

## RECIPE CORNER

## WORD SEARCH



We strive to remain a profitable, growing operation that will produce quality crops to fulfill world demand, using environmentally sound practices.

### Yogurt Cake

by Kari Carlson, Office Administrator

#### INGREDIENTS

##### Cake

- White cake mix
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup oil
- 3 egg whites
- 1 container yogurt (any flavor)

##### Frosting

- 1 container Cool Whip
- 1 container yogurt (same flavor as cake)

#### DIRECTIONS

- Combine cake ingredients and pour batter into a greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes. Allow cake to cool completely.
- Combine frosting ingredients. Once cake is cooled, top with frosting and keep refrigerated. Top with fruit if desired.



- ALFALFA
- ANIMALS
- BARN
- BEEES
- BIRDS
- CLOVER
- CORN
- COWS
- CREEK
- CRIB
- CRICKETS
- CROPS
- CULTIVATE
- DAIRY
- DELL
- DOGS
- DUCKS
- FAIRS
- FARMER
- FIELD
- FISHING
- FLOWERS
- FROGS
- GARDEN
- GRASS
- HAMMOCK
- HAYSTACK
- HENS
- LIVESTOCK
- MARES
- MEADOW
- OATS
- ORCHARD
- PASTURE
- PIGS
- PITCHFORK
- QUIET
- ROBINS
- ROWS
- SCARECROW
- SILO
- TRACTOR
- TROUT
- WEEDS
- WHEAT

### PRODUCING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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#### I-80 Farms Vision Statement

To produce quality crops through a profitable farm operation which will help sustain world demand for environmentally safe food and fuel. This will be accomplished by intelligent risk management, effective marketing strategies and overall great leadership. The foundation supporting our overall vision is formed by our strong family values and reputation for honesty, hard work and integrity.

# The I-80 Informer

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring

## I-80 Spring News Report

by William J. Talsma, President

Hope everyone is staying cool! It is 90° today as I am writing this article; feels good after last weeks' 100° temperatures.

We have had some rain over the last couple of weeks, but it seems like we always get wind along with it. We have a lot of down corn and corn that has what's called "green snap." This damage runs all the way from Colfax up to the farms in Marshall and Grundy Counties.

The spring went well. We planted some corn early, but the colder weather set in, resulting in a two week delay. Once it began to warm up, the rest of the corn was planted in approximately 10 days. Soybean planting followed for a couple days, but then the weather, once again, turned wet resulting in a challenging bean planting spring. The wet weather continued through June and then the weather returned to more normal conditions.

We are busy spraying most of the corn and beans with a fungicide at this time. With the higher prices for

commodities this year, we decided to spray all the crops. In past years we have just sprayed the corn following corn acres and a few select bean fields. At this time we are mowing ditches and road sides, hauling corn, getting equipment ready for fall, plus taking a little vacation along the way.

We are not doing any new bin construction this year; however, we are turning the little brick rental house, located next to the shop, into a new office. We are remodeling the existing house plus adding an addition to the structure. We hope to be moved in by the end of the year.

I would like to welcome Kari Carlson on board as she is going to help GeorgAnne in the office. In closing, I would like to thank all the employees for their dedication and hard work the past few months. There have been many long hours put in and at a very hectic pace. We could not operate without our very dedicated and talented staff.



Growing corn crop by I-80 Farms shop location



8647 Hwy F48 W  
Colfax, IA 50054

This year we had the opportunity to watch the RAGBRAI riders cycle past our shop location on F48W (Highway 6). We set up a tent and watched approximately 8000-10,000 of the 20,000 riders roll past our shop location. We watched many two and three wheeled bikes, many tandem bikes, a few large wheeled bikes, and even a few skateboarders cruise by. Not sure how the skateboarders handled the hills, but everyone was having a great time! Several bikers stopped to take a break or to make a minor repair or adjustment. Some just stopped to say "hi." The weather was welcomed by the riders because the day was mostly overcast with a few drops of precipitation. The temperatures dropped down to the 80's for most of the day; a break from the 90 and 100 degree days the cyclists had been riding in. The biking attire was very interesting. Most bikers wore the typical cyclist clothing; helmet, biking shirt, shorts and tennis shoes. We did see one group roll past dressed in colorful leisure suits. We also saw riders decked out in pink flamingo feathers, deer antlers, large dog bones on their heads; even saw the "banana bike." The cyclists were very friendly, honking their horns and hollering out "good morning." We were very impressed with the organization of RAGBRAI and the overall conduct of a group this size!



RAGBRAI route runs right by I-80 Farms shop on Thursday, July 28



"Well, we couldn't store ALL the corn."

## Office Construction Underway



Former rental house with new addition

## Is Ethanol Really Outpacing Feed Use for Corn?

by William J. Talsma, President

I thought I would set the record straight on corn used for ethanol. Most people do not know the real truth; only what the anti-ethanol groups never tell you; and that is that of the corn that goes into ethanol production, 1/3 of that corn comes back as a by-product called DDG's (dried distillers grain), and it replaces corn in livestock rations. We use it in the U.S. and we export it all over the world.

When you hear that 5 billion bushels of corn are used to make ethanol, the true net figure of corn used for ethanol is actually 3.5 billion bushels, because 1.5 billion bushels is coming back as DDG's for feed use and replaces corn demand.

The latest USDA supply/demand forecast out this week says that corn use for ethanol will outpace livestock feed use for the first time, but some are questioning those figures and that interpretation.

The July 12 World Agricultural Supply Demand report increased corn beginning stocks by 150 million bushels, while total U.S. corn use for 2010/11 was lowered by 145 million bushels. The report increased ethanol use by 50 million bushels to 5.05 billion bushels, based on "larger supplies and improved ethanol producer margins," which is 50 million more than the even 5 billion projected for feed and residual use.

For 2011/12, the report raises feed and residual by another 50 million bushels with larger supplies and lower expected prices, while corn use for ethanol is raised 100 million, doubling the spread between the two usage categories to 100 million bushels. Matt Hartwig with the Renewable Fuels Association contends that saying ethanol is surpassing livestock feed use for corn is not exactly correct. "First, USDA is assuming more than 14.1 billion gallons of ethanol production for the 2010/2011 marketing year, based upon the industry average of 2.8 gallons per bushel and the USDA estimate of 5.05 billion bushels of corn. However, calendar year 2011 ethanol production is on pace for 13.7 billion gallons, according to the Energy Information Administration. USDA is either finding ethanol production EIA is unaware of, or they are using out of date ethanol yields. Based upon RFA calculations of corn use (RFA assumes a conservative 2.77 gallon per bushel yield), total gross corn use in ethanol production will be less than 5 billion bushels in 2011."

In addition, Hartwig notes that the USDA estimate does not properly account for the one third of each bushel of corn entering an ethanol biorefinery that is returned to the livestock feed market in the form of distillers grains. "Even if USDA's estimates are correct, which they likely are not, the total net corn use for ethanol is 3.3 billion bushels," he says.

separately and then mixed the products as we refilled the sprayer. Using this new process we have been able to increase efficiency by reducing the number of times we mix chemicals by 75%, and have also contained the mixing area to a single environmentally safe location. Reducing the number of times we handle chemicals reduces the chance of an accidental spill. Since safety is our number one goal and objective, this process of handling chemicals just makes sense for I-80 Farms.



Previous system used to mix and transport chemicals



Kari Carlson

## New Tanker Increases Safety and Efficiency

by Mike Horan, Manager Business Development

The spring of the year is always a time of great anticipation on the farm. From the moment the grass turns green, the rush of spraying, tilling, and planting begins. This spring season was no exception. The wet rainy weather, at times, made planting the crop somewhat of a struggle. During the planting season the farm team is divided into three main operational duties which are spraying, tilling, and planting. All of these tasks must run at a comparable rate in order for a successful operation to continue.

This year, in an effort to increase our spraying efficiency and to reduce our exposure to chemicals on the farm, we purchased a stainless steel tanker to transport chemicals to the field. The major advantage of this new piece of equipment is that it allows us to mix chemicals and water together in one safe and secure location. Then we can deliver the mixed chemicals to the field without the sprayer applicator ever having to mix chemicals. In the past, we transported water and chemicals to the field



New stainless steel tanker used to mix and transport chemicals

## Kari Carlson, Office Administrator

by GeorgAnne Talsma, Office Manager

Meet Kari Carlson. Kari started working for I-80 Farms as an Office Administrator in April. She has spent the last 16 years in the banking industry.

Kari is married to Todd and they have three children; Ty age 13, Taylor age 10 and Tate age 4. Todd works for Amerigas as a Sales and Service Manager.

The Carlson family keeps busy with their children's activities; Ty is involved in rodeo, football and wrestling, Taylor is involved in basketball and volleyball. The family also enjoys camping and horseback riding.

We are excited to have Kari on board!