

As I write this column (2-4-2104) we are getting the first real moisture, in the form of snow, that we have had since we got the wheat planted. A very welcome sight. So far it has stayed where it fell with the wind being fairly calm and it is a wet snow. With Spring just around the corner, we will keep our fingers crossed that this is only the beginning of our moisture pattern.

Grain markets have been very depressed for the past several months. No real end in sight. World stocks of most grains are good. Prospects for good harvest in other growing regions are very good. These things along with rejected cargos of corn by China are what is bringing the crop prices down. Prospects for our wheat crop are good and with timely Spring rains we will have a good start for the fall crops.

Rules and Regulations that we have to follow are continuing to become more burdensome each and every year. There are new Feed Safety regulations coming down that will increase dramatically the back room work we have to do in order to satisfy the government red tape just to supply our producers with "safe" feed. As though we do not already go through every effort to make the feed products safe for our producer's livestock. Of course we are not the only industry that is regulated by any means. You as a producer will be regulated more in the future if some law makers have their way. They are now trying to clamp down on what they call large farms with bin safety regulations among other things. On page 2 of this newsletter is an article that I am borrowing from the Van Diest Supply Co flyer which we receive. They have printed an article from an Iowa bankers publication showing how the continuing regulation of the banking system has led to fewer and fewer banks in their state over the last 20 years. Don't get me wrong, some of the banking regulations were long overdue long ago. Large is not always a good thing, as we have seen from the bailouts, etc. When we get large, we sometimes take larger risk, because we are large and think we can control the situation. Even the best laid plans go south on us in the blink of an eye if we don't watch out. We will do what we can to mitigate any effects on the producer during this regulatory process, but it may come with some cost attached.

As we come to the close of another fiscal year at the end of March. I would like to say thank you to all our great patrons for their continued support of this great company. Valley Coop, Inc will be 24 years old this year. I have had the privilege of working with you for 13 of those years. We have a great group of employees, who will do everything in their powers to get the job done. You should be very proud of your staff. I certainly am!!

Richard Kimbrel
General Manager

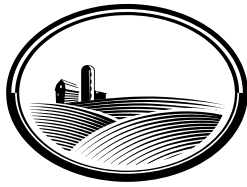
Fungicide Application

It is time to be thinking about fungicide application for this years wheat crop. Valley Coop has teamed up with Tyree Ag, an aerial applicator, to help us with this years season. We all know that wet conditions may hinder ground application of product. We now have a great partner to help us get over this hurdle.

We will be promoting Quilt XL as our fungicide for application purposes this year. Our Syngenta representative recommends that it be applied at a rate of 7 ounces per acre. It can be applied at up to 10 ounces per acre. Flag leaf emergence is the start of timing for application. The product can be applied by ground rig or aerial application methods. Generally using water as a carrier at 2 gallon by air and 5 gallon per acre ground application rates. Cost by aerial application at the 7 oz rate is about \$20.00 per acre and the ground rig rate per acre is about \$16.75.

Wheat prospects are good for the coming harvest. Keep your crop as healthy as it can be for best yield potential. Darren Grow will be the main contact for aerial application. He can be reached at 620-394-2290. You can also visit with any of your local location managers about the product and what it can mean to your plants health during the spring season. Please contact your local location manager early to be on the list for application, either by ground rig or by aerial application.

We look forward to working with you on this crucial plant health application.



FIELDNOTES

Good Day! Hope this writing finds the snow melting and spring around the corner. I think we could all do with a dose of warmer temperatures. Today's topic is on seed treatments, when they started to show up and how widely they are used today.

We can all remember the days of Vitavax on seed wheat, and when seed corn came with an option of a fungicide treatment. Those days are long gone; mostly because it's been proven that a treatment of fungicide and or insecticide got the plant off to a better start than without. It was an accepted practice and today you would be hard pressed to buy a bag of milo seed without fungicide or a bag of corn seed with fungicide/insecticide. Here are some interesting facts I recently learned about the use of seed treatments on Soybeans.

U.S. wide, % of Soybeans treated: (this doesn't include inoculants)

Year	% Fungicide	% insecticide	% Fungicide/insecticide	% No Treatments
2004	23	0	0	77
2007	32	8	0	60
2009	32	20	3	45
2011	24	41	17	18
2013	22	27	40	11

In less than 10 years many growers made the choice of treatments on their soybeans from 77% without to nearly 89% with treatment today. That is a huge turnaround that speaks volumes to the success of treatments returning a profit to growers when they make that investment. Take a look at the chart above, do you see yourself? Which group are you in?

Why use treatments at all? Let's take a look. Changing of production practices has altered the disease spectrum. No-till, minimum till, ridge till. The importance of root health is paramount, seed treatments can help create healthier root systems when conditions favor pathogens such as leaving more residues in the soil. These killer diseases are:

Phythium- likes cooler wet soils, reduces yield mainly by killing plants

Phytophthora- shows up in warmer wet soils, abundant at double crop planting of SB's, can be called dampening off

Rhizoctonia- prefers warm dry soils, reduces water uptake, yellowing and stunting of plants shortly after emergence

Fusarium- likes dry soils, associated with stress, comparable to "take all" symptoms, attacks root hairs

With planting season fast approaching, let Valley Coop treat your seed, give me a call to go over details. Thanks for your business!!

Kirk Kennedy 620.229.0312

News from the South

I hope by the time this letter gets out to everyone the weather has warmed up a bit. We have sure had a pretty good cold snap the last couple of weeks which brings challenges to our feed trucks going down the roads as well as other equipment running in single digit temperatures. According to the forecast we should have a nice little warm up and melt off the snow to give our wheat crops across the area some much needed moisture going into spring.

We got some topdress done before the snow but would expect for the majority of our application run to be in the very near future. Just let us know as soon you can for scheduling of your wheat acres and we will be more than happy to work with everyone. We would also like to stress the importance of pre-emergent chemicals for spring soybean planting. With the resistance to glyphos products the last few years we think pre-plant chemicals are going to be necessary for better weed control. Thank you for your continued support of your cooperative.

Todd, Les, Court, Chance, Dustin, Stacie, and Nate.

Hello from Beautiful Downtown Winfield

Happy to see the snow for the much needed moisture, but let it melt, please!!! Everything is great here on Manning Street. We love to see each and every one of you.

We are offering a new line of dog food here. It has no corn, wheat or soybeans added to it. The name is Wholesome and our customers seem to like it. If you feel this is a dog food you want to try, come on by.

As always, if you need a product that we do not have on hand let us know and we will do our best to get it for you. We are limited on room here so sometimes we don't have all we would like to carry.

Your business is always appreciated.

Ron, Bob and Todd

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?



Q: What did the mama cow say to the baby cow?

A: "It's pasture bedtime."



Brrrrr! Finally an old fashioned winter. Lots of cold and snow. By the time this letter comes out it will have gone from 5 degrees to 60 degrees. Typical Kansas weather-always changing.

We are starting to apply some dry fertilizer on top of the snow and frozen ground. It is still a little early to try anything liquid that requires water, but we will soon be applying some liquid fertilizer too. If you have any questions or would like to get on the application list please give us a call.

The tire business is still good as cold weather brings flat tires. Don't forget we stock Interstate batteries. If a battery is a little weak the cold will make it fail to start. We can fix you up.

We are still stocking 20% nuggets and 14% All Stock in bulk bins. So far we have been able to meet our drive in customer needs. If you want delivery in your bins please give Donnie a call at Kellogg. Their new pellet mill is working great to keep us supplied.

We carry cold weather fuel treatments and a good supply of vet supplies for your cold weather animal needs. Come in and warm up with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Visit with your friends at your local Coop—a full service Coop.

Don't forget to welcome our new employee, Jacob Miller. He will be driving a spray truck as well as helping out with our other services.

Your friends at Atlanta,
Darren, Katherine, Jimmy, Terri, Andy, Jacob, Justin and Ric



Hello from Burden and New Salem

As I set here writing this it's finally starting to warm up and melt some of the snow. It sure was cold for a while but on the other hand it was nice to get some much needed moisture. Once all the snow is gone maybe we can get back to putting some fertilizer put on. We have plenty on hand.

Also we are still in the process of shipping grain out and getting stuff ready for wheat harvest. We will be able to handle wheat here at Burden shortly. Stop by and see us.

Thanks for your Patronage.

Nick, Alan, John



Peanut Butter Parfaits

Recipe Submitted by Donna Fagg

1/2 c. packed light brown sugar
3 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons light corn syrup

2 teaspoons butter or margarine
2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
(**optional - chocolate chips)

Vanilla Ice cream
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup peanuts

In a saucepan, combine the brown sugar, milk, corn syrup and butter. Cook and stir over medium heat until sugar is dissolved and mixture is smooth, about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in peanut butter until smooth. Cool to room temperature. Spoon half into two parfait glasses; top with ice cream. Repeat layers. Sprinkle with peanuts. Yield: 2 servings. Refrigerate any leftover sauce. Microwave to warm up.

**For a chocolate peanut butter sauce, add in chocolate chips at the end of the four minutes - dissolve. Then take off stove and stir in peanut butter.