

THE HOMEPORT FARM MART



Homeport's
July 05
Newsletter

Terry offers home and farm news

Our Homeport family hopes this newsletter finds you and your family doing well!

Once again, our best intentions got derailed for several months by everything else and we have failed to get our newsletters out to you monthly like we had intended – so once again, we try! If you will furnish us your e-mail address, we will begin sending our newsletters to you in an electronic format over the next couple months. We promise to keep your e-mail addresses to ourselves and not sell or give the list to anyone else – after all, we all get enough junk e-mail as it is.

While we are talking about the internet, have you visited our Website yet? If you haven't, you are missing a treat! Check us out at www.thehomeportfarmmart.com. One of our employees, Betsy Bunce, is our Webmaster and we think she is doing a great job as she learns how to make the site user friendly. Please keep visiting at least weekly for sales and specials that are going on. If you have comments or things you would like to see there, please feel free to let us know. Send your e-mail address and any comments to us at:

terryengland@thehomeportfarmmart.com and we will be glad to include them.

Grain market turmoil

All of you are aware of the current state of the grain market and the impact it and fuel prices are having on feed prices. These prices have gotten beyond the ability of any of us to manage for now. We had sought to cushion the impact of changes from week to week, but due to the continued constant rise in prices, we can't do that anymore. At this point our margins are at the lowest point they have ever been on feed products as we have been holding the line, trying to soften the blow for you. Is there relief in sight? I am sorry to say that's doubtful. It looks like the perfect storm at this point for grain interests.

Many are blaming the "ethanol craze" for the run up in food and feed costs, but allow me shed a little more light on that story than the evening news has been offering. Yes, demand for corn and soybeans is up and ethanol is part of the cause, but more of the blame lies with about five other factors: a weak dollar on the world market, increased export demand from India and China (due to the weak dollar), speculators in the market (using former real estate investment monies), weather conditions nationwide and transportation costs.

The value of the dollar on the world market has eroded about 25% over the last 18-24 months making American grain *very* inexpensive on the world market compared to other growing regions across the world. Then, add to this the increased demand for food from China and India. Their economies are growing faster than any other country. China is adding more families to their middle class each year than we have total in the USA. Just their top 2% of students each year in their public schools is a larger number than *all* of our K-12 students combined.

About a year and a half ago, the rules governing trading in commodities were changed allowing for speculators to come into the grain market where before their involvement had been limited. So now, you have retirement funds and other very large investment groups dumping large quantities of cash in the speculative grain markets, driving up prices for all of us in the mean time. I think we see this change only when our economy turns for the better and real estate again become attractive.

The late planting season in the Midwest, along with the floods that have covered over 5 million acres of crop land, are also driving prices up right now. To make matters worse, the continued drought in the

Southeast has made it all but impossible to grow large amounts of corn here without substantial irrigation, which is not feasible in itself.

Last but not least, consider transportation costs. As it becomes more and more expensive to get goods from point A to point B, the costs will continue to spill over into the price of grain and food.

Some media outlets have been falsely reporting that the reason beef, milk and other products in the grocery store have been going up is caused by the farmer having to get more for his product due to increased input costs. Nope! Don't buy that one folks! The two things have about as much in common as a man on the moon flushing a commode here on earth (well that may be a little out there, but you get my point). The farmer has no way to pass increased grain costs on to the consumer. A case in point – the prices of live cattle at the sale barns are the same or less than they were this time two years ago, before the run-up started. That doesn't take into account the increase in fertilizer (doubled to tripled), fuel (double), fencing (up 30+%), etc. So see, it isn't as plain as the media has made it out to be.

Do you know what the miracle in all of this still is? We still have the cheapest and safest food supply in the world, and you still spend less of your disposable income to purchase it than any other country in the World. Amazing isn't it?

Other news and more interesting things

If you are feeding horses, I hope you have you looked at Seminole's new Wellness line. In early January, Seminole and Spillers announced they would be dissolving their partnership on the Spillers line of feeds. Seminole has rolled out this line as the replacement, and has reformulated several of their other feeds to include the latest

research improvements into these feeds. If you stop by we can explain the changes, or you can go to their website at www.seminolefeed.com for more information.

Insect control products

Do you have adequate fly control for your livestock? If the flies are driving you and your fur covered friends crazy right now, come see us about the many solutions we have here at The Homeport Farm Mart. If you need back rubs for cattle or just some spray on for your horse, we have one of the most comprehensive selections here in the Barrow County area.

Magnesium is important

Cattlemen – do you have a good high quality Hi-Mag out there for your cattle? In years of drought it becomes all the more important to have a quality Hi-Mag product like F-R-M Wintergrazer out there for the herd. With the showers being few and far between, that green lush magnesium deficient grass jumps up with just a few drops of rain. While these types of products have increased in price due to ingredients over the last few months, a bag of Wintergrazer is a small price to pay to save a couple head in today's market.

Sale circular coming soon

Watch The Barrow County News, The Athens Banner-Herald and our Website for our new sale circular. The sale will start July

31 and run until August 9. The sale will be packed with farm and home values for you to take advantage of.

Spraying notes

Don't forget, as you go to spray in the yard and on the farm, we have most any kind of pesticide, herbicide or fungicide you might need. Please remember to be responsible in the use of these crop protection products and follow all label directions for use and cleanup. Also, remember that we carry a full line of sprayers and parts for any of your needs – large or small, pump up or tractor driven.

Carhartt!

Yes we said Carhartt – for everybody. Men's, women's and children's summer work and pleasure wear is here and waiting for you to take it home. Need to choose a birthday present? What about a Carhartt shirt or a pair of Carhartt jeans? Who wouldn't like that?

We still offer the largest selection of Ertl Toys in the area, along with some really cool stuff from Radio Flyer. There is nothing better than these type toys to get the kids outside and active! Let them burn the energy out in the yard playing with these rugged toys instead of tormenting the cat or dog (or you)!

Suggestions welcomed

Let us know what you would like to see us carry to meet your needs. We are

always glad to look at new and different products when possible. Just remember, as much as we would like to carry a product, sometimes the required minimums prohibit us from carrying them, but that doesn't mean we won't try to get it for you.

As we get deep into the summer, we pray that you and your family remain safe in any traveling or work you are doing. Take time and enjoy each other. Time moves way too fast, and before you know it, you ask yourself, "Where did the time go?"

We appreciate your business and thank you for trading with us. There are many options out there for you to choose today, and we appreciate your choosing us. We are honored to earn and keep your business, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Please join us in Church this Sunday. We invite you to come and worship with us at Auburn First Baptist Church every Sunday morning, Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the Worship Service begins at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Night Singing and Service starts at 7 p.m. We also have Mid Week Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. We are easy to find in Auburn, right next to the Peoples Bank on 6th Street, just off Georgia Highway 8.

God Bless you and your family.

Sincerely,
Terry



**Locally owned
and operated by
Terry and Cindy
England**

Highway 53 and Argonne Road, Winder, Ga.

Phone 770-867-1601



Carhartt®
Original Equipment for the American Worker.