



Vision Newsletter

July 26, 2018

Kent's Thoughts: From Kent Taylor, General Manager



events!

County Fair Season is Here! –Summer is upon us and with it county fairs and community celebrations are in full swing. Ag Valley has a longstanding tradition of participating in activities such as these. You might see someone from the co-op driving our restored fuel truck in a parade, buying livestock at the 4-H/FFA sale or helping with other fair activities. My thanks to all the local volunteers for making these events happen. A lot of this hard work goes unnoticed, but it is appreciated. It is time for some fun. Join us at one of these

Nebraska Legislative Elections – Ag Valley Co-op is a member of the Nebraska Co-op Council. One of the functions of the council is to represent our industry and Nebraska agriculture before the Nebraska Unicameral. I have been privileged to serve on the Co-op Council's Political Action Committee (PAC) for the last two elections. This committee meets with prospective legislative candidates to help them understand ag issues and relate the important role cooperatives have in Nebraska.

I am sharing this with our Ag Valley customers because I wanted you to know one of many topics which the committee has been discussing with all the candidates is property taxes. The PAC meets with both the urban and rural candidates. We do not give them a blueprint with answers because it is a complicated issue. However, we do impress upon the candidates how critically dangerous these taxes have become to the economic health of our state. We keep pressing the message so that this issue stays to the forefront of our government. If any of you have questions about this process, please give me a call. I would welcome a chance to visit with you.

Big Springs Grocery Store – For several months, Ag Valley has been working with a committee in Big Springs on a plan where the co-op would exit our ownership of the grocery store and the community would take over the business. After reflecting on sales trends and with our manager taking another job, Ag Valley has informed the community of Big Springs that we will be closing the grocery store on July 31st. The committee is still moving forward with plans for a community owned store. This locally run operation would be like what many other towns in rural America have done. Ag Valley has committed to transferring ownership of the store and equipment to the community if they wish to take this step. We are hopeful the community finds the best solution to serve their needs and we thank everyone for their past business at the store.

That's all for now...Stay safe during these hot summer days...Take care, Kent

Katherine's Chatter: From Katherine Mundorf, Public Relations Director

10-34-0 Tank Construction



Ag Valley began construction of a new 10-34-0 tank on June 18th with the structure currently complete. The plumbing process should start during the week of July 23rd after the structure is

vacuum tested. The plumbing is predicted to be finished late August. This tank will hold 5,000 tons of 10-34-0 and will allow Ag Valley to have their annual needs supplied prior to season. The tank is expected to have fertilizer in it by the end of August.

Furnas County is Livestock Friendly: Quotes courtesy of NTV – Photo courtesy of McCook Gazette



Governor Pete Ricketts stopped by Furnas County Fair to celebrate Furnas County becoming the 46th livestock friendly county in Nebraska. "If we want to grow Nebraska as a state, we have to grow agriculture," said Ricketts. Almost half of Nebraska's 93 counties have obtained livestock friendly status, encouraging local producers to continue expanding their operations. According to Furnas County Commissioner

Spencer Shifflet, "expansion is exactly what they are hoping for."

Wheat Harvest Update: Fran Thooft, Grain Originator & Marketing

Wheat harvest is about complete. Due to the great rains, some locations are waiting for fields to dry up before they can resume harvest. Ag Valley harvest receipts are lower than last year, planted acres are down along with the yields in some areas. Wheat crop yields are not large due to a tough winter and dry conditions and with the lower yields, the protein levels are also higher than what has been seen in many years. The protein premiums have declined due to most HRW having protein and nearby demand needs are being met. Wheat stocks are large, but so is global demand. The wheat market can handle one major area having a problem (US HRW) but it cannot handle two. There are several weather threats to US spring wheat and Australia is very dry. Paris wheat is making new contract highs, reflecting the wheat production cuts in Europe and Russia and leading our wheat prices higher.

