



Volume 1 / Issue 9  
Spring/Summer 2023

Spring has kept the Nature's Best crew busy making products, getting our test plot planted, etc. Our organic all crop has proven to be such an exceptional product, as noted in our 2022 test plot results, and many customers have decided to try this product this year.

And now summer is here, school is out, and the busy summer days are upon us! Have a safe and a enjoyable summer 2023!

Roger and Staff

Rain, Rain, Please!



## SPAM 2023 CONFERENCE

Wow! What a great conference we had in March! Our speakers were awesome! The weather was not the greatest, but the conference was great from what we are hearing from those who were able to attend. The door prizes went to Daniel Hofer and Jeanne Hanzen! Mark your calendars as we have booked the Rock Rapids Forester Center for the weekend of March 15 and 16, 2024 for our next SPAM conference.

## SALES STAFF

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## 2023 FARM BILL

Agriculture is the beating heart of the American economy and the lifeblood of our rural main streets in Iowa. From hog farmers in Sioux County to corn growers in Washington County, farming runs through our veins in rural America — and federal policy must complement our proud traditions; not inhibit our productivity. For our country to remain the breadbasket of the world, we must pass a strong farm bill that protects the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of American farmers, producers and our agricultural community.

In basic economic terms, productivity measures the relationship between input and output. As technology has advanced and farming practices have evolved, American farmers have grown more food with fewer resources, and in turn, have helped to alleviate global food insecurity and cement America's status as the world's agricultural

powerhouse. However, amid rising energy costs and record inflation fueled by trillions in wasteful government spending, the cost of basic inputs like feed, seed and fertilizer have skyrocketed, leaving our farmers and their families in a precarious economic situation. The current state of our economy underscores the need to protect vital programs in the farm bill like access to credit and funding for agricultural research and development. For example, credit accessibility at local banks and other financial institutions allows our farmers to purchase new equipment and precision agriculture technologies to remain productive even when economic conditions sour. At the same time, continued investment in research and development at our nation's top academic institutions not only supports the livelihoods of American producers, but also fuels scientific breakthroughs that benefit agriculture.

Profitability is another — if not the most — important factor for American farmers. In today's volatile world, our agricultural community needs certainty and predictability to be profitable. When planning for the next planting season and allocating the necessary capital to operate their farms, farmers must know that, during tough times, crop insurance will remain accessible and affordable. In rural communities, crop insurance is a vital tool for our producers to hedge against poor crop yields and inadequate returns. Crop insurance also protects farmers from the perils of droughts, derechos, tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters that can devastate family farms. In this year's farm bill, we will work to create a robust safety net and defend crop insurance so that our farmers can remain profitable even when Mother Nature strikes.

Profitability also extends to our biofuel producers. Iowa is home to 42 of the nation's 201 ethanol plants and 11 of our 72 biodiesel facilities. Ethanol and biodiesel production not only keeps prices down at the pump and lowers carbon emissions but is also a major economic engine for our state, supporting 57,000 jobs and generating roughly \$7.2 billion to Iowa's Gross Domestic Product every year. As such, we are committed to maintaining protections for biofuels production while encouraging construction of new ethanol and biodiesel facilities nationwide. By expanding biofuels production, Iowa ethanol and biodiesel can make America energy independent again, lower gas prices for American families, and end our reliance on dirty foreign oil for our energy needs.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the farm bill also presents a unique opportunity to provide American farmers and producers with the necessary resources to outcompete foreign agriculture. In Iowa alone, 415,000 jobs are supported by trade in our state, and in 2018, Iowa exported roughly \$14.4 billion in goods and services, cementing our status as the second largest exporter of agricultural product in the United States. Therefore, negotiating strong trade agreements and expanding access to foreign markets are critical to our economic competitiveness and rural vitality. In the farm bill, we are working to double funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), which both promote American agricultural products abroad and help domestic producers receive top dollar for their goods. Voluntary conservation practices are another avenue through which American farmers can outcompete foreign agriculture. Countries like China are aggressively subsidizing conservation programs for their farmers, and it is crucial that the United States responds appropriately. For instance, we need to make the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) — which is administered by local Farm Service Agencies (FSAs) — more flexible for our farmers so that they can continue to use their private land for productive farming activities while practicing sound conservation. We also need to provide local FSAs with greater latitude to appropriate CRP funds and determine how decommissioned land can be most effectively used in the meantime. These are both important priorities that must be included in the farm bill to protect the livelihoods of our farmers and the health of our environment.

The reauthorization of the farm bill has an important role to play in protecting our family farmers and rural communities. Between out-of-touch attacks on agriculture by unelected bureaucrats to the growing influence of foreign interests, we are committed to passing a strong farm bill that supports our farmers, promotes international trade, and creates a reliable safety net for our producers. In our Republican majority, American farmers and producers will always have a seat at the table and a strong voice in Congress. The farm bill reflects this ironclad commitment. *Feenstra represents Iowa's 4th District and is a member of the Agriculture Committee. Miller-Meeks represents Iowa's 2nd District.*

## **DAIRY MONTH JUNE 2023 \* INTERESTING FACTS**

### **1796 \*\* Milkmaid folklore led to smallpox vaccine**

Legend has it that milkmaids seemed to be immune from the smallpox plagues as they swept through Europe. English physician Edward Jenner developed a vaccine for smallpox based upon this folk knowledge.

### **Drink Milk to Rehydrate**

Studies show that milk is superior to water and sports drinks after a workout. Milk is rich in sodium and potassium—both of which help to retain fluids and cause your body to sweat less.

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**A couple pictures when we were planting the  
test plot corn this season.**

## DAIRY MONTH JUNE 2023

This June, celebrate National Dairy Month with your favorite dairy treat. Originally established as a grocery/milk promotion in 1937, National Dairy Month now acts as a reminder of the health benefits that dairy products provide. They contain essential nutrients — including calcium, potassium, vitamin D, and protein. They also reduce the risk of high blood pressure, osteoporosis, and certain cancers, while helping us to better manage our weight. Kick start each day with nutrient-rich dairy products and start your summer on a healthy note

We are saluting Bruce Platz and his family during dairy month 2023! Bruce began farming in 1981 with his Dad in the Wabasso, MN area. They had built a new barn and were milking 90 head of cows. Bruce, with his wife Sheri, and daughter Amanda, are milking around 70 head at this time. They became organic in 2014, and sell the milk to Organic Valley. The Platz family milks twice a day, and use a pipeline system to get the milk to the milk cooler. Milk is picked up every other day from the farm. The cows are on a rotational graze system. The family has been purchasing Natures Best products starting with Cliff Willis when he was active in the company. Bruce is quoted saying, “We are happy with the products, and have used them for many years. We use CW foliar on all our crops, and CW101 on all silage. We just do our thing!” Thank you, Bruce and family, for being a great business partner with Natures Best all these years!



### NATURES BEST CW FOLIAR

CW foliar is a trace mineral plant stimulant that is designed for plant leaf uptake using a fine mist sprayer. We recommend one gallon per acre as a mist for wheat, oats, barley, rye, legumes, pastures when there is a 3-4 inches of growth. Use on corn and milo when there are 6 inches or more of growth. Use on other crops when the ground area is covered with the crop growing.

### NATURES BEST CW 101

CW 101 is a microbial blend designed for hay and silage fermentation. Mix 50 pounds of CW 101 with 45 gallons of clean water and apply at different ratio of ounces per ton of high moisture corn, grass and hay silage, corn silage, corn stalks, baled or stacked hay.

Give Roger a call at 605-370-2249 to get more information, and, or to purchase the products.

## **DO YOU HAVE YOUR GARDEN PLANTED? SOME VEGGIES YOU CAN STILL PLANT IN JUNE!**

Radishes, Beets, Potatoes, Peas, Onions, Swiss Chard, Beans, Summer Squash, Sweet Corn, Okra, Tomatoes, and Peppers! Well, I suppose I can still add more to my garden!!

## **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?**

Are you looking for a career in the Ag industry? Check us out at Natures Best. We are a small biological company, located in northwest Iowa. We make and manufacture cutting edge crop and animal products. We are seeking a highly motivated and energetic person to join our team, and the possibilities to grow with us are endless. We will pay competitive wages to the right person. Positive attitude and motivation are just some of the qualities we are looking for. If you think you may be the person for this position, please give Roger a call at 605-370-2249! Housing is available if needed.

## **ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND LIGHT THERAPY.**

We had several presentations at the SPAM conference this year on the Electromagnetic Fields and how those may affect us in our everyday life. We also had presentations on light therapy and the health benefits you may receive with the correct products. If you are interested in hearing more about these programs, please contact Roger to get you in touch with the right people.

## **IOWA AGRICULTURE.**

With some of the richest and most productive soil in the world, over 90 percent of its land used for agriculture, and a plethora of other agricultural advantages, it's no wonder Iowa ranks second in the nation for ag production. Iowa is also second in total agricultural exports, with farmers exporting more than \$10 billion worth of ag products in 2013.

Leading agricultural commodities in the Hawkeye State, which are produced on more than 30 million acres of farmland, include corn, soybeans, hogs and eggs. Red meat is a leading product, too, and 6.6 billion pounds of red meat were manufactured in 2014. Iowa also helps fuel the nation's vehicles – over 25 percent of ethanol used in the U.S. is produced in Iowa.

## **JUNE FRUIT AND YOGURT SMOOTHIE**

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup nonfat plain yogurt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup 100% fruit juice  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups (6  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces) fresh or frozen fruit

Puree yogurt and juice in blender until smooth. With motor running, add fruit through the top hole in the lid of the blender, and puree until smooth. (Add flax seed, or can use milk in place of the juice.)

## **JUNE DAIRY DELICIOUS DIP**

8 ounces of cream cheese  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of sour cream  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of sugar  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup brown sugar  
2 tablespoons maple syrup

Combine all in a small bowl, and blend until smooth. Chill. Serve with fresh fruit.

## 15 YEAR OLD CORN SEED + ENERGIZING = SPOUTED CORN!



The Nature's Best guys were looking for a specific seed corn, and spotted a 15 year old bag of Miller M08-98 seed corn that had long been forgotten about. They pulled it out, energized the seed and planted it on June 2, 2023. The picture to the left shows the spouting and root growth as of June 7, 2023.

Energizing the seed has proven once again that it is a VERY Beneficial tool in our toolbox. Give Roger a call for more information on energizing.



The corn plant pictured above was planted on May 12. Nature's Best Liquid All Crop Starter was used on the field where this was planted. The plant pictured above was pulled out June 1. You can see it is in the 5-6 leaf stage with an 11 inch root. We have several farmers that are using this product with great results. Natures Best All Crop Starter can be used on all plants, not just corn. For application, we recommend 5 gallons to an acre, so a 275 gallon tote will cover 55 acres. Give Roger a call for more information on this great product.