



NEWSTALK

"OUR MISSION IS TO BE A PROFITABLE, QUALITY SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES"

News from the Office from Brad Scheer

Direct Ship Grain: I wanted to touch base with everyone on how Direct Ship Grain works. If you are currently delivering grain directly into a terminal, whether fall crop or wheat, there is a benefit of going through the Farmers Coop to do so. These benefits are as follows:

1. Get same bid going through Coop as you do going through terminal.
2. Coop has paid patronage back on direct to terminal bushels since 2008.
3. Convenience of being able to conduct business with a familiar face –such as divisions and ability to pick up your check at one of our locations.

There are several terminals that we work with for Direct Ship Grain so if you are interested in this option, please get a hold of me or your location manager and we will explain how the process works. Thank You!



Free Philosophy: Psychiatrists say it's not good for people to keep too much to themselves. You can get the same advice from the IRS for free.

News from the General Manager - Terry Kohler

The Annual Meeting for the Farmers Coop on Saturday, February 27, 2010, was attended by over 550 members, guests, and employees. Those in attendance enjoyed the ventriloquist, Greg Claassen and his friends.

Board members Greg Reno and Gregg Scheer, were re-elected for another three year term. Advisory Board member Chad Basinger, was elected to fill Rick Casley's vacated position. Rick Casley has served the maximum, three, three year terms and was not eligible for reelection. Rick's dedication to the Board will be missed. We would like to thank him greatly for his service.

The Farmers Coop Elevator had a very good year as presented by Mike Misenhiemer, of the auditing firm of Lindburg, Vogel, Pierce and Farris. The current year's cash patronage paid out during the meeting was over \$458,000.00. In addition to this cash distribution, the Board has an aggressive goal of keeping the equity paid out within a 7 year revolving cycle. We would like to thank all of the members for their past and future business with your company.

News from our Grain Department from Larry Werner

Here lately we have been getting some calls about the new crop wheat bid. It seems like the new crop wheat bid has been around that \$4.40 to \$4.50 range which isn't a bad price but definitely not a good price especially if it goes up later. We have seen some activity on new crop contracting but many are unsure as to what to do, and that is, whether to contract now or gamble till harvest and then possibly sell at the scale the amount they need to meet obligations. Right now we are seeing ample supplies of wheat throughout the world and that is the reason why we are seeing such a wide basis. Keep in mind that basis consists of margin, freight and the largest makeup is of supply and demand. And this is what we are seeing which is a large supply and weak demand. And for now this doesn't show any chance of changing. Looking at the crop conditions of Kansas and some of the surrounding states we see Oklahoma probably in the best overall condition at 60% good to excellent with Kansas at 35% good to excellent and 35% fair. Nebraska is at 43% fair and just 43% good to excellent and Illinois, which produces soft red winter wheat stands at 19% poor, 49% fair and just 26% good. What I have done with this chart was to take the average new crop bids from the 1st of January thru the 1st of March and matched it up with the price of wheat on the first day of harvest. Here is how it stacked up.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AVG NEW CROP BID</u>	<u>1ST DAY HARVEST PRICE</u>
1994	\$3.15	\$3.14
1995	\$3.16	\$3.81
1996	\$4.52	\$5.62
1997	\$3.53	\$3.35
1998	\$3.29	\$2.62
1999	\$2.83	\$2.46
2000	\$2.54	\$2.40
2001	\$2.79	\$2.83

(continued on page 2)

News from Norwich from Randy Rhodes

It is so nice now that March is here because that means that spring is right around the corner. We could sure use some warmer weather around here so we can start planting our gardens. With a garden your grocery bill can be a lot cheaper than buying food in the grocery store. Plus the flavor is so much better in produce right out of the garden. We have gotten in some seed potatoes and we will have a bunch of good seed packets in real soon too. Come on in and check out our low prices on some excellent garden seeds.

I would like to say thank you to all of you that came to the annual meeting. It was nice to see you all again.

News from Anness from Jim Schmitz

We are starting to move some wheat out of Anness, so there will be some activity there for awhile. We will again be unplugging scales when it gets close to time for spring storms. If you need to use the scales, just call Clonmel the day before and I can plug them in for you. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but if lightning strikes it is a big expense to replace the electronic scales.



(continued from page 1)

2002	\$2.62	\$2.70
2003	\$2.94	\$3.02
2004	\$3.56	\$3.63
2005	\$2.83	\$2.98
2006	\$4.06	\$4.63
2007	\$4.63	\$4.84
2008	\$9.26	\$9.10
2009	\$5.42	\$5.86
2010	\$4.54	???
AVG. PRICE	\$3.82	\$4.06

Not figuring in the year 2010, we are looking at 16 years and there were only 6 years where the new crop bid was higher than on the first day of harvest. And according to the chart, a couple of months ago, whatever the new crop bid was on the first marketing day of the new year, it was pretty much what the price of wheat would be on the first day of harvest. If that is indeed the case then we are looking at the price of wheat on the first day of harvest for the year of 2010 to be \$5.06. Sounds a bit far fetched, especially since we are having trouble keeping that new crop bid at that \$4.50 range. But according to this chart the average price of wheat on the first day of harvest runs 24¢ higher than the average new crop bid. If that is the case then the price of wheat on the first day of harvest would be \$4.78. Interesting, time will tell.

News from the Feedstore from Joe Krehbiel

Seed potatoes are here! It might be good to buy early because last year we did run out. We are starting the season with 2400# and we'll see how long that lasts! We do have 7 different varieties so come get your favorite. Also the red, yellow and white onion sets are here. Spring has "sprung" so start getting ready.

It is also time to order your chicks. Some "early bird" customers have already ordered. It looks like a 2-3 week lag time so don't wait too long. When you pick up your chicks, ask for a free 5# sample bag of either Purina Sunfresh Start & Gro or Flock Raiser. Start your chicks the natural way with these Sunfresh products. These are the starters that we will be carrying this year.

On the cattle side - start thinking about your summer mineral needs. We will be offering a summer booking program to save you some money. I am still working on the details. We have received a lot of information concerning the value of using mineral with fly control and also using mineral medicated with CTC. Horn fly infestations can reduce weaning weights by 10-25# per calf, reduces growth rates in replacement heifers 13-14% and reduces daily gains in yearlings and stocker by 0.2# per day. Milk production can be reduced by 10-20%. Use of fly control mineral along with fly tags will definitely make you money. By adding CTC (chlortetracycline), you will help control pink eye, foot rot, respiratory problems and antiplasmosis. When you compare costs, it is an easy decision. Fly control mineral will cost only .67¢ per cow per month extra over the plain mineral. While using the "full meal deal" - fly control and CTC - it will only cost an extra \$1/cow per month versus plain mineral. Give us a call, we need to book early so that we can pass the savings on to you. A few pennies a day per head can turn into a good profit.

Overheard coffee drinker's wit and wisdom: Difference between a man and a woman. The average number of women's items in the bathroom is 437. A man cannot identify most of these items. In the man's section of the bathroom, he has 5 items - a toothbrush, shaving cream, razor, bar of Dial soap and a towel from the Holiday Inn.

News from our Gard'n-wise Representative - Troy Simmons: It's been a long winter but spring is just around the corner and it will soon be time to seed fescue grass seed. Every year Kansas State University has turf trials where they test and rate over a hundred different cultivars of fescue. K-31 fescue is the old standby but newer cultivars have much improved and have more desirable characteristics. K-31 fescue is always near the bottom of the list. Don't get me wrong, there are some uses for K-31 fescue, but not in the average home lawn. The Gard'n-Wise premium fescue grass seed is a blend of five different improved turf type cultivars of fescue. We pick our cultivars based on KSU's results of their turf trials, so you can be assured the varieties (continued on page 3)

News from Pretty Prairie from Scott Cooper

I am always amazed how much the weather can change in the spring in just a short amount of time. 30 days ago we were scraping snow in the dead of winter. A few days of over 50 degrees and the landscape goes from dull drums of winter brown to vibrant spring green. Along with that explosion of green growth comes our first pest to control...Alfalfa Weevil. I remember when I used to scout fields all day, doing live counts and evaluating stands to make sure it was justified to treat. It seems that weevil pressure has escalated over the last 10 years to the point that treatment is almost always necessary - it's more of a matter of when does it get done. Spring is always crunch time for custom application because of the tremendous work load and the narrow window. Therefore, it is imperative to be making your Alfalfa Weevil application as soon as possible by letting your local branch know what your needs will be. We look forward to servicing your custom application needs this spring.



Everyone enjoyed the entertainment at the annual meeting.....
we really appreciated Rick Casley helping out too.



Congratulations to Thomas Bugner for being chosen for the Tony Bergkamp Scholarship! Thomas is the son of Darran and Ruth Bugner

from Garden Plain. He plans to continue his education at K-State majoring in Accounting. We wish him well in all his future plans.

Prize winners at the Annual Meeting

Joan Oxendine - \$100
Frank Moreno - \$100
Joseph Schmitz - \$50
winners of \$50 & a book written by Roberta Lampe were:
Brian Ludlum
Prisca Krehbiel
Denise Lampe
& Mike Smarsh



Congratulations to Lawrence Meng for being voted the "Employee of the Year"!!

News from Belmont from John Sheetz

Well finally we have gotten a few days with some warmer temperatures. With that, there are a few farmers in the area thinking about starting to fix fence. We have plenty of t-posts, staples, splices and barbwire. We are also offering a little discount on a couple of totes of our Anipro 35% bitter molasses. So, let me know if you would be interested.

It was nice to see everyone that could make it to the annual meeting. The turnout was great as was the entertainment. Thanks to everyone that made it!

We seem to be on the downhill side of the topdressing season so please let us know if you have any acres to be applied. Thanks again for your business.

News from Cheney from Dan Ramsdale

It was good to see all the smiling faces at the Annual Meeting held on Feb. 27th. We once again had a good turn out of patrons and also good news that your Coop had another good year for 2009.

Here in Cheney we continue to be pretty busy in the elevator. We have shipped all the wheat in the concrete house and the corn is also gone. This month we will be emptying the wheat out of the flat storage bin and then start working on Murdock.

Yard and garden lovers, it's warming up! Time to apply fertilizer and crabgrass preventer. Also seed potatoes and onion sets are in. We also have a good supply of lawn and garden products in stock.

Livestock owners, start planning your needs for vaccinations, wormers and fly control. We have or can get many products that you will be looking for and needing soon.

As always, thank you for doing business at "your" Coop.

(Gard'n-Wise article continued)
in our seed are well suited for our area. It is also some of the cleanest seed that you can buy.

If it dries out enough to get in your garden, it's time to plant your cool season garden crops such as potatoes, onions, lettuce, cabbage, peas and radishes. Hold off on the tomatoes and peppers for a while longer.



FARMERS COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR COMPANY DIRECTORY

Feed: 316-535-2291 or 800-200-2122; 316-535-2518 (fax)
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FOR SALE
 2- Good Used Round Bale Bull Feeders, 1- \$200 1- \$180 call 316-303-6099

Large Round Bales of Sudan Hay call 620-532-4137 or 532-4134

JD 335 32' Disc, new bearings, blades & tires
 JD 1010 42' 5-section Cultivator, 3 - row Harrow, new tires call Jim Stuhlsatz @ 620-456-2854

Tire Feed Bunks, all sizes, call 620-478-2502

16' Cattle Grain Feeder on skids, call 316-531-2383

location phone numbers:

Wanted: Summer Pasture for up to 30 cows, call Alan Reichert @ 316-640-8177 or 316-540-3710

- REMINDER -
PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP MARCH 31, 2010
 Registration is \$5.00 - They will be providing lunch so you need to call Jackie Fees at 316-660-0143 to reserve your spot. You can pay at the door or mail in a check. Send payment to : Gary Cramer, 7001 W. 21st N, Wichita, Ks. 67205 (make checks payable to Educational Fund)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR
 I really appreciate all the comments and suggestions that are sent my way about the newsletter. You can still have it sent to you by email or just access it on our website. I do ask that if you are receiving it in error or have no interest in continuing to receive it, that you please contact us and we will remove you from the mailing list. We want it to be informational and useful tool for you.

Also remember that you can list your items for sale in this newsletter at no charge to you.



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