

RECIPE CORNER

WORD SEARCH

Stuffed Peppers

by Bert Talsma
Serves 6

INGREDIENTS

- 6 medium peppers
- 1/3 cup onion (chopped)
- Dash ground pepper
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 3/4 cup tomatoes (cut into cubes) - also can use one can of diced tomatoes
- 1 cup rice (cooked)
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut off tops of peppers and remove seeds. Precook peppers in boiling salt water for 2 minutes, drain (for crisp peppers, omit pre-cooking). Sprinkle inside of peppers with salt.
2. Cook beef & onion. Add tomatoes, water, rice, Worcestershire sauce & season to taste. Cover & simmer for 15 minutes. Stir in cheese. Stuff peppers. Stand upright in a baking dish. Bake uncovered at 350° for 20 to 30 minutes.



- CATTLE
- COLT
- COOP
- CORRAL
- COWS
- CRIB
- CROPS
- CULTIVATOR
- DOGS
- EGGS
- FEED
- FENCE
- FOAL
- FODDER
- FORK
- FOWL
- GOAT
- GRAIN
- HARROW
- HEIFER
- HERD
- HOES
- HOGS
- HORSE
- KINE
- LAMB
- MILKER
- PIGS
- PLOW
- REAPER
- RICK
- ROOSTER
- SCYTHE
- SHEEP
- SHOAT
- SILAGE
- STACK
- STEER
- SWINE
- THRESHER
- TRACTOR
- TRUCK
- WAGON
- WETHER

PRODUCING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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I-80 Farms Vision Statement

To produce quality crops through a profitable farm operation which will help sustain world demand for environmentally safe food and fuel. This will be accomplished by intelligent risk management, effective marketing strategies and overall great leadership. The foundation supporting our overall vision is formed by our strong family values and reputation for honesty, hard work and integrity.



We strive to remain a profitable, growing operation that will produce quality crops to fulfill world demand, using environmentally sound practices.

The I-80 Informer

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Fall

I-80 Fall News Report

by William J. Talsma, President

Winter has just hit as I am starting to write this article on January 12, 2012. The wind and snow is blowing and the temperature is 11°. Yesterday we were still tiling and working construction projects, in fact, a couple days ago it was 60°.

This has been one of the nicest winters I can remember. We have been tiling, working on waterways and cleaning ditches since harvest. It is always nice to get a lot of this kind of work out of the way during the winter, plus the roads are always clear which is nice when we have trucks on the road every day.

Last year, at this time, I mentioned about having the nicest weather I could remember in my farming career and now we just had a repeat of 2010. The harvest went great; never a rain day, we did get all the fall tillage completed, fertilizer applied, and are ready for the spring.

The crops turned out pretty good considering the wet spring and then a summer that turned hot and dry. We also had a lot of wind damaged corn from two different July windstorms. Our corn crop was better than we thought, ahead of harvest. It was still below average, but we feel blessed after the rough year the weather dealt us. The bean crop was just a little below average. Starting out the soybean harvest, the yields were slightly above average; however, with the hot, dry weather, the moisture on the beans got down to 7%. This caused a yield decrease of 5 – 6 bu/acre.

I would like to thank all the employees for their hard work and long hours during harvest. We did not have any accidents or serious breakdowns. Fall harvest can get very hectic at times and everyone is running on only a few hours of sleep, so again I want to say thanks from I-80 Farms.

As we start out this New Year we are excited about moving into our new office in the next few weeks. The girls are excited about getting away from the constant dust and noise from the shop. We feel that by moving into a separate office space, away from the shop, will provide more of a professional atmosphere for the office help, landowners, suppliers and business partners.

We will continue to keep an office in the shop for the guys doing the operating and maintenance activities for keeping records, etc.

We are planning on moving all of our Precision Farming equipment, GPS equipment, lasers and monitors into a vacant office. This will keep equipment cleaner, safer and more organized.

I would like to thank all of our landowners, suppliers and employees for a great 2011 and wish everyone the best as we begin 2012. This will be the 33rd year of farming for Dave and I, and we are still renting the first farm that we started out with in 1979. We are truly grateful for all the wonderful relations we have built and maintained over the years.



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Golden harvest at the end of the rainbow.

New Zealand's Ravensdown Makes Visit to I-80 Farms

by GeorgAnne Talsma, Office Manager

We had the opportunity this fall to meet with John Hodgkin, sales manager of Ravensdown. John has a similar role as our sales manager, Paul MacKendrick of Heartland Co-op; working with their sales team, mentoring and providing leadership. Ravensdown headquarters are located in Christchurch, New Zealand. The main reason for John's visit to the United States was for an information exchange which

was very beneficial to John and his team and the teams from the various Heartland Co-op locations that he visited.

Networking and discovering new ideas between sales teams has been mutually beneficial. Both sales teams work in an international market and have met with key retailers from Canada and other

parts of the Country as they continue to build on and make improvements to their existing structure. Since I-80 is a customer of Heartland Co-op, John found it beneficial to ask us questions about our business to understand what our current needs were and to understand what we look for in a product and service provider.



Steve Uhe, Mike Gannon, Paul MacKendrick, Bill Talsma, GeorgAnne Talsma, and John Hodgkin



Brazilian Farmers Visit I-80 Farms



Brazilian Farmers Visit I-80 Farms

by GeorgAnne Talsma, Office Manager

On August 26 and 27, 2011, I-80 Farms had the opportunity to host two groups of farmers from Brazil. One group of 17 farmers came from the state of Parana (southern Brazil). They plant corn as a winter crop and plant no soybeans. Their region's farm size is an average of 50-600 hectares (123.5-1482 acres). Corn yields average 11 kg/ha (175 bushels/acre). The other group of 18 farmers came mainly from the states of Minas Gerais and Goias (central Brazil). Their region's farm size is an average of 50-600 hectares (123.5 -1482 acres). Corn yields average 10 kg/ha (159 bushels/acre). Soybean yields average 3.0 kg/ha (44.6 bushels/acre). Their interest was in observing the technology, labor use and general farm practices in the Midwest. We started the discussion with some introductions and then started a session of Q&A. After the Q&A session, we toured around the facility, looked at farm equipment, walked out into the corn fields and ended our visit

by touring the I-80 grain bin system. This system is monitored by AgriDry. AgriDry has three controllers which monitor 5 of our bins where we store the majority of our corn. We receive daily reports, via email. These reports show the grain temperatures that each of the various sensors is reading throughout the bins, along with fan run time.

We also shared information on various mapping that we do on our farms. The maps showed the various soil types for each farm and the fertilizer and lime requirements per farm. This is used to assist variable rate technology for seeding and fertilizing our crops (i.e. if there is a sandy area, we can cut back on applying excess fertilizer and seed and in rich soil, fertilizer and seed are increased accordingly). We all enjoyed the visits very much and were impressed with the sincere and cordial personalities that our Brazilian friends left us with.

Fall Harvest



Joel Branderhorst, Operator

by Kari Carlson, Office Administrator

Meet Joel Branderhorst. Joel started working full-time as an Operator for I-80 Farms January 2012. He has been a part-time employee since 2009 working mainly in the Spring and Fall.

Joel grew up on a farm south of Newton. He graduated from Newton High School in 2011 and plans on taking agriculture classes through DMACC. Joel enjoys hunting, fishing and working on stock cars.



Joel Branderhorst



Harvesting fall corn crop