



Central Prairie Co-op

Today's Technology, Yesterday's Values

NEWSLETTER

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Chase Adds Capacity

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LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR SECOND YEAR

JOE SCHAUF, GENERAL MANAGER

We start the year like you, gathering information for year-end accounting purposes and planning for improvements. Not all of our financial data is available at this time, so I can't be specific, but we look to be in a good position. We accomplished a lot during 2014, our first year of the merged organization. At a board retreat in late January, board members reviewed the latest financials and prioritized the wish list, keeping in mind the things they saw on their December facility tour. We appreciate the members' input for the priority list.

The board is working on one-,

weather arrives.

We've repaired and replaced things you may not be able to see, such as conveyors, dust systems, and other equipment, and this will pay off with less downtime when activity picks up. Safety is a huge concern, and we're planning for ongoing, hands-on training that will reduce injuries and improve performance this year.

Mark your calendars to hear more about our first year and our



The board is working on improvement plans to give us a great sense of direction and help us all concentrate on the same goals.

three-, and five-year improvement plans. This will give us a great sense of direction and help us all concentrate on the same goals.

Employees at all the locations have been working on maintenance before we get busier when warmer

plans for the future at our Annual Meeting Monday, May 18 at the Celebration Centre in Lyons. Besides the business meeting, it'll be fun, too, with entertainment from ventriloquist James Wedgewood. I hope to see you there. ☺

PLANNING FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

TONY HEITSCHMIDT, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Meetings, meetings, and more co-op meetings were on the schedule during January and February. Hopefully you attended one you found interesting and learned something to benefit your operation.

Whether you are on a board, or just taking care of your own operation, this seems to be the time of year that plans are made, goals are set, and a strategy is made to achieve them. It is no

different for the board and employees of Central Prairie Co-op. Many hours have been spent evaluating the past year to see what has worked and what needs improvement so we can give our customers the service and products they want, along with trying to become a more efficient co-op. I believe we have seen some very positive changes, and I also know there is more to be done to truly bring a better experience for everyone doing

business with the co-op. We will continue working toward making the changes needed to improve that experience.

As we get ready to enter a very busy springtime, I ask that everyone take the time to be safe. The work we do is very rewarding but also very dangerous, so make safety one of your core values.

Thank you for your business and continued support of Central Prairie Co-op. ☺

IT IS TIME TO APPLY PREVENTION FOR YOUR YARD.
February and March are application times for crabgrass preventer. We have the product you need to get the job done.



GET THE RUMEN RIGHT

VERTON MILLER, FEED DEPARTMENT MANAGER

When writing these articles, it seems hard to find a topic that is not just for dairy or just for beef. Calf rumen development is very important for both beef and dairy in the growth and feed conversion, as well as milk production in replacement heifers.

When calves are born, their rumen is not developed and neither are papillae inside the rumen. It is much the same as a pig or horse. Papillae are the tiny finger-like projects that line the inside of the rumen. They are responsible for absorbing nutrients from their surface area and transferring these nutrients into the bloodstream for energy. If a calf doesn't have well-developed rumen papillae, it will not be able to capture all the nutrients available to it.

When calves are fed rapidly fermentable feed, such as soyhulls and wheat midds, papillae growth has been found to be maximized. When rapidly fermentable feed is fed, butyrate is the main fermentation end product. Butyrate is believed to stimulate papillae growth in the rumen as the primary

substrate for energy to the rumen wall.

Feeding heifers for optimal rumen development is a balancing act. Too much grain without enough forage may cause an overgrowth of rumen papillae, so much so that they stick together and become matted. This also produces rumens with minimal musculature, which have been seen in animals with free choice grain. On the other hand, too much forage without enough grain results in rumens with thick muscle walls and short, sparse papillae.

It was with these things in mind that we developed the Co-op 14 and Calf Starter Pellet with just the right blend of fermentable feeds and starches. This is why I encourage you to set your creep feeders out early. Even though the calf may not eat much, it still helps with future growth. For dairy heifers, rumen development is critical to absorb as much as possible from every bite of feed for maximum production. ☺



FARMERS, TOWN, WILL BENEFIT FROM NEW SHED IN CHASE

MAX MOBLEY, OPERATIONS MANAGER

We're a couple of months ahead of schedule on the Chase bulk storage shed. The 1.1-million-bushel storage shed will have a 20,000-bushel-an-hour elevator leg and conveying system. One key feature is the double-hopper truck pit. Trucks will be able to pull in and dump grain without blocking the highway that runs through town. This will get you back to the field faster. We're looking at farmers spending 10 minutes here instead of requiring an hour per load. The tunnel will have a pressurized, adjustable dust-control system that will increase safety as well as require less maintenance, meaning less downtime. Another key feature is the heavy-duty bucket for the leg. We're expecting it to last 10 years instead of one, plus there will be less maintenance, which, again, means less downtime to inconvenience our customers.

In addition to not blocking the road hundreds of times per month during harvest, the Chase project has other benefits for the town. During construction, we discovered an old drainage pipe that had been buried. We worked things out with the city, and drainage in that part of town will be improved.

One of my other major projects is working with employees

to improve safety. We're developing our manager-led training to build a better, safer work environment. We're striving for no reportable injuries! This is important from the business efficiency side, but it's also important for individual employees so they can stay healthy for their families and communities.

You will be hearing a lot about our maintenance training, because maintenance is related to safety. When our guys have to climb a ladder to make a repair, we want to make sure they have all the tools they need and know what they're doing. That saves time from making multiple trips up and down for proper tools and reduces the chances of an injury occurring in the process.

We're building realistic-looking models of equipment for hazard recognition and basic maintenance training. This hands-on approach will build workers' confidence and reduce downtime during harvest. By being proactive on the maintenance instead of waiting until something goes down, we'll be open more hours, which is important for you and the long-term success of the co-op. ☺



CHASE ADDS CAPACITY

LEE BURGESS, GRAIN DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Our big story—emphasis on BIG—is our effort to increase capacity. The hoop building with 1.2-million-bushel capacity in Chase is making progress, as you can see in the photo. An old flat storage building was torn down to make way for the new structure, so we changed the landscape of the town considerably. We're upgrading aeration in some locations to enable us to take grains at higher moisture. We will be installing grain probes to help speed up the process beginning with the Chase location.

Now is the time of year when we encourage farmers to contact your local elevator to go over your grain accounts. That way, we can make sure there are no corrections that need to be made. We would like to take care of any accounting issues now, rather than later. We encourage producers to sign up for ACH, or automatic deposit, on your grain transactions.

We had a few questions come up about pricing structure. Locations make all the difference. Sterling, for example, was higher on wheat than Claflin. With Bartlett putting a train loader between Great Bend and Ellinwood, the western edge of our territory has a higher price than the eastern. TMA's train loader at Canton has been a boost for milo. It's good for producers, and the lower freight cost is good for the biofuel plant.

Finally, just a reminder that TMA, our marketer, sends out texts three times a day with market updates. Contact me to sign up for that option.

If you have any issues with tickets, operations, or any grain-related concerns at any of our locations, please contact me or Max. We want to make sure we're doing the best we can to keep you happy. ☺



Operations Manager Max Mobley explains how dust will be controlled in the tunnel under the new Chase hoop building. A more powerful motor will move three times the grain, and the belt conveyor system is self-cleaning.



AUDIT BEGINS SOON

DAVID CORNELIUS, CONTROLLER



Staff at all the locations deserve another pat on the back for adjusting to a new accounting system, along with all the other changes during 2014. The books are wrapped up at this point and will undergo auditing soon. The board will be deciding what to pay out in patronage after our first year as a new organization.

If you do business with us, make sure you're a member so you can earn patronage on the business you do with us. Even if you just buy fuel, there are membership benefits. Speaking of fuel, customers can use their co-op card at any of the locations: Sterling, Nickerson, Alden, Bushton, Chase, Claflin, Lorraine, Lyons, Partridge, and Hutchinson. All of the locations, with the exception of Alden, will now take regular credit cards, too, if you want to use that option.

If you're on Facebook, please search for Central Prairie Co-op, and "like" our page. After you like us, click on the small triangle by the thumbs-up to open a drop-down box. Then, click on Get Notifications so you won't miss out on our posts. You may also visit our website at www.cpcoop.us. ☺

CHANGE YOUR FUEL FILTERS AHEAD OF SPRING

GORDON ROTH, FUEL DEPARTMENT MANAGER

As we enter springtime, it's time to think about changing oil and fuel filters in trucks and tractors. We recommend installing new fuel filters before your busy time, regardless of how much you've used them.

Change hydraulic oil, too. The cost of this investment is well worth it, because you don't want all the condensation that developed over the winter to cause damage. In general, we need to look at changing hydraulic oil a lot more often. Your tractors are too important to need an overhaul job because of water in your hydraulics that could have been prevented.

Remember that we make deliveries for oil, grease, and other fluids you may need, so make sure you have enough for the upcoming season. We make bulk oil deliveries on the first business day of the month. But rest assured that if you have an emergency in between, we can make another delivery.

We have bulk fuel delivery available for the Claflin and Lorraine areas, too. We have trucks and manpower to staff routes out that way, and we would love to hear from you.

And keep in mind that we deal in propane. We can make bulk propane deliveries for people in the Hutchinson/Nickerson/Partridge areas, just call for details. We also have tanks available for sale or rent if you need one.

For our Automated Fuel Delivery

customers, this is a good time to buy out the fuel in your tanks if you haven't done so already. Although prices have gone up, we still have a good price available.

We also have a little contract diesel fuel available at a good price. So you still have time if you want to lock a price in. Gasoline contracts are not feasible now, but we do have that good diesel rate. ☺



ELEVATORS HOLD FOOD, NOT JUST GRAIN

BY TED SCHULTZ, TMA COO

It is evident in today's world that consumers want to know that the food they bring home is healthy and safe. While this is important to many consumers, some hear and read this information from so-called experts who know nothing about agriculture.

Due to these perceptions, it becomes increasingly important for the agricultural industry and producers to paint the correct picture. Many people in agriculture are working to make this happen through association presentations, classroom presentations to youth, tours of facilities, and many more one-on-one opportunities.

It's also important that we in agriculture understand that in the eyes of our

consumer, grain is not just grain but food to be consumed by humans. This particular thought is being emphasized by the government in a program called the Food Safety and Modernization Act. The nature of the program is that over time, products such as grain will be tracked from field to table. Consumers are demanding to know where their food comes from. Many products are already meeting these standards. Other products, such as grain, will be phased in over the coming years.

A problem that we have had for years is adulteration of grain. Adulteration is putting anything in or on grain that does not occur naturally. One of the biggest culprits of adulteration is

treated grain, which was supposed to be used for planting. Treated grain left over from planting should never make it to a grain handling system. If delivered to an elevator, dumped into a bin, and caught within the system, treated grain can cause all of the grain in the bin to be impounded. Considering the size of some bins, this can be very costly.

It is very important for all of us in agriculture to be responsible parties, and both live and tell our story to people not involved in food production. ☺



WE'RE READY FOR SPRING SPRAYING

ALLEN SHIVE, AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT MANAGER

It's been maintenance time for us, so we'll be ready for the busy season. We're in the process of adding a fill station and remodeling the NH3 plant at Alden. This will allow us to fill anhydrous tanks faster.

Now is the time to evaluate your wheat fields to see what kinds of weeds are up. Olympus™ and PowerFlex® are good choices for cheat control. We have also been using Beyond® on Clear-field wheat. We have had success using

a spring application in either Gene 1 or Gene 2 wheat. You can use an MSO for the Gene 2 wheat that really enhances herbicide performance. For a winter wheat herbicide program, Finesse® plus MCPE is an economical and reliable residual herbicide program. Rave®, another residual wheat herbicide, is an SU herbicide with dicamba for some of the harder to control winter annuals. For non-residuals, Huskie®, Harmony®, and MCPE plus Sterling® Blue will offer

great performance.

We have several options and different programs that return dollars to the producer. You can stop by any Central Prairie Agronomy location—Sterling, Bushton, or Adam's Corner—for details, and we will help you plan a program that will best fit your operation. We have a staff of five field sales agronomists, and you'll get the same friendly service regardless of your location. ☺





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FEATURED LOCATION: **ALDEN**

DAN GAEDDERT, LOCATION MANAGER



I took over here at the first of this year, after training with Gerald Oberle since June. I hope Gerald is enjoying his retirement. After doing such a great job for 24 years, he deserves some time to do as he pleases.

We have more than 1 million bushels of total storage capacity. Three McPherson tanks hold 200,000 bushels each, 190,000 can go in the main house, and 250,000 bushels more in the annex.

Taking the suggestion from several of our customers, we're in the process of remodeling our office. This includes tearing out an interior wall and installing new counters.

The new layout will make things more efficient for scales, etc. Fresh paint and some updated desks and chairs are also in the works. The remodel will include updating our restroom, which received quite a few comments in recent years!

Another project we're working on is adding a shop back in flat storage. This will allow us to use a wire welder to fabricate parts and do repair work, instead of having to wait for them to be built elsewhere. The result will be improved efficiency for us and less downtime that will affect our customers. ☺

