



VISION

General Manager's Report

Kent Taylor



Hello Ag Valley Co-op Patrons!

It is my pleasure to serve you in my new role as General Manager for Ag Valley Cooperative. I will start out this first newsletter by telling you a little bit about myself. I grew up on a farm in North Central Nebraska, just outside of Ainsworth. My home town is located on the edge of the Sandhills, so the agriculture there is primarily cow-calf ranching operations and irrigated farming. The farm I grew up on had a 2000 head feed lot, 1000 acres of corn, a bit a prairie hay and just enough alfalfa to be annoying. (If you cut it, plan on a rain storm!) I guess I would characterize my early life as a typical farm kid: chores, 4-H & FFA, driving a pickup everywhere before I had a license, etc. I was privileged to grow up on farm in rural America. Roots are important and mine began in good soil.

After high school, I attended UNL and then returned to my family's farm for 15 years, working with my father, brother and uncle. In 2004, my life's career path changed directions. I started working at Farmers Ranchers Co-op within the Energy Department. My first role was sales, offering fuel and propane contracts to ag producers and commercial accounts. That sounds notable, but basically, they gave me a pickup and told me to hit the road. On the job training I guess? The next step was becoming the Energy Department Manager with other tasks given to me including: Safety/Compliance,

Communications and even IT. (I don't know why they asked me to work on computers, my patience with them is not the best!)

I then became General Manager of the co-op in January of 2010. In total, I had 14 years at Farmers Ranchers Cooperative. It was a great experience.



Here is my family. Clisty and I have been married over 25 years. During that time, she has been a rural school teacher, education director at church, full time mom and trying to keep me in line. Our daughter, Vanessa, is a freshman at UNK where her goal is to be a Middle/High School Spanish teacher. Our son, Grant, is in the 8th grade where he enjoys cross country, basketball, and especially golf. Personally, I think he views school as a means to participate in all the extra activities. He and Clisty are staying at home for this last semester, before they make the move here in early summer. This is certainly a big transition in our lives, but we are looking forward to it. Nervous? Yes, but Clisty and I view this a great step in which God is guiding us.

I want to thank Ron Hunter for his years of service here. I have known Ron for many years and he did a great job at Ag Valley. The area I appreciate his impact the most is the great people who are here still serving you. I'll close with a statement I wrote for myself many years ago: "I will treat employees and customers as I would want to be treated: with honesty, fairness, kindness, respect and my best effort." If you see me, please say hello. I may forget your name the first time or two. If so, please forgive me as my doctor says it has something to do with grey hair.

Safety Report

Ken Moore



I have noticed a lot of people moving our recent snowfall with various types of snowblowers and I wanted to remind everyone to be extra cautious when operating this type of machinery. Each year, hundreds of people suffer maiming or amputations of their fingers due to the improper handling of snowblowers. A national electronic injury survey system that is used to record data from hospital emergency room visits has found that on average 5,700 individuals per year hurt themselves operating a snowblower. The average amputee that loses one finger or more is a male in the 50 year old range.

The insurance industry mentions the following common contributing weather factors and injury causes:

Common Weather Conditions

- Heavy, wet snow
- Large snow accumulation, greater than six inches
- Temperature: 28 degrees Fahrenheit or greater

Injury Causes

- Snow clogging the exit chute of the machine
- Not noticing that the impeller blades are still rotating even though the machine is off
- Operator attempts to clean the clogged exit chute with hands
- Hands connect with the rotating blades, resulting in severe injury

Snowblowers are safe if used properly.

Remember — if your snowblower jams:

- Turn it OFF!
- Disengage clutch.
- Wait five seconds after shutting machine off to allow impeller blades to stop rotating.
- ALWAYS use a stick or broom handle to clear impacted snow.
- NEVER put your hand down chute or around blades.
- Keep all shields in place. DO NOT REMOVE the safety devices on the machine.
- Keep hands and feet away from all moving parts.
- Don't wear loose pants, jackets, or scarves, which can get tangled in a snow thrower's moving parts.
- Keep a clear head, concentrate, and
- DO NOT DRINK before using your snowblower!

Please remember that precaution is always better than cure.

Ag Valley Coop

Board of Directors

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Wade Kloeping	Eustis
Lee Juenemann	Norton, KS
Doug Snyder	McCook

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		

Ag Valley Cooperative

Grain Marketing Meetings 2018

Featuring guest speakers:

Jim Warren
Grain Analyst with CHS Hedging, Inc
Kansas City, MO**

Marv Razor
Cenex Lubricant Dist. Mngr.

Bill Thorney
Cenex Refined Fuel Dist. Mngr.

Tuesday, February 27th:

Maywood, NE (lunch provided)
Noon – 2:30 pm
Maywood Fertilizer meeting room
Charla/Kathy-Maywood contact (308) 362-4228

Wednesday, February 28th:

Big Springs (breakfast provided)
7:00 am – 9:00 am Mountain Time
Big Springs Fire Hall
Kent Headley– Big Springs contact (308) 889-3323

North Platte, NE (lunch provided)
Noon – 2:30 pm
Holiday Inn Express
Brian/Julie– North Platte contacts (308) 534-7636

Cambridge, NE (dinner provided)
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Cambridge Golf Course
Michelle Proud –Bartley contact (308) 692-3444

Thursday, March 1st:

Eustis, NE (breakfast provided)
7:00 am – 9:00am
Eustis Legion Building
Wayne Stinar – Eustis contact (308) 486-3221

Edison, NE (lunch provided)
Noon – 2:30 pm
Edison Community Building-927-2220
Jane Ridpath– Edison Main Office contact (308) 927-3681

Norton, KS (dinner provided)
5:00 pm – 8 pm
Eagles Club
Todd Johnson – Norton contact (785) 877-5131

Please RSVP to the contact person associated with each location by February 16th, 2018