

KERPAN FARMS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2024

FALL RYE UPDATE

We planted fall rye last August for the first time. The idea is to keep carbon cycling through the soil in Oct/Nov/Dec/Apr when most soil is sitting biologically dormant. The rye looks great this spring and has been working hard underground to grow soil and improve the productive capabilities of the land. I am looking forward to taking some soil samples this year and see if there is much change in such a short period or if we will require more patience to see the results. Either way it is cool to see green fields in April.

THE SPRING PUSH IS ON!

As I write this, we are getting one last blast of winter. All in all, this winter has been awfully mild. We still have a lot of feed in the feed yard and cows have been out on stockpiled grass for a couple of weeks now. We fed the cows for around 100 days this year, which is our goal, but it's rarely possible in this part of Saskatchewan. I could get used to the mild winters, if only we could get a little rain in the summers. Field conditions were already getting very close to seeding so I am thankful for the moisture that is falling, even if it is white! Heifers are calving, the shop is a revolving door of machines getting serviced, the drills are hooked up and everyone is working hard to have everything prepared for seeding.

In just a week or two the biggest economic project in Canadian history will get underway.....and then we will do it again next year, and the year after that! Yes, growing crops is the biggest economic project ever undertaken in Canadian history and we do it every year! It's crazy to think of the impact that agriculture has on our economy, society and environment and we are constantly striving to do it better than the year before, we just need a little cooperation from mother nature.....okay, a lot of cooperation!

“Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.” – Frank Zappa



EXPANSION?..... WHY?

We have been looking for acres to expand the grain operation with a focus on how we can better serve the land and landowners that we partner with. This time of year is crazy busy going in a million different directions and I ask myself why we would want to add more to our plate when it's already over full at times! The answer has become clear to me as we bring on new employees/team members that bring families, new businesses, as well as life and energy back to our small rural community. The jobs we create and the people we have been blessed to add to our community is the best reward for the work and stress that comes with running a relatively large and expanding farming operation.



OUR NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2024 will bring the first year of our new scholarship program which will offer scholarship opportunities to graduates of local communities that are within the scope of our farming operation. It will offer assistance to students pursuing various education opportunities in agriculture and ag-business, potential internships, continued educational support and future career opportunities. We are excited about the opportunity to support the next generation of people that are pursuing personal growth while growing and improving the footprint of our massive agricultural economy in a way that serves humanity locally, regionally and globally.

“Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” – George Bernard Shaw

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STRUCTURE IS POWERFUL

A big part of our growth strategy is to put in place the structure and processes necessary to operate like an efficient and effective business. This has given us a tremendous sense of direction; it tells us where we want to go and what we need to do as a business and as individuals within the business to get there.

We have reduced underlap and overlap of labor and created clarity about each team members roles and responsibilities. We are still a small, family business

but we now have the processes in place to operate with more efficiency; reducing stress on team members and driving the farm forward toward whatever awaits us on the horizon. It’s still exciting and there are lots of unknowns but we can now deal with them knowing our roles and having clarity and confidence about where we are headed and how to get there.



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