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FEED

Rod Bohn



GRAIN

Doug Biswell

SEED

John Watts

LOCATION MGRS

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Onaga - Robby McGowan

Ampride -

Jared (Jerry) Fenske

Westmoreland -

Chris Parker

Our Mission:

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

"In Business

**For Your
Business"**



MANAGEMENT NOTES

By Darin Marti

FALL HARVEST: The fall harvest of 2009 will be one to remember. Good prices and great yields were certainly something to be thankful for. Your coop handled 3.4 million bushels which was a 21% increase over the previous largest harvest. The grain baggers that were purchased before harvest proved to be a very valuable investment to help handle the harvest. Not only did they reduce the amount that had to be trucked out but also significantly reduced lines at the Alta Vista location. These baggers do not necessarily provide a cheap alternative to store grain but provide an alternative with less risk than ground piles. In addition to trucking out 1 million bushels during the harvest, thirty five bags were filled with approximately 425,000 bushels of grain.

MILL IMPROVEMENT: The board continues to explore service improvements and efficiencies for our Coop members. The feed mill in Manhattan has manufactured substantial bushels of feed over the past 20+ years and needs a new mixer to improve labor efficiency and to allow greater flexibility in mixing qualities. Molasses coated feeds should see significant improvement in consistency from batch to batch. This mixer will be replaced next spring after the winter feed rush slows down. Anticipated down time will be just a few days so minimal disruption in feed manufacture is expected.

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS: At your coop's annual meeting each year, there are 3 director terms that expire. This year, the terms of Stan Moore and David Cederberg from Manhattan and Glen Swartz from Alta Vista are up for re-election. All three have expressed an interest in running for another term. The board has chosen nominating committees for each district that will meet later in January. If you or your neighbor has an interest in running for the board, please notify coop management so your name may be presented to the nominating committees. According to the Bylaws, the Manhattan district lies between Louisville Road to the north and Volland

Road to the south and the Alta Vista district is south of Volland Road. Serving as a Cooperative carries substantial responsibility but can be very informative and educational.

MEMBER OWNED GRAIN STORAGE: Each year your cooperative sees an increasing need for additional grain storage. Every year we ship many bushels to terminal storage before and during harvest to allow space for the bushels you bring us. These bushels in terminal storage are usually not in an advantageous location from a pricing and margin stand point.

Your board of directors wants to build additional grain storage and is offering you the opportunity to invest in this storage that is proposed to be constructed in 2010. Your investment in this storage called Producers Grain Storage LLC, would allow you to store grain free of charge at any of our three grain locations and your investment could be treated as a depreciable asset. For more detailed information, please plan to attend upcoming informational meetings. *Meetings will be held Monday, January 11th @ 7:00 p.m. at the Baptist Church in Alta Vista; 7:00 PM; Wednesday, January 13th @ 7:00 p.m. at the Onaga Senior Center; and Thursday, January 14th @ 7:00 p.m. at the Green Valley Community Center in Manhattan.* You will receive further notification in the mail. We feel this project is a perfect example of the Cooperative and members working together to create a win-win situation for both parties.

Grain Comments by Doug Biswell

First I would like to thank all of you that did grain business with us this last year. I realize that I had a couple of hick ups this year in regard to logistics, but all in all this fall harvest went well. Some other local elevators made the tough decision to make their producers sell grain across the scales. That certainly was a topic of discussion more than once here also but we were able to do the things



necessary to keep from having to force grain sales. We were also able to handle a large amount of wet grain, as we were able to make some sales early that allowed us to ship that grain with moisture quickly. Being tight on space is a fantastic problem to have, as it means the grain that you all were bringing us was yielding very well. I was surprised with the bean and milo yields especially. Certainly corn was not bad it just did not seem to be fantastic. The markets have been hanging right around the same futures area for the last couple of months. Basis has gotten better later than normal, but of course harvest in the United States is later than normal. Slowed cash movement on grains as the year came to an end helped add to the basis strength. I feel given the amount of grain that is yet to be sold, that any significant futures rally will weaken basis as rallies will be sold. For those of you that are making planting decisions for next year, look at your average yields, your cost of production, and what and what levels you can sell new crop grain. If you have the opportunity to lock in profits by buying your inputs and selling grain do it, we all know how much not only the grain markets fluctuate, but also fuel, fertilizer, chemicals – all the inputs it takes to grow a crop – if you can sell new crop grain at profitable levels and you know that you are going to be making money good night sleeps will come much easier. As always if you have any questions or comments please feel free to give me a call.

Views from the Field

by Mike Thompson, Agronomy Production Specialist /
Certified Crop Advisor

It is hard to write an article for this month's newsletter when there are several inches of snow cover on the fields across the area. So I am going to take a different approach, and pass along some information about Roundup Ready Alfalfa and to encourage everyone that reads this article to visit the website listed below and let your voice be heard over the potential banning of RR Alfalfa.

In May 2007, Judge Charles R. Breyer halted the further sale or planting of Roundup Ready alfalfa seed pending completion of the environmental impact statement (EIS) by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). However, he permitted continued use and sale of Roundup Ready alfalfa crops as forage, subject to a series of restrictions. In August 2007, USDA, Forage Genetics International, Monsanto and several Roundup Ready alfalfa growers filed an appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeal

was heard before a three-judge panel in June 2008. The USDA's general counsel argued that the injunction should not have been ordered, and that it imposed unnecessary restrictions and costs on alfalfa hay and seed growers.

In October 2009, Forage Genetics, Monsanto and two alfalfa growers asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider this case because we believe the lower courts were wrong to ban planting of Roundup Ready alfalfa while APHIS is conducting additional environmental reviews.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has published a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) that evaluates the potential environmental effects of deregulating Roundup Ready alfalfa. The analysis includes a preliminary conclusion that there is no significant impact on the human environment due to granting nonregulated status. If this decision is finalized, farmers will again have the choice of planting Roundup Ready alfalfa.

The next step in the regulatory process is a 60-day period for public comment on the EIS. The comment period began on Dec. 18, 2009, and will end on Feb. 16, 2010, and comments must be received by that date. Following the comment period, USDA will review the comments received, finalize the EIS and issue a new decision on the regulatory status of Roundup Ready alfalfa.

Support for Roundup Ready alfalfa during the public comment can help bring back farmers' choice to plant Roundup Ready alfalfa. Don't give away your right to participate in this important regulatory process. It is important that USDA receive letters of support from growers and other members of the U.S. agricultural community who know the benefits of crops developed using biotechnology or want to take advantage of them on their farm. Please go to the website: www.roundupreadyalfalfa.com to find more information to educate yourself on this issue, write a letter and send to the USDA or you may go to this website: <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#submitComment?R=0900006480a6b7a1> to enter your comments directly to the USDA. Enter all the required info and type your comments in the text box provided voicing your support for Roundup Ready Alfalfa. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD. Any questions, please give us a call.

WATTS BOX - By John Watts

The co-op is pleased to announce that we are now a dealer for Patriot Seed Tenders manufactured in Minden, NE. As the seed industry and your co-op is making the transition to BULK seed beans and with the increasing demand for seed treatments (some are mandatory on certain soybean varieties), we felt that this would be a great service for the co-op to offer in our area. Various sizes, styles, and color (red or green) are available to meet any bulk seed handling need. Instead of handling 50# bags, ending up with a sore back and a bunch of empty paper sacks to chase down as they are blowing around, simply pull up to the co-op and let them fill your tender with seed beans. Pull up to your planter or drill and let the poly-cupped auger gently and efficiently fill your seeding units. No-hassle and convenience! We will be offering additional discounts for customers who commit to our co-op for future seed needs. Please contact myself, or one of the agronomy sales staff for more information and pricing.

CFO - Tony Hieger

Just a reminder to go to www.manhattan.coop to sign up for Patron Access. This will allow you to run year end reports that you may need. If you need any assistance feel free to give me a call at 785-776-9467.

'We at Farmers Coop wish each & everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.'

