfur has become an increasing need in crops due to the lack of sulfur in the air and crops mining sulfur from the soil. Applying sulfur can improve color of the wheat, promote timely crop maturity, and improve overall yields.

Many times a micro-nutrient deficiency in wheat can look like a nitrogen deficiency, but by taking tissue samples or looking at all the symptoms, a micro-nutrient can be applied to correct the situation. Fertilization of crops is the basic building block for improving yields and keeping your crops healthy, however knowing the correct ratio of nutrients to apply is the key to maximizing your success.

## BASF Chemical Financing

BASF crop protection products are again eligible to be financed through John Deere Financial with the full amount due December 2020. September 30, 2020 is the deadline to finance your products on JDF. Contact your sales agronomist to learn more about the products eligible, finance terms, and purchasing for 2020.

**Fixed 0% APR due in full December 2020**

## Feeding Your Crop-Alfalfa

Alfalfa is a crop that responds well to fertilizer after establishment. Forage crops, especially alfalfa, remove more phosphorus and potassium than grain crops, due to the removal of above-ground plant material multiple times through the year.

All fertilizer recommendations should start with a soil test, whether the crop is established or new. Applying P & K fertilizers to established stands improves the persistence of the stand and produces higher yields. Keeping a good balance of nutrients in the soil

and the amount that the crop requires is needed to avoid damaging the stand.

Maintaining soil pH improves nutrient availability, overall crop health and often increases yields. Alfalfa grows best at a pH between 6.5 –7.5 and is beneficial for nitrogen-fixing *Rhizobium* bacteria. It is recommended that ag-lime be applied pre-establishment and incorporated into the soil for maximum efficacy. If applying lime on no-till fields, the recommendation is to apply half or third the rate more often.

## Nutrient Removal Values

**Table 1. Nutrient Removal by Alfalfa (Pounds of Nutrient per Ton of Alfalfa)**

N *	55.0
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	10.0
K <sub>2</sub> O	60.0
Ca	30.0
Mg	4.6
S	8.0
Zn	0.06
Cu	0.14
Mn	1.8
Fe	1.8
B	0.02

\* Properly inoculated and nodulated alfalfa gets nitrogen from the air.

This chart from the Kansas State Alfalfa Production Handbook shows the average removal of nutrients for Kansas. These values help determine fertilizer recommendations based on soil tests for a build and maintain program.

\*Fertilizer recommendations should begin with a soil test and be based on yield goals.