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Our Mission:

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

**"In Business
For Your Business"**



**FARMERS COOP ASSOC.
92nd ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 23rd, 2010
HOUSTON STREET
BALLROOM
MANHATTAN, KS
MORE INFORMATION
WILL BE MAILED Soon**

Views from the Field by Mike Thompson
 Agronomy Production Specialist /
 Certified Crop Advisor

WELL, FEBRUARY FLEW BY QUICKLY, AND IT SEEMS LIKE WINTER STILL HAS A STRONG HOLD WITH THE CURRENT WEATHER PATTERN. ALL OF THIS MOISTURE AND COOLER TEMPS IS LIKELY GOING TO SHORTEN THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR MOST TO GET THE NECESSARY FIELD WORK, FERTILIZER APPLICATION, CHEMICAL CONTROL, AND PLANTING DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER AS WE ROLE INTO SPRING (WHICH IS MARCH 20TH). AS THINGS START TO BECOME VERY BUSY IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, I JUST WANTED TO PASS ALONG SOME THOUGHTS THAT MIGHT HELP IN THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU AND THE COOP TO ENSURE THAT WHAT YOU ARE WANTING GETS DONE CORRECTLY AND IN A TIMELY FASHION.

MAPS! I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD ALL KINDS OF DESCRIPTIONS THAT PRODUCERS HAVE DROPPED BY AND CALLED A "MAP"; FROM DRAWINGS SKETCHED OUT ON A FEED BAG BACK IN 1983, TO "LOOK FOR THE CONCRETE BLOCK IN THE DITCH" AS THE FIELD IDENTIFIER. WITH THE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TODAY, I FEEL THAT THERE IS NO REASON WHY EACH PRODUCER DOESN'T HAVE AN ACCURATE SET OF MAPS TO LOCATE THEIR FIELDS. I AM SURE THAT THERE ARE MANY OF YOU THAT HAVE HAD US APPLY FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS ON THE SAME FIELD OF YOURS OVER AND OVER FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND WE SHOULD KNOW WHERE YOUR FIELD IS. AND FOR THE MOST PART WE DO KNOW YOUR FIELDS, THE LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS, AND ACCURATE ACRES. BUT THERE ARE MANY FIELDS THAT GET CHOPPED UP FROM YEAR TO YEAR, PLANTING INTENTIONS CHANGE, YOU PICK UP ACRES ETC... ETC... I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT AS YOU VISIT WITH YOUR COUNTY FSA AGENTS TO GRAB A COPY OF YOU FIELD MAPS AND STOP BY YOUR LOCATION OFFICES TO UPDATE YOUR APPLICATION FILES WITH SOME NEW MAPS. THIS WILL NOT ONLY HELP TO

ENSURE THAT WE ARE APPLYING ON THE CORRECT FIELD, BUT IT WILL HELP TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS IN WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO GET TO YOUR FIELDS.

DOCUMENTATION! BOTH CORN AND SOYBEANS ARE NOW BEING PLANTED THAT EITHER HAVE THE ROUNDUP READY GENE, THE LIBERTY LINK HERBICIDE TOLERANT GENE, OR STRAIGHT CONVENTIONAL PLANT. IT IS NOT A PRETTY SITE TO WALK A FIELD THAT HAS BEEN TREATED WITH A WRONG POST HERBICIDE APPLICATION. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT IN MAKING OUT YOUR FARM CROPPING PLAN THAT YOU DOCUMENT WHERE YOU PLANT A SPECIFIC HYBRID AND THEN RELAY THAT INFORMATION TO THE COOP (AND POSSIBLY YOUR NEIGHBOR) TO HELP AVOID A MISS APPLICATION OF A HERBICIDE AND SEEING YOUR CROP THAT WAS OFF TO A GREAT START, BE DEAD AND HAVE TO START OVER AGAIN. THIS IS A LOSS THAT CAN BE AVOIDED WITH JUST A FEW MINUTES OF JOTTING A FEW NOTES DOWN.

AS A REMINDER, ALL OF THE LOCATIONS HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF FIELD ORDERS IN FOR BROME, WHEAT, AND CROP GROUND FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHIP AWAY AT THESE ACRES, BUT THE LISTS CONTINUE TO GROW. IF YOU ARE STILL "THINKING" ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO FOR YOUR FARM, GO AHEAD AND GET YOUR NAME ON THE LIST TO MAKE SURE THAT THINGS DO NOT GET FORGOTTEN. AND STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCATIONS TO KEEP UPDATED ON CHANGES THAT YOU MIGHT MAKE. THE BROME FIELDS ARE STARTING TO PRODUCE A FEW GREEN LEAVES, AND WHEAT WILL SOON BE BREAKING DORMANCY - DELAYS IN FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS AND WEED CONTROL CAN REDUCE YOUR YIELD POTENTIAL. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO GET APPLICATIONS DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER; YOUR HELP CAN MAKE US MORE EFFICIENT IN DOING THIS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING ANY OF YOUR CROPPING NEEDS, OR YOU JUST WANT A SECOND OPINION; PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL: 313-0518. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS YOUR CROP PRODUCTION ISSUES AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO SOLVE THEM.

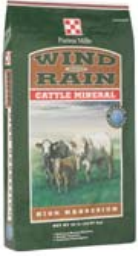
Happy Spring, March 20th
 The Day the Lord Created
 HOPE was probably the
 same day he created Spring!



FEED – By Rod Bohn

CATTLE MINERAL SPECIALS

EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2010 – MAY 15, 2010



Purchase 1 ton of the following cattle minerals and receive \$20.00 per ton off. Less than 1 ton purchases still qualify for 50 cents per bag discount.

Qualifying minerals include all Purina Wind & Rain, all Land o' Lakes Pro Phos, and floor stocked



Cattle Mineral mixed at Onaga.

Some selected prices per bag include:

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Special</u>
Purina Wind & Rain Hi mag 8.5%	\$ 19.15	\$ 18.65
Purina Wind & Rain IGR/AU2800	\$ 23.30	\$ 22.80
Pro Phos 12 AU 3500	\$ 20.90	\$ 20.40
Pro Phos 8 AU 3500	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.00
Pro Phos 8 AU 5600	\$ 19.70	\$ 19.20
Cattle Mineral 12 AU 3500	\$ 18.60	\$ 18.10
Cattle Mineral 8 AU 3500	\$ 15.95	\$ 15.45
Cattle Mineral 8 AU 5600	\$ 17.25	\$ 16.75

There are several more minerals that qualify for the special; these are selected prices.

Grain Comments by Doug Biswell

As one would expect there was very little movement in the grain markets last month. There has been very little new to trade so we have been range bound. We are entering the time of the year where there are plenty of factors on which to focus. Wet weather in South America has supported beans as their harvest has been delayed, from all reports I have seen, they have a monster of a crop down there so it would make sense that once harvest does get rolling beans will be under pressure. Our wet fall and winter is starting to get some attention as traders begin to wonder about planting conditions this spring. Very little field work got done last fall and we will need some periods of favorable weather this spring to get things done. We have faced issues in the past similar to what we are seeing now and we seem to get a crop planted no matter what Mother Nature throws at us. The markets will bounce around - so for those of you that have price targets in mind give me a call and get your orders in place. I have no doubt this years trade will be volatile and a market can be up 20 one minute and down 10 the next. So having those orders in place not only will help you manage your business it will also help us manage our grain position also. If you have any comments or questions feel free to give me a call.

MARCH EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Yrs of Serv.:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Position:</u>
Rob McGowan	5	ONA	Manager
Matt Marshall	4	ALTA VISTA	Manager



YEAR END: Your cooperative's fiscal year ended December 31. The auditing firm hired by your board to verify the accuracy of the Coop's accounting records completed their work the first week of February. If you measure the Coop's success by profitability, 2009 was a successful year. Local earnings from operations were \$304,000 and total earnings after regional and LLC income was \$1,127,000. This compares to 2008's loss of \$66,000. If you will remember, there were substantial fertilizer inventory valuation losses across the industry in 2008 and your coop was unfortunately involved too. Since 2008, additional risk management policies have been put into place to reduce the chances of a repeat.

We feel very good about the results of 2009 because it was the 3rd best earnings level in the history of the company! The success of 2009 can be attributed to an increase in grain volume, steady to better volume in many other business areas and a reduction in expenses. These results are only possible because of the hard work and diligence of our great employee group and the support of you the patron. It takes all of us working together to reach our goal of a successful cooperative. This will be the 4th consecutive year that patronage checks will be issued to the membership and we are certainly proud of that!

ANNUAL MEETING: The common stock holders of the Cooperative will be receiving notice of the annual meeting that will be held March 23rd at the Houston Street Ballroom. Tickets for non members that may choose to attend may be purchased for \$10 at the coop office.

FERTILIZER PRICES: We have seen fertilizer wholesale prices rise over the past few months from lows last fall. Nitrogen seems to have leveled off but phosphates and potash continue to rise. There is some concern around the country that many dealers have not yet purchased enough inventory and that shortages of nitrogen may exist late in the spring which in turn will lead to higher prices. After the losses dealers experienced in 2008 many are not purchasing an entire spring's supply until the farmer makes his purchasing decision. I would encourage producers to consider purchasing your fertilizer now to beat price increases that most likely will come later and to help us know how much of which product we will need. When you make your fertilizer purchase, I would also encourage you to forward contract some grain so that you lock in some profits. Our agronomists have a spread sheet to help you analyze your cost of production so you know what profit you can lock in by selling your grain and purchasing inputs. The Coop and producers alike need to be very aware of the risks associated with these very volatile commodity markets and do everything possible limit their risk in doing business.

WATTS BOX
By John Watts

The co-op is pleased to announce that we have arrival of the new 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 become a dealer and offer them 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.