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Main office (712) 439-2831
Station (712) 439-1140
Lumberyard (712) 439-2850
www.hullcoop.com

Annual Meeting Scheduled

Your cooperative's annual meeting will take place on Monday, March 24, at the Boyden Hull High School. All members have been sent an invitation in the mail and we ask you to come out and enjoy a catered meal and hear about the activities of the coop.

Your Board has authorized payment of over \$1.1 million dollars in cash payments, which is 40% of the allocated earnings of your coop. Patronage rates for 2013 will be 12.28 cents per bu. on grain, feed and services will be 5.22%, agronomy sales and services rate will be 9.04%, lumber will be at 7.03%, and petroleum sales will be 6.35%.

There will be an election for 3 positions on the Board of Directors. The terms of Lyndon Moss, Tom Reuvers, and Gary Van Sloten will expire. All three are eligible for re-election, but Tom has chosen to not run. Six individuals have been selected by the nominating committee to run for these three positions. Information on these candidates can be found in this issue of the Chronicle.

We invite all members to come to their annual meeting and find out what has been happening these past 12 months and our plans for the future.

HULL COOP Chronicle

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MANAGER COMMENTS

Grain-Speed and Space

Your Board has approved the final SPEED project of a grain "speed and space" initiative that started several years ago. Beginning in April, Your coop will be increasing the grain receiving speed in the main concrete from approximately 8000 bu per hour to 20,000 bu per hour. Combined with the outside pit we will have total estimated receiving capacity of 30,000 bu per hour, up 65% over this past fall's rate.

Service is the reason for speeding up the receiving. The board knows our members have a lot of work to complete during and after harvest. Manure application, baling, and fall tillage make the "after harvest" time sometimes busier than the harvest. The Coop has made

the effort to speed the harvest portion of your fall work activity.

This update will involve removing the existing distributor, reworking the transitions to and from the legs, increasing the motor sizes and changing out one leg belt (the other leg belt had been changed last summer). What is unique about the upgrade, is that this was part of a master plan that we began several years ago. We already have a 20,000 bu per hour conveyor



Ed Westra
General Manager

across the top of the concrete silos, we had upsized the conduit when we had rewired a few years ago to handle the larger wiring for the higher horsepower motors. We have added additional drying capacity to handle the faster receiving, and we have separate inbound and outbound scales to handle the scale traffic.

We would like to think we will never have receiving lines again. But over time due to increasing yield per acre, upsized combine capacity, the increased use of grain carts, and the increasing use of semis and very large wagons, we will continue to move the harvest speed up over the next several years. Enjoy the receiving speed as we move into harvest this fall.

Boiler update

A boiler is rarely seen, but the Hull Coop recently made a significant upgrade in our boiler attached to the east feed mill. The new boiler is used to create steam for pelleting and for heating the east feed mill.

The original boiler was 32 years old and was a two-pass heating system. The new boiler is a 4 pass hi-efficiency unit which is 65% larger than the original system. In replacing the existing boiler we were able to secure a significant energy efficiency credit from Mid-American energy, while also increasing the quantity and quality of our steam production.

We had upgraded our feed pelleting system 2 years ago, which placed higher demand on the existing boiler, as steam is used to heat the feed that will be pelleted, both for the quality of the physical pellet, but also the cooking



of the feed to improve digestibility. Steam quality and quantity allows the employees to pellet at a higher feed temperature and a higher production capacity.

We have seen the results of the new boiler in reduced natural gas usage,

improved pellet production rates, and improved physical pellet quality. While these items are on the production side of pelleting, we believe producers will also see improved feed efficiency in their operations. That is a win/win for the owner members of the Hull Coop.

Just For Fun - Ice Fishing

If you want to hear a fish story, all you have to do is talk to the right people at Hull Coop. This has been a cold winter and what better way to make the best of this unpleasant situation than to go ice fishing. Some of the employees from Hull Coop have been doing just that.

Mark Hoekstra and Jason Van Maanen went to South Dakota in late January. The temperature was -25 degrees outside but inside the ice shack it was a balmy 70 degrees. After auguring through 3 feet of ice, they caught perch. As you can see from the picture they were biting that day.



JASON, PAULA, & MARK

Mark also went with his family to Lake Thompson and Lake Lakota in South Dakota. LaBeth, Samuel and Mark Jr. caught perch and crappies and enjoyed a good time.



SAMUEL HOEKSTRA

Eldon Van Den Top, his wife Gladys, and son Ethan went to Lake of the Woods in Minnesota (right on the Canadian Border). They spent 3 days and 4 nights there with temperatures at -25 below plus wind-chill, but again it was 65-70 degrees inside the ice shack. Ice up there was also 2.5 to 3 feet thick, but they did enjoy their time there. Eldon said they caught their limit of walleye. Eldon is pictured with a 25" walleye.



MARK JR. HOEKSTRA



ELDON VAN DEN TOP

Steve Westra, his brothers, and brothers-in-law went fishing at Webster, SD in January. They slept in the ice shack and at times the wind blew so hard they did not dare to go out too far because of poor visibility. But the fishing was good. They caught perch, crappies, walleye, and bluegill. Steve said he had to use the full length of his ice auger



STEVE WESTRA & BROTHERS

Prepare for Planting with Proper Greasing

Now is the time to service your farm equipment for spring planting.

Make sure everything is in good working order. Get any bearings or working parts checked for replacing so you don't experience delays in the spring. Today's vertical tillage equipment goes 8 to 12 miles per hour, twice as fast as conventional tillage equipment giving more chance of kicking up rocks or doing other damage in the field. That's one reason why to check your farm equipment in the down season.

Bearings, surface shafts and any areas that require it should be greased for

March Spring Oil Sale



Stop in to check out the savings on all Cenex Lubricants

winter storage. Ideally, you should grease equipment in the fall before you put it away for the winter. Greasing is a critical step, without it, moisture can get into the bearings and rust or pit the surfaces.

Check your owners' manual for lubrication and greasing instructions. With modern engines, you really need to follow the manufacturers' recommendations as far as all lubricants go to fully protect your investment in your equipment. Many times the equipment warranty depends on proper lubrication.

Ascend by WinField

It's been a busy winter and we've been analyzing data on many acres of product trials that we have done this past year. One product that has been up and coming with some positive results is a Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) called Ascend for use in corn.



Lonnie Egdorf
Agronomist

Ascend is an EPA registered product that is used with starter fertilizer most typically applied in furrow at planting. Ascend is composed of three key ingredients that sets this product above the rest: Gibberlic Acid, Cytokinin, Kinetin, and Indolebutyric Acid. Lots of big words but the important part is that these 3 PGR's at the proper ratio increase yield by increasing germination, emergence, cell differentiation, and promotes early root growth in corn. It optimizes the phosphorus and zinc with nutrients in a pop up or starter fertilizer system. Data has also shown larger root systems, stalks and leaves in corn as a result of applying Ascend.

Of course the question remains, what's the yield advantage? The Winfield Answer Plot system has done 3 years of yield data at 195 sites across the country, the average yield increase was 4.8 bushel per acre. Some universities that did their own studies have had much bigger results anywhere from 9 to 11.7 bushels. Locally, we did some trials with our farmers in Sioux and Lyon County this past year at a 5 oz. per acre rate. In the early stages of the corn we did notice faster emergence resulting in taller corn very early on in the treated side. The overall average of our trials was 5 bushel increase which did give a positive return on investment. Our plan at the Hull Coop is to continue to do research on Ascend and help growers decide where it fits into their operation.

Adding Ascend to your current liquid in furrow system is very easy to do. If you are looking to upgrade planters, the option of a liquid system can be very beneficial and used all the way from insecticides to crop nutrients. Remember if you are looking to give your corn yield a boost using pop up or starter fertilizer, give us a call and we would be happy help get you going with Ascend.

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917 Main Street
Hull, Iowa
(712) - 439 - 2850

2014 Candidates for Board of Directors

Arvin Boote

Arvin and his wife Lauri raise corn and soybeans in a rotation. Arvin also custom feeds a pig nursery at his farm and raises a few steers. In the past Arvin has served as deacon and elder at First Reformed Church in Hull. He has also served on the Farm Bureau board and is currently active on the Inspiration Hills board.



Arvin Boote

Jeff De Jongh

Jeff has been farming for 24 years north of Hull. He raises cattle and hogs. For crops he grows corn and soybeans. Jeff and his wife Carrie have four children: Anna is a sophomore, Beau is in the 7th grade, Mandi is in the 4th grade, and Jaelyn is 3 years old. Jeff is currently on the Rural Water Board and he is interested in being on the board to learn more about how the coop works.



Jeff De Jongh

Mike Grevengoed

Mike has been farming with his dad since he graduated from high school. He raises holstein bull calves, pigs and grows both corn and soybeans in a rotation. Mike's wife Connie works full time at Western Christian and they have 3 kids; Jonathon at SDSU, Justin at Western Christian, and Riley attends Hull Christian School. Mike has served as Deacon at First Christian Reformed Church and is currently a Cadet Leader.



Mike Grevengoed

Lyndon Moss

Lyndon Moss runs a farrow-to-finish hog operation two miles east of Hull just off highway 18. His crop acres are 50 percent corn and 50 percent soybeans. He uses a strip-till system on most of his farm ground. Along with being a part of the Longview farm swine unit, he is an active member on its steering committee, and involved in the Sioux County zoning commission. Lyndon's wife, Deb, is employed at Echo in Sioux Center. They have three sons: Derrick, Bryce, and Austin.



Lyndon Moss

Loren Te Slaa

Loren Te Slaa and his family live on a farm south of Hull. He raises pigs from isowean to finish weight. For crops, he has a rotation of corn and soybeans. Loren and his wife Deb have four children; Emily is a senior in high school, Nick a freshman in high school, Sam a 7th grader and Sydney a 5th grader. Loren has previous experience on the nominating committee for board members and he has served as a Deacon in his church. Loren is also serving on the Memorial Funeral Home board in Sioux Center.



Loren Te Slaa

Gary Van Sloten

Gary and his wife Barb live on a farm north of Hull. He has lived in Lyon County his entire life. Gary has spent thirty-five years farming and most of those years have included operating his dairy. Currently he raises corn, soybeans, Holstein heifers, and pigs on his farm. He and his wife Barb have three children who are out of the house.



Gary Van Sloten



GREG DE WIT

New Tire Changer

The equipment we use in our farming, trucking, or construction operations is getting bigger and bigger. The tires on these machines are also getting bigger and heavier. With this in mind, Hull Coop recently purchased a "Corgi Tire Changer". The guys in the shop use this machine for mounting and

demounting tractor tires, skid loader tires, and semi tires. The machine takes the heavy work out of working with these tires. The machine is able to handle rim sizes from 11 inch to 52 inch and tire sizes to 87 inches high and 39 inches wide. The guys are happy with the machine and it makes the tire changing process more efficient.

New Employees

**Ethan Mulder**

Ethan started working for the Hull Coop at the end of September last year. Since that time he has had a variety of duties including lime application, grain unloading, maintenance, and this spring he will be doing fertilizer application. He lives in George and is engaged to Kathy Jensen also from George. In his spare time he enjoys working on cars and golf. We welcome Ethan to Hull Coop.

**Braden Kooiker**

Braden was re-hired in October of last year. Since that time he also has done a variety of jobs including driving the propane transport, dumping grain, maintenance, and also has driven transports hauling grain out and feed ingredients back in. Braden and his wife Elsa have a 1 1/2 year old daughter Sutton and they live in the Middleburg area. We welcome Braden back to Hull Coop.

Dairy Topics

Propel, Rally, Clarifly, and Shredlage

The current dairy market is a nice change in the "roller-coaster" ride that the industry has been on the last number of years and a welcome relief for dairy producers across the country.

We have very little control over our milk price but we do have control over a lot of things that directly impact the day-to-day production, health, and longevity of our animals. As we head into the warmer months of summer, we need to be thinking about changes we may want to make to help our livestock.

One of the things that we recommend quite regularly is the use of by-pass fats in lactating rations. Energy is such a crucial component in a dairy cow's diet that it cannot be overlooked or compromised. Cows that are in transition or under heat stress typically have lower feed intakes which can reduce productivity and body condition. Propel Energy Plus is a bypass fat product that is highly palatable (helps with intake), has a high level of saturated fat (maintain milk components), and more economical per calorie than other bypass fats. It also should be seriously considered when comparing with whole cottonseed.

Is your transition cow success not what you would like it to be? Another product that has a lot of merit is Rally. It has been shown that pre-fresh cows have lower NEFA's at calving when fed Rally (39% less) which means less body weight loss and greater productivity. Rally has also shown that it helps the cow

combat heat stress by maintaining more normal intakes and minimizing loss of milk production during times of heat stress.

Fly control is a constant battle on any livestock operation and dairies are no different. We all remember how bad the flies were last summer and we understand the loss of production due to the flies as well. When cows start grouping in the free stall barns, you know you're losing milk. When young calves are covered with flies, you know that they're not growing as well and their immune system is compromised. One tool that we have that is becoming more popular is the use of Clarifly. When added to the feed, it passes through the animal and affects larval development in the manure where flies lay their eggs. It disrupts the production of chitin, which is a key component of the exoskeleton which causes the larva and immature fly to die. Clarifly should be used in conjunction with other pest control methods.

A hot topic in the farm community the last couple of years is a new corn silage harvesting method called Shredlage. Shredlage is a harvesting method that is more aggressive on the corn kernel and uses a type of shearing effect to do that as well as tearing the fiber more. We believe that there is more of an economic advantage when alfalfa hay prices are high as the pounds of hay can be reduced when using Shredlage. The biggest advantage with shredlage is by what it does to the corn kernel. If Shredlage is done right, the kernels are virtually destroyed which makes the starch more available to the animal. We believe there is still a lot to learn about Shredlage; what's the right length of cut, how tight do the processor roles need to be set, and what is the best moisture to chop it at are just a few things we need to find out about this harvesting method.

**Peter Steiger**
Dairy Specialist

SUMMER HELP WANTED AT LUMBERYARD

We are looking for summer help at the lumberyard. Duties would include helping walk-in customers, delivery of lumber and building materials to customers and job sites, warehouse housekeeping, and other duties as assigned. Must be 18 years of age and be able to lift 70 lbs. Contact Eldon at the lumberyard or Ed at the elevator office for more information.

