



# NEWSLETTER

*February 2013*

## General Manager's notes

*By Jerald Ratliff*

The first of December two board members and our wives made the annual trip to Minnesota to attend the CHS Annual Meeting. CHS reported the most profitable year so far with profits standing at 1.26 billion dollars. The profits were driven primarily by the refining of petroleum at our Laurel MT and McPherson KS refineries. CHS is expecting to return to its members, nationwide, six hundred million dollars in cash. The checks should be mailed out sometime in February. Your cooperative, Central Plains Co-op, buys all of our petroleum products from CHS Inc. and will benefit from this patronage pay out.

Cenex is continually making investments to meet the needs of you the agricultural producers. CHS announced plans for capital improvements at the Laurel, MT refinery, where a mild hydrocracker project is under way. The McPherson, KS refinery is in the process of construction of a \$555 million delayed coking unit. This unit will replace outdated technology and position the Kansas operation for potential expansion.

The crop nutrient side CHS announced it would be a minor investor in the Summit Texas Clean Energy project, LLC, plant at Penwell TX, and become the exclusive off-take party for the estimated 700,000 tons of urea the plant will produce each year. And, in what is expected to be the largest project in CHS history if completed, the company announced its intent to

explore construction of a \$1.2 billion nitrogen plant at Spiritwood, N.D. The plant would be the company's first fertilizer manufacturing facility. These strategic developments would establish a domestic origination presence to provide the system's farm supply retailers and the farmers they serve with much-needed anhydrous ammonia, urea, and UAN.

Our year end will be coming up soon. The office staff is busy preparing for that event. Our grain department has been busy loading out grain that has been sold preparing for the upcoming harvest. As for the rest of the departments we are preparing for the busy crop year coming up. Thank you for your continued support and business of the co-op. CPC



# From the Seed Warehouse

By Denton Lehmann

On this Saturday morning Feb. 2nd, which is Groundhog Day, I just watched a video about the Groundhog in which he didn't see his shadow. That means if you believe in the Groundhog, we will have an early spring. In our case I hope that means we receive early spring rains instead of snow. But hoping that is true I have heard it looks like this year will remain on the dry side, not the news we wanted to hear. So saying all that, we will be facing some very tough decisions. Decisions on what to plant, what population to plant, what fertility we have and what fertility we need for the crops we want to plant this season. Also on the cattle side the shape our pastures are in, how are we going to have enough feed for your cow herd.

Of course I will state the best answer, it needs to start raining and continue to rain. As for your cow herd, there are several different options, cover crop blends, oats, spring barley, forage beans, cool season peas and Sudan grass to mention a few. Please give us a call, and if needed I can setup a meeting with Dale Strickler from Star Seed, to answer questions and discuss options.

On the crop side, we have a lot of options. I would recommend you get soils samples to see what fertility you left over from last year. Because if you have a lot of Nitrogen left over on certain fields, it might be a concern if want to go with Soybeans, if the soil has too much Nitrogen the Soybeans will become lazy and won't produce Nodules. Nodules are what produce Nitrogen for the Soybeans in the reproductive stages. Also this way you will know how much Nitrogen you actually need to apply for the crop you planting on each field. I believe this year your amount on Nitrogen you need apply will be way less than last year. I also know there is not a lot of subsoil moisture, but Wheat stubble should have the most followed by Corn stubble then Soybean and Sorghum. I say Corn over Sorghum because the Corn plant dies when reaches maturity and the Sorghum plant grows and takes moisture until we have a killing freeze. So if you are planting Corn place it on Wheat stubble or back on Corn. Especially if your Corn burn up early last year and you left it standing. Also planting Corn back on Corn you probably already have a very good supply of Nitro-



gen. Along with that I would recommend on cutting back a little on population on Corn. On a very dry year cutting back the population on Sorghum is also a good idea, if you plant too thick in a dry year the Sorghum will not produce any heads, so planting less will at least produce heads. My suggestion for planting Soybeans would be where you don't have over 40 lbs. of usable Nitrogen already in the soil or applied. Please call or stop in with questions or concerns on what to do, we can talk and discuss what will work best for your operation.

Corn supply is tight and getting worse, I do have some of the new DroughtGard Hybrids sold at this point some left to sell call me you interested in them, but my the time this is out we will probably have them all sold. Soybeans we have a good supply as well as Sorghum at this time. Feed, Cane and Sudan we have some extra now but would suggest you speak for what you will need ASAP.

Again we thank you for your business. Without you we wouldn't be here. Thank You!! CPC



**Larry Burgess, new employee at the seed & chemical warehouse, Smith Center location. Larry is retired from the USD 237I school district having taught 32 years of 5th and 6th grade sciences. Larry and his wife Judy are life long residents of Smith County. Larry and Judy are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren. Larry has been getting himself settle into the new routine and will be ready to assist you customers the coming spring. Welcome aboard Larry.**

# Feeding Facts

By Curtis Beach

It has been and continues to be an interesting feeding season. We have found out we can use a lot of feed stuffs that we wouldn't normally think of as feed and or roughage. To recap a little. We weaned very early, some as early as July 4th, we were able to put on weight very easily and the calves were for the most part very healthy. The price of calves was good and some who sold this fall were very pleased with the price. The producers who chose to feed until later were pleased with the gain and the price in most cases.

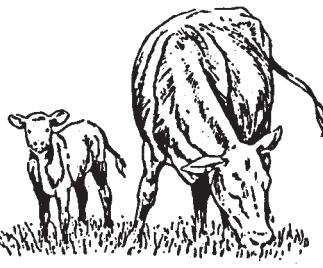
Enough of the past tense. The upcoming grazing season will bring many challenges to you producers who chose to start in May as usual. The grass has been damaged to an extent that has yet to be determined. We are very much still in a drought. I remember some years ago being in this situation and a study I happened to read said it takes up to 3 to 5 years to fully recover from a major drought as the one we saw last summer. Grass does not recover unless rested and adequate moisture is received. Not everyone is going to rest pasture, but at least think about stocking rates. When thinking about keeping that cow that loses a calf, or how many heifers to keep, think about stocking rates. It may pay you in the long run to cut back. Who knows how long this drought may continue. I know some of you have already cut cow numbers back last fall because of forage supplies.

Central Plains Co-op is working very hard to supply you with the most advanced products on the market. We have products to help you over the long haul to keep your cattle efficient and productive.

Bio-Mos is gaining in popularity and promise for you spring calf producers. We have it available in tubs or loose mineral to help fight calf scours. Might be to late this year, but you may want to take advantage of it next calving season.

For you fall calf producers we have creep to keep them gaining, and if you are thinking of weaning, we have rations to get them through weaning and gaining efficiently until they go to the sale barn or to grass. If you do go to grass, check with us on a ration to control consumption and to increase gain.

When summer comes think about the Crystalyx tubs and or the Hubbard mineral with the fly protection in them. They are a very good investment and management tool. Jim will have a mineral sale a little later on



and that is very good time to lay in a good supply.

I have done and continue to do a number of rations for calves and cows and it always surprises me how they turn out and the cost involved to feed a cow and calf through the winter or feeding season.

When you have something on your mind give me a call, 785-476-8177. Thanks.

P.S. Pray for rain!!!! CPC



## Notes from Cedar

Winter is on its way out already the days are getting longer and spring should be here soon. Another Kansas winter with dry conditions and moderate temperatures seems to be the new normal until it isn't. Hopefully with spring there will come more moisture. If you believe in the old wives tale about fogs and rain we should have a couple nice rains in late April and early May. We've been staying busy mixing and delivering feed. We really appreciate your feed business. We are also emptying out the flat storage of 2011 wheat and moving the fall crops out.

We are stocked with fencing supplies for your needs. I know the cows were pretty rough on the fences trying to reach the greener grass last year. We have also brought down a small selection of gates from Athol and as always we have three sizes of poly tanks available.

We are also stocked up on mineral and supplements for your cattle. It is recommended that you start feeding Hi-Mag mineral at least 30 days before going to pasture. This gives the magnesium time to build up and be present when the cows will need it. We are carrying a full line for Crystalyx products for all your supplemental needs for cows. We also have a good variety of loose mineral available with applications for everything from fly control to medicated. If you are still looking for protein supplements we have range cubes, DDG cubes, and tubs on hand and ready to go. If you need something special that we don't currently have let us know we should be able to get it for you.

We are carrying a wide selection of merchandise here at Cedar so stop by before you run all the way to Smith Center or Athol we just might have what you're looking for. We would like to thank everyone for their business this past year and look forward to doing business with you in the coming year.

From all the crew at Cedar: CPC

— Bill, Al, Sue and Neil



# FEED AND OTHER THINGS

By Jim Sweat

This is being written in the last part of January and it is cool to say the least. The cattle business this last year has had a good old Kansas drought to put up with. It appears that the next year will also be dry according to some of the reports that I have seen. So how do we plan for this next year? I was told several years ago that if you could plan to survive the worst that could happen, anything better would be gravy. There is some sound thinking in that phrase even though it is a little strange at first glance. Part of the soundness of the saying the word plan! We all need a plan; a plan that will fit what we think will be the future for the next year.

Here at Central Plains Coop we are planning to have available to our customers a variety of products to meet the needs of the day. With that in mind we have brought in some new products to go along with what we have in stock.

From Arlwin Manufacturing here in Smith Center, 10' fiberglass stock tanks. They have a 10' now and they have plans to make an 8' and a 12'. Now you have 3 choices of stock tanks – fiberglass, steel, and plastic.

OptiPrime, Calf Colostrum Replacer from Hubbard Feeds, product contains globulin proteins derived from bovine colostrum and is to be used in situations where maternal colostrum is unavailable or is of unknown quantity or quality. OptiPrime can also be utilized as a colostrum supplement.

Thrive, from Hubbard Feeds, product is a source of electrolytes, nutrients and energy for young calves, foals, and lambs. Mixed with warm water, it forms a very palatable broth which provides energy, fiber, electrolytes, vitamins, bacteria and minerals—when they are needed most and when they are needed fast. This is to be bottle fed to calves, foals, and lambs when they are in need of quick energy. Feed two to three days in addition to normal milk replacer feeding schedule.

Opticalf, from Hubbard Feeds, a nutritional supplement for calves in paste form. This product can be carried with you and when you find a calf that needs a boost you can administer the contents of the tube on the back of the tongue. Ideal for the calf that needs a boost but you don't want to take it to the barn for a bottle.

These products along with the barrels from Crystalyx

that contain BioMos should make calving season a little easier for both man and beast. BioMos is available in BGF-30 protein barrel, available in Breed up 28 protein barrels and in the Mineral-lyx barrels. If you calve in the same area year after year BioMos is a good product to help increase your cow herd's health which in turn should decrease health problems (scours) for your newborn calves!

Another new product is Stablelyx from Crystalyx, a supplemental protein with macro, trace minerals and vitamins of all ages and classes of horses. We have this product in a 60# tub. This addition gives us a protein and mineral product from Crystalyx for Cattle, Sheep, Goats and now Horses! Crystalyx is the original low moisture block product for the supplementation of protein, minerals, and vitamins for your animals that is wind proof, water proof, and waste proof.

With spring calves hitting the ground it is time to be thinking on rebreeding those cows. With the shortage of good grazing last summer, cattle were forced to eat grasses and other forbes that they usually didn't eat. A lot of old dry grasses were eaten that may not have had the nutrition value that our cattle are usually eating. The cow herds are eating lower quality feed this winter due to last summer dryness. Would this be a good year to supplement with a breeder mineral? Stockmaster 12-12-12 Breeder CU minerals are formulated for the period from 60 days before calving until cows are again pregnant. Stockmaster 12-12-12 Breeder CU mineral is the product of choice where organic trace mineral supplementation is desirable. What are the other differences between Stockmaster 12-12-12 breeder mineral and Stockmaster Sweetphos 12 CU? The copper and zinc levels are twice as high, vitamin A is a third higher, vitamin D3 is a third higher, and vitamin E is two and one half times higher in Stockmaster 12-12-12 Breeder than in Stockmaster Sweetphos 12 CU. In an average year we may get by with the Stockmaster Sweetphos 12 CU minerals but this year with lower quality forages that are available to most of our cow herd's maybe, we should be considering feeding Stockmaster 12-12-12 Breeder mineral.

With the high cost of feed do we should we be feeding an ionophore to the cow herd? Research from Elanco shows that Rumensin will maintain your beef

*Feed & Other Things* continued on page 5

cow's body condition on 5% to 10% less feed! Ionophores improve feed efficiency and daily gain in cattle. Ionophores also reduce the incidence of coccidiosis, acidosis, and bloat. Do not allow horse's access to feed containing ionophore as these can be toxic to them. There are two ionophore - Bovatec and Rumensin. Most of us are feeding Rumensin when we are feeding calves in the fall with the Express Co-product Balancer Mineral Finisher R-1500 and Rumensin is in the Classicalf 16% R64 creep feed that we sell. Crystalyx Iono-lyx B300 has Bovatec in it. Plus there are other products that we can get if you are interested in feeding ionophore to your cow herd. If you have more questions about feeding an ionophore to your cow herd, give us a call!

We thank you for your business!! CPC

## Notes from the Athol Location and Fuel Department

By Max Kuhlmann

The winter of 2012-2013 continues. The weather along with fuel prices has been up and down. Fuel prices have been mostly up since the start of 2013. It's any ones guess what fuel prices will do the rest of the year. Maybe we need to check the moon sign or flip a coin. To be sure of your fuel costs for the year, check with us about contracting some or all of your needs for 2013. CENEX Ruby Fieldmaster and Roadmaster premium diesel fuels have proven to provide performance above regular #2 diesel fuel.



In the Athol station, we continue to fix flat tires and service and repair vehicles. Bring your car or pickup in and check out our Hunter alignment and Roadforce tire balancer. This equipment is the latest and greatest available to you here in Athol.

Not long ago, I ran across a new government study that finds you no longer need to change oil in your engines. You just change engines more often. The same analogy holds for vehicle alignments. You don't need to check alignment, simply buy more tires and fuel. Don't let this happen to you! We are here to keep your vehicles and machinery going profitably into the future? Have a safe 2013. CPC

## Serving you at Athol



Zane Kuhlmann starting working for the cooperative at the Athol Location in the station. Zane is a graduate of Thunder Ridge High School USD 110 last year, 2012. We are looking forward to having Zane being a part of our cooperative family he will be available to assist you with all of your vehicle needs.



Mike Hutchison is an employee at the Athol location. The employees at the Athol location keep themselves busy selling and fixing tires, servicing vehicles, alignment, and on farm service. Call the Athol location for all of your vehicle needs.

# Agronomy Department

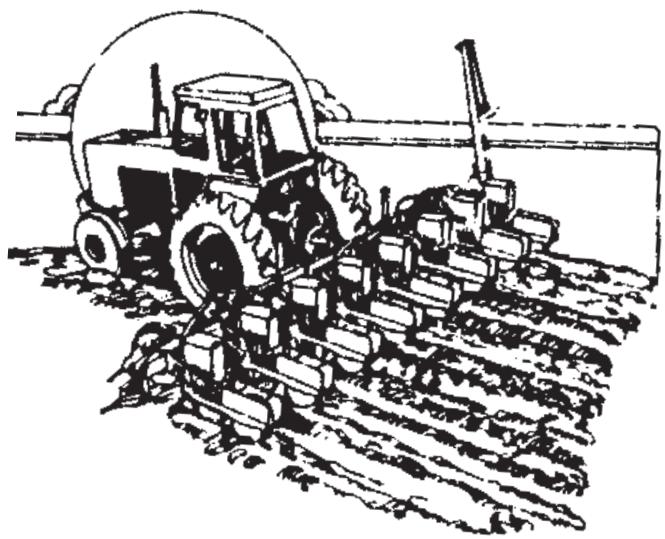
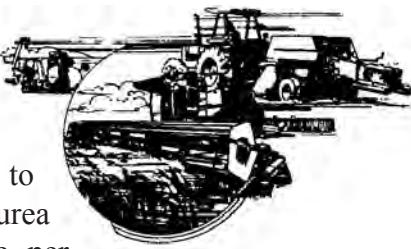
By Bret Tuxhorn

We have been busy this winter spreading dry fertilizer and lining up loads to the farm. Comparing urea versus NH<sub>3</sub>, the price per pound of nitrogen has been within a few cents of each other. The outlook for spring is anyone's guess. Water is the main issue right now for moving barges up the river and how many acres of corn will be planted will play a part on supply and demand. If you need any liquid or dry fertilizer for spring, please give us a call and we can find out where the market is for that day.

As spring gets closer and the wheat breaks dormancy, we will have a better idea of how good a stand there is and can make decisions on whether to add a little more nitrogen plus take care of any weed problems. If a field has had a history of downy brome (cheat grass), then odds are it's still there. Applications of POWERFLEX or OLYMPUS will do a very good job of suppressing it in the spring. Applications need to be done soon after the wheat and grass break dormancy so timing plays a large part in how well it works. If broadleaves are the main issue, then RAVE or FINESSE work very well plus gives you residual activity. The other most commonly used product is ALLY plus 2-4D. It works great on growing weeds, but has short residual.

After the wheat is taken care of, it will be time to prepare the row crop acres. If you are no-till, an early burndown may be necessary for volunteer wheat and if the field has had mares-tail in the past, then early is best time to control it. A second application before planting with glyphosate and a pre-emerge herbicide, even if you are planting Roundup ready crops works best. With more and more resistant weeds and no new herbicides, the best option is to scout for weeds early and don't cut rates.

If there is anything we can help you with, give us a call and we'll try to find an answer. CPC



## Central Plains Co-op

318 S. Madison, PO Box A

Smith Center, KS 66967

[www.CentralPlainsCoop.com](http://www.CentralPlainsCoop.com)

### Directory

Smith Center.....	785-282-6813
	800-498-6813
Athol.....	785-695-2216
Cedar.....	785-697-2621
Seed Warehouse.....	785-282-6070

### Officer and Directors

Steve Overmiller .....	Chairman
Curtis Overmiller .....	Vice Chairman
John Timmons.....	Secretary
Cory Frieling.....	Director
Dennis Jacobs.....	Director
Tom Bose .....	Director
Dean Panter.....	Director
Jerald Ratliff.....	General Manager

