



MAILBAG

December 1, 2013

Clover Creek 832-3458

Keystone Mill 832-3113

www.millhillag.com

Merry Christmas!!

Notes from Jim

The only thing constant in life is change. We are reminded of this occasionally and sometimes often. Many have noticed that Dennis Huntsman has not been with us recently. His mother passed away the end of October and Denny now has the responsibility of full time care giver for his aging father. Although Denny will probably help us out periodically, his days of fulltime employment have ended. We wish Denny the best in the future with all of his farm and family responsibilities. We will miss him.

Alan Lyons came on board fulltime in October just in time to let Denny off the hook. For those who have not yet met Alan – you will. Alan has good experience meeting farmers' needs "from high atop the Alleghenies" where the winters are real. Alan has been given the task of learning the business while getting to know and servicing our farm customers. Whether feed or crops talk with Alan and let him know how we can serve you better. You talk – he'll listen.

Employees have worked hard to share the load since Denny's departure and Rose Lynn's partial retirement. Rose plans to be with us for a while longer, but really enjoys spending time with her family and grandkids. Can anyone imagine visiting the Keystone store and not talking with Rose? Thank you to Jane Ray, Julie England, Tom Oswald, Terry Stanko and Sarrah Lyons for the continued commitment to business and customers. **Thank you Rose for 25 great years and for staying with us for more fun.**
Denny – Thanks for the memories!!!

December Schedule

Mill Hill will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24th, and will reopen on Thursday, December 26th. Then on Tuesday, December 31st, Mill Hill will close at noon and reopen on Thursday, January 2nd. Please plan ahead for your feed needs and your bag route deliveries.

Early Seed Orders

Please remember that there is still time to place your order for seed corn, alfalfa and grasses. TA Seeds is offering a 10% savings on orders paid in full by December 30th. If you would prefer to use Farm Plan, the savings are 6% until December 30th. King's AgriSeeds is offering a 6% discount on orders paid in full by December 31st, in addition to their John Deer Financial options. Both of these companies have seed that has tested very well in trials. Alan would be happy to explain the details of all of these plans to you and help you choose the right varieties for your farm.

Christmas shopping-done easy!

At Mill Hill, we have practical gift options to help you start-and finish-your Christmas shopping easily. Outdoor thermometers, bird feeders, suet cakes, sleds, gloves, hand warmers, Muck boots, hot cans (soup - you've got to stop and try these!) and mailboxes are all items that people on your list may want, but may not buy for themselves. For the pets on your list, visit the Canal Street store for a wide variety of treats, collars, leashes and food. But if you really can't decide what to buy, please consider giving a Mill Hill gift card. These cards feature beautiful local photography from the 2 Mill Hill locations, and can be purchased in any amount. Thanks for considering us!!

How many forms of salt can you name?

Salt - there are so many uses for it! From trace mineral or plain blocks, bricks and bags to feed our animals, to water softener crystals, pellets or iron out, to ice melting and ice cream making, to tanning hides - salt comes in many forms. If you need salt, call Mill Hill!

Dairy Recipe

The holidays are here and as fluffy snow falls to the ground, making the Earth beautiful in a blanket of white, remember the white stuff that makes us beautiful-MILK. Milk keeps our bodies strong and healthy with nine essential nutrients. So don't forget to set out milk with those cookies. Santa needs his strength to keep going all night long. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from me to moo!

Christmas Cookies

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tablespoon milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 ¾ cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt

Cream butter, gradually add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, milk and vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add to creamed mixture. Chill for ease in handling.

Roll out dough in 1/8 inch thickness on lightly flowered surface. Cut with floured cookie cutters and into desired Christmas shapes. Bake on a cookie sheet in preheated 350 degree oven 8 to 10 minutes or until golden browned. Remove to wire racks to cool. Makes about 4 dozen.

This recipe was supplied by Haley England, Dairy Ambassador

From Alltech

Are You Concerned with the 2013 Mycotoxin Threat?

Please see the analysis below!

All of the corn and corn silage samples submitted during the 2013 harvest tested positive for multiple mycotoxins according to a recent harvest analysis conducted by Alltech, a global animal health and nutrition company.

The Alltech Harvest Analysis North America (HANA) survey tested 101 samples from across the United States and Canada and demonstrated the need for producers to

implement a mycotoxin management program to monitor the effects of toxins on all species throughout 2014. Despite more rainfall across the Corn Belt and yields pushing record production, farmers must consider quality rather than quantity. Quality not only includes nutritive value but also the presence and levels of mycotoxins in this year's crop.

Samples sent in from across the U.S. and Canada show that corn silage yields and corn grain tested positive for multiple mycotoxins. This follows what is being observed in that a greater percentage of feeds and feedstuffs are contaminated with multiple mycotoxins. The breakdowns for corn silage and corn are almost identical in that Fumonisin is the most prominent mycotoxin and is followed by Fusaric Acid and Type B Trichothecenes.

Type B Trichothecenes are present at low risk levels in both corn silage and corn grain in the average sample and may be considered at safe levels by many producers. However, the second most prevalent mycotoxin is Fusaric Acid, and Fusaric Acid will act synergistically with DON to magnify the effect of DON.

"What appears to be a relatively safe, low risk level of Type B Trichothecenes may be elevated to a moderate risk by Fusaric Acid. This effect will be manifested as lower dry matter intake, decreased rate of gain, gut irritation and lowered immune response," said Dr. Max Hawkins, nutritionist with Alltech's Mycotoxin Management Team.

Many times it is not an acute case that can be readily identified, but a chronic situation associated with the ingestion of a low level of mycotoxins over an extended period of time. This results in a wide array of subclinical symptoms that slowly reduce performance, eat away at the producer's bottom line and compromise herd health.

Producers need to implement a mycotoxin control program now to reduce the threat to their herds," Hawkins said. "This is the time to be proactive."

Hawkins said to be aware of the effect of multiple mycotoxins, implement a mycotoxin control program and stay vigilant with storage management for the new crops.