



*Offerle Cooperative  
Grain and Supply Company*  
P.O. Box 90  
Offerle, KS 67563

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Locations at:  
Offerle  
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# NEWSLETTER

*"Keeping you in touch with your cooperative business"*

Return Service Requested

Volume 33 Number 5

June-July 2012

## Manager's comments

*By Duane Boyd*

Wheat harvest 2012 got underway May 24, the earliest I have experienced in all my years in the business. Around here, it is the earliest start anyone can remember. For many, it has been disappointing from a yield standpoint. In many fields there was 80-bushel straw, but only 30-bushel grain. Weather conditions dropped test weights to around 55 pounds early on. However, the later wheat was of much better quality. The test weight was 60 pounds and yields ranged from 40 to 50 bushels per acre. At this writing on June 11, harvest is probably about 80% completed and, overall, it has been an improvement over last year's. Grain

quality has been quite good and harvest has gone very well with no equipment problems.

There have been many comments from producers in the Bucklin area saying they appreciate the new scale and larger dump pit. We had to rush to get the new leg in operation at Offerle before harvest began. The grain ripened two weeks sooner than we had anticipated and we were only about half done with the installation of the new equipment when harvest began. Construction was far enough along that we could use the leg and it worked quite well. Frisbee employees will come back and finish the project after harvest is completed.

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There has been an odor caused by smut in some of the wheat that has been coming in. It has not been so objectionable that we had to reject any loads so far, but it can be a quality problem. There could be a discount of 40 to 50 cents per bushel on grain with a smutty odor. Smut can be controlled by planting new seed and/or treating the seed with a fungicide at planting time. We need to be aware of the problem so it does not become a more serious one in the future.

As of June 10, we had received nearly 2.4 million bushels of new-crop wheat and we estimate we still have 20% of the harvest yet to be delivered. Last year we received a total of 2.2 million bushels so this should be a significantly better harvest than last year. Thanks to all of you for using the facilities and services provided by your cooperative to handle and market your wheat crop. There was no waiting to unload your trucks and we feel everything went very well. That's due to the efforts of dedicated employees and the fact that we have worked to keep the facilities and equipment updated. Thank you again for your business.

Plans are underway to update the fueling system at Offerle. That work will likely begin about the first of the year. Government regulations are at least partly the reason for the changes. There will be new fueling pumps and the computer equipment to go along with them to upgrade to meet the new regulations.

The offices in the fertilizer department in Offerle are being upgraded. As a part of the improvements, there will be two telephone lines. In addition to the old number (659-2445), a new one is being added (659-2133). If you call the old number and it is busy, your call will be automatically rolled over to the new number. Alice will be moving her office into a new one in the fertilizer department. These changes will take place very shortly.

Some old equipment is being retired and disposed of in the fertilizer department. We have acquired a new tender unit to deliver dry products to the field. Now more than one product formulation can be delivered at the same time. The new unit can be used to go to the plant for product thereby improving the efficiency of our operation. The dry fertilizer plant at Offerle is being upgraded as well. It will be located away from the railroad and will be more efficient and easier to maintain. We are also looking for a qualified crop specialist to add to our current staff.

This is the last issue of the newsletter that we will have the help of Gordon Cunningham in putting it together, having it printed and mailed. He has worked with us since August 1979. Gordon and I worked for the same cooperative in northwest Kansas in the early 1970s before he started a business of producing newsletters for cooperatives in Kansas and the surrounding states and I came to work as general manager of the Offerle Co-op. Gordon is retiring at the end of June and will soon move to Indiana to be near family. All of us here wish to thank him for his services and the friendships that have developed through the years.

The summer months are always busy ones for all of us in the agricultural industry. Please take time to think about safety as you go about your daily activities. Safety pays!!! Have a good summer! -ocgs-

## New Employee

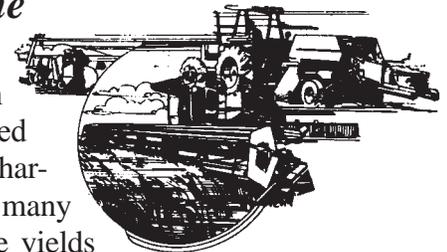
The Offerle Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. is happy to announce the addition of Tom Rabe to our Agronomy Department. Tom has over 23 years of experience in the agronomy field and will be a big asset to our growing agronomy division. He will be starting to work around the first part of July and will be calling on customers in the Bucklin area to assist them with crop questions. He is no stranger to the area and many of you have probably visited with him in the past.

Tom will be mostly mobile so if you need to get in touch with him, his cell number will be 620-682-2391. If you can't reach him on his cell, please call 620-826-3281 or 620-682-2399 and we will get a message to him immediately. -ocgs-

## Crop Production News

*By Darryl Roane*

The 2012 wheat crop is now in the bin and I hope you enjoyed a safe and bountiful harvest. Visiting with many of you it sounds like yields were all over the board. Some wheat that looked pretty good ran out of gas too early and shriveled very badly. Other wheat that looked fair came in with high



test weights and very nice yields. If only Mother Nature would have seen fit to give us just another touch of rain in early and mid May, this would have been a great crop.

Many of you are aware that we have been in the process of building new offices at the west end of the feed mill warehouse. These have now been completed and by the time you get this newsletter, we should be moved in. We will have had an additional rollover line installed so we can handle a few more calls. Alice Katz will be occupying the north office and will be able to assist you with most things in the event I am out of the office.

It has been a very busy early winter and spring for us in crop production. Application acres and chemical sales are running well ahead of this time last year and we still have a few months to go. It will soon be time to consider burn-down for your wheat stubble acres. We know all too well that kochia has been hard to take down following harvest, especially with the dry conditions we are having. We will be looking at *Rt3*, *Sterling Blue* (possibly adding *HiDep* or *E99*), and *Ally* or *Ally Extra* to help take it down. We will, of course, also be adding *Class Act* at the rate of 1.5 gallons /100 gallons of water along with *Interlock*. The additions of both of these products are essential for good control. If kochia is already present in your field, the addition of 2/10 of an ounce of *Ally* with 1/2 gallon of *SuperB HC* per 100 gallons of water may aid in getting rid of this pesky weed.

If you have a few weeds show up in your milo fields, you can clean them up with several products. New to the lineup this year is *Husky*. In many of the test areas last year, *Husky* showed some great promise on broadleaf weeds. Kochia, palmer amaranth and puncture vine were all handled very nicely. *Permit* with *Atrazine*, *Peak* with *Atrazine* and *HiDep* have all worked very well in most cases. *HiDep* does great on bindweed and puncture vine and does fairly well on palmer in wetter years. If you have any questions with regard to post-emerge milo sprays, just give us a call and we will find a solution for you.

It will soon be time to head into the fields and begin applying anhydrous ammonia to your ground for next year's wheat. Something I often hear is that many times we don't have the applicator set right and we either get way too much product on or not enough. One thing I might recommend is to select a small field or measure off a small amount in a field and do this area

first. You may know the acreage in a small field or just calculate an area based on the width of your implement. Check the tank percentage gauge before you start and again when you are done. For each 1% on the 1000 gallon tanks, you would be using 10 gallons of anhydrous. You can convert this to rough pounds by multiplying the gallons (10) by 5.15 and multiplying that number by 82%. Thus, that 1% becomes (10 X 5.15 X 82%) = 42 pounds. This should help you determine the amount of product per acre you are applying. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

As we get ready to begin putting anhydrous down for next year's wheat crop, let me take a minute to go through a few things.

**First** – If you plan to pull tanks from any of our satellite plants, be sure to give us a little notice so we can try to have people in place to fill tanks. As we get into the heaviest part of the season, ammonia can get to be a little hard to get in large quantities all at once, and therefore, we try our best to keep all plants going. However, when we get into a tight supply situation, we concentrate first on the base plants. If the plant you are pulling from is out of product, call Offerle, Bellefont or Bucklin for product updates or what your best options may be.

**Second** – Be sure to sign your tank out. At the satellite plants, you will need to go into the building and put your name on the ticket and be sure to date the ticket. At the base plants, you can stop by the offices and sign them out during business hours, or after hours look for the little yellow buildings. Inside these buildings are small tickets on which you will put the tank number, your name and the day's date. The im-

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portant thing is to tell anyone pulling tanks for you that before they leave with the tank, they have to sign the tank out.

**Third** – Return the empties as quickly as you can. Many times we need just that one more tank to order in the next load for inventory, so bring them back quickly. Also – a reminder that when we are busy during this ammonia season, you are allowed two tanks per applicator. If we all practice this, your neighbor will have a chance to get their ammonia down too.

At Offerle, when you return your empties after hours, please park the empties either north of the scales or west of the office building. DO NOT park the empties returned after hours in the area east of the feed mill all the way to the property line. If parked in this area, they can be missed with a return weigh and the empty weight will be recorded as the completely empty weight of the tank. If you still had a little product in your returned tank, it is lost.

I know that wheat harvest has just finished, but now would be a good time to think about your seed needs for this fall. Many varieties will be short as always and, because of some quality issues, your variety may not be available. We have heard about many of the varieties that you have planted in our area and it sounds like the TAM 111 and T-158 are two of the better varieties. You may want to consider adding one or both of these to your acreage this next year. Pricing information probably won't be out until late July, but orders placed first have a better chance of being filled.

You have probably all heard by now of the growing concern about smut in the wheat crop this year. This is becoming more and more of a concern and some elevators are starting to reject loads if they are smutty. We are looking into applicators that you can use on the farm to put your own fungicides on at a reasonable price. Many of you already use fungicides on your seed in the fall, but those that have not made this a regular practice, may want to consider starting. Most of the good fungicides can cost from just under \$1 to \$3 or more per bushel. This is minor if you have loads rejected because of smut. Visit with us to find out what fungicides we are offering and which ones will work best for you.

If you have an email address and wish to get on our agronomy update list, please send a short note to [darryl.offerlecoop@hotmail.com](mailto:darryl.offerlecoop@hotmail.com) and we will add

your name to the list. We have been a little busy these past few months and I have not done much with my email alerts but I do plan to start again very soon.

Many of you have noticed the construction work going on in the west end of the feed mill warehouse. We have been doing all the work ourselves when we are not in the field. Ken Chappel has headed this project and 99% of the inside work has been completed. We have begun to move out of the other end into the new offices and the move should be complete within the next few weeks. Ken has done great job and the offices are very nice. Stop by and check them out if you are in the area. -ocgs-



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## **Offerle Cooperative Grain and Supply Company Officers and Directors**

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  - Jacob Heinz ..... Vice President
  - Giles Issinghoff ..... Secretary
  - Richard Dvorak ..... Director
  - Mike Klenke..... Director
  - Lyle Kregar ..... Director
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  - Steve Wetzal ..... Director
  - Duane Boyd ..... General Manager
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