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BOARD MEMBERS

Hal Mayer - Chairperson
Eugene Berges - Vice Chair
Allan Wegner - Secretary
Tony Akin
David Cederberg
Tom Ebert
Allan Holiday
Stan Moore
Glen Swartz

GENERAL MANAGER

Darin Marti

AGRONOMY

Ken Diehl

CFO

Tony Hieger

ENERGY

Jerry Fenske

FEED

Rod Bohn

FEEDMILL

Rob Ashburn

GRAIN

Doug Biswell

SEED

Dave Stover

Location Managers

Alta Vista - Rick Lucas

Onaga - Brent Beck

Ampride - Jerry Fenske

Westmoreland - Jeff Overbey

Our Mission:

To be your business of choice,
anticipating customer needs,
and growing a progressive
company.

**"In Business For
Your Business"**

Management Notes

By Darin Marti

Your cooperative's annual business meeting was held on March 22 at the Houston Street Ballroom in Manhattan. Approximately 200 people were in attendance to participate in the election of directors, vote on bylaw changes and hear remarks from the chairman, manager and a presentation from Dave Lemke with CHS. Dave's remarks reminded us how small we can be compared to the large multinational companies and some of the larger farms that are developing around the world.

At the meeting, incumbent directors Tony Akin, Allan Holiday, and Hal Mayer were all re-elected to the coop board of directors.

Also at the meeting, there were four bylaw changes presented. These changes were as follows:

1. Bylaw Article IV Section 2(d) was amended to define the residence of directors. This change allowed a director to farm in one district and live in another and choose which district he will represent as long as the proper number of directors represent each district.
2. Bylaw Article II Section 3(a) was amended to increase the maximum number of shares of common or participating stock a member could own from forty to eighty \$25 shares. Currently each member can have up to \$1,000 of stock, now it is up to \$2,000 of stock.
3. With the stock change above, the Articles of Incorporation had to be revised to increase the authorized capital from \$10 million to \$20 million.
4. Bylaws Article II Section 6 was changed from ledger credits to revolving fund. This allows the coop to redeem equity by the year it was earned, rather than by the age of the patron that is currently used.

With this bylaw change, the board of directors has approved the payout of ½ of the revolving fund earned in 1990 and before. If you have revolving fund earned in this time frame, you can expect a check in a couple months after our computer software is updated to reflect the bylaw change regarding the stock.

Thank you to those of you that were able to take time to attend the annual meeting and participate in the governance of the Coop. For those of you not able to attend, we still appreciate your patronage of the coop and look forward to being able to continue working with you.

Cenex Gift Cards – Give the Gift Of "Go"

By Jerry Fenske

Cenex® gift cards are an easy way to keep friends and family going, wherever the road leads. They're the right gift for a special occasion or an everyday surprise. Give one today - pick up Cenex Gift Cards at our store or shop online at cenex.com/giftcards.



Stover's Story By Dave Stover

It is very good to see some moisture fall on all of our territory. The fertilizer is being applied, some field work is being done. Spring is here. Planting will be started probably before you read this.

I told you that I would elaborate on one of the seven R7 concepts. The one that is probably most at the forefront of maintaining yields is the Right Crop Protection. The Roundup Ready System had been a fairly reliable and relatively inexpensive crop protection system for several years. It has had some difficulty with some specific roundup resistant weeds. It is still a very good tool, but we have to manage the crop and the weeds a little differently than we have in the past. It is very important to have different modes of action on the field and some residual chemistry for the resistant species of weeds.

Glyphosate is still a very good herbicide and is effective on more weed species than anything else out there.

But, due to its almost global adoption, there have been some weeds that have become resistant or at least tolerant to it. It seems like mother nature always finds a way through anything we throw at her. So the moral to the story is rotate your chemistry, and use different modes of action in conjunction with your roundup ready system.

Weeds compete for moisture, nutrients, light. Don't let them.

Grain Comments By Doug Biswell

By the time you all get this grain commentary in your monthly newsletter the USDA will have released another "big" report. Of course, trying to predict what the USDA might say and how it affects the grain markets is not unlike trying to predict the Kansas weather. So no predictions from me, I am just going to throw out some random thoughts going into planting season.

First of all, some of you may have heard that ethanol plants are using less corn because the quality of the corn last year was better than the previous, light test weight year, thus the ethanol yields are better. I have a friend who is a risk manager for an ethanol plant and he argues that point. The process is not based on how much ethanol is being produced but by the amount of corn processed. What this means is they are using the same number of bushels of corn, they just are producing more ethanol.

Livestock conversion should have been very good this winter given the mild weather.

China has continued to buy the breaks in

both corn and beans, and I certainly don't see that demand going away. South America's weather issues this summer affected bean production and quality more than most traders thought. The wheat growing areas in Europe and Russia have seen extremely cold temperatures and very little snow cover while our weather has been, well you all know. . . not cold. We will hope we don't get a freeze late but if we do there is no doubt there are going to be a lot of plants hurt, including the growing wheat crop. If spring weather stays like it has been we will plant a lot of corn in a short and early period of time. Historically, an early planted corn crop produces more bushels per acre. We will hope for a great growing year so you all have a lot of grain to sell.

Thanks for your business and as always if you have any questions or comments feel free to call.

Agronomy By Craig Miller

Hello. My name is Craig Miller and I have recently taken over the agronomist duties in the Manhattan to Onaga area. I graduated from Central MO State with a degree in Ag- Business in 1984 and worked for a state-wide Coop in Missouri at multiple locations. I have served in sales, dispatcher, assistant manager and manager capacities during my career. For the last three years, I have been in South Dakota managing a couple of facilities.

My wife, Connie, and I have one daughter still at home, Allie, a junior at Wamego High School. Our oldest daughter, Angie lives in Missouri with her

husband, Pat, and my three grandkids, Andrew-7, Corbin-4, and Kaleigh - 4 months.

I have a very strong background in corn and soybeans and have a lot of experience in the precision, fertility and chemistry fields. I look forward to working with area producers on reaching their goals and needs. I am also looking forward to being in this area (which we really like), learning new things and meeting producers.

I can be reached at 785-313-1644 and look forward to hearing from you. Thanks

Alta Vista News By Rick Lucas

We have had enough rain for a few weeks, its time for dry weather and give us a chance to get the spring crops in.

The alfalfa weevil have been eating up your hay crop. Last year we started spraying on April 13th, this year on March 26th, which would have been 5 days sooner if not for the rains of 2.5" to 3"+ around.

We are getting close to switching our dry rig over to liquid in a few days . We will have 2 liquid machines running and will be able to meet your application needs.

Our Wind and Rain 8.5% High Mag mineral is no longer available they have switched to Wind and Rain Hi Mag 4 %. We are having our Mineral sale through May 15th stop by and ask for details.

Spring is here! We are taking booking on garden plants before April 9th, we won't have any extra.

We have a bin empty for the wheat harvest which looks like it will be 2 weeks early if the progress as it has thus far this year.

Cattle Mineral Sale

Sale runs March 15, 2012 thru May 15, 2012.

Receive \$.50 per bag discount (\$20/ton) on qualified cattle minerals. **Purchase 1 ton or more and receive an additional \$20/ton volume discount.** Qualifying minerals include Purina Wind & Rain, LOL Pro Phos, and local mixed Cattle Minerals. Custom minerals do not qualify. Delivery Cost is added to the following prices.

Some example prices of our best sellers are:

	Regular price/bag	Promotion price/bag	1 ton + price/bag
Wind & Rain Hi Mag 4% Phos	\$18.25	\$17.75	\$17.25
Wind & Rain 7% Phos With CTC 2800G/IGR Fly Control	\$24.50	\$24.00	\$23.50
All other Purina Wind & Rain mineral qualify for discounts.			
Pro Phos 8% Phos AU 5600	\$21.10	\$20.60	\$20.10
Pro Phos 12% Phos AU 3500	\$23.75	\$23.25	\$22.75
All other LOL Pro Phos minerals qualify for discounts.			
Cattle Mineral 8% Phos AU 5600	\$18.75	\$18.25	\$17.75
Cattle Mineral 8% Phos AU 3500	\$17.35	\$16.85	\$16.35
Cattle Mineral 12% Phos AU 3500	\$20.50	\$20.00	\$19.50

Some other local mix Cattle Minerals qualify for discounts.