



Pistorius News

Pistorius Farms, LLP

Keeping In Touch...

Greetings!! We hope that this edition of the *Pistorius News* finds each of you in good health and enjoying a summer of cookouts, vacationing, and timely rains.

Well, maybe we are the only ones wanting timely rains this summer, but I hope that you will agree with me that picnics and summer vacations are what summer is all about. In this edition we hope to give you an update on planting, crop conditions, work being done on the farm, and what's new with our family.



An Exciting Spring...

I began writing this newsletter on June 1st to let each of you know that planting was completed. We finished planting soybeans on May 29th. On May 30th we received three inches of rain, on June 1st two inches of rain, and then on June 3rd we were lucky enough to get another three inches. June 6th brought close to 3 more inches. At that point I realized that maybe our spring planting season was not over. We truly did have a challenging spring. As you are probably aware, both April and May were unseasonably cold. The soils were saturated going into spring from the moisture throughout the winter. In April we received 2.51 inches of rain and 4.05 inches in May. Although rain fall amounts were just slightly above 5-year averages, the cool temperatures were the culprit for planting delays. The average daily temperature for April was 52 degrees followed by a heat wave in May of a 60 degree average. The cool temperatures just would not allow the soils to dry out. We spent most of April waiting on soils to dry out only to catch a small shower about the time soil conditions were fit to plant. This was followed by more of the same in May. So we waited....and we waited....and

we waited a little more for soil conditions to be fit. Then we would plant, plant, plant, rain, rain, rain, and start the waiting process over.

In the last newsletter, we shared with you that we had upgraded to a new planter for this season that was much larger than our previous one. This purchase turned out to be worth its weight in gold, allowing us to get over the acres that we needed to cover in a timely manner. However, as stated before, Mother Nature challenged us to get all the planting done. Because most of our soybeans were planted just before the run of the rains, the beans were slow getting out of the ground. Our saving grace on the soybeans was probably that the water tap did not shut off and the ground remained saturated enough to allow newly emerged soybeans plants to push out of the ground. However, we did have two farms that the water stayed on the ground for just too long, so we were left with no other option but to replant those farms.

At the time of the



New 36-row planter

storms, all of the corn was out of the ground and even some of the early planted corn was getting to be knee high. Surely, this corn would be able to withstand the 11 inches of rain over 10 days? Unfortunately, the answer was no. On Tuesday June 3rd, the City of Decatur decided that due to

An Exciting spring (cont)....

the excessive water, Decatur Lake was reaching a level that would exceed comfort and thus lowered the dam, sending millions of gallons of water gushing down the Sangamon River in a very short period of time.

The result of this was devastating. Thousands of acres of farm ground were completely wiped out, leaving lakes where corn had previously stood. Fortunately, our farms only suffered devastation on 180 acres. The challenge then became the



180 acres under water on June 7

calendar. We invested our resources in a corn crop on this farm with applications of fertilizer, nitrogen, pre-plant chemicals and seed. If we would switch to soybeans, we would lose all of this and run the risk of adverse effects of planting soybeans into a farm where atrazine could still be in the soil. As the days passed, the decision became more difficult. On June 15th we started to see the farm dry out and made the call to plant corn. The corn was able to be planted on June 19th and is up and looking fairly good to date. The corn we planted is a much earlier maturing hybrid than what we would typically plant in central Illinois, but the hybrid only has a short window to mature before the first frost of the fall. We are anticipating yields to be 55-60% of normal yields on this replant. Certainly an eventful spring, and the summer fun is just beginning!!

Crop conditions...

With the rough start that we had with this year's crop, I fear that we are facing more

challenges as the season progresses. This is not to say we will have complete disaster, but I do think a lot of our top-end yield has been lost. From the day the seedlings have been in the soil, they have faced some type of stress. The cold/wet spring was obviously the first stress. Furthermore, the root system on the corn has been slow to develop. Corn roots search for water and nutrients; this is their job. With the wet spring the corn

roots have not been challenged to go deeper to search of nutrients. When the ground did begin to dry out, the roots in the corn were slowed down by compaction layers in the soil, the result of a wet spring. These roots have since worked deeper into the nutrient zone, but it did cause a period of stress on the plant. In addition, the cold conditions set the nitrogen cycle back for a period of time. The corn plant appeared to be just in a neutral state. In the areas that water had stood, the corn did not have enough oxygen in the soil to grow. As result of all this, we did go

through a period of time that some of the corn in the wet spots of a field displayed signs of stress by turning yellow. The impact of this yellowing is yet to be determined; in some cases it could be severe to due to the different stages in crop growth at the time of the stresses. Since this time period through mid June the corn has began to mineralize the nutrients and plant health is looking more favorable. Because the rains have continued, the corn now has good color and appears to be trying to make up for early season stresses. We hope that the early damage is not significant and timely rains can make up for some of the early losses.

As I write this we have some early corn that is starting to tassel and the later corn is just now getting knee high. It is still too early to tell on the soybeans. The beans are starting to look better but are still very small and have a lot of catching up to do. Although the soybeans have been stressed, they will get the most benefit from rains during flower and pod fill. The fact of the matter is that in a perfect world, you never want a corn or soybeans plant to have a bad day. We have had a few bad days and the impact will be determined in the combine.

Day-To-Day Activities...



Spraying soybeans

The dog days of summer have arrived, I feel that we are as busy this summer as ever. After getting the planting done we started in on side-dressing nitrogen. We did not plan on this nitrogen application, but feared that too much nitrogen was lost through the winter and spring months. With corn prices at historic levels, we thought it was a good investment to ensure that the corn would not fall short of nitrogen when it needed it most. We have also been busy spraying. As you know, with the wet weather, the weeds seem to grow as fast as we can stay ahead of them. With the scattered planting dates, we continue to spray corn and soybeans as weeds develop. Most importantly we are scouting fields on a regular basis. We should start seeing insect and disease pressure start as soon as we get to tassel, and we want to stay on top of this. If necessary, we are prepared to make aerial application to prevent any yield loss. Other activities right now include mowing ditch banks, hauling grain, and getting equipment prepared for another harvest. It will be here before we know it.

From Our Home To Yours...

We are very pleased to announce a new addition to our family! On April 7, Jill and Chris Jones had their third child, Ted Jackson. Ted joins twin big sisters Alexi and Delaney, age 4 1/2. Jill is the oldest daughter of Tim and Carolyn, and Ted makes the 7th grandchild for the Pistorius'. Our whole family will also be heading off to Wisconsin on July 19th for a week together at a resort. We anticipate good fishing, nice weather and lots of fun for the kids.



Ted Jackson Jones



Grandma Pistorius the grandkids at Easter

www.Pistoriusfarms.com

Our website is up and running and we hope that you will take a look at it sometime. We are trying to keep it updated with pictures for you to see some of our day-to-day activities. Please visit us on the site, and we welcome feedback as to any new information that you might like to see.



Final Thoughts...

As you have read up to this point, each year is a new year, and we are faced new challenges each season. Our goal every day is to do everything in our control to increase profitability for our landowners and ourselves; the rest is up to Mother Nature. In a couple of months we will find out how she treats us. Your investment in farm ground is a great investment. We thank you for the opportunity to be a part of that investment. As always, we look forward talking to you if you should ever have any questions or comments about our farming operations. We hope that each of you have a safe and happy summer. God Bless.



9044 Damery Road
Blue Mound, Illinois 62513
217-692-2135
FAX 217-692-2134
www.Pistoriusfarms.com



Tim Pistorius
Mobile 217-520-4632
Home 217-865-2925
Tim@pistoriusfarms.com

Pete Pistorius
Mobile 217-433-3752
Home 217-692-2580
Pete@pistoriusfarms.com

Craig Paulek
Mobile 217-254-0991
Home 217-325-4219
Craig@pistoriusfarms.com