

The holidays are over and the weather has been cooperative for the most part this winter to get a lot of things accomplished. Top dress for wheat and some fertilizer for spring crops have been going on since early December. The prospects for a decent wheat crop are still here, but moisture this spring will tell the tale. We look forward to a great harvest season.

Grain prices continue to move higher. They continue to tell us we need more acres of corn and soybeans (9,000,000) more. Yet they neglect to explain where these acres are coming from. The USDA is continuing to push for more CRP acres, while demand for grains says we need to be planting more to meet the worlds growing needs. I read an article that said that last year world food prices increased by nearly 49%, while US food prices were up less than 2%. Will we be in the streets as they are in Egypt today protesting high food prices among other things, and demanding some type of relief? I certainly hope not, but something has to give somewhere. Crude oil prices approaching \$100 per barrel. Fuel prices around \$3.00 per gallon with prediction of \$150 crude again.

We are in a time of constant change and turmoil over the world. What happens in the US is a much smaller part today than it was even 20 years ago. Yet we are still the place with the most freedoms and choices in the world. We have a lot of things that need fixing, but I for one would not trade with any one, anywhere.

Agriculture in America has had a couple of the best years in history. Ag income is up a staggering sum over past years. Potential for at least the foreseeable future looks good for a continued above average return on the investment. As agriculture thrives it also

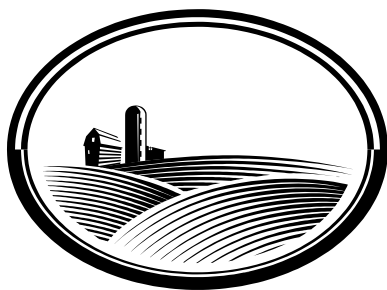
brings continued need for improvement in facilities and equipment to meet the demands placed on it. Your Cooperative is continuing to invest in the assets of the members to meet the needs of the current environment. We appreciate your patronage and look forward to working with you during the coming year.

The new office and scale at our Hackney location are coming along well. Weather has allowed for a good progression on the project. Still looking for a mid Spring opening. Painting at the Winfield elevator will begin when the weather is conducive to that type of work. This will finish our painting of facilities. It has been a great facelift project and should keep elevators sealed for the next several years.

Richard Kimbrel
General Manager

For Sale

Valley Coop has several used NH₃ nurse tanks for sale. These may **NOT** be used for NH₃ application in the future. We will sell them either with or without the running gears. Tanks only \$400. Tanks on running gears \$ 600. Contact Darren at the Atlanta location 620-394-2290.



FIELD NOTES

Soil Fertility!! Donnie Roths brought this subject forward earlier this fall. He mentioned how multi years of above average yields could have our soils in a deficient state. After looking over soil tests for row crop and tissue samples of wheat I have to agree with Donnie's statement. Any surpluses our soils had, have certainly been reduced and some are now deficient.

So what are our choices to remedy this problem? It's much easier to fix a fertility problem before a crop is planted. What if it is a growing crop like wheat? A tissue test can reveal a picture of what the plant needs. By using a foliar product many areas that are low can be corrected. Remember foliar means it is absorbed by the leaves into the plant, not through the roots. The size of the leaf or stage of growth determines how much can be applied. This is true with row crop as well as cereals. Also I would never suggest using foliar as a full fertility program, rather follow a soil test before planting your crop and using foliar to fine tune any shortfalls. "NutriScription" is a complete nutritional prescription service which takes soil and/ or tissue analysis data and creates agronomically correct and field specific fertilizer recommendations. I can assist you with any testing, just call my cell 620 229 0312.

As time nears for seed treating , here are the products Valley will be using. Excalibre will be our primary SB inocuant and can be applied alone or with a fungicide/insecticide. We will be using Cruiser Maxx and Inovate to protect from diseases and insects. Those that missed our meeting on Jan 20th didn't get to see the presentation on Inovate, I am really looking forward to getting this product on SB seed this year. Give me a call to discuss the details or to schedule a treatment time. As warmer weather arrives I will start treating most likely late March/ early April. As always your business is appreciated.

Kirk Kennedy

Did you know?



More people are killed by Donkeys annually than are killed on airplanes.

If coloring weren't added to Coca-Cola it would be green.

Americans eat an average of 18 acres of pizza every day.

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

Chaff in the Wind

Hello once again from the friendly confines of Hackney! This joint has been jumpin' this winter.



The construction of the new office and scale are nearing completion. It will be so very nice to get into the new building and not have the curtains waving around every time the wind blows. This old office has served the members well for many years but it has outlived its usefulness. There are hundreds of memories that were made inside these walls and about as many friends. The new scales are longer and wider which will make it easier for the drivers of these larger trucks.

We have acquired a new Rogator spray rig. This unit has all the bells and whistles and has a wingspan of 100 feet. This will give us two rigs to serve our customers with. As we enter the spring planting season please keep us in mind for your application needs.

Thanks again for your patronage and always remember "LISTEN" CONTAINS THE SAME LETTERS AS "SILENT".

Jim, Stacie, Les, Hoss, Dustin, & Court

Hello From Beautiful Downtown Winfield

As I write this it is February 2nd. Just found out the groundhog back east has not seen his shadow. Does this mean 6 more weeks of winter or 6 weeks until spring? There are groundhogs that live at the elevator here in town but it's too cold for them to peek outside to check.

February, 9th, sure hope this is winter's big last blast. At least the snow is staying on the fields for a while. Just another south central Kansas winter.

Enough talk about the weather. This spring we here at Winfield and Atlanta will be running a gate special. Stop in and talk to Darren in Atlanta or myself here on Manning Street for a great deal on gates. Also, we have a supply of poly bottom bunks that will be at a discount price.

From all of us at the Winfield Valley Coop, thank you for your business.

Ron, Robert, Gary and Todd

Kellogg Comments

Think Spring! Well, the winter started out fairly calm, but I think it is making up for it in the end. Thanks to all of our feed customers for your business. We are having a spring mineral booking. Save \$25.00 per ton on Valley 4 plain or Valley 4% medicated mineral. Book between now and May 1st. Mineral can be picked up at any Valley Coop location in one-ton lots; a two-ton minimum booking is required. This year we have extended the pickup deadline to September 1st. Give me a call for more information.

Spring planting will be right around the corner and a lot of you use 10-34-0 liquid fertilizer. For a starter it looks like it may be in short supply and a little pricey this year. One way you may be able to hold back expense is by blending your 10-34-0 with a product called Black Label Zn, complexed with organic acid.

Black Label Zn (6-20-0, 0.77% zinc) is patented nitrogen and phosphate formulation with zinc designed to protect phosphate tie-up in the soil and help reduce nitrogen loss. Rule of thumb is you can replace 3 gallons of 10-34-0 with 1 gallon of Black Label Zn. 10-34-0 is costing \$3.95 per gallon; Black Label Zn cost is \$9.00 per gallon. 3 gallons of 10-34-0 cost is \$11.85 and 1 gallon of Black Label Zn is \$9.00 thus making a savings of \$2.85 per acre, plus supplying zinc and reducing the total amount of product you have to haul to the planter. Example, if you normally put on 7 gallon per acre, 1000 gallons will cover 143 acres. By replacing 3 gallons of 10-43-0 with 1 gallon of Black Label Zn your rate will be 5 gallons per acre letting you cover 200 acres with 1000 gallons of product. If this sounds of interest to you let me know so I can make sure we have product on hand. We could do the blending of it as you pick up your 10-34-0.

We will have a good supply of seed for all of your planting needs.

As always, thanks for your business.

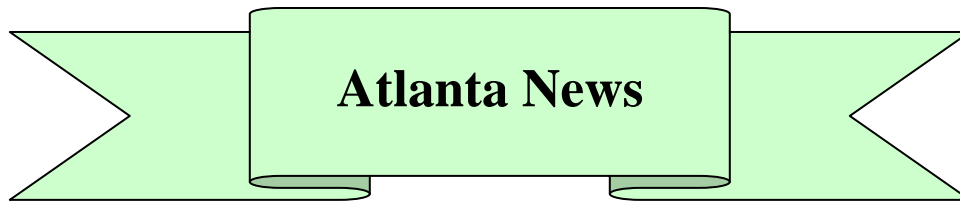
Donnie and the Kellogg Crew: Ingrid, Mark, Stan, Roger, Tony, Larry and Logan



HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

Q: Why did the farmer get a Nobel Prize?

A: He was outstanding in his field!



Greetings from the North Pole! We have been trying to stay warm while we make preparation for spring fertilizer. We have been updating our NH₃ tanks and making sure that we have good inventories of all fertilizers available for application. We have four new 1450 gallon tanks on order and one double tank that will be ready for NH₃ this year.

We are offering for sale five steel NH₃ tanks that had to be taken out of service. Three are on chassis and two are tanks only. These tanks can not be used for NH₃ or propane. Contact us if you are interested.

We have been booking fertilizer application to be done when the weather cooperates. It is a good idea to let us get your acres on the list so we get your application done in a timely manner. It is a good idea to have soil samples done on your fields including your brome and grasses. We are learning that it may save you some fertilizer dollars by analyzing your soil nutrients. Guess work and doing what we did last year doesn't always give the result that is the most effective and economical. We can send in your samples if you would like us to.

Remember that we still have a good supply of tires on hand. We also can get tires and rims for implements and trailers as well. We order twice weekly so the wait is not long on special orders.

Come by and see us soon. The coffee pot is on and so is the hot chocolate.

Darren, Katherine, Jimmy, Terri, Ric, Mike & Lyle



Ground Round Chow Mein

Recipe Submitted by Terri Murray

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 lb ground beef | 1 can cream of chicken soup |
| 1 can chicken chow mein with sauce | 1 bag chow mein noodles |
| 1 can chow mein vegetables | soy sauce |
| 1 can sliced water chestnuts | |

Brown ground beef; drain. Add chow mein, vegetables, water chestnuts, soup and ½ soup can of water. Bring to a boil and then cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until heated through. Serve over chow mein noodles. Sprinkle with soy sauce. Also great served over white rice.

News from Burden and New Salem

Just like everyone else we have been kind of shut down by the snow and cold, but we are back to shipping grain again.

Hard to believe were just around the corner from planting season, and seed is still available if you need it. Let us know.

By the way Roundup Ready Alfalfa has been released to plant.

Not much to say, just want to thank you for coming to see us, and hope you had some great holidays.

Bill, Nick, and Bobby