

WIT & WISDOM

"No problem is insurmountable. With a little courage, teamwork and determination a person can overcome anything."
B. Dodge

Service & Supply Coop
P.O. Box 48
Bellflower, MO 63333

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DICAMBA-TOLERANT SOYBEANS *by Randy Rodgers*

To Xtend® or Not to Xtend®



Last spring as we were wrapping up soybean planting, China finally approved Dicamba-tolerant soybeans for import. This was the last huddle for us to start using this new seed in our soybean production system. However we had to wait until November to get the chemistry approved. At last this long anticipated system is available for us to utilize on our farms, but the chemical has a lot of restrictions and risks on its application. This system is a tool in our battle with resistant weeds, but it comes with management challenges and must be used with caution.

First let us separate the seed from the chemical. We have a good supply of Roundup Ready® Xtend® (Dicamba tolerant) soybean seed for use in 2017. Because of the delays in the approval process, the seed companies have had several years to test and improve the varieties we have available today. Most of their research has been focused on these varieties as they believe this is the future of soybean production. The yield data we have seen shows these new varieties have a yield advantage over both Roundup Ready II and Liberty Link® varieties. Reports from seed growers also say these new lines yield very well. That being said, we do not have large scale field experience with these varieties and we will learn more as we go through next season. These new varieties are priced very realistically with only a small premium compared to Roundup Ready varieties. If you are growing Roundup Ready soybeans, you should try some of these new varieties

to see how they perform on your farm. They can be treated just like Roundup beans have been the last several years.

Xtendimax® from Monsanto and Engenia® from BASF are the only products approved for use on these new Xtend® soybeans. They are new formulations with less volatility than earlier dicamba products. As of this date they must be sprayed alone in a separate application from any other products. Only one nozzle (11004AI) has been approved so far. This nozzle produces a coarser droplet less likely to drift off target. No AMS or any form of nitrogen to be put in the tank with these products. A 110 foot border must be left on the downwind side of the field if there is a susceptible crop next to the field you are spraying. Application should be made only when there is a 3-10 mph wind. Extra care should be taken with tank cleanout after spraying any form of dicamba. It is important to follow the label carefully. The label is the law. Both these companies are working on amendments to the label. These are restrictions to help make sure the product stays only on the target field for you and protects your neighbor.

We don't mean to scare you away from Xtend soybeans. This system is going to be a good tool for use in our future. We want to use it properly so we have it in our toolbox for many years. As always, use good residual chemistry in addition to Xtendimax to control weeds all season long. Call us any time to help put these new genetic systems to work on your farm.

Profit through COOPeration

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New Florence - 573-835-2485 • Vandalia - 573-594-6421 • Bowling Green - 573-324-5212 • Rhineland - 573-836-4040 • Jonesburg - 636-488-5814 • Bellflower - 573-929-3222

A PUBLICATION OF SERVICE & SUPPLY CO-OP

P.O. BOX 48, BELLFLOWER, MISSOURI 63333

(573) 929-3222

FEBRUARY 2017

THREE DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED AS WELL AS COMPANY FINANCIAL UPDATE.

52ND ANNUAL MEETING

52nd Annual Meeting of Service and Supply Coop will be held at Montgomery County R-2 High School on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda

5:30 p.m. – Doors open for Registration

6:00 p.m. – Invocation

Meal by Spaunhorst Catering

Welcome to the 52nd Annual Meeting

(Entertainment for children provided by FFA chapter in cafeteria)

Introduce and thank you to

Rosemary Spaunhorst and crew

Introduction of Board of Directors

Call meeting to order

Reading of the minutes

Financial report

Old business

Election of board members

Introduction of employees and guests

Appoint nominating committee

New business

Closing comments and adjournment

Door prizes

RSVP by calling your local branch office by 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 6th, 2017.

Door prizes are drawn from the RSVP list.

New Florence (573) 835-2485

Bellflower (573) 929-3222

Vandalia (573) 594-6421

Bowling Green (573) 324-5212

Rhineland (573) 236-4040

Jonesburg (636) 488-5814

A Special Thank You to the students of the Montgomery County R-2 FFA Chapter and to their advisors, Mr. Jonathan Hoer and Mary Leykamp, for helping setup, serve, clean up and entertain the children. We really appreciate their help with this annual event.



WHO CAN VOTE?

Voting members must own one share of Class A Common Stock, be an agriculture producer and be an active purchaser of products. Service and Supply Cooperative must have a signed account agreement that shows that you have requested to be a member and have submitted your Federal ID number or Social Security number. If you feel that you should be receiving patronage but did not get a notice after the annual meeting, please call (573) 929-3222 so that we can follow up.

JOINT VENTURE



24 Main Street, St. Charles, MO 63301
(636) 250-3805 • www.tworiveragllc.com

Service and Supply Coop has joined together with two other locally owned Cooperatives to form Two Rivers Ag L.L.C. Our partners in this venture are Lincoln County Coop in Troy, Missouri and Tri County FS, Inc. of Jerseyville, Illinois. Two Rivers Ag L.L.C, formerly St. Charles County Coop, is an independent business from all three members and operates under a board with representatives from each company. The facility is located at Orchard Farm, Missouri and services St. Charles and part of Lincoln County.

Is your planter ready for 2017?

The planter pass is the one of the most crucial parts of your farming operation. The quality of your corn stand will largely depend on planter performance. An irregular stand can easily cost you 10% of your yield. I have listed a few things to remember to inspect before heading out this spring.

■ **METERS.** Metering units have to work well or you'll get frequent skips, doubles and triples. To guarantee optimal performance, take metering units apart every winter. Remove dirt and clean with soapy water. Seed brushes need to be replaced when worn. If a groove has formed in the metering unit it is time to replace it. The belt should be flexible, not have cracks in it, and should be clean. Clean with soapy water and let it dry before putting it back in. You can lubricate with graphite or a 80/20 mix (NO OIL or WD-40). I recommend to bring us your meters to have them calibrated every year or every 300-400 acres a row. Bring a bag of your own seed with you, and give us the correct speed at which you'll be driving.

■ **PLANTER UNIT.** Accurate depth placement can be compromised if planter units are loose or wobbly. You should not be able to easily lift up your unit or move it sideways. Look across your planter units from the side. Are they all at the same height? If one unit is either up or down compared to the others, it needs work. A common problem is that some bolts are loose or additional bushings are needed. You also need to replace cracked or broken seed hoppers.

■ **SEED OPENER DISKS.** Seed opener disks need to have a minimum diameter (check operator manual) or they will not place the seed at the appropriate depth. Seed opener disks also need to come together in the front. Stick two business cards

between the openers and move them as close together as possible (measurement should be 2"-2.5"). If opener disks are worn too much you will get a "W" shaped seed slot instead of the desired "V" slot.

■ **SEED TUBES.** The end of seed tubes may wear to the extent that they curl inwards, catching seeds. There is often a hook halfway up that can easily break off. Seedtube guards need to have their minimum width and be fastened correctly or seed bounce will be inevitable.

■ **SEED FIRMERS.** These help to press the seed down in the furrow, guaranteeing more accurate depth placement of the seeds. The tension can be adjusted with a bolt. If the seed firmers are worn too much, they need to be replaced. We have Keeton Seed Firmers available.

■ **DEPTH WHEELS.** Depth wheels should run tight against disks. Change washers from inside to outside (or vice versa) of the depth wheel if necessary. If this doesn't resolve the problem, the depth wheel arm needs to be replaced.

■ **CLOSING WHEELS.** Closing wheels need to have an intact spring, and need to be checked for damage or wear. Bearings cannot be wobbly or too tight. The bottoms of rubber or cast iron closing wheels need to be 1.5"-2" apart. The closing wheel arm cannot have too much play in the bushings, or the entire arm may need to be replaced.

■ **ALIGNMENT** of coulters, opener disks, and closing wheels. Take a rope and pull it straight from the front coulters to the closing wheels. The firming wheels, seed openers, and coulters should all be in line. Closing wheels should not run on top of the seed furrow.

■ **CHAINS & SPROCKETS.** Check all chains and their sprockets. If they are worn too much, they need to be replaced. They need to have the appropriate tension and should be greased regularly.

■ **ADJUST HITCH.** Hitch adjustment is another important factor of consistent seed depth, spacing, and seed-to-soil contact. Adjust the hitch height so the tongue runs parallel to the ground when the planter is in planting position. The parallel arms of the row unit should be approximately level when the toolbar is 20 to 22 inches above the planting surface. On the planter's parallel arms, check the bolts, bushings, down-pressure springs, and the drive chains to be sure all the parts are performing optimally.

A little attention and tender loving care paid to your planter now will pay big dividends later in terms of more uniform stands of corn and higher yields. The beauty of this advice is that most of the maintenance and adjustments necessary for bringing a planter into shape are relatively inexpensive, while the potential returns in yield can be quite large.

Do not forget Service & Supply has a lineup of planter upgrades from Precision Planting and Ag Leader.

Something Missing in the Tank

An unusually warm February makes us feel that spring is one step closer. That means planting season is right around the corner. It's time to come up with a plan! Everyone knows it takes fertilizer to raise a crop, and chemical to keep it clean. Times are tough. We watch commodity prices to see just how much we can spend to raise the best crop we can. You make a budget for your fuel, fertilizer and chemical with high yields in mind. Putting the pencil to the paper, we come up with a program trying to beat last year's goals and not break the bank, but are we overlooking something?

Outside of fertilizer and herbicide there are many other affordable tools out there to help save yield and put more grain in the bin. An application of a micronutrient or a plant growth promoter could be what you need to bring your crop to the next level. University trials and private researchers have performed numerous tests on these products to show how they interact in a plant and the benefits that comes from them. At Service and Supply we carry a vast selection of different micronutrients and plant growth promoters. We can help you get an understanding of these products, how they work, and try to find a place for them in your crop program.

BELLFLOWER

Scotty Slavens

Scotty joined Service and Supply Coop at the Bellflower branch in January 2017. He has experience in operating many types of machinery and is a certified commercial applicator. Scotty lives in Wellsville and in his spare time likes to fish, garden, and pull antique tractors.



Florence branch in January 2017. Andrew is married to Courtney (Williman) Allcorn. He graduated from the College of

the Ozarks with an Ag Business and Agronomy degree. In his spare time he enjoys hunting and fishing. You will find him doing delivery and application of fertilizer, chemical, and fuel this spring!

Nathan Dunlap

Nathan received a bachelors degree in Agribusiness from Western Illinois University in



December 2016. He was raised in a small town in Illinois and enjoys golfing, hunting, and fishing.

Sarah Reihm

Sarah is an associate intern with WinField United and will be working with Service and Supply Coop this year. Sarah graduated from Western Illinois University in May 2016 with a bachelors in Agronomy. She was raised on a family farm in west central Illinois and enjoys



golfing and spending time with family and friends.

RHINELAND

Dalton Grosse

Dalton lives in Hermann MO and he will be operating the fertilizer truck at the Rhineland location. In his spare time Dalton loves to waterfowl hunt with friends. He also enjoys riding horses and spending time at his family farm in Big Springs, MO.



NEW FLORENCE

Andrew Allcorn

Andrew Allcorn joined Service and Supply Coop at the New

BELLFLOWER

- Don Broz, General Manager
- Sue Carroz
- Robert Smith
- Richard Klocke
- Rick Cullom
- Chris Pund
- Donny Broz
- Clyde Gilbert
- Jeff Broz
- Frank Schlote
- Arthur Bader
- Jennifer Hackman
- Justin Talley
- Kerry Morton
- Shane Myers
- Shane Lotton
- Jared Andrews
- Scotty Slavens
- Propane
- Dwayne Dothage, Propane Manager
- Roger Lewis
- Twila Johnson

- Charlie Deimeke
- Jeff Russell
- Toby McCreery

BOWLING GREEN

- Jeff Graddy, Branch Manager
- Dean Wilhoit
- Rickie Lnaders
- Martha McCormick
- Stephen Scherder
- Doug Mudd
- Tim Mudd
- Eric Niemeyer
- Gabe Jennings
- Ryan Chrisman
- Wesley Newland

JONESBURG

- Rick Payne

NEW FLORENCE

- Randy Overkamp, Branch Manager
- Randy Rodgers

Jeff Eldringhoff

- George Penrod
- Chris Van Horn
- Chasity Lichtenberg
- Randy Hinkel
- Justin Lichtenberg
- Loren Heldt
- Allen Sullivan
- Samantha Fahrenholtz
- Will Pohlmann
- Jeff Nordwald
- Scott Schreiner
- Andrew Allcorn
- Nathan Dunlap

VANDALIA

- Eugene McDonald, Branch Manager
- Dwayne Hopke
- Lyndel Chrisman
- Anthony McBride
- Jordan Calhoun
- Ed Kampeter
- Sarah O'Keefe

RHINELAND

- Kevin Pohlmann, Branch Manager
- Stanley Heying
- Leo Schwartz
- Gene Elsenraat
- Cole VanBooven
- Steve Wehrle
- Nolan Rodgers
- Chris Fahrenholtz
- Dalton Grosse

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Eric Starkey
President
- Luke Rodgers
Vice President
- Glen Paulsmeyer
Secretary
- Bill Nation
- Lynn Bade
- Allen Wright
- Stacey Begeman

Current Employees

PROPANE UPDATES *by Dwayne Dothage*



More Propane Storage

Service and Supply Coop has leased a propane storage tank from Lincoln County Coop located at Troy, Missouri. The storage tank was purchased and installed by Lincoln County Coop on Highway J, south of Troy. This provides us with increased storage capacity and saves many dollars in delivery expense. We now have propane storage tanks located in Bellflower, Montgomery City, Martinsburg, Bowling Green and Troy.

GRILLING TIME IS COMING SOON. As of January 23rd, 2017 all DOT Propane Cylinders will need to be re-certified 10 years after the original manufactured date stamped on the cylinder. This is a visual inspection that checks for rust, dents, damaged valves, and fire damage. The cylinders will need continued re-inspection every 5 years thereafter. If you have any questions, bring your cylinders by Service and Supply Coop in Bellflower so we can check them for you.

BOWLING GREEN UPDATES

We are doing two update projects at the Bowling Green location. First is an update of the Seed Treatment and bulk seed handling system. This includes an updated Seed Treater, Weigh Hopper, Air Gates on all the bins, and an automated bin site control. The second project is the replacement of the scales. Both projects are an improvement of operations and will aid in closer inventory controls.

