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The unprecedented daily market price fluctuations continued in a big way this week. Early in the week prices were under a lot of pressure, only to close the week on a record \$10.75 per barrel move higher in crude oil in one day. With a weaker dollar, unrest in the Middle East, and large amounts of money flow into commodity speculation accounts, crude oil seems to be on a mission to \$150.00 per barrel in the near future. Although wild price swings seem to be the norm, NCKC will do their best to provide quality products at a competitive price.

Feed Notes by Derek Schrader

There is no doubt that the recent rains have been a blessing to the row crops and especially the wheat crop. There are noticeably more bales of alfalfa in the fields and the brome crop looks excellent. After several years of lower forage yields, the producers I have visited with are truly excited about harvesting hay.

There is one concern however that looms in all our minds. "What are these feed commodities and feed grains going to be worth this fall and winter?" That is a great question and I honestly don't believe that anyone knows. The volatility in the markets has removed all credibility in the past history and trends that we have used to manage risk in the past. The key work in all of this is to manage risk. The use of options and forward contracts can help you accomplish this goal. In the past few years the interest in contracting Corn Gluten and/or Corn DDG for use in the winter months has exploded.

I have begun compiling the usage history on these products and will have the ability to share with you the exact amounts of these by-products that you have fed. While it will be nearly impossible to pick the bottom on these feed ingredients, my hope is that we can minimize the bounces. Since the feed value of these by-products can be compared directly in relation to the feed value of corn and milo, we can utilize the current and "new crop" bids of those grains to establish a dollar value of the by-products. The focus should not be picking the high or low price. The focus should be finding the best value in relation to the cash grain bid. When and if a commitment is made to contract the CBOT can then be used to protect that decision.

The importance of sampling your feedstuffs and accurate ration formulation will be extremely high again this fall and winter. These tools are very valuable in securing consistent performance and

Manager's Viewpoint by Darel Anderson

I'm already tired of holding my breath every time a dark cloud appears in the sky and wheat harvest is still three weeks away. At writing, we missed the brunt of severe storms and our crop looks excellent. All of us need a good harvest.

Our staff is very excited and will be well prepared to handle a large crop. We will work hard to get your trucks unloaded quickly, grade your wheat fairly, and offer a competitive bid.

After approximately thirty-seven years of service to the Navarre Farmers Union Coop and North Central Kansas Coop, Greg Stroda has decided to retire. Greg has battled through three surgeries on his neck in the past eighteen months and is still having a lot of mobility and pain issues.

Greg has served NCKC since 1994 as location manager at Navarre and petroleum department manager. We certainly will all miss Greg's commentary in our newsletter and knowledge on all the petroleum products and markets. He worked hard over the years to get the best price possible for our customers and we thank him for that.

We all wish Greg the very best in his recovery and retirement.

Gene Kickhaefer has been promoted to the Navarre location manager. Gene has been with NCKC for approximately twelve years and has served as operations manager the past several years.

Petroleum Comments

At this time we are handling the petroleum department responsibilities as a team effort. Please continue to contact Gene, Dawn, and Guy at the Navarre branch with orders, pricing, or questions.

essential in the profitability of your feeding program. I am committed to providing you a high level of service and look forward to earning your business again this fall.

Crop Production by Kevin Whitehair

As we approach wheat harvest, wheat stubble treatments will not be far behind. We do want a little regrowth after harvest, but little is the key word here. If you let everything seed out such as kochia and pigweed, it will cause you many years of grief. Besides, the earlier you spray could save you a little money. As weeds mature, 2,4-d will be less effective, especially into flowering and seeding stages. If you have any questions, please call Eric or myself.

With fertilizer rising to unprecedented numbers, it always comes up as a topic of discussion and question. I am going to assume for the sake of this discussion that we are all going for a maximum economic yield. First of all you have to answer some questions. What is your yield goal, price per pound of N, and your market price? O.K., do you have those answered? This isn't easy and I think the toughest one of the three is the yield goal. You might ask why? This is the foundation for everything you do, 10 bushels doesn't sound like much but at \$5 net profit per acre? The other two variables are easy, buy low and sell high. Below is a table to illustrate the change in nitrogen recommendation based on different crop prices at 60-bushel yield goal and 60-cent nitrogen.

	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
N-Cost .60/#	96	107	112	115

Dhuyvetter, Kastems KSU

It's always amazing to me to see these charts in black and white, only 8 pounds difference in recommended nitrogen from \$10.00/bu. wheat to \$6.00/bu. wheat.

Just another variable to think about is the phosphate. This one is easier to manage than nitrogen because it's more of a long-term management plan versus nitrogen. After saying that, your nitrogen efficiency is only as good as your phosphate levels. The key is knowing your level and applying phosphate in the most efficient way using the amounts that doesn't cut yields. I know some folks are using crop removal rates by crop which are as follows:

	Wheat	Corn	Milo	Soybeans
<u>P-Removal</u>	<u>.50#/bu.</u>	<u>.33#/bu.</u>	<u>.40#/bu.</u>	<u>.80#/bu.</u>

In closing, I would be very careful thinking we cannot afford fertilizer. For more information on where I got some of my information or numbers please call.

By Doug Dillon

As planting season is rolling along I thought I would mention a few items as we close out planting season. Seed companies are looking to get seed picked up, so if you have full bags of corn to return, please do as soon as possible. Some of our seed companies we deal with have limited returns on soybeans this year, so if you have booked or prepay seed that you won't be using please let me or Eric know A.S.A.P. If your bean seed returns are to high we will have to charge for returns, so it is in your best interest to keep your returns low.

If anyone is interested in having NCKC double crop plant or drill, please let Kevin, Eric, or Doug know, so we can get your acres planted as timely as possible. Have a safe harvest!

By Eric Hanson

As planting season begins to wind down, it is a good opportunity to evaluate stands. Remember to not only look at population, but also spacing, skips, and doubles. When a planter is used, I like to count 1/1000 of an acre. (22 plants=22,000 plants per acre) 1/1000 of a 30" row is 17.47 feet and 1/1000 of a 15" row is 35 feet.

When a drill is used, I count plants/square foot and multiply by 43,560 to get plants per acre.

1 foot of row on 7.5" drill spacing=1.4 sq. feet
 1 foot of row on 10" drill spacing=1.2 sq. feet
 e.g. 2 plants per foot of row in 7.5" drill spacing=2.8 plants per sq. foot---2.8 plants x 43,650=121,968 plants per acre.

Replant decisions need to be made on a field-by-field basis. Just remember that an even stand can be more important than plants per acre. In corn, some hybrids have good ear flex that can compensate for a thinner stand. Soybeans can compensate for a thinner stand, although plant type, row spacing, and planting date should also be considered. Milo can compensate for thinner populations by tillering. A lot of big skips are most detrimental to a final yield, although soybeans and milo do a good job of compensating for skips up to 2 feet long.

There will be several opportunities to learn more about placing the right genetics in the right field with the right management. This year we have several of our own plots out with access to a variety of other industry plots. Our own plots include: Grain Corn, Silage Corn, Soybean, and Milo. A big

Thank You to all of our producers who participated in those plots this year. We also have access to several plots thanks to our seed partners Agripro, Asgrow/Dekalb, and Croplan Genetics. In these plots we cannot only look at different hybrids/varieties, but also look at a variety of trials from new herbicides to fungicides to management and timing trials. Contact Doug and I for a guided walk through of any of the plots.

This year we sprayed about 12,000 acres of wheat with fungicide to prevent diseases, and promote better plant health. This is looking more and more like it will be part of our normal management practices in the future on at least a percentage of our fields. We left some check strips and will be there with the weight wagon to evaluate the return on that investment. Remember to watch our new NCKC Web site for Agronomy updates and results as they come in.

The Dillon Connection by Dennis Friedli

With some small changes being made with Land O Lakes & Purina Mills feeds, I would like to bring you up to speed on some product name changes. The PMI Nutrition products name changes will affect our pet products, equine feeds, poultry feeds, and most all livestock companion animal products. Our Honor pet food will carry the Red Flannel Brand. The horse feeds will have the Equine Merit label and the Country Flock poultry feeds will be the Home Grown labels. NCKC will be placing these new name products at our locations as our supply of the old label products are sold.

With the 2008 wheat harvest fast approaching I would remind everyone to clean the truck and combine of any foreign material that may have accumulated this past winter. Also any left over old wheat you may be thinking of hauling in, please do so before the new crop harvest starts.

Web Site Update by Mike Pauley

If you haven't been to the NCKC Web site (www.nckcoop.com) for a while, you need to check it out. We have recently upgraded the site using DTN as our provider. There are numerous changes in the new site, including delayed quotes, DTN weather, cash bids on NCKC grain, news, and many others. On the very top of the home page are tabs that we control the content of. For instance, there is a tab for classified ads that lets you submit an ad to post on the Web site for up to thirty days.

Also **brand new** on the site is a tab that takes you to Patron Access. We are very excited to offer

this to our patrons to gain access to their account information with NCKC. You will be able to access you're A/R account information and even reprint invoices, look at your prepaid balances and print volume statements. With harvest fast approaching, you will also have the ability to check and reprint your scale tickets, print a proof of yield, and check grain balances. So get on our new Web site and get signed up for Patron Access and give it a try, we think you will like it!