

I hope that your new year is off to a good start. Many interesting things have happened since our last newsletter came out that will have quite an effect in our state and country. Probably the biggest news is the end of a very turbulent presidential election that resulted in the inauguration of President Donald Trump. Trump will most certainly change the direction on issues that have stayed on a very different course for the last eight years. Issues affecting agriculture and rural cooperatives may be a mixed bag as the President looks to renegotiate or back out of trade deals, takes a more pro-business approach to government programs and regulation and makes waves on the issue of immigration. I remain optimistic that overall the changes will be good for cooperatives. With many media outlets giving credit to "Rural America" for getting Trump elected, I hope that the president will look with favor on our rural businesses and will push forward initiatives that will help us grow and better serve our rural communities. Initially, renegotiating trade deals may be a bumpy ride as we need those foreign buyers for U.S. commodities, and with large surpluses with the next crop year coming on, the industry will be hard pressed to find a market for our grain anyway. In the past few days, I have also heard encouraging talk about initiatives for rural infrastructure and rural development that could play out well.

More changes are happening at the state level with the Kansas legislative year getting kicked off. There are some new faces at the capital and some leadership changes that have happened since last year and the November elections. This past January, I was fortunate to attend Legislative Action Day that KCC puts on

along with our partners, the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Ag Retailers Association. Attendance by both the cooperative community and our legislators were strong. Myself, and many other cooperative leaders were able to have some great one-on-one discussions with many rural and urban legislators. From the conversations that I had, it seemed like the state's looming budget issue, along with school finance, were going to be the most heated debates this year. Because of the budget shortfall, legislators are looking for program cuts and income streams (taxes) that will fix the budget. Unfortunately, many items are on the table, including programs and taxes that will effect cooperatives directly. I would encourage you to contact your legislator to let them know your concerns how these changes could hurt cooperatives.

As my first year as your new general manager comes to a close with our upcoming fiscal year end, I wanted to thank the patrons of Valley Coop for the opportunity to serve you in this role. This year has been a challenging one for the Ag Economy as low commodity prices have made it difficult to pencil profits for both the producer and the coop. Through these times, I thank you for your continued loyalty to your coop and we will continue to work hard to bring value to your operations. Please mark your calendars for our annual meeting that will be held on May 25th at Baden Square starting at 6 PM.

Cooperatively Yours,

James L. Jirak
General Manager

Being new to Valley Coop Inc. and the Cowley County territory there is a lot to learn but the warm welcome I have received as I've met with Valley Coop patrons has eased the transition. I would enjoy the opportunity to meet you and learn about your particular operation. As you can imagine, I get restless if I'm confined to an office too much so be a friend and give me a call ☺

One of my objectives as agronomist at Valley Coop Inc. is to ensure that you are made aware of potential pests, diseases and other relevant agronomic information for your area. The most efficient way to do this is through email. If you would like to receive an occasional agronomic update please provide the information below and return to **811 Mill Street, Winfield, KS 67156** or contact me directly.

Best Regards,
David Abel

David S. Abel
Valley Coop Inc. | Agronomy Manager
david@vcoop.com
(620) 218-4427

NAME:
PHONE:
ADDRESS:
EMAIL:
CROPPING SYSTEM:
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

XTENDIMAX

Xtend and Engina soybeans (dicamba resistant beans) are available this year but the EPA is watching closely to ensure that the technology is handled appropriately. There isn't much wiggle room on the Xtendimax label. For the latest on XtendiMax label additions visit

<http://www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com/Pages/default.aspx>.

Visit [XtendiMaxApplicationRequirements.com](http://www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com) for approved tank-mix partners and nozzles.

 <p>NOW EPA APPROVED FOR IN-CROP USE</p> <p>HERBICIDE Low volatility XtendiMax™ herbicide with VaporGrip™ Technology</p>	 <p>AMMONIUM SULFATE Ammonium sulfate and ammonium-based additives are prohibited in applications that include XtendiMax™ with VaporGrip™ Technology</p>	 <p>APPLICATION RATE Apply 22 fluid ounces per acre for any single, in-crop application</p>	 <p>SPRAY VOLUME Apply in a minimum of 10 gallons of spray solution per acre</p>	 <p>NOZZLES To minimize drift, use nozzles approved on the herbicide product label and operating pressures to minimize driftable fines</p>	 <p>SPRAY BOOM HEIGHT Do not exceed a boom height of 24 inches above target pest or crop canopy. Excessive boom height will increase the potential for drift.</p>
 <p>SUMMARY OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS The XtendiMax™ herbicide with VaporGrip™ Technology application requirements are intended to help maximize weed control with on-target applications and minimize the potential of off-target movement. <i>THIS SUMMARY IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR READING AND FOLLOWING ALL PRODUCT LABELING.</i></p>					
 <p><4" WEED HEIGHT Spray weeds that are less than 4 inches tall</p>	 <p>3-10 mph WIND SPEED Apply when wind speed is between 3 and 10 mph</p>	 <p>DOWNWIND BUFFER Maintain the required label buffer to protect sensitive areas</p>	 <p>SUSCEPTIBLE CROPS Do not apply when wind is blowing toward adjacent susceptible crops</p>	 <p>15 mph GROUND SPEED Do not exceed 15 mph ground speed</p>	 <p>TRIPLE RINSE Use triple-rinse cleanout procedure</p>
<p>To report any incidence of nonperformance of this product against a particular weed species, call 1-844-RRXTEND.</p>					

Notice

As of March 1st, the Kellogg location's Oxford line (620-455-2566) will be disconnected, please use Kellogg's main line at 620-221-0154

AGRONOMY NIGHT

Cowley County Extension hosted their annual Agronomy Night on February 16, 2017. Many farmers and ranchers came to listen and learn from the insights of K-State extension agents Dr. Curtis Thompson, Dr. Mykel Taylor, and Dr. Doug Shoup. Thompson discussed weed control practices for corn and sorghum, Taylor gave an entertaining and interactive economic update, and Shoup, presented best management practices for double-crop soybeans. **Be sure to thank Jill Zimmerman for organizing an excellent agronomic meeting!**

WEEDS

Marestail (horseweed) is a problem for many in the area. When it comes to weed management timing is critical and the time for marestail control is now! Scout your fields for marestail rosettes. If using an herbicide to control marestail it is important that you **spray at the rosette stage**. Applications made after the weed bolts will be less effective. A Banvel (dicamba) + Roundup (Glyphosate) application should do the trick without breaking the bank. For more information check out the K-State publication *Marestail Control in Kansas* <http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3014.pdf>.



Marestail rosette image courtesy of John VanDyk, Iowa State University Department of Entomology, <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/>

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?



Farmer Giles was so interested in conserving energy, he built a pig-powered car. He had to get rid of it, though. Everytime he turned a corner, the tires squealed.

News from the South

It sure feels like the Groundhog was wrong a few weeks ago as the temperatures the last few days have been in the mid 60s and just pretty nice here lately. With the mild weather we've had a good opportunity to get some anhydrous out and into the soil for the upcoming corn crop. Hopefully we can catch a little more moisture here soon with top dressing of wheat acres just right around the corner. Although we've been a little dry this winter I did find some sub soil moisture with a post hole digger a few days ago and remain fairly optimistic with the weather forecast the next couple of weeks. Earlier last week we had a local meeting with CPS and Dyna-Gro mainly to discuss the new dicamba resistant soybeans and the continued importance of using pre-emergent chemicals for those beans as well as our traditional glyphosphate resistant beans. Please give us a call as soon as possible to discuss the numerous options we offer to control these resistant weeds with the different modes of action that is becoming necessary for adequate control. We do keep a record of your past run sheets so just let us know which crops go with which field this year and I'm confident we can put together a chemical package that will work. As always, thanks for the continued support of your cooperative and will look forward to working with you this spring.

Hackney Crew: Todd L., Todd P., Stacie, Nate, Frank, Adam, and Judy



Chicken, Salsa and Cream Cheese Enchilada Casserole

Recipe Shared by Stacie Crittenden

1.5 lbs boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 (24 oz) jar mild pace picante salsa
1 (8 oz) package cream cheese

3 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 (3.8 oz) can black olives
1 (16 oz) package yellow corn tortillas cut into strips

Add the chicken to the bottom of your slow cooker. Pour over the salsa. Cover and cook on Low for 6-8 hours. Put the cream cheese on top of the chicken. Cover for about 10 minutes to let it get soft. Meanwhile, cut up the tortillas. Shred the chicken with 2 forks right in the slow cooker. Stir the chicken, salsa and cream cheese together. Add the tortilla strips, 1 cup of cheese and 1/2 can of olives, stir. Flatten out this mixture. Wipe down the messy sides of the slow cooker with a paper towel. Top with remaining cheese and olives. Cover and cook on High for 45 more minutes or until the casserole is very hot in the center.



EQUITY MARKETING
ALLIANCE

2813 N. Van Buren St. | Enid, OK 73703
580-242-0515 | emagrain.com



PO Box 130 | Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3435 | cgmlc.coop

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Contact:

Shawn Hughes

EMA Board President

806-435-4016

shughes@myequityexchange.com

Terry Kohler

CGM Board President

316-542-3182

terrykohler@gardenplaincoop.com

Regional Grain Marketing Companies Merging

Two of the region's most innovative grain marketing companies, CoMark Grain Marketing LLC (CGM) of Cheney, Kansas, and Equity Marketing Alliance (EMA) of Enid, Oklahoma, have voted to merge, effective May 1, 2017.

"This is a natural fit since our companies have shared visions and similar structures and strategy," said EMA Board President Shawn Hughes.

CoMark Board President Terry Kohler added, "Through the merger, we can sharpen our focus, increasing our ability to react to consumer demand and better prepare for the future."

Twenty-nine member cooperatives will own the new entity, which will have 161 total locations, including two grain terminals, and a total grain storage capacity exceeding 133 million bushels.

About Equity Marketing Alliance

Six Oklahoma cooperatives joined their grain marketing divisions in 2001 and formed Equity Marketing Alliance, LLC (EMA). EMA's team of specialists provide grain pricing, merchandising, logistics and accounting services for their member companies. EMA currently has seventeen cooperative member-owners operating 87 locations in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. To learn more, visit emagrain.com.

About CoMark

CoMark Grain Marketing LLC (CGM) was established in 2008 to bring efficiency to the grain marketplace with decreased risk for member cooperatives in south central, southeast, and northwest Kansas and north central Oklahoma. CGM is responsible for merchandising, risk management, sales accounting, and other grain responsibilities for these companies. Since 2008, CGM has grown in its membership from nine members to currently 12 members with 74 locations. For more information visit cgmlc.coop.