



VISION



General Manager's Report

Kent Taylor



6000 Miles in Six Weeks...

Driving down the road, a couple of weeks ago, I realized the company vehicle needed an oil change. That was not earthshattering news. However, when I looked at the service tag, I had to do a double take. "That can't be right" I said out loud. Yes, it was. Since I started on January 2nd (with a fresh oil change that week), it was time for another one already. 6000 miles? That doesn't even include the miles Jeff and I put on another vehicle in the first two weeks. Why do I bring this up? Am I bragging? No to both counts. Instead, I have been privileged to be able to spend the time on the road visiting the locations, employees and board members of Ag Valley Cooperative.

For me to understand what we "do" as a co-op and to learn from the employees – I need to get out of the office. That perspective from the front lines is important to me. With a large territory over many communities, I want to know how grain moves in Big Springs, the challenges of working with the railroads in Edison, Bartley or North Platte, farming practices in Norton and even tasting pizza at Curtis. (Hey, a guy has to eat!) What we "do" at Ag Valley is serve you, our patrons. Every location has its own unique role in the company, but one common theme unites us all. We have a team of employees dedicated to serving the farmers and ranchers of our trade area. I will continue to get a lot of windshield time, so if you see me out on the road at an Ag Valley location, please say hi.



Ag Valley Leadership Retreat On February 5th & 6th, a total of 30 board members and Ag Valley personnel gathered for the annual retreat in North Platte, NE. This was a valuable time for everyone to reflect on the past year, while preparing for the company's future. The Ag Valley leadership team informed the board on activities happening all across the company. There were also guest presenters who helped us clarify our areas of concentration for the future and train us on interpersonal skills. I personally want to thank everyone who participated. Your board and cooperative leadership are committed to the continued success of Ag Valley.

Goodbye Tim! (Now for the most important information in this edition) If you have not heard, Tim Goding has announced his retirement date. March 2nd will be his last day with Ag Valley Cooperative as the Grain Department Manager. Tim has been with this co-op for 43 years! Now, he and Jane are making plans for a new stage in life. We wish Tim all the best as enjoys traveling and the time with his family. So, join us for the party: Retirement Open House for Tim, Friday, March 2nd from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Edison Community Building, with the presentation at 3:00 pm. May God Bless you, Tim. Thanks!



That's all for now...Take care!



A FEW TIPS FOR HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Electrical Safety Foundation, every year incidents involving electrical equipment, such as extension cords, receptacles, and light bulbs, result in residential fires. These fires cause injuries and property damage and claim about 350 lives annually.

- Never run an extension cord under a rug.
- Do not consider extension cords part of your home's electrical system—use them only for temporary situations.
- A frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire. Replace old and damaged extension cords.
- Make sure the cords you buy are approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- Never overload an extension cord; that could cause a fire. Check the rating labels on the cords and the appliance. If necessary, upgrade to a higher-rated cord.
- Receptacles are inexpensive. Replace any that are broken, no longer hold a plug securely, feel hot to the touch, or spark or make noise when inserting or removing a plug.
- Replace broken faceplates so you don't accidentally touch a plug to a live portion of the receptacle.
- Never alter a polarized plug to make it fit into an old unpolarized receptacle.
- If you must use a grounding adapter, first verify that the receptacle is grounded (use a neon tester, the simple directions are on the package), then be sure to secure the tab on the adapter under the cover-plate screw.
- Do not use a multi-plug adapter for extended periods of time. If you need more receptacles, add a new receptacle (and circuit, if necessary).
- When replacing a receptacle, make sure the new one is properly rated—never install a 20-amp receptacle on a 15-amp circuit.
- Never install a three-slot receptacle where there is no ground available, *unless* it is a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) receptacle. While it would be better to run a ground wire and install a properly grounded receptacle if there is a need for one, the next best thing is to install a GFCI. While it won't be grounded, it will provide some degree of shock protection.
- Use lockout receptacles or childproof plugs if young children will be present.

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

Prepare and prevent, don't repair and repent.

Phone Numbers

Edison	Oxford Ampride	Arapahoe	Bartley	Big Springs	Cambridge
800-228-1352	308-824-3850	877-250-2049	308-692-3444	308-889-3323	866-339-4057
Curtis C-Store	North Platte	Holbrook	Indianola	Maywood Fert.	Maywood
800-416-5795	800-303-7636	308-493-5690	800-762-1589	888-418-4443	800-233-4551
Logan	Norton Fertilizer	Orleans	Oxford	Eustis	Wilsonville
308-636-2929	785-877-5900	308-473-4075	308-824-3431	308-486-3221	308-349-9001
	Norton Elevator	Norton Station	Clayton, KS		
	785-877-5131	785-877-5188	785-693-4522		