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R&M Farms / Walters Ag, LLC



Fields of Green

Planting through the Pandemic

I'm sure that most of you have been staying pretty close to home recently. Here on the farm, progress must still be made to get the crop in the ground. Most of our crops are planted except for a few seed corn fields. We have been able to go about our daily business as agriculture is an essential business and cows will still need fed regardless of what is happening in the world.

We have had to get used to some new normal on the farm though when it comes to getting parts or other supplies. Most stores are locked to outside customers and parts must be ordered ahead and then they are set outside instead of being picked up in store. Banks have been closed so most business is now conducted via the drive-thru and lots of emails. We have been working mostly in isolation as most sales meetings and business meetings have been conducted virtually to avoid contact.

Due to the demand disruption of the COVID-19 virus the price outlook for all commodities has been dismal at best. Over 40% of the ethanol manufacturing capacity in the US is currently shut down due to low oil prices. As always though, we continue to forge ahead with the hope that prices will rebound by the time we harvest our crops.

We are fortunate in that our calves will not have to be marketed until fall but other local livestock producers are having a very difficult time right now finding room for their market ready animals. Wade's wife Abby's family are pork producers and they currently cannot sell any of their market ready animals as meat processing plants are shut down. They are currently trying to sell direct to consumer but finding local processors has been a challenge. Several producers around the country have found that euthanizing animals has been their only option.

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New Addition to the Family

On April 9th Spencer and Kelsey welcomed a baby girl to the family Adalynn Marie.



At home we have been staying very close to home and have changed our shopping habits by getting what we can from the local grocery store and ordering the rest online from big box stores. Mike's wife Camella has been unable to work since mid March due to being forced by the health department to close. There are not hardly any cases of COVID in our area. Really the only places in the state to become infected at a high rate are the counties that have a meat packing plant and the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas.

Local Commodity Prices

<u>Corn</u>

Flint Hills Resources-Fairmont May 2020 \$3.04 Oct 2020 \$3.15 July 2021 \$3.33

 Shickley Grain Co.

 May 2020
 \$2.75

 Oct 2020
 \$2.87

Soybeans

Cargill- Carleton May 2020 \$8.04 Oct 2020 \$7.78

Shickley Grain Co. May 2020 \$7.74 Oct 2020 \$7.68

Walters Ag LLC Branches Out



Plant Nutrition

Starting in March Walters Ag LLC became the newest retailer of Compass Minerals Plant Nutrition Products in the state of Nebraska. We sell fertilizer and micro-nutrient products for corn and soybean production. We took on this venture to help diversify our income more and help us weather through this period of lower commodity prices. We hope to make local producers more efficient and raise higher yields by applying nutrients to their crops when they need them.

Walters Ag has also recently launched a Facebook page where you can keep up with what is going on around the farm several times per week. Search *Walters Ag LLC* to connect with us.