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Our Mission:

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

**"In Business For
Your Business"**

**Crop Production
By Ken Diehl**

The end of the year is fast approaching and that means it is time to begin thinking about those products you may want to prepay for by year end (fertilizer, seed, chemical and application). As in the past your local Coop will offer discounts on all of our agronomy products. Contact the branch you work with for more information.

Update on the fertilizer markets. We have had a major run on anhydrous ammonia with the open fall, putting a strain on the supply system. Spring pricing will be determined on the ability of resupply to the system and the difference between dry and liquid. Please think ahead when it comes to your ammonia needs. Dry nitrogen products have backed off compared to earlier in the fall yet transportation problems, river closures and lock shutdowns, could force prices up even though product sits on barges in the gulf. Phosphates have shown some weakness too, very little buying going on mostly due to fears that it could slide even lower going into the first of the year, but river problems could put a strain on the ability to resupply for the spring bringing price rebound.

Last year brought many challenges especially in weed control. Everyone can remember one weed in particular, the waterhemp pigweed. For those fields we know we have a problem in, I strongly suggest a more proactive approach. In those acres going to corn add something to the roundup such as Status or Callisto. If adding an atrazine product be sure to increase your rate of roundup because studies have shown that atrazine has an

antagonistic effect reducing the effectiveness of roundup. In those acres going to soybeans using a pre emerge such as Authority First, Valor, Prefix or even Prowl H2O can help to reduce the populations we will have to deal with in crop. I will be recommending the addition of Cobra to Roundup this upcoming year to help increase the chances of control.

As always I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of your local Coop. Remember to plan for success the first time.

**Holiday Hours:**

December 24th - Close at Noon
December 25th - Closed

December 31st - Close at Noon
January 1st - Closed

Feed Order Deadlines

**To ensure feed delivery by noon on
Monday, December, 24th please
order your feed no later than
Friday, December 21st at noon.**

**For the New Year's holiday, please
order no later than Friday,
December 28th at noon to have your
feed delivered by Monday,
December 31st at noon.**



Alta Vista News **By Rick Lucas**

There is a feeling of winter in the air this morning. We have Bogs boots to keep your feet warm and gloves to keep hands warm, stop by and have a look.

It's time to think fall fertilizer for brome, alfalfa, and your spring crops. If applied now, the fertilizer will have started to break down when your crops need it. We have the anhydrous plant and tanks ready for your anhydrous needs; give us a call in advance as supplies may be short again this year.

If you need your fields soil tested come in and we can map the fields and get it done. We were able to get some Pel-Lime in if your field calls for lime we can spread with dry fertilizer.

The feed mill has been busy so please turn your feed orders in 24 hours in advance so we can efficiently schedule them. We know there are times you might not have enough feed for the weekend, call us and we will work it in. See us for all of you feed needs.

We have bale feeders, feed bunks, gates, T Post, barbwire, cattle panels, hog panels, and a selection of stock tanks we keep inside the warehouse. Rod Bohn does a great job keeping our vet supplies in stock.

We offer on the farm fuel deliveries and have oil for sale at the office. You can call the office at 785-499-6321 or Jerry Fenske at Manhattan 785-313-0532.

Fuel Department **By Jerry Fenske**

Winter Fuel Update –

Currently the diesel at each of our pay at the pump locations is only chemically treated winter fuel. We do not plan on adding #1 diesel to these locations unless we see temperatures drop and stay below freezing for an extended period of time. This is a change from the past couple of years where we have blended all of our locations with #1 and #2 diesels. We

will always have #1 diesel available for pick up or delivery from our bulk plants for those patrons who would like to use it when necessary. Our delivery trucks and RFD delivery trucks will continue to deliver 50/50 blended diesel throughout the winter months. Unless we are told differently when orders are called in, we are assuming everyone wants a 50/50 winter diesel delivered to their farm storage tanks. We are still able to custom blend any products upon request. Any questions or concerns are always welcome.

Grain Comments **By Doug Biswell**

The northern hemispheres' growing season is over and the USDA has done what it does to guess what the production of the northern half of the world was for 2012. The late rains helped the development of the soybeans, as production estimates grew from those earlier in the year. The confirmation of a bigger bean crop caused a large sell off, but in the last couple of weeks of November focus has shifted to less than ideal early growing season weather in the agricultural areas of southern Brazil and Argentina. Believe it or not they are too wet, so the crop is not getting planted. Too wet down south and too dry in the U.S. As I am sure most of you know the Corps of Engineers has decided to cut the release of water from the Gavins Point Dam which holds back the water that forms Lewis and Clark Lake in South Dakota. This will restrict barge traffic on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. So what? Bulk commodity transportation by barge is less expensive than by rail or truck. So not only does this factor into the cost to get grain to export houses on the gulf coast it also will play a part in getting products from the gulf to the interior. Bulk commodities come up the river also, and fertilizer is a big one. As an agriculture producer it may be worth your time to contact

your congress person and express your concern over the Corps decision to shut off the water. If it continues to stay dry - we are going to have way bigger problems to contend with this upcoming year, but if we see normal spring precipitation (which we have to assume at this point) shutting down of the river should be viewed as unnecessary and potentially very costly.

Stover's Story **By Dave Stover**

First off I would like to extend the warmest holiday greetings to you and your family this season. We are looking forward to a new year, and looking back at the past year. Over the past year we had many challenges and next year the only thing I am certain of is that I don't know what it will bring.

Farmers Cooperative has many helpful services that enables our agronomists to be of greater assistance to your operation. We have tissue sampling, precision soil sampling, variable rate fertilizer capabilities on dry fertilizer, liquid fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia applicators. All of these services are designed to maximize productivity and help mitigate stresses due to fertility issues.

One trend that I have noticed is that acres that had less stress and the variety or hybrid was properly suited to the situation, the yields were sometimes significantly higher than similar fields with some problems. In most of the cases, the input costs were not very much different. It is a matter of placing fertility where it is needed and not over fertilizing less productive areas.

Over the winter we will be having some winter meetings to discuss many of these ideas along with Answer Plot updates and other programs we will be offering.

This is also the season to get your spring seed needs taken care of. Supply of some products are getting tight, so the early bird gets the worm.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!