

**G**reetings Valley Coop patrons! Well, it certainly has been an interesting start to my tenure here as General Manager at Valley Coop. I have really enjoyed being here in the Cowley County area and my family is excited to make our new home here. When I have been going out to visit the locations, I have been pleased with the quality of employees that we have here. It has also been a pleasure being able to visit with many of the coop patrons when I have been going to the other locations throughout the Valley Coop territory as well. So far, I have been seeing some areas where tweaking needs to be done, but most excitingly, the board of directors and I are pursuing bringing on a full time Agronomy Manager/Agronomist to Valley Coop. This is definitely a service that is void in our area and we think that this will be a great service to our members going forward. We have hopes on naming an Agronomy Manager by the first of October. You can find out more about the Agronomy position by visiting our website at [www.vcoop.com](http://www.vcoop.com).

I wish I had better things to say about our wheat situation right now. Unfortunately wheat prices remain suppressed without much of a better outlook in sight. We are in a situation of a record wheat crop and a very strong world wheat crop as well. Because of this, there is a vast larger supply of wheat than what there is a demand for it. As for Valley Coop, this 2016 wheat crop totaled 1,166,000 bushels compared to 1,006,000 bushels in 2015. The wheat yielded very well with many reports in the low 50 bushels/acre and higher. The test weights were also good with much of the wheat averaging better than 60 lbs./bushel. The only negative to the quality is that protein was mostly in the low 10% range, which effects flour mill's interest in our wheat. The acres of wheat harvested were definitely down vs. the past few years, and that did effect our overall take for bushels.

Because of the overall suppressed market for wheat, Valley Coop has less ownership than usual from farmers. On the marketing side for wheat, it has been very difficult to move wheat because of a

transportation glut and also many end users are not aggressively buying wheat. In fact, there have been long periods since wheat harvest that some users have gone to a no-bid, which means that they are not buying wheat at all. It will be a difficult year to find good margins for wheat and a tough year to find storage for other crops. Because of this, CoMark, the marketing group that Valley Coop is a co-owner of, is setting up a series of bunkers to store wheat to both make room for the fall crops and to hopefully sell into a better market situation in the February/March 2017 timeframe. CoMark will be putting about 5 million bushels of wheat on the ground, split between 3 locations. The closest one to Valley Coop will be at the concrete plant in Arkansas City. This will be a 1 million bushel bunker and will ease the congestion of space at both Valley Coop and Two Rivers Coop of Ark City. CoMark is implementing every possible precaution with the bunkers using aeration, wind sensing fans, a fully enclosed tarp, bunker walls, base treatment, temperature cables, fumigation services and a backup generator. Going forward, the bunker assets will give Valley Coop more options for grain storage if the market points that way.

During wheat harvest there were very few issues that arose. I do appreciate the farmer members that did let me know that they were having some issues so that I was able to take care of them in a timely fashion. It stands very true, if I don't know about something, it's hard for me to do anything about it. That is why, as we are heading in to fall harvest, to communicate to me or one of the location managers of issues that you are having. Communicating with the farmer is the best way to get through this harvest with the best service that we can provide to get the crops from the field to the elevator effectively. Thanks for your patronage to Valley Coop.

Cooperatively Yours,

James L. Jirak – General Manager

# News From the South

We've almost got another summer wrapped up at this point and I'm not hearing much complaining as these temperatures start to fall. It was sure a hot and humid one this year but with that we also had an adequate amount of moisture for the fall crops. We're expecting a very large total crop this fall with the amount of acres that were planted this summer and would also anticipate some really good yields around the area. At this point we are trying to get the elevator empty of wheat but should be in good shape before corn starts rolling across the scales. Hopefully, we won't have to deal with any aflatoxin issues this season as that isn't any fun for any of us involved. Another busy feed season is right around the corner and we are planning on keeping a second delivery truck on hand this year to be as efficient as possible with the amount of tonnage we expect to handle this winter. Just as a reminder we are carrying a full line of weed and insect products for any needs you might have this fall. We wish everyone a safe and bountiful fall harvest and as always we appreciate your continued support of your cooperative.

Hackney: Todd L., Todd P., Stacie, Frank, Nate, David and Gage



Please keep in contact with us this fall harvest and let us know your needs.

## VALLEY COOP, INC.

Administrative Office-Winfield 620-221-4343

Hackney	620-221-4370	Kellogg	620-221-0154
Winfield Elevator	620-221-2079	Atlanta	620-394-2290
Burden	620-438-2314	New Salem	620-221-4290

# **Kellogg Comments**

With the blink of an eye another season has past us by. Looks like it could be a good fall harvest. Most of the wheat has been shipped and the equipment is ready. Typically here at Kellogg we have had to dump most of the semis at the outside pit. But this summer we removed the old leg that sat on the east end of the flat storage building. This will give us more room at the west end of the elevator, allowing us to dump some of the shorter trailers inside the elevator and getting trucks a faster turnaround time. We will be picking and choosing which ones to will go inside so there won't be any problems getting them out. Thank you ahead of time for working with us because there will probably be a learning curve.

Feed season is just around the corner. We are currently booking our 20% nuggets for the fall and winter months. Give me a call for a quote. We will be adding another 24 ton delivery truck in September to better service your needs.

We will again be handling Mesz dry fertilizer for your fall planting needs. As always, thanks for your business and have a great fall.

Donnie and the Kellogg Crew—Mark, Ingrid, Roger, Tony, Larry, Logan, Ryan, Derek, Scott and Terril

## **Patron Meeting**

**Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 AM**

**Valley Coop office meeting room**

**Please RSVP with office at 620-221-4343**

Why are we a part of CoMark? Who owns CoMark? How does CoMark benefit farmers? How does CoMark benefit the coop? Is someone getting rich off this? All these and your questions will be answered. FCStone will also be giving 2016-17 grain outlook and farmer marketing strategies.

# News from Burden and New Salem

Man it sure has been a hot one out there, but we have finally gotten some much needed rain. The corn, milo and soybeans sure are looking good around our area, and with this rain they should get even better.

With the coming school year comes cooler weather and the fall harvest. We have been shipping wheat via rail at both locations getting ready for the fall harvest. Also, we have been improving our safety around both locations. This includes safety chains and other upgrades that are needed.

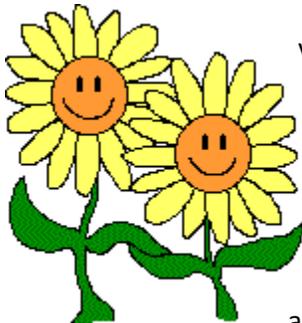
Here at the Burden location we are going to start selling t-posts in two sizes along with two brands of barb wire and cattle panels. We hope to have this stuff in stock soon.

We look forward to serving you in the coming months. Have a safe Labor Day and safe fall harvest.

We thank you for your patronage. Come on in and see us.

Nick, Isaac, & Randall

## Attention Sunflower Producers



Valley Coop will be able to take your sunflowers this coming fall harvest at our Winfield location. After much consideration, the management of the coop decided to make taking sunflowers available to our patrons. With a large fall crop projected intake of corn, soybeans and milo, bin space at our elevators will be at a premium. Because of this, **sunflowers will be sold to Valley Coop across the scale at that day's cash price.** This only applies to sunflowers and not the other fall grains because the sunflowers will need to be sold quickly and shipped out to ensure bin space for the other crops. Thank you for your

patronage.

## HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?



Q: What is the easiest way to count a herd of cows?

A: Use a cowculator.

## CFA Financing Available

Valley Coop offers financing for crop inputs (fertilizer, chemical, seed, etc.) through CFA at competitive interest rates. Contact James or Rebecca at the main office for more information or a credit application.

A light green banner with a ribbon-like shape, featuring the text "Atlanta News" in a bold, black, sans-serif font centered within a white rectangular box.

## Atlanta News

Wheat harvest was short and sweet up here. We had some reports of very nice yields.

Now it is just hot. The fall crops are struggling with temps and weed pressure. There is a noticeable difference in the soybean fields that had a pre-emerge treatment applied at planting. Those fields don't have as much weed pressure. We have seen some fields get 50 – 60 day residual effects. We would like to see more acres get this treatment next year. It will save money over the season by eliminating at least one in-crop spraying.

Be checking your milo fields for the dreaded sugarcane aphid. It has made it's appearance in our area now. We are planning to use a different treatment for it this year, Sivanto. It has a longer residual. We are also seeing sorghum headworms in the milo. You need to be checking your fields daily to get a jump on these critters.

Of course hot weather brings out the worst in your tires. Our tire shop has been extremely busy this summer. If you are planning a fall vacation remember your Valley Coop has all your tire needs for a safe trip.

As always, we look forward to serving you here at the Atlanta branch.

Darren, Katherine, Jimmy, Terri, Andy, Paul, Mike, Justin, Ric, Lyle



**Valley Coop, Inc. will be closed  
Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> other than  
for harvest activity.**

Valley Coop, Inc. is accepting applications for our new agronomy position until August 31, 2016. Please visit our website, [www.vcoop.com](http://www.vcoop.com) for more details.



## Zucchini Lasagna

Recipe Shared by Rebecca Romero

2 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil	3 tablespoons fresh oregano, chopped
1 small onion, finely chopped	2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes	2 medium zucchini
1 pound ground turkey	1 cup ricotta cheese
1-28 oz can diced tomatoes	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 cup (2 oz) parmesan cheese, freshly grated	

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and red pepper flakes; cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is tender, about 8 minutes. Add turkey and cook, breaking up large pieces, until brown. Add tomatoes and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes. Stir in oregano and salt. Let cool. Slice zucchini lengthwise into 1/8 inch thick strips. Put 5 or 6 slices, overlapping slightly, in bottom of an 8 X 8 inch baking dish. Top with 1 cup of sauce. Dot with 1/4 cup of ricotta. Repeat layers twice, alternating direction of zucchini. Top with remaining zucchini and brush with remaining oil. Dot with rest of ricotta and season with pepper. Top with Parmesan. Bake 50 to 60 minutes, until lasagna is bubbling and top is brown. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.