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Wheat Harvest Update by Darel Anderson

Our area was certainly blessed with a very nice wheat crop, despite a dry month of May. NCKC harvest receipts totaled 2.25 million bushels, which is our 3rd largest harvest behind the 2003 and 1997 receipts, respectfully. Our overall test weight average is approximately #59.0 and protein between 10.5 and 11.0.

Wheat Harvest					
7 Year Average in 000's					
	Dillon	Hope	Navarre	Woodbine	Total
2009	564	742	592	359	2257
2008	566	726	585	293	2170
2007	248	325	259	164	996
2006	521	643	512	342	2018
2005	425	432	417	255	1529
2004	560	564	545	328	1997
2003	631	719	797	398	2545
Total	3515	4151	3707	2139	13512
Avg.	502	593	530	305	1930

Other than a couple minor breakdowns at our Dillon location, harvest did go fairly smooth for us at NCKC. Anytime your facilities get full it is a great thing, but can create some traffic congestion as you attempt to make space.

We were excited and proud to use our new leg and dump pit at Navarre, and happy to get customers unloaded and back to the field quickly. This is a great improvement for our cooperative. Our board continues to be aggressive in improving the assets of your cooperative and I certainly thank them for that. We were also pleased to get our railroad crossing and the change in the traffic flow completed in time for harvest.

I thank our customers and my staff for making our 2009 wheat harvest and spring planting season a success.

Seed Wheat by Dennis Friedli

Hard Red Winter wheat seed comments: The new wheat seed releases for our area this year are Armour & Jackpot. Armour is a release from WestBred/Agseco. Armour is a short, early maturing variety with good straw strength and very good tillering. Other strengths are: powdery mildew resistance and yield potential. Jackpot is a new variety from Agripro. Jackpot is early maturity wheat that is ideally suited for planting late after row crop harvest. Other strengths are: germinates fast and does well planted late.

Hawken has been released for two years. This Agripro variety has good drought tolerance and very good test weights. Hawken is best adapted to Northern Kansas and into Nebraska.

For an early to medium early maturity blend: Shocker, Sante Fe, and Overly will be a good group. For a medium maturity blend: Art, Post Rock, and Fuller would be good. Other seed wheat varieties that produce well in our area that need to be considered to plant are: Jagalene, Jagger, 2137, 2145, and Dominator. Armour and Jackpot seed supplies for fall planting will be limited. All other seed will be in good supply. For more information and booking seed needs contact NCKC.



Bushy Wallflower

Crop Production by Kevin Whitehair

As I begin to write this newsletter, we have just come off a bountiful wheat harvest and received a good rain on July 4th. Not to bad, right? Now the problem is the weeds are growing to fast, I am so thankful that there are problems to solve because that means I have a job. If the weeds were not growing very well do you think the crops would look like they do?

So, the new 40-bushel yield goal is now 60, we achieved that so lets go to 80. I guess my analogy going from 60 to 80 bushel wheat would be like telling a teenager they are going to communicate without a cell phone that would be a little tough.

It's obvious to me that these yields are achievable, and I have proof as the yield data starts to come in. First of all the environment is huge, secondly I think planting time, planting conditions, variety selection, quality of seed and seed treatment are important management factors that we can control.

I want to spend just a minute on seed treatments. There seems to be a correlation between the interest in seed treatments and higher yields. There are many seed treatments that are good on the seed borne diseases such as the smuts and seed borne bunt. If scab or black point is a problem, the wheat should be cleaned and germ tested first. If the germ is good, a seed treatment could improve stand establishment. Barley yellow dwarf is a viral disease and seed treatments will not help with a viral disease. The oat bird cherry aphid is the culprit here. An insecticide will provide 30 days of control of wireworms, Hessian fly, and fall aphids. There is nothing on the market for timely seeding and good firm seedbed.

Switching gears but staying on the same crop, what about weed control in the wheat? Getting to be more of a challenge? I think most of you can say, yes. Why is that? Finesse has worked so well! Well, haven't you heard that all good things usually come to an end? Bushy wallflower has adapted to finesse, especially when you stay in wheat to long. My management change on this is going to be more applications of chemical in the fall and spring. We still may use some

glean or finesse for henbit and buckwheat, but we may just be changing our timing on doing so. Huskie has done extremely well on the resistant bushy wallflower. I think the best thing we can do for weed control is having good stand establishment and ground cover. This is very important as the crop develops.

I apologize for not talking about a lot of products specifically, just like normal. I want to get you thinking about some things that we can control. As always we appreciate your business and look forward to partnering in more success in the future.



Crop Production by Brian Nickel

Spring planting is behind us now and with the recent rains the crops are looking good at this time. It is already time to be looking at your varieties and cropping plans for next year. Croplan Genetics has more than 125 Answer Plots in the US with two of them at our backdoor at Moundridge and Wamego. At these Answer Plots you will find information on corn, soybeans, covercrops, seed treatments, fertility, and chemicals. The plots are hands on, so you can go dig up roots or pull ears to see results yourself. The growers that have attended these say it's well worth their time and want to go again.

There will be another grower tour in August the week of the 17th. If you would be interested in attending give Doug or myself a call. If that week won't work for you we can schedule another time to go.

With wheat harvest over and the good rains that many received, the stubble fields will be greening up with volunteer wheat. Many of the fields have been or will be sprayed in July. It is important to remember at the end of August or early September we will need to be spraying these fields again for volunteer wheat to reduce the risk for wheat streak mosaic, Hessian fly, and many other

disease or insect problems. We need to be doing this even if you are going to burn the stubble because it can help out on insect pressure and also it burns better leaving a cleaner and more uniform seedbed for drilling your wheat in October. If you have questions give Kevin, Doug or myself and call.

Hessian Fly



Straw Bale Preparation

by Derek Schrader

Ammoniating wheat straw to utilize as a roughage source in beef cattle is not a new practice. In the last few weeks I have fielded several questions on this topic and decided to put a few thoughts together.

For best results the straw should be baled as soon as possible after the wheat is harvested, the straw should have 10-15% moisture content. The site of the “pile” should be relatively flat, but well drained so the moisture doesn’t accumulate. A site that is somewhat protected from prevailing winds is ideal and will aide in keeping the pile covered. The average weight of the bales needs to be determined, and the anhydrous ammonia applied at 3%, or 60 pounds per ton of dry straw. A pyramid stack of three bales high with three bales at the base works the best. A single sheet of 6-8 mil black plastic should be used to cover the stack with the excess plastic on the edges being covered with dirt to seal the pile. Be sure to patch all holes and monitor the plastic to ensure that the pile remains sealed.

Apply the ammonia through a hose from the tank near the center of the pile. Apply the ammonia slowly, no more than 30 pounds of ammonia per minute, this will minimize stretching of the plastic. Applying ammonia during the cooler evening and morning hours of the day will reduce stretching of the plastic as well. At temperatures of 80 degrees or above, the pile should be sealed for at least two weeks to insure the ammonization process is complete. The pile should be covered until a few days before feeding. Ammoniated straw attracts moisture and is more susceptible to spoilage than untreated straw.

The ammoniated straw should be tested for its nutrient content. The protein content, digestibility, and palatability are all increased by ammoniating the straw. It does however have a low calcium and phosphorus profile and contains no vitamin A. It is also low in energy and protein and requires supplementation regardless of the application.

Ammoniated wheat straw can be a valuable and relatively inexpensive feed source for beef cattle. It does require some attention to detail, during both the ammoniating process and in feeding. Follow all safety precautions when handling anhydrous. Make sure that you are wearing proper clothing and goggles. Adequate water should also be available. If you have questions don’t hesitate to contact me.

Petroleum Comments by Matt Miller

The energy markets have taken a major hit over the past couple of weeks. I’m sure many of you have noticed the 20+ cent drop in prices at the pump. It seems as though many of the traders have finally realized that “less” bad news about our economy is not necessarily good news. The viewed optimism over the rebounding economy is no longer enough to outweigh the simple fundamentals of supply and demand. While it doesn’t seem as though the bottom of the market has been reached yet, the rate at which it is falling is starting to decrease. In

short, we may be seeing prices head slightly lower than they are right now, but I wouldn't bet that we'll be seeing sub \$2 fuel at the pumps in the next couple of months.



I know it's early to start mentioning winter fuel, but just to give everybody a heads up on this year's plan. Unless you call in and specify otherwise, we intend to switch everyone on the RFD system to a winter blend in October. If this is not going to work with your application please call ahead of time and let us know. We will be sending out reminders on this in the future as the time draws closer.

Another reminder is that fuel contracts run through the end of October. Depending on where the markets are in relation to your contract on Nov. 1st, you'll either lose or be billed for any gallons not pulled by this time. There will be no contract extensions. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.



Woodstove Supplies by Gene Kickhaefer

First of all, I would like to thank the employees and all the patrons who made wheat harvest a complete success. Everything ran smoothly. Also, I'm very thankful for the board of directors for upgrading the east leg. It proved to be very fast, thanks again.

Coming this fall, North Central will be selling wood pellets made by Ozark Hardwood Products. They are clean burning, environmentally safe, and are recyclable energy. The pellets are approximately 1- 1 1/2" long and 1/4" in diameter. They smell pleasant, are clean and smooth. They come in a 40 lb. bag and will be sold by a pallet of 50 or

individual bags. As a guide, one 40 lb. bag will normally heat a 1,500 sq. ft. home for one day. To determine the amount of pellets you will use consider these factors: the size of your home, the outside temperature, the amount of insulation in your home, and the desired amount of heat you prefer. We have been booking orders for August delivery to the Navarre branch. The supplies are limited, so don't hesitate to give us a call. (785-479-2221)

NCKC Announcements

Some of you have already verified your wheat tickets with us, either over the phone or in person, and we appreciate that. If you haven't, we strongly encourage you to do so by August 1st. This will confirm that the correct tickets are on the proper farms for insurance purposes and landowners. This will allow us to divide and average all accounts.

The website at www.nckcoop.com offers patron access which allows you to access your account balance in grain, A/R, print proof of yields or tickets, etc. There are currently 103 patrons utilizing this program.

We are currently exploring an online payment alternative for you that would allow you to pay your NCKC account through our website. Let us know if that would be advantageous or your thoughts on this subject. Please enjoy the new look of our home page and if you would like to see the color version of this newsletter, go to our website and click on newsletters.

NCKC & J & R Anniversaries

July 14 th , 2008	Lucas Hicks
Aug 1 st , 2007	John Wylie
Aug 16 th , 1989	Dave Wendt
Aug 31 st , 2005	Matt Ryff
Sept 8 th , 2007	Eddie Douthit
Sept 13 th , 2004	Sue Lee
Sept 17 th , 2005	Brandi Ericksen
Sept 28 th , 1992	Bill Lee
Oct 13 th , 2008	Brian Nickel
Oct 16 th , 1995	Derek Schrader
Oct 20 th , 2003	A.J. Svoboda

El Niño Report

by Mike Pauley

NOAA scientists recently announced that the El Niño has come back. The El Niño occurs on average every two to five years and typically lasts about 12 months. It is expected to continue developing over the next several months and last through the winter of 2009-10. Not all aspects of the El Niño are negative, on the positive side it can suppress Atlantic Hurricanes, bring beneficial precipitation to the Southwest and less wintry weather across the North.

Some of the negative impacts are damaging winter storms in California and increased storminess across the southern United States.

Well if it brings less winter to the north and increased storms in the south, I don't know where that leaves us in the center, maybe a balmy winter!!!



North Central Kansas Cooperative cordially invites you and your family to attend the "After Harvest Picnic."

Thursday July 23, 2009

6:00 until 8:30

Hope City Park

Serving hamburgers, sausages, baked beans, chips, and drinks!

Bring your lawn chairs!



<u>2009</u>	Rain	Avg.	Month
January	.00	.74	-.74
February	.64	1.60	-.96
March	3.12	2.59	.53
April	6.17	3.35	2.82
May	.56	5.03	-4.47
June	7.85	3.99	3.86
July	3.19	3.30	
August		3.99	
September		3.09	
October		2.92	
November		1.74	
December		.79	
Tot. Year	18.34	17.30	1.04

New 10 year Hope Average on Chart
Readings taken at 7am

Upcoming Events

July 29th – Aug 4th Central KS Free Fair

September 7th Labor Day

September 12th & 13th Hope Fall Festival