

Farmers Cooperative

Cooperative News



Dorchester, Nebraska 402-946-2211 • 800-642-6439
Plymouth, Nebraska 402-656-3615 • 800-456-3538

JULY 2014

Investing In Our Owners' Success!

THANK YOU!

McCool Fertilizer now part of Farmers Cooperative

By Ron Velder
General Manager

Farmers Cooperative purchased McCool Fertilizer on February 19th, 2014 from owners Paul Underwood and Tom Thomas. Given that Farmers Cooperative already has grain and petroleum services in McCool, it only made sense to combine the two businesses. Bryan Christian will continue to lead the Agronomy department at McCool.

We would like to thank Paul and Tom for their help in adding these assets to Farmers Cooperative. We look forward to working with the new customers, as well as the employees of McCool Fertilizer. We feel that this acquisition will be a benefit to all.



Ron Velder

Upcoming Merger Brings Big Benefits for All!



Pictured; Southeast Nebraska Cooperative Co. Beatrice Branch

On April 3, 2014, Southeast Nebraska Cooperative voted to join Farmers Cooperative. This merger will be effective September 1, 2014. Southeast patrons voted 84.7% in favor of the merger.

Southeast is headquartered in Beatrice, with nine other locations in Nebraska and three in Kansas. They are a full-service cooperative, with the exception of an energy division. Our two companies share many customers in the trade area and have been good neighbors. We hope to save on high transportation costs with moving grain in different directions. In September, Southeast Nebraska Cooperative will add two Board Members to Farmers Cooperative's board.

Farmers Cooperative would like to welcome all patrons of Southeast Nebraska Cooperative. We look forward to getting the opportunity to work with you.

Soil Samples, Water Consumption Important Variables to Consider



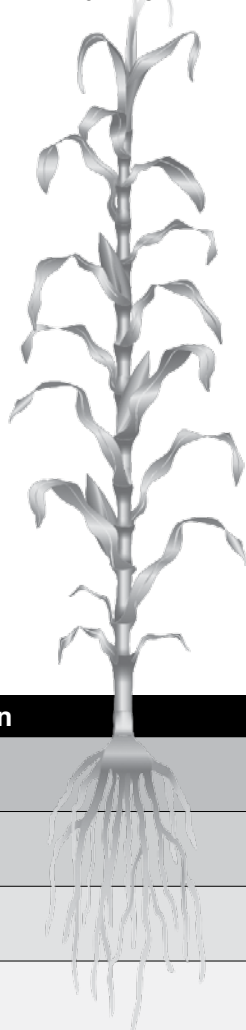
By Barry Jung
Fertilizer Manager

Now that wheat harvest is finished this would be the time to soil test your fields, either a composite sample or grid sampled, so you have the proper fertility recommendations for the crops needs. Now would also be a good time to have lime applied whether you are going back to wheat or are changing your rotation to another crop next year.

Growth Stage	Inches Water Use/Day
1 – 4 Leaf	.02 – .05
5 – 8 Leaf	.05 – .10
8 – 10 Leaf	.10 – .15
11 – 14 Leaf	.15 – .20
14 – 18 Leaf	.20 – .25
19 Leaf – Blister	.25 – .30
Milk – Soft Dough	.20 – .25
Hard Dough – Early Dent	.15 – .20
Mid – Full Dent	.10 – .15

Water use is now becoming a daily issue. Water consumption in corn in Eastern Nebraska on average transpires between 25” to 28” of water through the plants during the growing season. We now are using between 0.15”and 0.20” of moisture transpired through the plants each day. The plant roots are in the top 6” to 18” of the soil profile and a typical corn plant can root up to four feet deep. Forty percent of water absorption occurs within the top 12”, 30% in the second foot, 20% in the third foot, and 10% in the fourth foot of the soil profile. The following table demonstrates the amount of water used per day.

Water Absorption	
40% top 12”	
30% 12-24”	
20% 24-36”	
10% upto 48”	



Growth Stage	Inches Water Use/Day
Germination/Emergence	.1 – .15
Vegetative Growth	.15 – .20
Flowering	.25 – .30
Pod Development	.20 – .25
Seed Fill	.15 – .20
Maturation	.05 – .10

Soybeans on average transpire between 22” to 25” inches of water through the plants each year. They use 65% of total water use during the reproductive stage (flowering/podding) of development. Nitrogen-fixation (nodulation) has begun with lateral root development occurring in the top six inches of the soil profile. Soybean root development can reach five and six foot depths, but like corn, the largest concentration of root development and water uptake occurs within the top two feet of the soil profile. The following table demonstrates the amount of water used per day.

GROWTH

New Face in the Energy Department

By Tom Garner
Energy Manager



Farmers Cooperative is happy to announce the addition of Chuck Swerczek to the Energy Division team. Chuck has been involved in the energy business for nearly 30 years with both cooperatives and independent energy companies. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience regard-

ing refined fuels, propane and lubricants and will be an important asset to us as we continue to grow our energy business. His main responsibility will be leading the sales effort for the entire family of energy products offered by Farmers Cooperative. The energy division team is excited to welcome Chuck and looks forward to working with him in the future. If you have any questions concerning our offerings in refined fuels, propane, or lubricants please give Chuck a call.

Chuck will be working out of the Emerald office and his contact information is:

Office Phone: 402-742-3311

Cell Phone: 402-580-7562

Email: cswerczek@farmersco-operative.com

Fueling Locations

Stop in at any of these Farmers Cooperative locations to get high quality gasoline and Roadmaster diesel fuel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with your personal Farmers Cooperative card. Still need to get a Farmers Cooperative fuel card? If you have an account with Farmers Cooperative, you can contact your neighboring location to request a fuel card. If you need to set up an account, you will need to fill out the credit form along with the cardrol form either on our website (farmersco-operative.com) or by contacting Rob Blahauvietz in Dorchester (402) 946-2211.



Location	Address	Location	Address
Auburn	922 J	McCool Junction	104 N
Beatrice	1615 N Sixth	Milford	East Park Ave
Beatrice	805 S Sixth	Milligan	307 N 6th
Burchard	110 Otoe St.	Odell	199 Perry
Cordova	600 Hector St.	Ohiowa	702 N Main
Daykin	708 Francis	Plymouth	216 Hwy 4
DeWitt	112 E Fillmore	Raymond	14540 W Railroad
Dorchester	208 W Depot	Seward	412 Seward
Exeter	134 S Burlington Ave	Swanton	101 S Fillmore
Filley	104 Livingston	Wilber	216 E 3rd
Firth	206 West 3rd		
Jansen	71445 573rd Ave		

Fieldmaster also available here
(Off Road Diesel)



Don't want a Farmers Cooperative fuel card?

All Farmers Cooperative fueling sites are accessible with a major credit card 24/7.

Quantity and Quality of 2014 Crop Remains Questionable

By Dale Hayek
Grain Manager

As of this writing, 6-4-14, the hail and tornadoes have impacted much of our North trade area, greatly affecting planting decisions and harvest volumes. The magnitude of these storms is devastating, but also brings out the best in people. This will be a tough growing season for many to say the least. However, those of you not affected by the storms are looking at some great crops. The future's market is trading this, as corn is currently challenged to get a rise as the growing season and Good/Excellent ratings progress.

Locally, processors are still in a 'hand to mouth' mode as they have ownership for only a short term. This will make for basis spikes all summer which we are already experiencing. Since many Ethanol plants have not posted deferred bids in previous months to incentivize forward contracting, it is a fair assumption there is little on the books for summer delivery. The question will be how much northern corn can make it into the corridors and markets which are deficit. MN and the Dakotas are challenging themselves just to get empty before harvest due to the railroad's dismal performance.

Farmers Cooperative continues to ship aggressively. The UP continues to be our best market for the time being. Since September 1, 2013 we have shipped 10,063 cars on the UP and 1,339 on the BNSF. Granted, we operate 3 UP stations, but the market speaks for itself.

The local bean processors are facing a \$3.00 inverse to new crop, so it goes without saying they don't want to own anymore inventory than necessary. There will just be days when basis chops away the inverse, especially with future rolls. There are still captured bushels up north that will

make their way south on trains throughout the summer, as the only alternative in importing South American beans from the gulf.

As the US is not competitive in the export market, that only leads to us working through this carryout domestically. It will be a late fall harvest locally, so should make for some interesting local basis moves in August and September. The quality of this fall crop also remains questionable due to all the stress the plant has gone through, and the extent of replant that will take place.

Some wheat acres have been destroyed and everyone knows of the challenges in the south with the drought. Fact is, currently the US is not competitive in the export market, so our demand is only the domestic side, and this year we won't be feeding any wheat as we have in previous years. Quality could be an issue if we continue to get June rains. Canadian wheat and spring wheat displacing HRW demand probably will come into play.

Operationally, our storage projects are moving forward in Barneston, Dorchester, Hanover, Kramer, Milligan, Plymouth and Reynolds. We did suffer some bin damage at Hoag and Cordova, but manageable in the big scheme of things. With all the devastation this year, construction crews will be challenged to complete everything, whether it is pivots, buildings or storage. On the other hand, crop failures in Kansas have the possibility of delaying storage building projects.



Dale Hayek

Unpredictable Markets, with Too Many Future Unknowns

By Doug Lewis
Grain Originator

Recent adverse weather is going to require one to re-evaluate your Risk Management coverage at this time. With complete or partial destruction to growing crops, one will need to adjust coverage to compensate for your lower anticipated production. Bushels that insurance is settling on due to the recent damage require no downside price protection.

Calls could be purchased if upside is wanted on those bushels that were settled on by insurance. Suggest selling puts that are not required to take advantage of any equity that may be in those positions. Hedges for those bushels that are no longer expected to be produced should be lifted. Cash contracts should be evaluated as well.

For those remaining acres that will go to harvest, flexibility as always is important. This year's first corn condition rating of 76% is among the highest for an initial crop rating. However, 2012 had an initial rating of 72% Good/Excellent and in 6 weeks had dropped all the way down to 31%. Futures during that same time frame went from close to \$5.00 to \$8.00. Last year we had an initial rating of 63% G/E in early June and improved to 66% G/E by mid-July. Prices

went from \$5.25 in mid-June to under \$5.00 by mid-July and by harvest were trading around the \$4.00 area. This demonstrates how volatile the markets can be. Emotions can make marketing and risk-management challenging in this kind of an environment.

Don't let old crop high prices cloud expectations for new crop bean prices.

The July/November spread recently traded an all-time high of \$2.77 (July a premium to November). Old crop supplies are tight and the market is trying to get to a level that would encourage imports to allow us to bridge the gap until new crop. New crop production could reach a record this year with the number of acres of beans that were planted. New crop values as of this writing are trading over \$12 and opportunities are there to put some attractive floors in place with the use of puts, cash sales with call coverage or a futures only contract with call protection.

The market will continue to be unpredictable as the future holds too many unknowns that can influence it. A marketing plan built around options can give us the flexibility to manage through any kind of market environment. Feel free to contact us to discuss your individual situation.



Important SPCC News for Farmers

By **Tom Garner**
Energy Manager

Last week the U.S. Senate followed the House and approved the Water Resources Reform and Development Act {H.R. 3080} conference report. Due to the overwhelming support in the Senate by a vote of 91-7 and the House 412-4, President Obama is expected to sign the bill in spite of objections to some of the language that will streamline environmental reviews.

The SPCC language will increase the threshold size for aboveground storage tank regulations at the farm level, and allow more farms to self-certify spill plans compared to current EPA SPCC regulations.

Specifically the language will:

Exempt all farm tanks of 1,000 gallons or less from the SPCC rule, and farms with an aggregate tank storage capacity of 2,500 gallons or less would not have to comply with the EPA's SPCC rule.

Increase the farm exemption threshold with up to 6,000 gallons of aggregate aboveground oil storage pending the

completion of a study looking at a permanent exemption of farms with 2,500 to 6,000 gallons.

Permit farms to self-certify their spill prevention plans if their aggregate aboveground storage is between 6,000 and 20,000 gallons with no individual tank greater than 10,000 gallons and no history of oil spills.

Require a professional engineer to certify the plan if the farm has an individual tank greater than 10,000 gallons, and aggregate aboveground oil storage greater or equal to 20,000 gallons, or a reportable oil discharge history.

Even though this has not yet been signed into law by the President at the time of this writing, it is very good news for agricultural producers. The 2,500 gallon storage will exempt a lot more farmers than the old law did and my hope would be that the threshold does go to 6,000 gallons at the completion of the study.



Tom Garner

FEED DEPARTMENT

Equine Nutrition, Creep Feeding, and County Fair

By **Kevin Wittler**
Feed Department Manager

Each year we field many questions on equine nutrition. Owners want to be reassured that their mare will be in excellent condition for raising that foal, or their riding horse ready to handle the extra energy requirements of the trail or competition season. Nutrition is extremely important year round, and it is important to realize the digestive system of the horse is anatomically designed to digest forage. Additional grains, protein, and supplements need only be used to supply essential nutrients not contained in hay or pasture. Your cooperative handles a full line of complete feeds tubs, and supplements from several suppliers to service your horse's individual needs. All horses should receive a minimum of one percent of body weight as good quality forage daily along with free choice salt and fresh clean water. Adjust feed intake to maintain desired body condition. The horse is designed to utilize only small amounts of grain at a time. Do not feed more than five pounds of grain in a single feeding. Nutrient requirements vary greatly depending on age, reproductive state, exercise, and genetics. Please feel free to visit with your cooperative feed team in order to effectively select a program designed to meet the individual needs of your horse.

Cattle Producers, the grass in most of our area has had a slow start and as we progress through the pasture season, Mother Nature will dictate our grazing and feeding strategy. As of this writing we have just been blessed with a nice rain and, although lagging behind normal, things are looking better. Many of you have started creep feeding your calves in order to alleviate a

portion of the added stress on your momma cows as well as maintain continued growth on your calves. We would recommend creep feeding calves any time milk or forage is poor or in short supply. Calves will consume milk, creep feed and grass in that order. That is why creep feeding your calves will stretch your grass, leaving more grass for your momma cows. Creep feeding also greatly enhances weaning weight which next to calving percentage, has the greatest economic impact on pre-weaning calf development. Creep feeding also bunk breaks calves and provides a method for feed additives both beneficial at weaning time. Early weaning may be a necessary option as well if forage becomes short. There are a number of options to stretch forage availability if the situation forces our hand. Please contact your cooperative ruminant specialist to discuss the products and programs available.

County Fair and Show Season will be here before our next newsletter hits your mailboxes. We certainly encourage all of you to support our area's young producers as they exhibit the projects they are working so hard on. Your Cooperative will once again be providing fun t-shirts for our 4H and FFA youth exhibitors. As we get closer to fair season, please pick up your youth exhibitor t-shirt at your nearest Farmers Cooperative location. We wish everyone the best of luck with their projects and be sure to enjoy the area fairs.

We wish everyone a safe and successful season and sincerely appreciate and THANK-YOU for your business.



Kevin Wittler

Stay Inside Where it's Warm Next Winter and Let us Check that Tank for You

By Roger Kreifels
LP Operations & Compliance

Managing delivery costs is one of the biggest challenges we face in the propane business. Contracting helps with knowing what we're going to pay for the propane, but after that there are a lot of variables to what it costs to get it to you, the customer. Making an efficient delivery is one of the biggest keys. The only thing worse than stopping to fill a tank and finding out it's still full, is not getting to a tank before it runs empty. Agricultural usages like irrigation, grain drying, and livestock are absolutely impossible to predict. Because of this and the volumes associated, our agricultural use customers are on a totally different type of delivery and pricing program, so therefore this article does not pertain to any of these uses. It only pertains to our heating propane customers. Also before I get too deep into the article, we are going to do a little terminology update too. In the past we've always used the term "Keep Full" for customers who had us monitor their tanks. I've had a lot of people over the years want to know how it could be Keep Full when their tank was now down to 60% therefore not full anymore. There were times we didn't actually "Fill" the tanks too, so we are changing the "Keep Full" description to "Routed". It's a little more accurate of a term.

As I've written in the past, we purchased a software program called Energy Force to help us with knowing when to make these deliveries and the most efficient route to drive. Like almost any software program, it's taken some time to get the bugs worked out, which is a polite way of saying "educating us on how to use it". We are constantly learning new things it can do to help us be as efficient as we possibly can. Our next big step is coming September 1st when we let Energy Force start scheduling our deliveries. The more notice, or time Energy Force has to schedule a tank for delivery, the more efficient of a route it can create. What helps with this the most is the heating customer being on a routed basis. How is it beneficial to you, the customer, to be on the Routed

program? The answer is threefold. The first benefit is our routed heating customers receive a \$0.10 per gallon discount just for being on the program. We give this discount because it helps keep delivery costs down by being able to fill your tank while we are in the area if it needs to be rather than make a special trip back. The key to remember is you won't use a gallon more propane being on the routed program, nor will you use a gallon less propane. We can only put back in your tank what you have used out.

The next benefit is it becomes our responsibility to make sure your tank does not run empty. As some of you are aware, there are fees for running out of propane, or having to have propane delivered right away, rather than the two day notice required. If you are a routed customer and for some reason you should happen to run out of propane, there is no charge and we will get propane delivered to you immediately, day or night.

And finally as I stated at the beginning of this article, the more we can keep our operating costs down, the lower we can keep your propane costs down. I know sometimes money is an issue as to why someone might not want to be on a routed basis. For those of you who might not always have the financial resources, we have our Budget Pay program. The Budget Pay program allows you to spread the cost of your propane purchases out over an 11 month period and automatically puts you on the routed program with its benefits. By the time you receive this, the Budget Pay program will have already started for the 2014-15 year but you can still get signed up. If you are interested in the Budget Pay plan, or if you're not sure if you are already are or want to be a Routed Customer, please call 1-800-473-4579 and let them know as soon as you can. For a complete listing of our policies and programs go to our website at www.farmersco-operative.com and click on the Energy icon and go to Propane Policies & Programs.





Chris Foree

THE OIL GUY

Two Thousand Words

This article is a reprint from last quarter's newsletter; the latter half of this article was not present in the earlier issue.

Loyal readers of our venerable newsletter rejoice! I have written an article of record length! It has often been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. What follows is, thus, a two thousand word essay about the comparative qualities of various brands of universal tractor fluids.

Modern tractor hydraulic systems are extremely precise, fulfilling many more demands than those of yesteryear. Variable-rate planter seed drives; air planters that can put down fertilizer at the same time as seed; infinitely variable transmissions; cab, seat, and chassis suspension systems; and all sorts of crazy raising and folding implements are in use today. There are fewer moving parts in comparison to the old mechanical systems, so fluid is now a critical part, requiring greater engineering. Precise-machined parts have very tight tolerances, and higher pressure and flow volumes (some run 80-90gpm with up to nine remote circuits) mean very high operating temperatures. But the oil still has to prevent chattering brakes and do all the old jobs it is still expected to do. Add it all up and you need better, cleaner fluids to stand up to the demands. Enter Tractor Fluid #H8703.

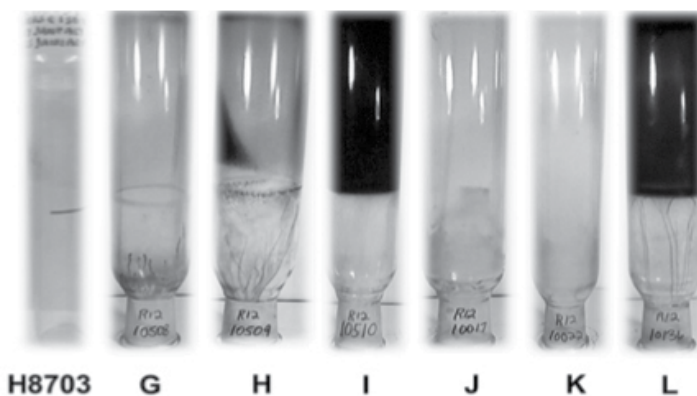
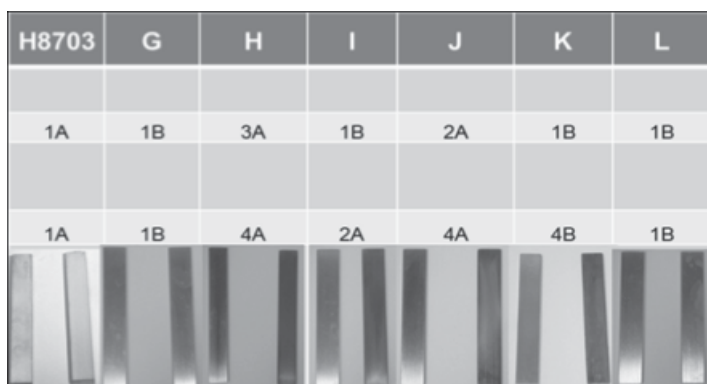
The first "thousand words" of our essay relate to the importance of copper component protection capabilities. Modern tractors, combines, and sprayers utilize a lot of yellow metals in the construction of their hydraulic systems. Yellow metals are particularly sensitive to oxidation and corrosion. On close inspection of the first picture below, you'll note that Tractor Fluid #H8703 on the far left outperformed the other six products tested for copper corrosion (you're welcome,

Barry Jung). Copper bars as shiny as a new penny! The others, not so good.

The second "thousand words" relate to the importance of a fluid's oxidation resistance in all this high-tech, high-temperature machinery we're operating out there under the hot sun. Rule of thumb: Oil breaks down at twice the rate for every increase in temperature of 18 degrees Fahrenheit. Modern hydraulic systems are running, in many cases, at close to the boiling point of water for extended periods; conditions ripe for thermal oxidation of oils. Oxidation causes fluids to darken and form acids, which in turn cause corrosion (especially of yellow metals as we already discussed). Heavily oxidized oil thickens into tarry goo, causing valves to stick and pumps to grind themselves to expensive little bits. On close inspection of the test tubes in the second picture above, you'll note that Tractor Fluid #H8703 on the far left of the lineup outperformed the other six products tested in the DKA Oxidation Test (you're welcome, Larry Chapman). Clear as a bell...and while Fluids J and K might not be the Men in Black in this test, we mustn't forget they both came out with tarnished copper!

Only one tractor fluid shined in both tests. All that remains is to reveal the true identity of Tractor Fluid #H8703. You may have guessed it—FS Power Fluid from Farmers Cooperative Lubricants Service simply outshines the rest.

So there you have it. "Two thousand words" and it all fit on one page. I think you might agree this is an all-time record.



Bleeding Ear Victims Recognized for Endurance

By Chris Foree
The Oil Guy

This past winter, Farmers Cooperative patrons were "treated" to a number of Tire & Oil Luncheon Meetings around our trade area. At those events, entry blanks were filled out by hundreds of folks who may be sorry they ever showed up to hear me blather on about lubricants for hours on end. Those who yet possess the aural faculty, as I'm sure you lucky few are aware, are quite fortunate.

As it happens, some of those survivors of the Lubricants Seminar (ears still ringing, no doubt) are more fortunate than the average casualty. Shown are two lucky fellows posing with inducements we arranged to discourage lawsuits for pain and suffering; these bribes are commonly known as "prizes."

A third "winner" was Daryl Riesen of rural Beatrice, who walked away with a \$250 coupon toward the purchase of tires. Congratulations, Daryl, and I bet those new tires run quiet.



JOHN BUSBOOM (right), won a 32" flat screen TV. Pictured with John is Yummy Grummert, Beatrice North Branch Manager. We are sorry John now has to turn the sound up to 11.

I want to thank everyone who attended our meetings, and especially the many folks at Farmers Cooperative who contributed much labor in helping to make lists, send invitations, and otherwise help to stage Tire & Oil Luncheons. Brent Colgrove, Dennis Kenning, Yummy Grummert, and I sure had fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We trust all auditory perception will return in time for another battery of talks this coming off-season.

Noting these happy winners lends some credence to the thought that you can't win if you don't attend! Hope to see you all again somewhere next season!

Earplugs recommended!



ROGER SCHOENROCK (second from far right) was the Grand Prize Winner of a Twin Tankster Mobile Lubrication System worth \$4000, plus 50 gallons each of FS Power Fluid and Cenex Superlube TMS 15W-40, worth over \$1200 more. Roger admits he didn't want to come, but Fairbury Tire Store Manager Eric Bartels (far right) persuaded him it would be worth the sacrifice of his love of music and just look at what Roger won! Also shown, from left: Dave Siebrandt, Beatrice Bulk Lubricants Plant Manager; Jay VanHousen of FS Lubricants; and Chris Foree, person who talks too much.

MALCOLM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TOUR FARMERS COOPERATIVE, EMERALD



On Monday June 9th, the members of the Malcolm Volunteer Fire Department toured the Emerald facility of Farmers Cooperative. The tour which was directed by Location Manager Marty Stolley who is also a member of the department, toured the grain elevator, fertilizer facility and the oil warehouse. The firefighters need to be familiar with the facility in the event of a fire or rescue. Farmers Cooperative is extremely grateful to all the men and women who volunteer their time in order to ensure the safety of our employees and customers.

Investing in our Youth Today, Investing in Owners' Success for Tomorrow!

By Dennis Kenning
Sales and Marketing Manager

As I think about my youth, organizations such as 4-H and FFA helped me learn more about agriculture while, allowing me to broaden my horizons and providing me with important leadership skills. These organizations taught me responsibility, character, hard work, and love of agriculture. Through coaching, teaching, and serving as a student advisor, I have spent most of my life working with young people. I was excited to find out that my position with Farmers Cooperative would include involvement with agricultural youth. As I look back on the past year, and all of our activities with youth, it makes me wonder, do we have the correct slogan? Maybe, our slogan should be "Investing in our Youth!" The reality is that by investing in our youth we are essentially "Investing in our "Owners" Success!" for future generations.

Farmers Cooperative supports our youth in so many different ways. It's not just about writing a check, it's also about Farmers

Cooperative providing the man power or materials to support youth activities. This kind of support reflects the philosophy of our General Manager, Ron Velder, who allows staff time off to help at such things as farm safety camps, day on the farm events, and livestock shows.

One way Farmers Cooperative is supporting our area youth is through our scholarship program. This spring we awarded scholarships in amount of \$400 to some 15 graduating seniors to further their education in Agriculture. That's a total of \$6,000 for this year, and \$5,200 was provided in 2013. These graduates have demonstrated a very strong interest in Agriculture and Leadership and have made a commitment to further their education in this exciting field.

This summer we will once again be supporting our local County Fairs, especially Junior Fairs, which involves our area youth. We provide trophies, awards, labor, and support for



"Day on the Farm"

Ag Festival, May 15, 2014 at Crete, Nebraska. Jacob Kunc, Farmers Cooperative Feed Department, answers questions about Beef Production.



“Farm Safety Day”

Johnson County, in Tecumseh, Nebraska, May 1, 2014, Dennis Kenning, Sales & Marketing, explains the importance of chemical safety.

livestock shows. We have also supported some of the premium auctions especially if some of those funds go back to local 4-H clubs or FFA chapters. I know Dale Hayek, our Grain Department Manager, helps with the Beef Show Luncheon at the Saline County Fair, each year.

When we talk about Junior Fair we are also talking about our involvement with 4-H and UNL extension that serves 4-H families. We have supported the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and the 4-H division at the Nebraska State Fair. 4-H will continue to be an important way to educate younger kids about agriculture.

A very important part of supporting youth is the need to promote Agricultural Safety. Farmers Cooperative supported Farm Safety Camps in Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, and Saline Counties, as well as the Centennial High School, Safety Day. Farmer Cooperative employees provided presentations on Grain and Chemical Safety, while others have worked as group leaders, prepared noon meals, and provided large group presentations. Our Grain department personnel have been very active in promoting grain safety. In the future we hope to have more educational safety units available for 4-H Leaders and FFA Advisors to borrow for use with their members.

One of our newest programs has been our involvement with “Ag in the Classroom” or “Day on the Farm”. These programs teach elementary students about where food comes from and the importance of Agriculture in our society. In our area, most local schools are targeting 3rd grade level students. We have helped with programs in Gage and Saline Counties, and hope to help with more, in the future.

For many years Farmers Cooperative has always been a very strong supporter of FFA and Agricultural Education. We are

partnered with Syngenta in the FFA Blue Jacket program. This program is conducted by the National FFA Organization and provides a jacket to a needing FFA member as well as cash funds to one FFA Chapter in our area. We have also been a strong supporter of the Nebraska State FFA Convention each April. We sponsor the Ag Sales Contest Event, while our Human Resource Manager, Tom Hermance worked at the Ag Career Show at Pershing. This past April, I was lucky enough to serve as a judge for the Ag Demonstration, Leadership Contest. We also support the Nebraska State Fair by providing trophies for the FFA division.

Through our Hunger Program we will be able to support the school back-pack projects at

some of our area schools. This program provides a few simple meals to those students and their families that need our help. We have partnered with our fuel supplier, Cenex Foundation to secure funds for this project. We think this is a very worthwhile activity because in Nebraska, over 94,000 children do not know where their next meal is going to come from.

These are just some of the ways that Farmers Cooperative is supporting our youth. We have many other projects that we try to support. We have supported things like new playground equipment, popcorn bags for sport teams, elementary activity books, and the “Farm to Table” program that provides training to Nebraska School Teachers. We are also happy to work with young adults in the Community Colleges by providing speakers, hosting tours, and employing interns.

Farmers Cooperative is always faced with the challenge of donating to so many different causes. We as an organization have a limit of what we can donate. We would like to support every cause but we can’t. We know the importance of supporting our agricultural youth in our area.

It just makes good sense for our Cooperative to invest in youth. After all, these young people will one day be our future patrons, customers, and employees. Anything we can do to help educate youth about agriculture and leadership is key to our cooperative’s future success. We also need to keep in mind that the general population is less connected to the farm, so it becomes even more important for all of us to educate young people about Agriculture. You see, Farmers Cooperative really has the correct slogan after all. By investing in our Youth today we will be “Investing in our Owners’ Success”, for tomorrow.



Farmers Cooperative
208 West Depot
Dorchester, NE 68343

Address Service Requested

Check us out on Facebook!!!
Go to our Facebook page and click on
be updated on new photos and company news.
<http://www.facebook.com/farmerscooperative>

Farmers Cooperative's Second Annual Ladies' Night Out

Farmers Cooperative held their second annual "Ladies' Night Out" on Thursday, April 10th at the Harvest Hall in Seward, NE. Approximately 400 ladies enjoyed a wonderful evening. Rocky Yoder was emcee for the event. A delicious meal was provided by Classic Catering of Beatrice and the elegant décor was designed by Wiegand Farms & Floral of Beatrice. The Seward 8th Grade Choir & director Jill Bisbee performed a couple of songs for the group and also helped serve the event. Sally Jost, pianist from Seward entertained the group with her beautiful music. Guest speaker, Susie Oberdahlhoff "Susie O" provided lots of laughter and delivered an inspiring performance. Door prizes from local vendors were drawn for and given out and everyone went home with a small gift. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and those who helped make it a success! Please watch your future newsletters for details on our 2015 "Ladies' Night Out".



Sally Jost, Piano



Door Prizes were given



Susie Oberdahlhoff,
Speaker & Humorist



Seward 8th Grade Choir