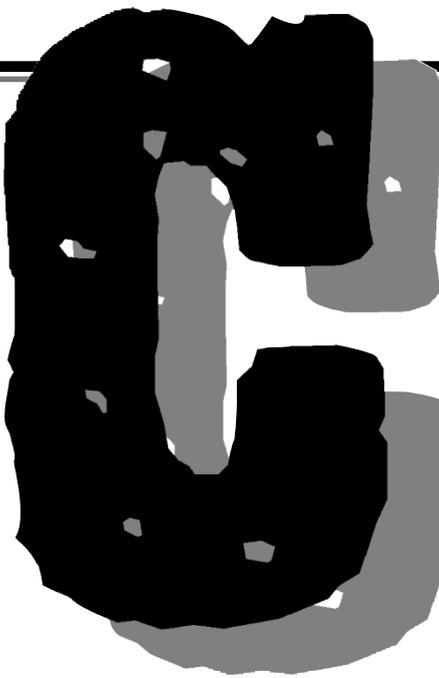


● SUPPLY LOCATIONS

◆ TGM ELEVATOR OR LOCATIONS



# Country Connection

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## Grain Scoop: 3 Years In A Row?



By Kim Holsapple

For the third time in as many years, we have seen a spring rally that sets the high water mark for the year. I should correct myself and say two years instead of three because the recent highs set in May, could potentially be exceeded later in the marketing year. None the less, the market has rallied for the last 3 years in the late spring and early summer just to watch it wither away in July. In December 2016, futures topped out at \$4.47 on June 14th

and by the end of August we had dropped to \$3.15. In 2017 we topped out on July 11th at \$4.17 and once again by the end of August we had dropped to \$3.44. This year we saw December futures climb to \$4.29, only to watch it tumble 70 cents a bushel by the end of June. So what makes this year any different?

In the spring of 2016 the carryout for the 2016 crop in August of 2017, was estimated to be 2.3 billion bushels. In the spring of 2017 the estimate for the crop year carryout on August 31, 2018 was estimated at 2.3 billion bushels, which has recently been downward adjusted to 2.1 billion bushels. The big swing is what is happening to the carryout estimates for the crop you have growing right now. It is estimated that in August 2019 there will be a reduction in the carryout of corn of over 500 million bushels, which would peg us at 1.577 billion bushels. This may look like a lot of corn but another year of carryout cuts like this year and we would be down to minimal stocks. In fact this is magnified by what's happening in the world. World supplies of corn have dropped by 20% this year alone. With this being said, I feel as though the drop in corn prices in June were heavily overdone based on the information available at that time. We all know if this crop turns out to be the biggest yield ever, that corn prices will remain under pressure. But to lower corn so early in the growing year, really? Hot days and hot nights is not my recipe for big yields but only time will tell.

Soybeans have finally dropped enough that we have squeezed all the blood out of that turnip. The fundamentals of beans have not been good for some time, but we now have beans at what I would consider a value price for end users. The corn bean ratio is back in favor of corn for the 2019 crop at 2.25 to 1. We have used a ratio of 2.4 to 1 to value corn vs. beans, but it does vary from farm to farm and state to state. We have been heavy on bean acres in Southern Illinois for years, so I'm looking forward to the corn rally and seeing corn acres get put back into the rotation. I like that most producers have locked the bin doors and refuse to take such low prices for what we raise. Time will tell, but I feel like the worst is behind us. Things have never looked better from the production side and never looked so negative from a political point, and to have all this baked into the market and still be as high as we are gives me a lot of hope.

Enjoy what's left of summer because it will be a very early fall!

## Fire Prevention and First Aid for Burns



Stanley Joergens

At our local 4th of July event just recently there was a professional display of fireworks at dusk that was enjoyed by all. There were a few of the fireworks that did not get far off the ground before they exploded into their display. My daughter remarked "That was not suposta happen." Isn't that like a lot of accidents happen? We plan on an event or happening or repair and we think it through and something ends up happening that is beyond our control and we have a near miss or emergency. With that event that we call "Murphy's Law" we need to plan to properly and safely respond or react to an emergency that was a result of Mr. Murphy. Following are some guidelines for successful fire prevention and also first aid tips for burns.

- First we would need to develop a fire prevention plan and acquire or ready any firefighting equipment and periodically inspect that equipment for usefulness.
  - Make sure everyone is trained or knows how to safely operate that equipment.
  - Post all Fire Department numbers at or on your phone in case they are needed or utilize 911 as EMERGENCY.
  - Prohibit smoking in all areas that can be a fire hazard.
  - Maintain good housekeeping to eliminate any piled or stored equipment or material that would obstruct egress or access to the firefighting equipment or extinguisher.
  - Never store combustible materials within 10 feet of structures or buildings.
  - Keep weeds and grass maintained at a level they would not attribute as fuel to a fire.
  - Use only proper and approved containers to hold or store combustible materials or liquids.
  - Avoid accumulation of greasy or oily rags or combustible /flammable scrap materials.
  - Evaluate the area that you will be conducting a hot work such as cutting, grinding or welding to eliminate any fuel to fire hazard.
  - Know where emergency exits are and know where to get to a fire extinguisher if needed.
- There might come a time that the fire is beyond our capability to extinguish and we would need to call for professional assistance such as the fire department. It is always most important to protect human life first and then property.
- If there is an event that causes burns to someone, here a few first aid tips for treating those incidents. Remember these are only FIRST AID and not intended for final treatment. Those follow up or final treatments need to be treated by the professionals in the burn treatment facilities or hospitals.
- If you are rendering first aid to someone other than your family always put on personal protection equipment or at least latex gloves.
  - Make sure the area is safe for you and the patient to administer first aid but first determine the cause of the injury to assure correct first aid is rendered.
  - Treat life threatening situations first such as severe bleeding, cardiac arrest or if the victim has stopped breathing.
  - Do not become a victim; sometimes we need professionally trained personnel for rescue procedures. Sometimes we need to identify the severity of the burn to administer proper first aid.
  - First- degree burns are identified by redness of skin and are generally considered to be uncomfortable. First- degree burns are painful but not severe and generally heal on their own with little treatment.
  - Second- degree burns are very painful and generally identified by blistering and extreme redness of the skin.
  - Third- degree burns may cause charring, whiteness and permanent discoloration of skin. Some-time no pain may be present due to nerve damage. Third-degree burns are considered life threatening. Burns due to fire are generally second and third-degree burns and can be FIRST AID treated by:
    - Cover all burned skin with a dry sterile dressing or cloth.
    - Elevate the burned arm or leg above the heart to reduce pain.
    - Do not attempt to remove any clothing or jewelry that may adhere to the skin.
    - Seek immediate emergency medical attention.
- Burns due to electricity commonly are second and third-degree Burns and after you assure that all

(continued on page 10)

# Location Spotlight

## Stewardson



## Improvements at Stewardson

It started last summer with the demolition of the shop behind the office and a small bin north of the scale. The shop and the bin were taken down to improve the traffic pattern. The old drive pattern was too tight for a semi to navigate the turns. The tight turns now gone, the drive around the facility is easier for larger trucks.

In January and February of this year, the outdoor pile was picked up, the old west grain leg and some bin fans were removed to make way for the construction of a new 90 foot AGI bin. Weather was favorable and construction of the bin was done in the time expected.

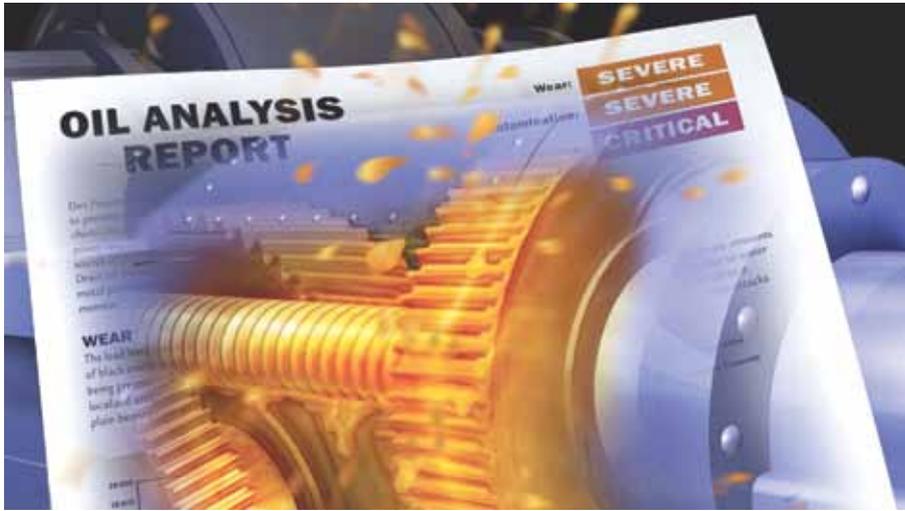
The TGM millwright crew had gotten equipment put together before the bin being completed so they could start right in erecting a new grain leg, the towers that support the conveyors, new conveyors, and the fill spouts down to the old bins.

TGM electricians are following up by completing the electrical hookups needed to service the new equipment.

All this has gone up with the TGM millwrights and electricians doing a great job.

Manager AJ Sears, administrative assistant Elaine Meers and customer service representative Phillip Russell are excited about the changes that have been made at the facility. They are looking forward to showing their customers the efficiencies of the changes.

# Tips for Understanding Your Oil Analysis Reports



"We often receive reports from our oil analysis lab, but no one at the plant seems to know what all the results mean. Can you offer any advice for better understanding these types of reports?"

Be sure to communicate with your lab and ask any questions you may have. Most laboratories are eager to help make their results more impactful. The raw data may be the most confusing of these three items. Although there are other elements to an oil analysis report, it is critical to understand the types of tests being performed and how they are reported. For example, particle contamination is reported with an ISO contamination code based on ISO 4406. This procedure reviews how a particle counter identifies the number of particles at several different sizes per a specific volume of oil and then reports a code such as 18/16/14. Viscosity, acid number, moisture contamination, elemental data, etc., are examples of other types of information that must be understood. While this can be overwhelming to untrained personnel, with proper training, good resources and some practice, these reports can become an effective tool to help you reach your reliability goals.

## Noria Corporation

An oil analysis report can come in many different forms, depending on the lab and the tests being conducted. However, in most cases, these reports will include some standard items, such as the identification information, raw data and laboratory recommendations.

### Identification Information

This information will provide details about the customer, the machine from which the oil was sampled and the lubricant type. Interpreting the results will depend on the type of oil being sampled as well as other influencing factors, such as the operating and environmental conditions.

### Raw Data

Oil analysis results typically are presented in a variety of formats. Some may trigger an obvious abnormal value, but more often the data will require a baseline sample for comparison. This baseline usually comes from a sample of new oil from the same batch.

### Laboratory Recommendations

Based on the results and the identifying information, the oil analysis lab will make some general recommendations. These commonly will be included in a paragraph or two within the report. There also will be an identifier at the top of the report to indicate if the overall results are normal, reportable, unacceptable or severe. This frequently will be color- and/or number-coded. Regardless of the results, the report should be analyzed thoroughly by a plant-based interpreter.



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# Cover crops

Cover crops are an important management tool in the effort to reduce nutrient losses from agricultural fields.

- Grass, legume, and brassica cover crop species each provide unique additional benefits in the cash crop rotation.
- Species selection should be driven by the specific goals of the farmer.
- A single species cover crop may provide a narrower spectrum of benefits, but can be a simpler way to get started with cover crops.
- Cover crop mixtures generally provide a more diverse array of benefits to meet goals, but may be more complex to manage.
- Successful integration of cover crops requires intensive management.

Cover crops are expected to be a prominent management tool in the effort to reduce nutrient losses from agricultural fields. But cover crops can serve many additional beneficial functions in the cash crop rotation, depending upon the species or mix selected. When determining which cover crops to plant, a farmer should give careful consideration to the goals for the cover crop. Some example goals may be:

- Reducing soil erosion and nutrient loss
- Scavenging and temporarily holding excess soluble nutrients
- Generating biomass to improve organic matter and soil health
- Suppressing weeds or pathogens
- Providing nitrogen for the following cash crop
- Diversifying the crop rotation and breaking disease cycles

Cover crops require intensive management for successful integration into your farming system. Management factors include species and variety selection, seeding rate, seeding method, timing of establishment, timing and method of termination, residue handling, and pest issues. Failure to actively manage these factors can lead to reduced yields in the subsequent cash crop and significant additional costs. In this article, we will review the benefits and management considerations of a few select cover crop species in use across the Midwest.

Grasses are generally good at protecting against soil erosion, scavenging nutrients, and improving soil condition, with penetration of fibrous roots into the soil. Some grasses may help suppress weed growth. Grasses are good companion covers to aid in establishment of legumes or brassicas. Grasses contribute large amounts of mulch to help protect the soil and conserve moisture in no-till systems. Some winter cereals, like cereal rye, tolerate late seeding and fit well into corn-soybean rotations. Winter cereals will overwinter to generate more biomass in the spring. Spring cereals, like oats, planted in the fall will self-terminate in the winter, avoiding herbicide burndown costs and releasing nutrients more quickly the following year. Grasses can provide excellent grazing forage, provided that herbicide label restrictions on plant-back intervals have been followed.

**Management Challenges:** Some grasses, particularly annual ryegrass, can become weed problems. Small grain cover crops may harbor certain pest insects, like black cutworm and slugs. Timely termination can be a challenge in a wet, cool spring. Dead grass residues tend to keep soils cooler and wetter, which can delay planting.

Legumes are noted for having roots that penetrate deep into the soil. Most legumes will contribute nitrogen for the next cash crop. With a lower carbon-nitrogen ratio, the legume residue usually breaks down more quickly and releases nutrients at more optimal timing than grasses.

**Management Challenges:** With the exception of crimson clover, many legumes are slow to establish in the fall. Clovers have traditionally been seeded into or planted after harvest of winter wheat. In corn-soybean rotations, legumes must be inter-seeded into the standing cash crop in order to promote adequate fall growth. Some legumes, like hairy vetch, can be competitive and difficult to terminate in the spring.

The common brassicas used as cover crops in the Midwest include daikon radishes (also known as oilseed radishes or tillage radishes), turnips, rapeseed, and canola. Tillage radishes establish rapidly in the fall and produce a large taproot that penetrates through soil hardpans. Radishes are good companions with grass species, help scavenge excess nutrients, and readily winter kill. When the radishes die, they leave open channels into the soil to improve infiltration and cash crop root penetration. Radishes readily release sequestered nutrients. Some research has shown that the by-products of brassica decomposition may suppress nematode populations. Some brassicas, like turnips, are well-suited for winter grazing forage.

**Management Challenges:** Radishes may emit odors when decomposing, which neighbors may find offensive. Some soil experts are concerned that the channels, left in the soil where radishes are grown, may inadvertently serve as direct conduits for nutrients to leave the field via macro-pore water flow.

Cover crop mixtures typically offer a wider array of benefits to meet goals. Blends may help mitigate weather-related risks for establishment, ensuring that at least one species survives. One crop may serve as a companion or nurse crop to aid establishment of the slower growing species and improve fall cover. Common mixtures include cereal rye and radish, oats and radish, and Annual Ryegrass and radish. Your FS Crop Specialist can provide the expertise needed to help you successfully implement cover crops on your farm.

# PF Department

Well, what can you say about August? Hot – usually dry (time will tell) -- too late to replant anything – spraying is being finished up – vacations taken just before school starts again (all the kids groan and some of the parents cheer!) – We watch as the fruit of our labor matures and ripens for harvest.

Speaking of harvest isn't it a good feeling to be in the combine watching the crops come in? Harvest was my wife's favorite time of year. She was our combine operator when we farmed a few years ago and thoroughly enjoyed the task.

As you get ready for harvest I hope you give some thought how you will assess and evaluate the planting and crop care that you have worked so hard on. Most new combines are equipped with yield monitors and many of you use field view drive to measure the fruit of your labor. And don't forget if you have an older machine we can equip it with a yield monitor. Whatever you use, good viable data is worth more than you can imagine. Data not only gives you yield per acre but it can help you evaluate those farming practices that you regularly use. Perhaps you have invested in some new practice, equipment, or other input and the data is just what you need to check out whether you have benefitted from it or not.

Some things to consider when collecting data are:

Calibration \* I cannot stress

the importance of this one thing enough. Without proper calibration you will not know if what you have done is benefitting you or not.

Check up \* Inspect the display, GPS components, and yield monitor components before you hit the field. It is always frustrating to get to the field only to find out something is not working correctly. And that can lead to a loss of important data.

Processing \* Most of you do not have the software necessary to process your data so please remember that we can do that for you and assist in the analysis of the data to get the picture of what you are experiencing in your field.

Patience \* This is truly important. I realize you have a lot to do but please don't skip over some of the "small details" because in the long run it will cost you due to missed or incomplete data which cannot be captured again.

Well, I hope you have a great August and again please remember that your South Central Digital Ag Partners are here to help you with all your data collection needs.

We hope your summer has been great!! Please call if you need assistance.

*Quote for August;*  
*Dueteronomy 8:10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*

## Fire Prevention and First Aid for Burns

*(continued from page 1)*

electric current is safely off and locked out can be FIRST AID treated by:

- Check for breathing and do CPR if necessary.
- Cover all burned skin with a dry sterile dressing or cloth.
- Elevate the burned limb to reduce pain and relieve shock.

Burns due to chemicals may cause damage long after the initial contact with the skin and can be FIRST AID treated by:

- If the victim's eyes have been splashed with a chemical, flush the eyes with water for 15 to 20 minutes or until medical personnel arrive.
  - Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for proper first aid treatment, and when appropriate, rinse with water if directed on the SDS.
  - If necessary, seek Emergency Medical attention and always take the SDS of the chemical with you.
- It is important to remember

that serious burns of any type cause nerve damage that disables the healing process in the skin tissues. In addition, the body's immune system will not respond with the normal antibodies to fight off subsequent infections associated with burns. In order to help reduce future complications, extra care should be taken to avoid unnecessary contamination resulting in infection.

South Central FS, Inc and Total Grain Marketing LLC and its employees want all to be cautious and safe around fires or actions that cause fires. This article is just to give you enough information to react and render FIRST AID at the scene. Always refer to professionals such as first responders with the Fire Department or Ambulance and seek follow up medical attention with the Hospital or Burn Center.

Stanley Joergens, Safety and Compliance, South Central FS, Inc and Total Grain Marketing LLC