

# SFG Update

Smith Fertilizer & Grain  
October 15th, 2018

When harvest started in early September we all had visions of being done by Halloween. Then the monsoon season hit our area and now we hope to be done by Thanksgiving. Wind damaged corn fields have been a priority for a lot of producers. Corn yields have been all over the board. Soil type and hybrid selection played a huge role this year. We have been reminded why we shouldn't plant corn in some areas. I think our grandparents knew this and kept those areas seeded down. Now many farmers have become row crop farmers and the fences have come out so they farm every acre they can. If we get plenty of rain these areas will produce but a year like this they stick out like a sore thumb. We have a lot of modern tools to pin point a field's yield almost to the square yard. I've always thought the early settlers were able to do this without GPS. They knew when the horses couldn't pull the plow as they got to the marginal ground they needed to leave those areas seeded down. The

**Mark White**  
**Knoxville Location Manager**



horses we use today are much bigger and they can turn it all over. As margins have become tighter it is more important than ever that we use this modern technology to help guide us. We have the equipment and the knowhow at SFG to help you utilize many of the features that are available today. Talk with your agronomy salesman for more information.

Markets continue to be ho hum as the bulk of harvest is yet to happen. The terminal basis has been at normal fall levels but as harvest ramps back up we may see some pressure. Trade issues have caused a lot of uncertainty the past 6 months. We have made

some new agreements recently that will help put confidence back into some commodities. However the rift with China is still causing the bean and pork markets to be depressed. An announcement last week that both sides plan to get back together in late November gives us some hope but we need to see some action take place. There is carry in both the corn and bean markets and we plan to have ample space available for those that need some storage space. Discuss your needs with either myself or your location's manager so we can be prepared to help you any way we can. All SFG locations offer fast unloads so your trucks can get back to the field as soon as possible. This becomes more important as harvest stretches out. It's anybody's guess what the weather will be like the rest of fall. The one thing we can all agree with is it's time to get it done!



**Kyle Smith**  
**Albia Location Manager**



### Wet Start to Harvest

It finally looks like monsoon season might be over and everyone will be able to get back into the fields pretty shortly. With as much downed corn as there is, talk of sprouting beans being spotted in some fields, and snow making it's way into parts of Iowa everyone will be ready to go full speed to salvage what they can in problem fields.

Around the elevator we've taken advantage of the cooler nights to fan our bins to get

them in good shape. We have also went through all of our receiving equipment to ensure we're ready for a busy harvest over the next month.

On Saturday, October 20th from 10:30 to 1:30 the local FFA Chapter's will be serving lunch at Albia, Centerville, & Knoxville locations. Be sure to stop in and fill up! The FFA members and our sales staff will work to deliver meals to you if you can't make it in. If interested please let our offices know!

**Harvest Hours:** Monday—Saturday 7:30 am to 7:00 pm

Sunday— 10:00 am to 5:00 pm



**Jason Smith**  
**Centerville Location Manager**



**HELP WANTED**

**Part-Time Detailer  
 Custom Applicator  
 Inquire @ Centerville  
 Office  
 641-856-2828**

As harvest was in full swing everyone had been very busy, that is until we received this 5 plus inches of rain these past couple of weeks. Where was the rain this summer when we really needed it! This wet weather has led to very unfavorable harvest conditions. I've heard of several farmers that have bought or were looking to buy some sort of flotation tires. Their old "Rice Tires" haven't been used in so long that they are either too dry, rotted or no longer fit the combine they have.

In the beans due to this wet weather we are seeing that some have pods that have popped open. This is due to the beans swelling up due to all the moisture. We are seeing in

some areas the beans are even sprouting right in the pod. These losses are adding up. We've seen up to 15 bushels per acre loss in some fields. As a guide you can usually figure if there are three beans per square foot on the ground that equals about one bushel of loss per acre.

I know everyone will be in the field soon and looking to hit it pretty hard. At the elevator, as always we will run extended grain dump hours and be open on weekends. We also have semi's available to schedule for on farm pickups. To schedule any after service and/or to schedule any on farm pickup's don't hesitate to call me at 641-891-6070. Hope everyone has a safe harvest.

Fall has arrived here in Iowa, but the weather has not allowed much progress on harvest recently. Most of the yields I have been hearing have been good, but prices are not. SFG can help you with a marketing strategy by giving you some helpful tips. Give us a call anytime. It's looking like the weather is going to straighten up for the rest of October, so we should be able to see some good harvest progress.

Soil sampling has begun to take place. GPS sampling is a great way to see what is going

**Ryan Brennecke**  
**Pleasantville Location Manager**



I Love  
*Fall*  
 Most of All



on in every area of your fields. This shows us what the pH is in every area of the field. Soil Sampling will help cut input costs of fertilizer & lime for next years crop.

Be sure to contact Greg or myself to line up your soil sampling needs this fall. Fall fertilizer application will

begin before we know it. The sooner we have the sample results back the sooner we can roll into application.

From everyone here at Pleasantville SFG, have a safe & happy harvest!!

Smith Fertilizer & Grain Inc.  
1650 Quebec Street  
Knoxville, IA 50138

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**Knoxville Location**  
1650 Quebec St  
Knoxville, IA 50138  
Office: 641-828-8500  
Watts: 800-828-5005

**Manager**  
Mark White  
Cell: 641-203-3602  
markw@sfgiowa.com

**Office Manager**  
Michele Brandon  
micheleb@sfgiowa.com

**Grain Merchandiser**  
Mark White  
Cell: 641-203-3602  
markw@sfgiowa.com

**General Manager**  
Max Smith  
Cell: 641-891-2919  
max@sfgiowa.com

**Administration Manager**  
Sharon Smith  
Cell: 641-891-8616  
Sharon@sfgiowa.com

**Pleasantville Location**  
702 E. Jasper  
Pleasantville, IA 50228  
Office: 515-848-5000  
Watts: 800-586-5005

**Manager**  
Ryan Brennecke  
Cell: 641-891-9323  
ryanb@sfgiowa.com

**Office Manager**  
Jamie Kendrick  
jamiek@sfgiowa.com

**Albia Location**  
805 N. Hwy 5  
Albia, IA 52531  
Office: 641-932-2100  
Watts: 877-932-5005

**Manager**  
Kyle Smith  
Cell: 641-891-8642  
kyle@sfgiowa.com

**Office Manager**  
Kristin Smith  
kristins@sfgiowa.com

**Centerville Location**  
1605 S. 24th St.  
Centerville, IA 52544  
Office: 641-856-2828  
Watts: 866-856-5303

**Manager**  
Jason Smith  
Cell: 641-891-6070  
jasons@sfgiowa.com

**Office Manager**  
Sharon Bolin  
sharonb@sfgiowa.com

**Agronomy Manager**

Mark Young C.C.A.  
Knoxville office  
Office: 641-828-8500  
Cell: 641-891-1514

**Agronomy Operations Manager**

Charles Smith  
Cell: 641-891-1449  
charless@sfgiowa.com

**Knoxville/ Pleasantville Sales**

Greg Willer, CCA  
Cell: 641-891-7457  
gregw@sfgiowa.com

**Centerville Sales**

Taylor Banks, CCA  
Cell: 641-218-0286  
taylorb@sfgiowa.com

**Albia Sales**

Kent Watson  
Cell: 641-218-4232  
kentw@sfgiowa.com

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