Manager's Comments

by Craig Mans

Grain piles are everywhere! We have had a great harvest over most of our territory. The weather has cooperated to move harvest along, although some of the crops took a while to dry down. We have taken over 15 million bushels of grain with more harvest still to go. The previous fall harvest record was 13.7 million in 2019. Looking back, I'm sure glad we were able to complete over 1 million bushels of new storage this year at Luray and Bellaire. I'd like to thank the Midway Employees for a tremendous job preparing and taking care of a record harvest. Lots of work went into handling this record harvest. Read more about harvest in the Grain Department Report. Midway employees will be busy picking up grain piles over the winter and into the spring. Once harvest is wrapped up, the elevators will be closing on Saturdays until the spring to allow our employees more time away. Please communicate with your local branch on your needs during this time.

Our strong financial position has once again allowed your board of directors to approve an equity payout. This is the 28th year in a row for an equity payout. This will amount to over $1.9 million in equity retirements. Checks will be sent out in mid-December. This keeps equity balances at the most 20 years old. This contradicts the thought that you must die to get your equity out of Midway Coop. The board has also been aggressive in paying out 50% cash patronage every year and passing through DPAD for your tax deduction.

In the last article I spoke of the storm damage at Alton in August to our metal bins. Those bins have been condemned by insurance and will be coming down. We will be putting several concrete tanks in their place. The new storage should be completed by fall harvest of 2026.

We now offer the convenience of ACH payments for your bills and Direct Deposit for your grain sales. We also offer paperless invoices and statements in addition to our Midway Coop App. If you haven't taken the time to sign up, please do so. The payments can be automatic with the direct deposit, and the app can help you follow along with the harvest.

We will continue to manage Midway Coop as efficiently as possible, offer the services that you need and return money back to you in the form of patronage. We look forward to and expect great things in the years to come as we assist you in your farming operation. Thank you for your business and have a Merry Christmas!

Midway Coop Expo

December 10th at the Lebanon Community Center and December 11th at the Osborne Elevator.

Year-end discounts and sales including prebooking's on chemical, fertilizer and fuel. Two Day Sale!

Steak Lunch and Raffle Drawing Daily!

EQUITY PAYOUTS

The Midway Board has approved another equity payout. This is the 28th year in a row for an equity retirement. This equity retirement will amount to over $1.9 million once again this year. Members will receive their checks in December. Remember this is a NON-taxable payment as the taxes were paid the year the equity was earned. The oldest equity in Midway Coop after the payout will be 2006.

Agronomy

by Ron Sothers

As you're reading this, a long and fruitful Fall harvest is getting closer to completion. We have been blessed with above average crops and ended up with a good window to get it harvested. I am writing this as it is raining outside, and we have received a soaker. That will delay what harvest we have left but will be good for the wheat and put us in good moisture coming out of winter into next spring.

With the number of bushels we removed from our fields, with it came removal of nutrients. Our input costs are on the high side, but with the removal, we need to replace nutrients to continue to maximize production.

To help our members navigate our current farm economy, we are once again running some programs to help with your cash flow and interest. Back by popular demand is our 0% Seed with matching 0% chemical dollars program along with Winter fertilizer Delayed Due program. The agronomists will be contacting you for your seed order and to inform you of that program.

The winter fertilizer program will be launched EXPO Week. The Expo this year will be December 10th at Lebanon and December 11th at Osborne. There will be special pricing on the fertilizer program this week and this week only. Please try and attend the Expo dates if possible and have a Steak meal on Midway Coop.

As always, we appreciate your patronage, and I wish you the Happiest of Holidays!

Grain Department

by Cullen Riner

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. The 2025 fall harvest is all but wrapped up, I want to thank our location managers and staff for the long hours and hard work they put in to help make this year's harvest a success.

At the time this letter was written, as a company we are over 95% done with harvest. The 2025 harvest is officially a new record for Midway Coop. We have taken over 15.2 million bushels of grain. Our previous record harvest came in 2019, which was just over 13.7 million bushels. Up to this point, we have received over 8.8 million bushels of corn, almost 3.4 million bushels of milo, and 3 million bushels of soybeans. Good growing conditions and timely rain throughout the growing season have produced great yields for our patrons.

As of now, we have bought about 25% of the corn crop, 25% of the milo crop, and 77% of the bean crop. We have already started marketing this year's grain. As we move into the winter months, between wheat, corn, milo and soybeans we will be moving well over 1 million bushels of grain per month. With the record corn crop comes challenges. Corn basis is softer than it was a year ago and we will need exports to remain strong. Milo basis continues to be extremely weak; with very little exports and a big Kansas crop we need a larger export program. Soybean yields were very good nationally, but with solid domestic demand and China stepping in, the market has rallied over $1.00 from where we were trading just over a month ago. All of this said, the Grain Department is having a good year and should assure solid patronage dividends for year end.

Just a couple of reminders, you can sell your grain now and not take your payment until January of 2026, however as of December 1st we will not pay interest on grain to be paid in January. If you have deferred your payment to January, your checks will be available for pickup at the General Office or mailed from here on January 6th. If you are set up for direct deposit it will be processed at that time as well. If you intend to pick up your check please call and make arrangements at your location or here at the General Office, so the check does not get mailed. In closing, please call if you have grain stored on the farm, we would appreciate the opportunity to give you a bid. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Crop Insurance Revenue Loss

By Eric Mans

When looking at crop insurance revenue policies, once again this year's harvest prices are lower than the base prices that were set back in February of 2025. The corn and milo harvest prices are set during the month of October, based off the December Futures. The soybean harvest price is set during the month of October, based off the November Futures. The crop insurance harvest price for corn is $4.22, which is $0.48 lower than the base price of $4.70. For milo, the harvest price of $4.24 is also $0.48 lower than the base price at $4.72. The soybean harvest price was set at $10.35, which is $0.19 lower than the base price of $10.54. So, what does this mean? If producers have a revenue protection policy in place a crop insurance payment is possible this year without necessarily having a yield loss.

Here is an example. In this scenario we will use an APH for corn of 100 bu./acre. The insurance coverage in place is a RP (Revenue Protection) 80% EU (Enterprise Units). Once again, the base or projected insurance price for corn was $4.70. in this case, the bushel guarantee would be 80 bu./acre (which is 80% of 100bu/acre). Your crop insurance revenue guarantee for corn would be $376.00/acre (80bu./acre x $4.70). Let's say after harvest is complete the farm average ends up being 85 bu./acre, which would not trigger a yield loss. However, since the harvest price is set at $4.22, the crop insurance actual farm revenue would be $358.70 (85bu/acre x $4.22). In this scenario, there would be a $17.30/acre claim ($376.00 Crop Insurance Revenue Guarantee) – ($358.70 Crop Insurance Actual Farm Revenue) = $28.58/acre revenue loss payment.

Here are a couple of things to keep in mind. The harvest price just like the base price is factored by using futures price, not the cash price at local elevators. The price the producer sells his crop for at the elevator is not used to determine whether there is a loss.

A couple reminders, wheat acreage reporting deadline is December 15th, and PRF (Pasture, Rangeland and Forage) annual sign up deadline is December 1st. PRF is an insurance product that protects ranchers against financial loss due to lower than average rainfall. If you have any questions or want to discuss any other of your crop insurance needs stop by the General Office in Osborne, or give me a call at 785-346-5451, or on my cell at 785-346-4654.

CROP NUTRIENT REMOVAL

By: Jeff Hammer

Crop removal of nutrients is becoming more critical as we move the yield bar higher. Profitability potential has rarely looked as challenging as the current times we are in. Maximizing efficiency is the one thing we are all looking to achieve for 2026. With record high fertilizer to grain ratios I want everyone to keep in mind the agronomics of nutrient removal after removing above average fall crop yields this past fall.

Our grass crops (corn, wheat, and sorghum) are all similar in how they utilize Nitrogen. Many of you may ponder, "how did I raise 170-180 bu. corn on 120-130 lbs. of Nitrogen?" Corn and sorghum only remove approximately 55% of the Nitrogen applied to the soil in the grain. The remainder is returned to the soil organically in the residue. This Nitrogen may become available to subsequent crops through a process called mineralization. It still takes 1.1 lbs. of Nitrogen/bushel of yield goal to keep Nitrogen from being limiting in corn and sorghum, even though we don't remove that much at harvest. Wheat removes a little higher percentage of the Nitrogen applied at nearly 70% of the 2.2 lbs./bu. recommended. This relates directly to our corn yields exceeding Nitrogen applications this past year. If you apply 90-100 lbs. of actual N to wheat that yields 45 bu., then 1/3 of your Nitrogen is getting put back into the soil Nitrogen system and readily available for the following crop. Nitrogen credit from soybeans is a commonly debated topic. 60 bu. soybeans need approximately 300 lbs. of N that they fixate themselves. Subsequently, I would say in years of high yielding beans, we have less carryover the following year than we do in years when our soybeans are stressed with limited yield. I would not count on a large Nitrogen bean credit next year.

Phosphorus is a nutrient of major concern for me. Corn removes approximately 0.35 lbs./bu., soybeans 0.8 lbs./bu., wheat 0.6 lbs./bu., and sorghum 0.4 lbs./bu. Soil P levels are a major indicator of good soil fertility. Generally speaking, it takes 17 lbs. of P_2O_5 to change our soil test levels 1 part per million (ppm). 20 ppm is considered a good soil test level for our area. This means that if you have a soil that is 5 ppm, then it would take 150-200 actual pounds of P applied per acre without any crop removal to bring it up to those levels. The standard over the years has been to apply starter with wheat. If you only apply 30 lbs. actual P with wheat and take off a 60 bushel wheat crop, 150 bu. corn, and 50 bu. beans; you have removed over 125 lbs. of P_2O_5 from the soil in a 3 year span. This puts you at a deficit of over 90 lbs. and could pull your soil test down by as much as 6 ppm. This is one of the biggest yield inhibiting factors in our area today and will likely continue to get more challenging with high P prices.

Potassium and Sulfur are two other nutrients worth investigating. It is widely known that we don't get the amount of Sulfur from our rainfall that we used to get due to environmental restrictions on industry. Sulfur needs to be maintained with Nitrogen at a ratio of 12:1 in our grass crops for photosynthetic efficiency. Soybeans use over 3 times the amount of Sulfur as corn does and we don't often associate Sulfur with soybeans. 60 bu. beans require nearly 300 lbs. of Nitrogen which they fix by way of nodules, however, a Sulfur deficiency in beans can make Nitrogen use inefficient in soybeans as well. Potassium (K) is normally sufficient in our yield environments despite large amounts required for corn and soybeans. The one caution I have on K is that if you are running down the same rows with existing tracks you could have some K deficiency due to the immobility of K in the soil. Roots tend to grow down old decayed root channels and the soil around those channels could become low in K after multiple cropping seasons.

Chemical Resistance

by Tanner Gasper

I was reading an article from K-state's Agronomy Updates that states this year marks the 50th year of documented chemical resistance in Kansas. The first was Kochia resistance to Atrazine herbicide in 1976. It took roughly 11 years until the second case was found. Today there are many weed species that carry chemical resistance. Herbicide resistance is defined as the ability of a weed population to survive a herbicide application that would normally kill that particular weed species. Resistance is a naturally occurring phenomenon, but its spread is accelerated by repeated use of similar herbicides and limited diversity in control practices.

When we think of resistance to herbicide, we usually think of the Palmer Amaranth species. It has probably been the most troublesome weed population for us to control. So far it has shown resistance to 6 herbicide groups. There are two ways that plants can build resistance to herbicides. Target Site Resistance (TSR) is when there is a change in the enzyme that the herbicide acts upon. Sometimes it is as simple as the plant just having a higher level of enzymes present to break down the herbicide quicker. That is why we use the recommended herbicide rates and add the proper adjuvants and water conditioners to our tank mixes, to make sure all of the necessary active ingredient is making it into the plant, therefore, fighting the plant's ability to overcome the herbicide. Non-Target Site Resistance (NTSR) is a little more complicated, but it involves the plant's ability to sequester or move the active ingredient to a different location in the plant making it ineffective. This could be to a certain leaf or area in the plant where it is stored or later metabolized.

The best way to combat weed resistance is rotating chemistry and using them in an effective manner. Good residual programs to kill weeds before they germinate is always the best. When doing post emerge applications, killing weeds before reaching 6" tall is important. Midway currently has a fall residual program going on that delays billing until April of 2026 for residual chemistries to be applied. With current rainfall amounts, the window for application on that may be gone. I usually say, when you spray is more important than what you spray. Chemical costs have come down in price a lot since the covid era, and Midway has a great group of Agronomists to help you develop a chemical plan that will fit your budget. We are currently offering our matching 0% seed/chemical program for growers who purchase seed through Midway Coop with terms due Nov 31, 2026. We are also offering our best deals on chemistry right now, with options to prepay before the end of the year. Talk to your branch manager or local agronomist, and let us help you put together herbicide plan for a successful 2026 season.

Winter Fertilizer

By Joe Princ

It's hard to believe the year is almost over, especially after that big rain we just had! Wheat fields are looking the best I have ever seen for this time of year, and it's a good reminder that we need to think about making every input count before winter sets in. Nitrogen is always on our minds this time of year, and products like Agrotain and Anvol can help keep the nitrogen we put down from drifting off into the air. After the big yields we saw this year, we know a lot of nutrients were removed from the soil, so it's important to replace them—and make sure we protect every dollar we spend on fertilizer.

Most of you have probably heard of Agrotain, but it's worth talking about why it can put more money back in your pocket. Agrotain is a nitrogen stabilizer that keeps nitrogen in the soil where your crop can actually use it. It works by blocking the urease enzyme with the active ingredient NBPT, slowing a reaction that can turn urea into ammonia gas and send it up into the air. Under the right conditions, studies show that up to 40% of applied nitrogen can be lost through this process. That's not just lost fertilizer—it's lost yield. Using Agrotain on your urea fertilizer this winter can help make sure your crop gets the nitrogen it needs and that your fertilizer dollars go further.

Anvol is another option we offer, and it works in a similar way. Like Agrotain, it contains NBPT, but it also has a second active ingredient called Duromide. This combination gives both immediate and long-lasting protection for your nitrogen. NBPT acts fast, while Duromide extends the protection window. A study from Virginia Tech showed that Duromide can increase the nitrogen protection window by up to 27% over NBPT alone. That extra time means more nitrogen stays in the soil for your crop instead of being lost to the air.

Beyond using these stabilizers, it's always smart to plan your fertilizer application carefully. Timing matters—if you can get a rain or lightly incorporate fertilizer into the soil, that helps even more. Think about your fields, your soils, and what your crop actually needs. A little planning now can pay off big in spring.

If you have questions about these products, want help with a winter fertilizer plan, or want to sign up, give your agronomist or branch manager a call. We'll also be at the Midway Co-op Farm Expo, December 10th at Lebanon and 11th at Osborne, ready to answer questions and help you get set for next season. Thanks for all your business in 2025!

Winter Wheat Management

By Brynn Boxberger

With winter slowly settling in, for those of you who planted wheat this fall, now is a good time to do some crop touring and see what those wheat stands are looking like. After a fall marked by variable moisture, some fields may show patchy or delayed emergence, so checking stand uniformity and early root development can help you gauge how well the wheat will head into dormancy. Your variety choice has already been made and in the ground, now is the time to see how its traits are paying off after these fall conditions.

Nutrient management also plays a big role at this stage. If soil sampling wasn't in mind during the busy planting window, it's still worthwhile to test through early winter so you can fine-tune fertilizer plans. It might be an idea to do split nitrogen applications, saving a top-dress pass for late winter or early spring when the crop really takes off. Don't forget to keep an eye on sulfur, which has become a more common issue on upland or lighter soils in the region. Ensuring adequate phosphorus from fall applications will support the strong root systems needed to withstand winter's freeze-thaw cycles.

As we move through the colder months, regular field drive-byes and staying tuned in to local conditions will help protect yield potential. Warm spells can keep aphids active longer than expected, giving them time to spread barley yellow dwarf virus. We have all seen the issues with wheat streak mosaic virus, especially where volunteer wheat wasn't well controlled, making field-by-field vigilance important. With attentive stand evaluation, smart nutrient planning, and your occasional crop tours, it sets up the possibility for a great wheat crop this next summer. Reach out to your local agronomist with any questions or help you might need!

Petroleum Department

by Trevor Oliver

As the winter season approaches, it's essential to prepare your vehicles and equipment for the colder temperatures ahead. One effective way to ensure smooth operation and prevent costly issues is by blending #1 and #2 diesel fuel during the winter months. Here's why this practice is important and beneficial:

1. Improved Flowability and Combustion

#1 diesel has a lower pour point compared to #2 diesel, meaning it remains fluid at lower temperatures. Blending #1 with #2 diesel helps maintain optimal flowability, preventing fuel gelling that can clog filters and lines. This ensures reliable engine start-up and consistent combustion even in freezing conditions.

2. Reduced Risk of Fuel Gelling and Clogging

At low temperatures, #2 diesel can gel or wax, leading to clogged fuel filters and possible engine stalling. Blending with #1 diesel minimizes this risk, providing a smoother experience and reducing the need for costly emergency interventions.

3. Enhanced Engine Performance and Efficiency

Properly blended winter fuel maintains proper lubrication and combustion properties. This results in better engine performance, improved fuel economy, and reduced wear on fuel system components.

4. Cost-Effective and Practical Solution

Blending allows you to use existing fuel supplies more efficiently while safeguarding your equipment. It’s a practical approach that balances cost with the need for reliable operation during cold weather.

At Midway Coop we offer a variety of blends to meet the forever changing weather environment that we handle here in the Plains, consult with your fuel supplier to help properly winterize your equipment leading you to save time, money, and headaches.

Thank you for trusting us as your partner in maintenance and operations. Stay warm and safe this winter season!

EIA Short Term Energy

Global oil prices. We expect global oil inventories to continue to rise through 2026, putting downward pressure on oil prices in the coming months. We forecast the Brent crude oil price will fall to an average of $54 per barrel (b) in the first quarter of 2026 (1Q26) and average $55/b for all of next year. Although we continue to expect crude oil prices to fall in the coming months, our Brent forecast for 2026 is $3/b higher than in last month’s outlook, largely as a result of updated assumptions about inventory builds in China and sanctions on Russia.

U.S. gasoline and diesel prices. Our forecast assumes lower crude oil prices, the largest component of retail prices, will contribute to lower retail gasoline and diesel prices throughout the forecast period. We expect gasoline prices to fall below $3.00 per gal (gal) on average in 2026, down 10% from 2024, and diesel prices to fall to $3.50/gal in 2026, down 7% from 2024.

The Feed Mill

By Dean Heise

Mineral's Too Expensive!?!

"I cannot keep mineral in the feeder" is a common saying in the winter. We may have plentiful grass in the pastures, but the quality is low. The protein and mineral content is lower than normal and livestock is consuming more than usual amounts of mineral. Make sure they are not craving just salt, if it is easier to take a mouth full of mineral than to lick on a salt block…that may be part of the overconsumption issue. Cows should eat about 1 lb. of mineral each week; if it is over 1.5 lbs., add loose salt to the mineral to slow them down. I am seeing some research that shows some scours are associated with low levels of Vitamin A. Make sure you are using a mineral with at least 400,000 IU of Vitamin A so that there is enough to meet the needs for scours reduction as well as helping reduce the chances of retained placentas. Don't skimp on mineral during the rebreeding of fall cows or the gestational programming of spring calves. If you can get one more cow bred or one more live healthy calf on the ground with today's prices on weaned calves that would pay for more than one ton of premium mineral with chelated ingredients. (Almost enough to supply 40 cows for a year.) Phosphorus is a key nutrient when it comes to getting cattle bred. Make sure that trying to save a couple bucks per bag of mineral doesn't cost you a calf at weaning time.

Don't forget that our mineral promotion will be coming again in January so you can get 1 free bag when you buy twelve bags of any floor stocked range mineral.

Maximize Feeding Efficiency

To maximize your cattle's genetic potential and minimize feed costs, we have to utilize all available nutrients going into the cattle. Hay availability is good but there are a lot of low-quality forages being mixed with wet distillers' grains so we need all the help we can get to be able to break down the roughage. Wet distillers is somewhat of a challenge again this year with availability and price. Contact us to run a least cost on your mix to see if it is cheaper to use other protein sources to feed the cows or calves in your lots.

We offer many types of ionophores and yeast to meet your various needs: from reducing bloat, increasing feed efficiency, helping forage digestion and utilization, to preventing/treating scours. They can be mixed into complete feeds, supplements, or made into a top dress for specific hand feeding needs.

With harvest wrapped up, many of you will be utilizing stalks. There is a lot of forage there to be used but the digestibility of these stalks is not the best and needs some protein to help utilize it. Our Golden Feeds protein tubs are a perfect fit to provide a complete protein and mineral program for beef cattle. We have some of the tubs available in an edible container as well as plastic containers. Consumptions can be adjusted from <½ lb. per head per day with 35-40 head per tub to 1+ lbs. per head per day with 12-15 head per tub. Salt needs to be fed free choice as the tubs contain no salt. We also have some high fat tubs to keep cows in better condition on winter pastures or stalks. We carry a 24-9-7 Breeder or a 30-13-6 Breeder which have 7% and 6% fat level respectively.

Some fields have excessive grain on the ground so use caution when turning onto these fields. We have 12-8 Mag/Yeast mineral designed for use on these fields that will help with the acidic overload that corn/milo will create in the rumen. If the grain is really bad, you may want to add sodium bicarbonate to the water tank also to help buffer the rumen also. Give us a call and we will help you through the winter grazing season, so you are ready for calving.

Thank you for your patronage and please have a Safe and Merry Christmas Season.

Midway Completes Major Technology Upgrade Across the Co-op

by Jonathan Adams, IT Manager

As part of our ongoing commitment to efficiency and reliability, Midway recently completed a major technology upgrade across all locations — replacing or updating 90 computers between August and September, just ahead of the busy harvest season. The project focused primarily on the computers that support our point-of-sale systems and grain scale operations at both our service stations and elevator sites.

This initiative was driven by two key factors: the upcoming end of Microsoft's support for Windows 10, and our commitment to keep Midway's technology current and dependable. Rather than simply upgrading existing machines, we took the opportunity to invest in entirely new computer hardware built to run Windows 11, ensuring long-term support and improved performance.

The results have been clear. The new systems are noticeably quicker, experience less downtime, and are easier to update and maintain. For our employees, this means a smoother day-to-day workflow, whether they're managing scale transactions during harvest or processing sales at our service stations. For our members and customers, it translates into more efficient service and fewer technology-related interruptions during critical times of the year.

Every Midway location now benefits from this upgrade — each site received new scale computers and point-of-sale systems, both hardware and software. This consistency across the co-op helps simplify maintenance, improve reliability, and enhance the security of our network as a whole.

Looking ahead, this project positions Midway well for the future. By moving to the newest Microsoft-supported systems, we're keeping pace with modern technology standards and ensuring our infrastructure remains strong for years to come. These updates not only support current operations but also lay the groundwork for future technological improvements as the co-op continues to grow and adapt.

As the year comes to a close, Midway would like to take a moment to thank all our growers, producers, and members for their continued trust and partnership. Your hard work and dedication are at the heart of everything we do, and we're proud to support your operations with dependable technology and service. From all of us at Midway, we wish you a safe and joyful holiday season and look forward to serving you in the year ahead.