

COOPERATIVE PRODUCERS [INSIGHTS]

GRAIN • AGRONOMY • ENERGY • FEED



SPRING 2023

Vision

To be the best solutions provider growing partnerships to achieve employee and customer success.

Mission

To serve our customers by providing products, solutions, and services that enhance mutual success.

Core Values

Integrity

We are accountable to the highest ethical standards in all our relationships, commitments, and actions. We build trust through honesty and consistency in all the work we do.

Employees

We value our employees and are committed to their professional development, engagement, and success. We recruit and retain the best people to continually deliver value.

Safety

We are committed to a proactive safety culture which provides a safe work environment to protect our employees and the well-being of their families. We will reinforce a safety-first mindset every day.

Partnerships

We are dedicated to delivering value to our customers by growing partnerships through agriculture for mutual long-term success.

Innovation

We deliver value by bringing cutting edge solutions to meet the future needs of our customers.

Success

We are committed to achieving long-term financial success to meet the needs of our customers. We embrace a winning culture by living our core values every day.

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chief Executive Officer: Gary Brandt
Chief Financial Officer: Rick Ackerman
Vice President of Operations: Jerry Bahe
Vice President of Grain: Justin Yoesel
Vice President of Agronomy: Mike Battin
Vice President of Energy: Larry Ehrman
Vice President of Human Resources: Sarah Ayres
Vice President of Health and Safety: Doran Burmood

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Loschen - Chairman	Jason Hupf
Brent Woodman - Vice Chairman	Lynn Lisius
Jerrad Stroh - Secretary	Lyle Mertens
Phil Askey	Mark Miller
Brian Bish	Clark Nelson
Darrel Buschkoetter	Zach Herz
Jerry Guthrie	Jon Schriener

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Erin Anderson, Advertising Manager
Katie Griess, Advertising and Media Specialist

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Gary Brandt, CEO



Politics seem to have become a necessary evil. Has what was once negotiation and compromise become hard lines and confirmation bias? I am not a scholar of political science, however, I am concerned about the ability of our elected bodies to address the mundane “nuts and bolts” laws and rule updates that we all need to keep pace with the changes in the world. A few examples would be H-2A immigration for farm labor as defined in the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, the new farm bill, and State and Federal budgets that address debt. Maybe my mistake is thinking these are mundane changes and solutions. These discussions and decisions offer a place to stand and get attention for those who participate in the debate and look to re-election.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act includes language that would make cooperatives definitely eligible for immigration labor via the H-2A program. After being pushed out of the program bureaucratically for three years, CPI was recently allowed to participate again. We are now hosting eight H-2A workers. The labor shortage in Nebraska is still making it hard to fill all our open positions and these additional workers will help make us a better supplier to your farm this spring. CPI has spoken to our representatives in DC and asked for this bill to be supported. So far it appears the larger border security debates are stopping the bill from advancing.

The new farm bill is a chance for all of us to ask our elected representatives to communicate their plans to get action on the bill. With 82% of the farm bill spent on nutrition and the second largest part crop insurance, we rural states will struggle to get our voices heard. The trend of less rural representation compared to urban representation continues and only our contact with elected officials will make a difference. CPI is a member of the Nebraska Cooperative Council and we utilize their contacts and plans to make sure your co-op’s voice is heard.

The process of change, especially political change, can be frustrating and take much longer than it should. Farmers are independent folks who make the best decisions quickly and carry out those decisions right away. Your co-op tries to do the same although we don’t move as fast as you. Please stay engaged in your local and national political system. They people elected to represent you want to hear, need to hear, your opinions on the changes that matter to you. Thanks for supporting the process of democracy and thank you for your business.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Brandt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page, overlapping a decorative graphic of overlapping yellow and green shapes.

EMPLOYEES RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS

The following employees received an award for their years of service at CPI's Employee Retreat.

5 Years

Haley Bankson	Grain Origination
Trevor Knecht	Wood River
Michael Delka	Hastings Liquid Plant
James Houck	Campbell
Jake Zoucha	Tires Sales Rep
James Swanson	Transportation
Roper Scoville	Funk Station
Nicolas Valderaz	Hastings Corporate

10 Years

Devin Lewis	Juniata Station
Todd DeVries	Hastings Corporate
Tyler Ostrander	Campbell
James Klatt	Trumbull Tire
Chris Powell	Kenesaw
Erin Anderson	Hastings Corporate
Sabrina Covey	Grain Origination
Shelby Pahl	Nelson
Pat Weinman	Juniata Fuel

15 Years

Kym Rush	Minden
Randy Vanlaningham	Sales Agronomist
Darin Barnes	Ruskin
Travis Schnell	Hastings
Ron Pohl	Hayland

20 Years

Bob Matthies	CPI Premier Stops
Ed Forkner	Transportation
Jeff Consbruck	Sales Agronomist

25 Years

Julie Bartels	Ragan
Randy Dibbern	Kenesaw
Mark Randall	Ragan

2023-2024 NCCEF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation (NCCEF) will provide 9 scholarships totaling \$20,100 for the 2023/24 academic year to students at UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), the NCTA at Curtis, and UNK. The NCCEF scholarship program includes:



(5) \$2,500 scholarships at UNL in honor of Michael S. Turner—one to a freshman and the balance to upperclassmen—majoring in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics

(1) \$2,500 scholarship at UNL in honor of Robert C. Andersen to an upperclassman majoring in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics

(2) \$1,300 scholarships at NCTA in honor of Michael S. Turner to students majoring in Agribusiness or Ag Production Systems

(1) \$2,500 scholarship at UNK in honor of Michael S. Turner to an upperclassman student majoring in Agribusiness

Complete an online application form and submit it electronically to UNL, NCTA, or UNK by April 15, 2023. The application can be found on www.nebr.coop/foundation/scholarships

RECOGNIZING SAFETY LEADERS

Every year the CPI Safety Team recognizes employees and locations who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to safety through their practices and procedures.

Rising Star Awards

Recognizes employees that do not compromise safety or integrity for a quick solution, but show leadership doing the job safely.



Andy Klein
Area Manager



Rod Urbauer
Professional Driver
CPI Transportation



Shelby Pahl
Location Manager
@ Nelson



Noah Mitchell
Manager Trainee
@ Giltner



Tim Araujo
Location Manager
@ Funk



Jeremy Rice
Assistant Location
Manager @ Campbell



Mike Hall
Fleet Coordinator



Eric Brown
Fuel Delivery Driver
@ Red Cloud



Todd Sell
Tire Truck Specialist
@ Trumbull



Jason Funk
Grain & Agronomy
Lead @ Hastings

Excellence in Safety Location Awards

Recognizes locations that have the highest level of regard for honesty and integrity in their commitment to safety.



Red Cloud Station



Minden



Ruskin



Ragan



Franklin Premier Stop



SAVE THE DATE

Customer Golf Scramble

@ Lochland Country Club - Hastings



MONDAY, JULY 24th

- More info coming soon -

Hole prizes, awards, & more!

2023 MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY

CPI is once again partnering with CoBank and the Land O'Lakes Foundation to provide our local communities with funds to support local projects. The CoBank Sharing Success Matching Grant Program and the Land O'Lakes Foundation Member Co-op Match Program match the cash donations of member cooperatives.

These matching program funds are awarded to a wide variety of eligible local projects undertaken by nonprofit organizations. Grants are restricted to organizations with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CPI recommends local fire departments and first responders take advantage of these generous programs.

The matching funds request form is available on the CPI website. The deadline to submit your request for consideration of the 2023 matching funds is June 30th. All matching fund requests received after this date will not be considered for this year's matching funds. You may email completed request forms to donations@cpicoop.com or send them to the Hastings Corporate Office; Attn: Katie Griess.

All applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of our final decision by September 1st.



GRAIN DIVISION UPDATE

Justin Yoesel, Vice President of Grain



I never thought I would say this, but I was glad to use my snow blower this winter after not having to last year. The lack of soil moisture this past harvest was very evident. It's amazing how extreme the weather was last year between the cold spring, hail, wind, and drought. Maybe we are lucky for what we did grow, even though it sure was a disappointment. Harvest of 2021 was by far a record for CPI. Harvest of 2022 on the other hand, was the smallest harvest CPI has handled since 2014. With El Nino forecasted for this year, hopefully we are due for a normal weather season.

This past year has been all about extremes for not only weather, but the grain market as well. To say we were lucky with our drought in south central Nebraska sounds odd, but it was significantly more extreme in Western Nebraska and Western Kansas. As you can see below, the drought monitor was rated "Extreme Drought" or "Exceptional Drought" in those areas. With that, we saw corn basis soar this fall which amounted to historic basis levels at harvest. On top of that, we saw futures and basis levels crumble from early December through March. A big reason for this is the record corn crop in Illinois had found its way to Western Kansas via rail. The old adage "high prices, fix high prices" rings true.

During the month of March, we have seen quite a few corn sales to China, but the financial market is a bit of a mess with all the issues starting with Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. The banking crisis from 2008 is still fresh on everyone's mind and weighing

down markets across the globe. Grain is still extremely tight in many areas of the US and around the world, so the story is far from over. We are also looking at several feet of snow in many areas of the Dakotas and Minnesota which could turn into prevent plant. I can't predict what will happen this coming year, but what I can predict is, expect another year of volatility. Things to keep an eye on for the next few months include, planting progress/delays, all things China, and the financial markets.

CPI is already working to gear up for the next harvest. The low volume we received at last year's harvest was rather disappointing. On the bright side, this will allow us to empty out all of our elevators, pick up all our piles, and give us a chance for a lot of maintenance that has been stacking up. On top of all of that, we can spend a lot of time focusing on our upcoming projects. CPI announced "Project 614" back in December. This will be a brand-new elevator located between Harvard and Saronville, one mile north of the Hwy 6 and Hwy 14 intersection. This is the first new elevator CPI has built on its own in decades. This will start out as a truck house, but we have enough room to hopefully grow into a shuttle facility in the future.

We have decided to name the site Lewis, NE as it is located in the

Lewis township. This site will be a 3 million bushel building with the ability to take both corn and beans along with several 1 million bushel piles.

We finished our 2 million bushel building in Ragan this past harvest and we also announced another 2 million bushel grain building in Ruskin. CPI will be adding additional grain piles at eight different locations this harvest. Included with these piles, we will be adding a new soybean pile at our Wood River agronomy site to be able to provide a harvest option for our Wood River patrons. Across all of these locations, CPI will have added almost 14 million bushels of space! We are all very excited for the projects and I am confident CPI will do everything they can to get you through our facilities and back to the field.

As planting season begins, please keep an eye on the grain markets. When farmers turn to the fields, the ethanol plants and bean plants often pop up needing grain. In this volatile market it can be there one day and gone the next. If you have any questions on any of the projects, please feel free to reach out to myself, your local originator, or the merchandising staff. We would be happy to share details with you and wish you all a safe and successful spring season.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

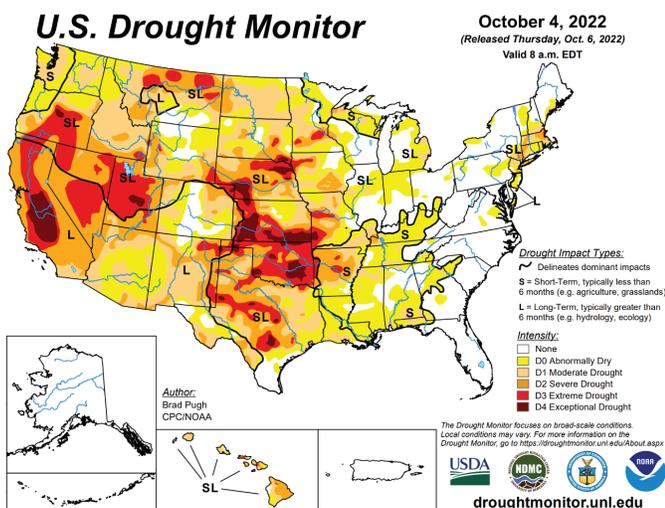
Patricia Beard, Grain Merchandiser



One thing I enjoy about grain merchandising is the uncertainty that comes with each crop year. No two years are the same and there is usually an unexpected market influence that no one saw coming. The 2022-2023 grain marketing year will be what gets referenced for many years to come. Two of the biggest market influencers this year have been the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the severe drought that was centered over southwest Kansas.

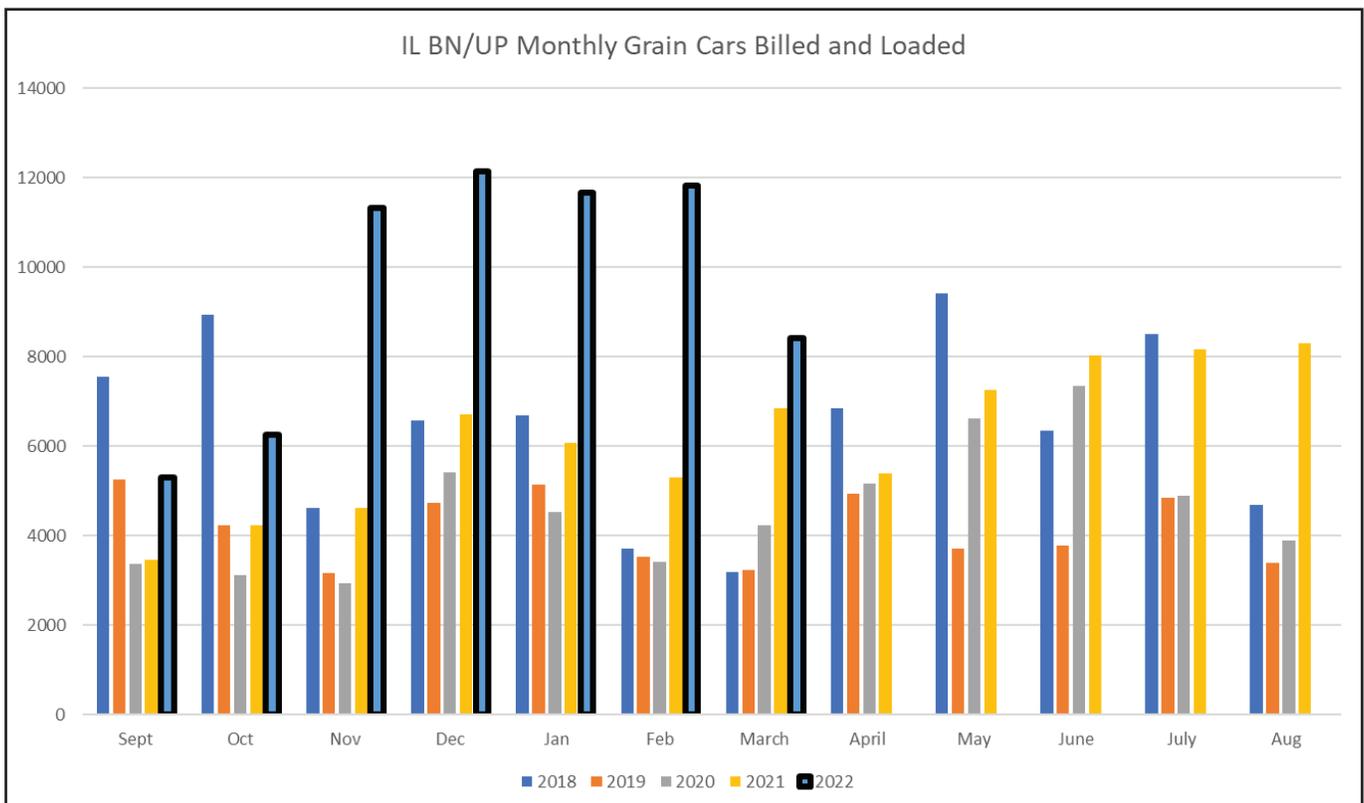
A little over a year ago, Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine. Ukraine is known as the breadbasket of Europe for good reason. It is one of the most highly cultivated countries in the world. Almost 60 percent of Ukraine's land is used to grow crops. In comparison, less than 20 percent of US land is farmed. This black swan event caused a significant futures rally. Market analysts initially predicted severe production and export reductions. The July '22 NATO brokered an agreement between Russia and Ukraine to allow exports to resume through Black Sea ports. Production and exports far exceeded the initial estimates. As the conflict enters the second year, the potential remains to see significant implications for world commodity markets. The initial emotional reaction has calmed, but it seems to be far from over.

The severe drought we experienced last summer had a major impact on our harvest receipts and post-harvest grain flows. Between



the drought and widespread crop damage caused by multiple severe storms, harvest receipts were the lowest in many years. The worst drought conditions were centered over southwest Kansas and western Nebraska. Even irrigated yields were impacted by the combination of high temperatures and lack of moisture from Mother Nature.

Feedlots and ethanol plants in southwest Kansas started coming after south central Nebraska corn early last summer. Basis levels continued to climb throughout the summer, fell, and then peaked in mid-December. The majority of our corn has moved into the truck market. Our rail corn shipments are down over 80 percent from this time last year. The flow of western corn has been turned upside down and the large Illinois crop has found its way into corn-deficient areas. Below is a chart from Advance Trading Inc. that gives a good visual of the number of trains shipped from Illinois this year.



As we look forward to the 2023-2024 marketing year, what will be the unexpected market influences? Last year's events, such as COVID and the trade war with China, were bullish and caused major price declines. The best way to protect yourself against a bearish market influence is to have a solid risk management plan in place. The plan should include knowing costs and breakeven prices, assessing your operations tolerance to be able to weather a downturn in prices, and developing and executing a marketing plan.

The USDA will release March planting intentions which will give us our first estimate of the new crop balance sheet. For many years, the biggest crop we see is the one that hasn't been planted yet. Seasonally we are entering the time of year that we often see market rallies. The best way to take advantage of price rallies is to have price targets and working offers. Please contact your local originator or the Hastings merchandising office for any of your grain marketing needs.

HAVE A PLAN & STICK TO IT

Denise Kaps, Grain Originator



Over the past few years we have seen extreme volatility in the commodity market. For example, May '22 corn futures went from \$6.545 on Feb 15, 2022 to \$8.27 on April 29, 2022. This was an increase of \$1.725 a bushel. That same year, December '23 corn futures price had a \$1.18 swing to the downside in less than a month, the December board was trading at \$6.60 on June 17, 2022 and fell to \$5.42 on July 6, 2022.

Spring insurance prices were set on February 28th at \$5.91 per bushel for corn, and \$13.76 per bushel for beans. These prices are an important component of revenue protection. Crop insurance gives the grower good risk management to start the year, but also allows them to make new crop sales at levels that make sense to their operation. It's not unusual to sell up to your insurance guarantee.

Each farm's breakeven can vary drastically, but on average the breakeven cost to raise corn ranges between \$1,000-\$1,200 per acre, and the range for beans is \$800-\$950 per acre. Knowing your breakeven is the first step to creating a solid marketing plan.

Traditionally, April through June is when the markets allow for the best opportunity for selling. As we go into this opportune time, putting in offers to sell your grain at or above your breakeven levels ensures that your farm remains profitable. Many times, the market will spike during the overnight trading session. This is why it is extremely important to have offers working to capture the swing in the market.

Know your breakeven, develop a marketing plan and stick to the plan. For grain marketing options and grain outlook give myself or any CPI originators a call. We look forward to continuing to serve your needs.

LOCAL HUNGER DONATIONS

In fall 2022 CPI utilized the Land O'Lakes Foundation's Member Co-op Match Hunger Program to provide a helping hand to local schools with hunger initiatives in our surrounding communities. We challenged our employees to make donations and each dollar donated was matched by CPI and then the overall donation was matched by the Land O'Lakes Foundation. We were able to donate a combined total of **\$28,864** to seventeen local schools' programs. The minimum donation to each program is \$1,100!



Adams Central Public Schools



Axtell Public Schools



Blue Hill Public Schools



Fillmore Central Public Schools



Franklin Public Schools



Giltner Public Schools



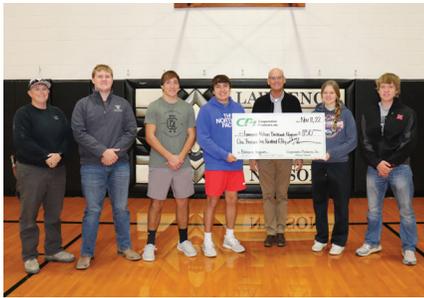
Hastings Elementary Schools



Hastings Middle & High School



Kenesaw Public Schools



Lawrence Nelson Public Schools



Red Cloud Beef Boosters



Sandy Creek Public Schools



Silver Lake Public Schools



Superior Public Schools



Sutton Public Schools



Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools



Wood River Public Schools

WILL STABILITY RETURN?

Mike Battin, Vice President of Agronomy



I believe most of us in agriculture would say it has been a very interesting start to 2023. The Global instability from 2022 has created ongoing volatility especially in our fertilizer and chemical markets. In the last six months we have seen certain fertilizer prices drop as much as 20-25% in some cases. These declines have been welcome news for some, but for others, it has left us asking why.

In 2022 there were several big drivers that reduced the world fertilizer supply; the Russia-Ukraine war, supply constraints from China, global trade barriers, drought, and concern over rising natural gas prices in Europe. The result of these drivers led to higher prices, higher demand and tighter supply as we closed out Q3 and entered Q4 of 2022. With higher prices looming and concern over product availability, many producers across the United States took advantage of the then available supply and secured some, if not all, of their 2023 cropping needs.

As we entered the first quarter of 2023 we've watched the softening of natural gas prices, largely due in part to the mild European winter, and concerns over supply challenges that did not come to fruition. There is continuing concern over a significant reduction of Ukrainian crops this year; scaled back as a result of the war, which in turn, will result in more product availability. U.S. manufacturers have been able to increase their global exports and have created a surplus here in the United States. This surplus along with the current lack of demand, has led to falling prices in the hopes of creating

additional demand.

Without this additional demand,

prices continue to remain lower today.

What will be the drivers in 2023? Globally, we could possibly see tight supplies of potash and phosphorous. There will be continued uncertainty around the long-term impacts the ongoing war in Ukraine could have on global trade relations and supply chain. Today it feels like there has been some stability return to the fertilizer market. However, there is still enough global uncertainty that we could continue this roller coaster ride well into 2024.

One segment of the industry that continues to trend toward stability would be the chemical industry. The concerns around supply chain and availability have substantially diminished. With that said, the overall global supply chain will probably not return to 100% capacity until 2024.

As manufacturers bring their facilities back to capacity and the product pipeline continues to fill, this could potentially influence manufacturing pricing going into Q4 of 2023. The product increases most of us felt in Q4 of 2022 and Q1 of 2023 were driven by rising cost. Energy, labor, transportation, raw materials, and interest were all on the rise going into 2023. The good news here is that we have seen some softening of these cost, especially across the energy and transportation sectors.

Going into 2023, chemical pricing could remain affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, inflation, and global trade barriers. China's production slowdown due to ongoing COVID-19 infections and lockdowns could potentially affect supply going forward.

The great news for 2023 is that CPI is in great position. We are fully stocked and prepared to meet the fertilizer and chemical needs of our customers this spring.

WELCOME TO THE AGRONOMY DIVISION

Chris Wagner, Agronomy Area Business Manager

Please welcome Chris Wagner to the Agronomy Division. He's joining the team as our Area Business Manager and will lead the sales efforts in agronomy going forward. Chris has been involved with agriculture his entire career. He had the opportunity to work in the ethanol business as well as owning his own trucking and grain company. The bulk of his career was spent at Cargill where he was an Outside Operations Manager and Sales Farm Marketer based in Albion, NE. For the last four years, Chris has been working at a startup company as their Inside Sales Manager and then Business Development Manager. He is excited to working with the agronomy sales staff.



Chris was raised on a family farm near Osmond, NE and currently reside in the same area. He and his wife, Robin, have four daughters ranging in age from 19 to 10. When he's not busy at work you will no doubt find him at some kind of school related event. Some of his other hobbies include camping, fishing, hunting and spending time in his shop restoring cars, Mustang convertibles in particular.

ENSURING SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Doran Burmood, Vice President of Health & Safety, had the opportunity to meet with the Holstein and Roseland Volunteer Fire Departments a few months ago to talk about safety concerns regarding grain facilities and other businesses. During the meeting they discussed air quality and entering confined spaces like tanks, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, pits, manholes, tunnels, ductwork, etc. A 4-gas monitor is used to detect any atmosphere changes when entering confined spaces. CPI purchased monitors for both fire departments to help ensure the safety of our communities.



Pictured from Holstein VFD: Shaun Fisher, Brian Magarin, & Eric Kothe

Pictured from Roseland VFD: Brad Hemberger, Cory Parr, & Adam Sidlo

ENERGY UPDATE

Larry Ehrman, Vice President of Energy



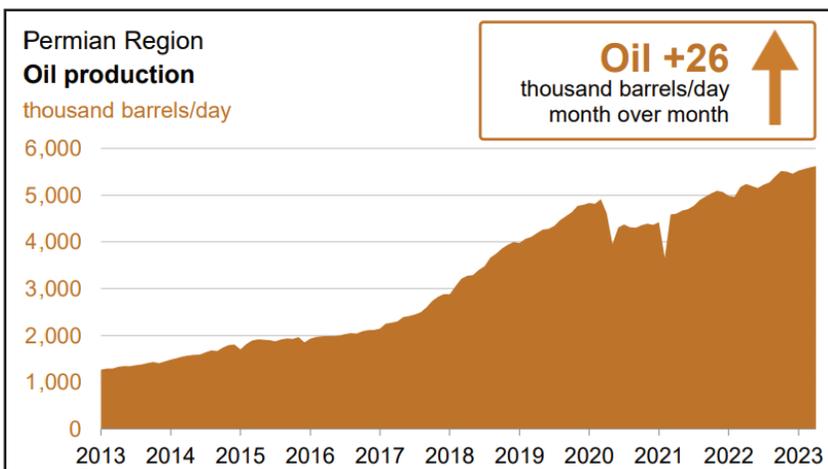
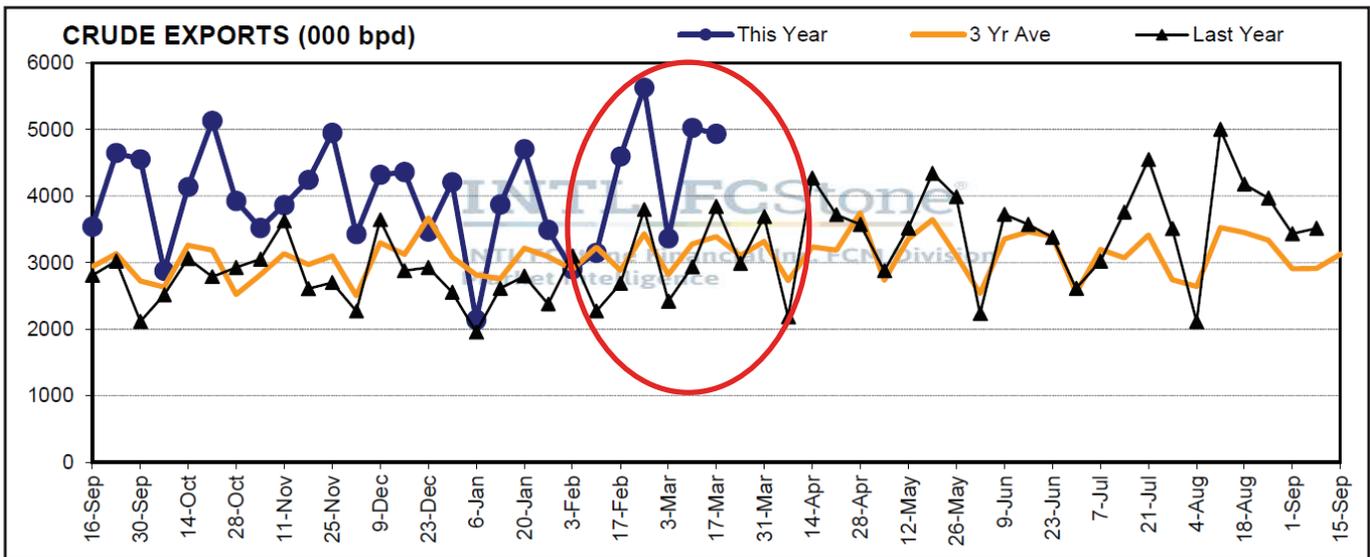
What a difference a year makes! A year ago, we were experiencing a very high spike in fuel prices with diesel over \$5.00 a gallon and gas right behind it. Inventories were at low levels in the Midwest and we were concerned about having enough diesel for spring planting and irrigation. Today, we are more than a dollar cheaper, inventories have recovered to near normal levels, and spring and summer supply is not a concern.

The war in Ukraine has not gone like many had anticipated. Even though it still rages on, the world has gotten “used to it,” and its effect on

the energy market has waned. Europe was fortunate

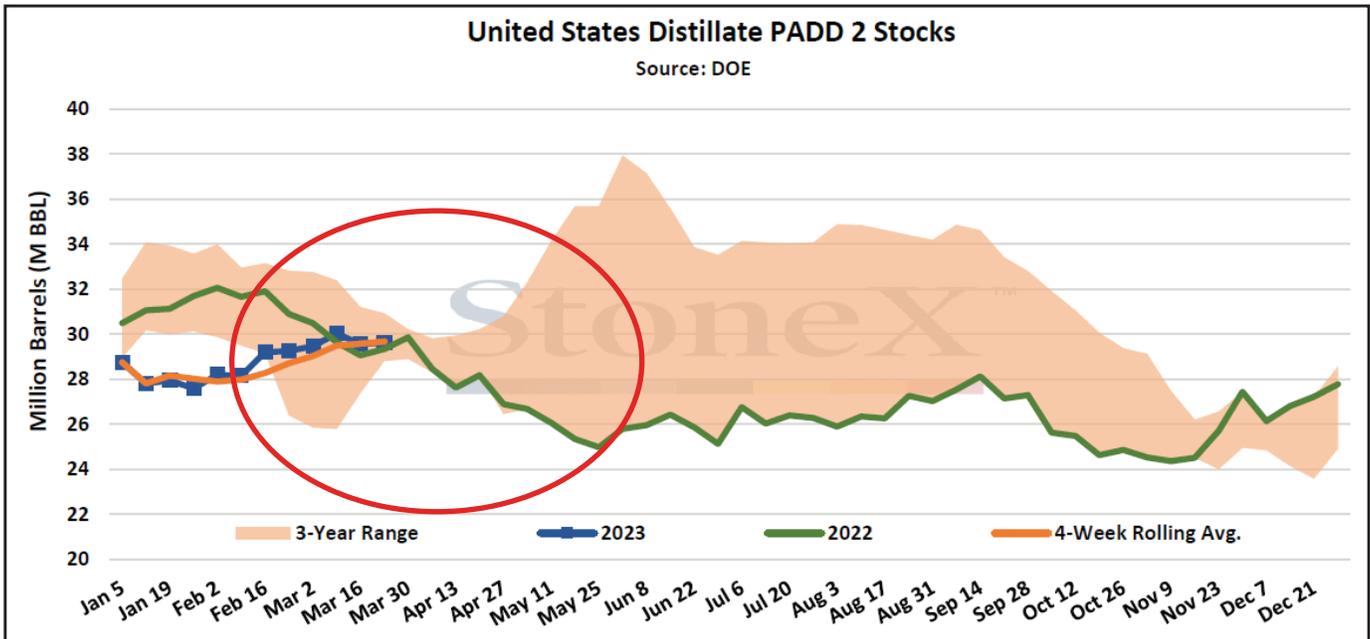
to have had one of the warmest winters on record, so their demand for diesel and natural gas was lighter than normal.

Russian crude oil has been reduced in the world market which is creating increased demand. To help meet this need, the U.S. is producing and exporting high levels of crude as seen in the graphs below.

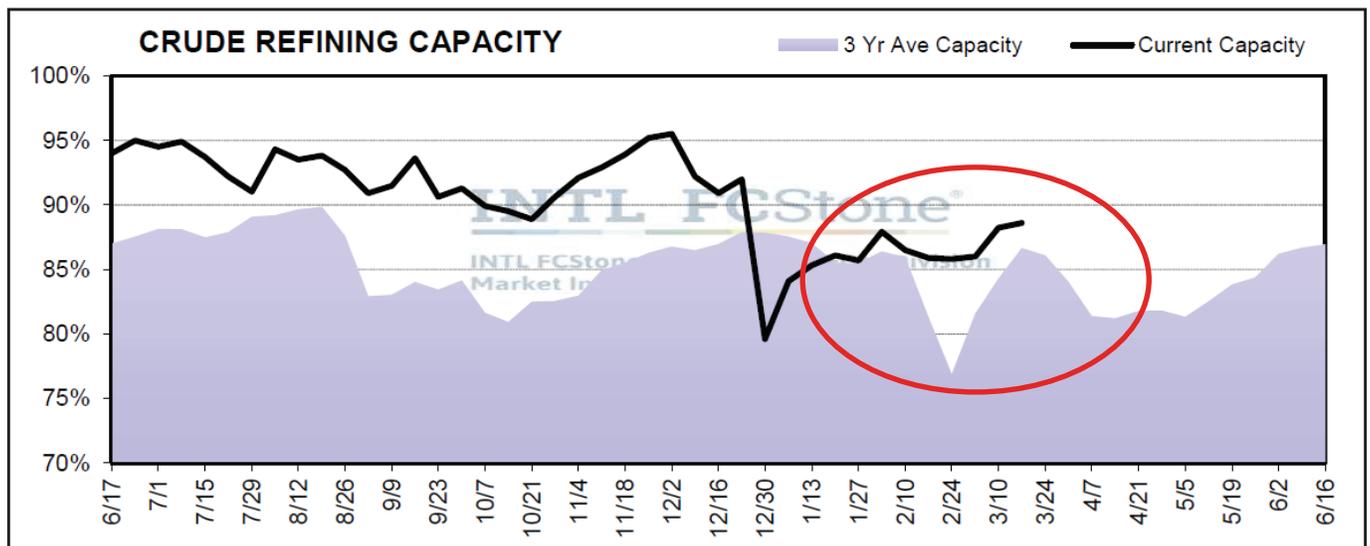


Oil production in the Permian Region is primarily from Texas and Oklahoma.

Because of this high level of crude production and most refineries running at near capacity, the diesel inventory in the Midwest (PADD 2) has rebounded to normal levels as illustrated in this graph:



The value refiners get for gas, diesel, and other products when they refine crude oil, is called “crack spread.” The higher the spread, the more profit a refinery makes. This past year, these crack spreads have risen and stayed at unusually high levels. In turn, the refineries have been running as hard as they can while the profits are good. This helped keep diesel available and is now helping us get to normal stock levels as illustrated in the graph below. The drop in the black line in late December was caused by the Suncor refinery in Denver shutting down unexpectedly, but it’s now back up and running.



We are fortunate to be aligned with Cenex as our major fuel supplier. They are in tune with agriculture and realized the importance of a consistent supply throughout the year. They did have occasional fuel outages at the terminals, but not to the degree of other suppliers. Going forward in 2023, I feel the prices will level off and we won’t see the extremes we did last year. They will fluctuate, but not to extreme levels. We appreciate your business and look forward to supplying your energy needs!

INNOVATION IN IRRIGATION TIRES

Richard Holdsworth, CPI Tire Operations Manager



We're excited to announce that Firestone Ag has established a partnership agreement with Shark Wheel Agriculture to accelerate the introduction of the revolutionary Shark Wheel SWIFT Irrigation Wheel.

SWIFT (Sine Wave Innovative Flotation & Traction) is an airless solution designed for center pivot and lateral move irrigation systems which not only prevents downtime due to air loss, but also minimizes rutting through its unique travel path generated by its sinusoidal design. SWIFT is also modular by design enabling customization and quick repairs of its paddles which are comprised of spring steel with over molded rubber. SWIFT also comes with a 5-year limited warranty.

Advantages:

- Airless tires that can never go flat - reduces flat tires by 100%
- Traction - sufficient bite with bi-directional tread pattern allows the wheel to work equally well in both directions
- Rutting solved - DNA footprint pushes soil towards that center of the track which reduces rutting by more than 55%. In a lot of cases ruts were measured at 1" compared to up to 14" left by some traditional inflated directional tires.
- Modular paddle design - by being able to replace a single broken paddle in 60 seconds instead of replacing the whole tire, you reduce down time.
- Flexing/compliant paddles - paddles flex to absorb load and increase surface area (foot print) to minimize drivetrain failures.
- Price is lower than other airless tire designs



Learn more at www.sharkwheelag.com



DNA Footprint
Pushes Soil Toward Center

SUPPLY CHAIN DISTRUPTIONS?

Warren Hull, Energy Operations Manager

We've all heard the term, "supply chain disruptions," a lot during the last three years. Fortunately we are aligned with Cenex as our major lubricant supplier and have avoided the supply shortages that some companies have had. Cenex made the decision to prioritize supplying agricultural producers and turned down opportunities to make lubricants for other suppliers. Our relationship with Cenex really helped and they were able to keep us supplied with needed products. Tubes of grease have been the hardest products to get. This is due more to the tubes themselves than the grease in them. We have received quite a bit of grease lately though, so we feel we are in good shape for the upcoming season.



Last year, we received a lot of questions regarding the supply of DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid). We are in good supply and foresee no issues with supplying our customers' needs.

CPI EMPLOYEE PROMOTED TO TIRE SALES REP



Please help us congratulate Jake Zoucha on his recently promotion to CPI Tire Sales Representative. Jake was previously a Tire Truck Specialist out of the Trumbull location for the last five years. During that time, he completed the most service calls three years in a row and also had the top sales the last two years. Jake has completed numerous TIA certifications, CPI University classes, and received the CPI "I Care" Award for his exceptional customer service. He is excited to expand relationships with our current customers, while building relationships with new ones.

2022 FUEL THE CURE DONATION

In October 2022 we participated in the Nebraska Ethanol Board's Fuel The Cure campaign. When you filled up with higher blends of ethanol at one of our ten participating locations, we contributed 3¢ per gallon to breast cancer research. CPI patrons pumped a total of **124,563 gallons of ethanol** during the month of October and we donated **\$3,736.89** towards the cause. A grand total of \$15,662.99 was presented to the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha and Nebraska's American Cancer Society.

In the past five years, fuel retailers across Nebraska have joined forces to raise more than \$45,000 for cancer research as part of Fuel the Cure.



BIG CHANGES HAPPENING AT NORTH STORE

Bob Matthies, Premier Stop Operations Manager



The Hastings North Premier Stop has been going through an interior remodel the last few months. If you haven't been inside lately, you should stop in and see the changes!

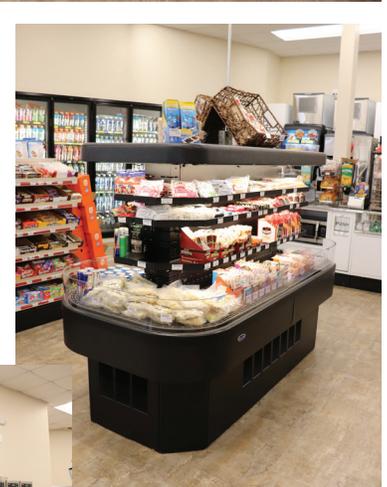
When you walk in, you'll notice the doors now open automatically for you. We've relocated the Nick's Gyros business into the old Godfather's Pizza location to make more room for a new 15-door walk in cooler with expanded beverage offerings. New flooring was installed throughout the entire building for a more updated look and we've added an open-air

bunker cooler for easy to access healthy items including yogurt and cheeses. New cabinetry with a fountain drink area have been installed along with a pebble ice machine. We now have a great beverage experience for both hot and cold drinks!

With the addition of more cooler space, we've also been able to expand our alcohol line. We've added a small selection of wine and wine coolers to our offerings. You can also find cold 12-packs of pop and take-home packages of teas and water for those hot summer days that will soon be here.

The construction isn't quite done yet. With the warmer weather we can begin working on the outside of the store. We will be removing the enclosed entry way and adding some well-needed lighting to the front of the building to brighten things up.

We are very happy that we have been given the opportunity to freshen up the look of the store and are pleased to see the look on our customers' faces when they come in the door and see all the changes!



WELCOME PURINA FEED LPS

Tigh Renken, Purina Livestock Product Specialist



In February, CPI welcomed Tigh Renken as the new Purina Livestock Product Specialist. Tigh was born and raised in Bertrand and currently resides there. Growing up, he was involved in 4-H, FFA, and his family's cow calf operation. Today, he has Renken Livestock which focuses on raising show lambs and cattle. Tigh attended Fort Scott Community College where he graduated with an Associate's degree in Animal Science. During his time there, he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team. Upon graduating, Tigh transferred to UNL where he received a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and was also a part of the Livestock Judging Team. In 2020, Tigh was awarded the Reserve High Individual Overall Senior College at the National Championship in Louisville, KY. He continued his education at UNL and worked towards getting a Master's in Beef Cattle Production. He also continued livestock judging in his role as Assistant Livestock Judging Coach.

In the Spring of 2023, Tigh was hired on with Purina. He looks forward to working with the producers in the area and specializes in cattle and sheep. To schedule a consultation with Tigh, you can reach him by calling 308-746-8979 or by email at trenken@landolakes.com. You may also call any of our feed locations to schedule an appointment with Tigh.

SPRING MINERAL SPECIAL



\$80/TON

(40 or MORE)

SAVE \$2/BAG

\$40/TON

(10-39 BAGS)

SAVE \$1/BAG

*Wind and Rain® Mag (382L), Wind and Rain® (381E),
Wind and Rain® (311S), Wind and Rain® ALT (381J),
Concept•Aid® Mag, Cattleman's Blend™*

VALID APRIL 1-30th

FOR MORE INFORMATION

JUNIATA 402-751-2255

TIGH RENKEN 308-746-8979

WELCOMING BACK H-2As

Sarah Ayres, Vice President of Human Resources



CPI is always looking for new ways to better serve our customers. To help meet this goal, CPI has once again utilized the placement service, Golden Opportunities International, LLC, for the H-2A program to support staffing needs at some of our locations. CPI participated in this program from 2018-2020 to help fill some hard to close positions. At the end of 2020 we applied, as we had the previous three years, but were denied by the Department of Labor. The application paperwork sent from Golden Opportunities to the Department of Labor is essentially the same from each cooperative, however, the Department of Labor could have a different employee review the application each time. It all came down to who's desk it was on. This is why our paperwork was denied, but others were approved. This year we applied again and were able to get approved.

The H-2A program brings English-speaking, motivated individuals with work visas to work on a 10-month contract. At the end of the 10-months, the individuals will return home for two months, and hopefully return next year for another contract. The H-2A employees we hired this year are all from different parts of South Africa. South Africa is projected to see the highest jobless rate globally. As the most industrialized nation on the continent, unemployment is estimated to hit 35.6% in 2023. The purpose of having H-2A assistance is to increase workforce speed and efficiency during the high demands of the busy season.

Employing H-2A workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of current CPI employees. These employees are eager to work and will be a tremendous help during harvest. CPI and many employers in the country have found it difficult to hire due to the after effects of COVID-19. With the H-2A program, we are able to close some positions in communities that are hard to fill. We currently have eight employees in this program and their main locations will be Trumbull, Hayland, Minden and Hastings. Please welcome them if you have the opportunity to meet them at a location!



Front (L to R):
David Laubscher,
Jandre Theart,
Ruben Wise, &
Gert Botha

Back (L to R):
Christiaan
Hanekom, Andrew
Barnard, Thomas
van der Merwe, &
Donovan Bester



Cooperative Producers, Inc.

265 N Showboat Blvd

PO Box 1008

Hastings, NE 68901

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