To: MSTC Farmers From: Mike Sabel, Ag Instructor Re: Newsletter & Calendar **8-26-09**

Congratulations to our graduates! The graduation & appreciation **banquet** is planned for **Wednesday September 16, 2009 at 8 p.m. at the Vesper Community Center** in downtown Vesper across from JoJo's Bar in the old Village Park. Everyone's invited! This is our 25th anniversary banquet and we are celebrating in style! Come see our farm humorist! The formal invitation is in the newsletter. Please call your RSVP by Tuesday Sept. 8 to me or send it to Phil Ely. Our 2009 graduates are Laura Grasssl –Vesper class, Dan Grossman -- Vesper class, Karl Franson --Amherst class and Buster Pratt-- Almond-Bancroft class. CONGRATULATIONS! Call for visits! MSTC 715-422-5387, home 715-652-3367.

Wheat has yielded well with both grain and straw. Winter wheat is usually planted from Sept. 10-30. It can be planted until mid-October IF we have a warm fall. It will be tough this year with the late maturing crops! The web site is http://soybean.uwex.edu/wheattrials/printable/documents/WI_WW_Bulletin.pdf for the 2009 UW winter wheat results. Most farmers find the best stand is done with a drill, 1 ½ -2 bu./A. Weeds are a factor. We can kill broadleaves next spring but not grass weeds! Due to the dryness in July, most dairy farmers need high quality forage. Remember the guidelines—**harvest by Sept. 1 or 8 at the latest unless you are rotating the field out of forage for 2010. You may hold off and take the last cutting around Oct. 15.** Why so late? We do **NOT** want the crop to grow back more than 6" so that the crop will keep its energy to survive the winter and grow next spring. If the crop re-grows too much, it will use most of its energy now and probably die during the winter. A little growth will catch some snow!

We are 2-3 weeks behind normal crop development for heat units. (**Please see next page & below)** Please pray for a warm September with a later than normal frost! If this doesn't happen, you may need to consider beanlage for your **soybeans.** Beanlage mixes well with corn silage, replaces and is similar quality as haylage. PLEASE WALK YOUR FIELDS EVERY 3-4 DAYS TO SEE IF THE BOTTOM SOYBEAN LEAVES ARE TURNING YELLOW. If they are turning yellow, (normally Sept. 1 but later this year) you will need to cut them within a week. You make beanlage at haylage moisture –40-50% Dry Matter. **DEER , TURKEY OR SANDHILL CRANE DAMAGE?** Please contact your county Land Conservation Dept. for details! **IRRIGATORS-** Irrigate corn & soybeans until Sept. 20 this year due to later developing crops to completely fill the seeds! Corn & beans use about 1/5"/ day now.

Corn silage will probably be harvested about 2-3 weeks later than the last several years-like Sept 25-Oct. 10 . **Please walk each field to determine the corn maturity and yield potential for both corn silage and corn grain. The drought has caused unevenness and each field is unique! If corn is killed by frost before maturity, you need to wait 3-7 days for the plant to dry down to the proper 65% moisture. Once you start chopping, please check the dry matter to make sure it is not too wet.** Too wet of silage gives us butyric acid which messes up an animals' metabolism and causes us big health problems. There should NOT be a problem for nitrates in corn silage. Begin chopping unfrozen corn silage when the top third - ½ of the kernel has solid starch and the bottom ½ of the kernel is milky. Why? Total plant moisture should be around 70% and is o.k. for bags and bunkers. Silo moisture is better at 65% (top ½ starch) so we don't have too runny a silo. Let the silage ferment for 3 weeks in a silo, bunker or bag so it stabilizes and the cattle will improve performance. If you're green chopping some corn, start the livestock with small amounts so their stomach adapts to the new feed. Make sure they have eaten other feed before feeding green chop corn silage so the livestock don't gorge themselves. Spread out the feed so all animals can eat at the same time.

This year is the Soils Management year. We will teach nutrient management planning as well as some marketing and other items important for good crop production. **The curriculum is included**.

A calendar indicating the "typical" progress of soybean development in Minnesota from planting to harvest.

Minnesota soybean development calendar from *Soybean Plant Development in Minnesota* Crop News 47 Hicks