

May 2010

NCKC Update **by Darel Anderson**

Approximately 90 members attended our sixteenth annual meeting on February 24th. We were pleased to report net earnings after taxes of \$1,114,286.59 on sales of \$42,834,613.01.

Terry Reiff, Kent Rock and Brian Shippy were elected to serve three-year terms on our board of directors. Doug Diekmann was elected to serve a one-year term. We welcome Brian and Doug to serve our membership as directors for the first time.

We certainly want to **Thank** Dave Baier and Glen Riedy for the many years of service on the board. Dave served a total of 24 years between North Central Kansas Coop and Navarre Farmers Union Coop and Glen served a total of 29 years between North Central Kansas Coop and Farmers Coop Elevator and Supply.

Traffic flow has been good at “Central Station” in White City, since the NCKC purchased the Ingmire Station in January 2010. We offer a variety of products including beverages, food, tobacco, fuels, tires and tubes, oil, and other non-food items.

Some services provided are tire repair, oil changes, replacing batteries, and hydraulic hose repairs. The staff at the Central Station includes Bobbie Barrett, Ciri George, Francis Worrell and Manager John Wylie. They welcome you to come in for those provided services and products.

We are well into another busy spring season of planting and preparing for wheat harvest. The winter months went very fast with the late fall harvest, picking up grain piles, White City expansion and year-end audit. Storage space for the upcoming wheat harvest will be tight, but should be adequate. The biggest issue right now is the demand for our low protein wheat, which is non-existent. This dilemma certainly is reflected in the basis levels throughout the state.

Have a safe spring and thanks for your business.





Germany vs. Kansas by Dennis Friedli

The first two weeks of April I had the opportunity to visit Germany. While on this trip I had the chance to go visit two farms. These farms were located in middle Germany, two and one half hours drive from Frankfurt to the small town of Bad Rodach. This area is rolling hills with mostly broke ground and some tree areas. The climate is much the same as ours.

On the first farm the farmer tilled around 60 hectares which converts to around 148 acres. He also has a small dairy of 22 cows, which he and his family and neighbor hand milk each day. Being a small farmer he also works at a manufacturing plant. His land is planted mainly to hafer (oats) and maize (corn) to produce feed for his livestock.

The next farm I visited was one of the larger farms in the area. The father and son operation owned 125 hectares (308 acres) and had a 75 head dairy in the Colberg County. This dairy had one automated milking machine and the cows rotated thru it 24 hours a day without any person having to be in attendance. It is one of the three milking machines like that in Germany. They also did custom farming for neighbors about the same acres that they had of their own. They had a high moisture baler that wrapped the bales in plastic and baled around 3700, 4 foot bales last year for their own use and for neighbors. Weizen (wheat) was grown on this farm with hafer and maize for feed. They also planted Kohirabi. It is a less known German vegetable that tastes like turnips.

The prices they received for the crops were mostly the same as we receive here. Work on the farms for April was finishing up

the top dressing on the wheat, as it is ready to joint. The oats were around a foot tall. At the end of my stay the planters were very busy planting corn.

As it is here the concerns about the weather, fertilizer, seed, fuel, and other input costs are the topic of conversation. Fuel prices are a main concern for everyone in Germany that uses autos or tractors for transportation. A check of the fuel prices when I left: Super unleaded was \$1.49 euros a liter and diesel was \$1.26 euros a liter. There is 3.785 liters in a gallon. After converting euros to dollars at today's exchange rate the price of unleaded would be \$7.29 a gallon. A gallon of diesel would cost \$6.17. This was a great experience for me and I was grateful for the opportunity to visit these farms.



Crop Production by Kevin Whitehair

Most of you know by now that I usually try to do a catch all what is happening in the Agronomy Department. It has been an extremely busy time for the last several months. At one time I was wondering what I was going to do with all the anhydrous ammonia contracted because it was to wet to apply. Well, I quickly realized how much ammonia you can move in a short amount of time. We moved substantially more than any other spring since I've been at NCKC. I can assure you that we didn't pump anhydrous from eight to five, five days a week. From there we went to an unbelievably nice corn-planting season. I know I heard several comments that the corn went into the ground as well as it has for a couple of years.

On to alfalfa weevil, why didn't it work? What I know today is there is no confirmed resistance at this time and the levels of weevils were higher than in previous years. But it has always worked!! Believe you me I know that, why do you think we are still doing the same thing? Because it worked! I will not think this year was a fluke next year. **We will** have to manage the alfalfa weevil treatments differently in the future. I plan to have an informational meeting to address this during the winter months.

As we race towards another wheat harvest, will the rust win or the wheat? Isn't this a question we ask ourselves every year? I think the wheat has a pretty nice color, but we all know that can change very quickly. There is confirmed stripe rust and leaf rust in the area. Levels are low and for the most part the flag leaves look pretty good. We have a long way to go, as the wheat will be flowering by the time you get this newsletter. The fungicide window will be over as well. Moisture and cool temperatures will be on everyone's mind the next 30 to 40 days. I am hopeful that Mother Nature blesses us with a bountiful harvest.

What about seed treatments on soybeans? There will be three questions that we will ask you, do you want inoculant, fungicide and insecticide. We have the capability to match whatever you want. More and more guys are applying the insecticide as well as the inoculant and fungicide. What we are really after here is the bean leaf beetle that feeds on the beans early, this adds about six dollars per unit. You guys can do the math, but it looks like a very good investment to protect your stand and promote good early season growth.

As always, we appreciate your business and take much pride in your success. As you know it's not getting easier, production is filled with change and challenges. We should all be thankful that we could wake up to a challenge or a problem, because that means we have an opportunity to make a difference.



Crop Production by Brian Nickel

With corn planting finished up and soybean/milo planting going on, we will soon be spraying to clean up the fields. I would like to talk a little about some products we use to help increase our control. In corn we like to tank mix some form of dicamba when possible. If the corn is under 10 inches Sterling Blue (Clarity) at 4 oz/acre is a good option. Once the corn is taller than that we like to switch to Status, which is Banvel with a safener in it that is easier on the corn. In soybeans we can tank mix Resource, which is very good on velvetleaf. We will also be running Superb in all tank mixes with Roundup. Superb is a corn based crop oil that helps get more Roundup in the plant much faster. If you haven't been using this product I would encourage you to look at it, as it doesn't add much cost for the increased control you will see.

The milo fields will still remain the problem for post emerge. We were hoping to get Huskie labeled this year to help, but it doesn't look like it will happen, so we will keep using the different mixes like years past. If you have any questions give Kevin or I a call.

This summer we will be taking growers to Answer Plot events looking at the latest in variety, traits, seed treatments, and adjuvants. We also have two corn plots and will have two bean plots on area farmer's fields. If you would like to attend the Answer Plot or take a walk in one of our plots this summer give Doug or I a call.

Crop Production by Doug Dillon

Spring planting is moving along as corn planting is all but wrapped up. Some early planting of beans and milo has started. If you are in need of our planting and drilling services, please come in or call so we can get your maps and order in to help get your crop

planted efficiently. As of now we have a good supply of seed for your spring planting needs. It would be best to order seed to make sure to get the variety you want.



Cattle Parasites by Derek Schrader

With most of the cattle worked, and turned out to pasture now is not the time to take a “Out of site, Out of mind” approach to cattle management. Sure they are feeding themselves, hauling their own manure and hopefully staying inside the pasture fence. Don’t forget, however that there are PARASITES, both internal and external, that are already at work, looking to chip away at cattle performance and ultimately your bottom line.

Horn flies are a particular problem in stocker cattle, increased stress, reduced grazing time and of course blood loss. Studies show that Horn flies can reduce stocker gains by 14%. Tick infestations are also becoming more common. I have heard reports of many cattle being treated in the last 3 weeks. While not as common as Horn flies, they can be tremendous performance robbers and can cause death in young calves! There are many control options to combat these pests. Insecticide ear tags, sprays, pour-ons, back rubbers, and dust bags to name a few. An oral larvicide like ALTOSID is an excellent product to use on Horn flies!

Internal parasites are also BIG profit robbers. Infected cattle have higher maintenance requirements, reduced appetite and compromised immune systems. A summary of 17 different trails in 9 states showed an average increase in stocker grazing gains of over 35 lbs. when animals were strategically de-wormed during the grazing season.

Please contact me for any assistance you may need in.



Petroleum Comments by Matt Miller

Once again spring is here and with it higher fuel prices. The market has progressed steadily higher over the past couple of months driven by promising signs of economic recovery. For those of you concerned with 3-dollar gas prices at the pump that time may be here sooner rather than later. While the price for a gallon of gas may hit and go beyond 3 dollars, it’s not likely that the market will be able to sustain any kind of a rally over that benchmark for any extended period. The reason being is 3 dollars is a huge psychological barrier to break as people and traders alike will start asking themselves if the economy can really sustain those price levels. At this point I’m not sure they can.

On that note, I’ve taken several phone calls over the past few days regarding whether we are still offering contracts. To answer that question, yes, we are still offering contracts for the summer months, but they are substantially higher then when they first were offered back in February. To answer another commonly asked question, no, you are not the only one who did not contract. Talking with other Coops it seems as though “statewide” we only contracted about 10-15% of what was done a year ago. Many Coops chose not to offer any contracts based on lack of interest. But, for those of you who would sleep better knowing you’ve got a percentage of your needs covered in case the market jumps a dollar give me a call and we can discuss your options.

As we approach a busier season for our delivery trucks, please attempt to give us as much notice as possible on deliveries. There are times when our drivers get backed

up and cannot be there within a day or 2. The more notice you give us allows us to more efficiently route the trucks. As always if you have any questions don't hesitate to call.

Weather Forecast **by Mike Pauley**

	Rain	Avg.	Month
January	.31	.74	-.43
February	.39	1.60	-1.21
March	2.20	2.59	-.39
April	3.62	3.35	.27
May		5.03	
June		3.99	
July		3.30	
August		3.99	
September		3.09	
October		2.92	
November		1.74	
December		.79	
Tot. Year	6.52	8.28	-1.76

Well at this time last year we were 1.65" ahead, with April being almost 3.00" ahead of average. So April this year seemed wet, but not as bad as last year, so we can get some planting done.

The March addition of the Progressive Farmer had some interesting comments on the 2010 weather. They said the general trend in the main U.S. crop areas this spring will be cool and wet rather than warm and dry. El Niño reached it peak intensity in late December through early January, and likely will continue to diminish during the spring.

As we go through the summer, the post El Niño pattern promises to bring a variable rain pattern to the central U.S., with temperatures staying mild. They also say that 2010 is shaping up to be a repeat of the 2008 and 2009, which were the cool conditions that are favorable to crop production. I guess this could be another great fall crop potential if everything turns out like they think!!



NCKC News

North Central Kansas Coop recently donated \$1,000.00 to the renovation campaign of the Co-op Cottage at Rock Springs 4-H Center in the Flint Hills south of Junction City.

The Cottage was established in 1959 and has provided lodging for thousands of youth attending camps and conferences. Rock Springs serves all 105 counties in the state and is the largest privately funded and operated 4-H center in the nation, serving more than 20,000 quests annually.

Many Kansas Coop entities have pledged their support to this \$250,000.00 project.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| May 15 th | Armed Forces Day |
| May 30 th | Memorial Day |
| June 20 th | Father's Day |
| June 21 st | Summer Begins |
| July 4 th | Independence Day |

NCKC & J & R Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| May 15, 1991 | Darel Anderson |
| May 15, 1996 | Gene Kickhaefer |
| May 19, 1983 | Jim Schultz |
| May 27, 2003 | Zach Hicks |
| June 1, 1982 | Doug Dillon |
| June 1, 1982 | Dennis Friedli |
| June 29, 1987 | Deb Lorson |
| July 14, 2008 | Lucas Hicks |
| August 1, 2007 | John Wylie |
| August 16, 1989 | Dave Wendt |
| August 31, 2005 | Matt Ryff |