

## **Manager's Comments by Craig Mans**

Fall Harvest wrapped up with a record of over 16.1 million bushels. The previous fall harvest record was 13.7 million bushels in 2019. The record harvest has led to a busier winter in the grain department. Elevators will be busy moving grain right up to this year's fall harvest. You can read more about this in the Grain Department Newsletter. The warm and wet winter has dry fertilizer application behind schedule and propane volumes stagnant. The Feedmill has had a busy winter and continues to provide a needed service to our members.

I can't thank our wonderful employee group enough. We have had numerous internal employee meetings and training courses this winter. Topics included: Safety, grain grading, retirement savings, management, Medicare, CPR, computer, and health. Taking care of our employees so they are fully prepared to take care of our owners is a clear priority for us.

Midway is having a good financial year. Earnings at the end of January were at \$5 million on sales of over \$115 million. Income is down from last year but remains very positive. The strong fiscal year will provide solid patronage back to our producers. We will wrap up our fiscal year on March 31 and have auditors in our office in Mid-April. Once our financials are finalized, we will hold our annual stockholder meeting, hopefully in late May once again.

Most of you have probably heard, but we are in the process of purchasing the elevator in Lucas, KS. This is a concrete grain facility with 670,000 bushels of storage. The facility also includes liquid fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia and farm supply storage. We are hoping to close on the sale by the end of March. We are excited about this addition to Midway Coop and the value we can provide to members in the Lucas area. We are also breaking ground on the new Alton grain bins that will be completed in time for fall harvest.

I appreciate and thank you for your continued support of our facilities, products, and services! We are proud to be owned by you. The large fall harvest has your cooperative better positioned to move into the new year.

# The Gift of Grain: A Meaningful Way to Support Community

Across Kansas, farmers and ranchers have a powerful opportunity to support the communities they call home: giving a gift of grain to their local community foundation. This type of donation is not only simple—it can also be one of the most tax-efficient ways for producers to contribute.

By transferring ownership of grain directly to a community foundation before it is sold, the producer removes the grain's value from taxable income. For many agricultural families, this creates a meaningful charitable impact while also offering potential tax advantages.

## Supporting Community Foundations Across the Region

A gift of grain can benefit any endowed fund held at your local community foundation—from community improvement and education to parks, libraries, health, or youth programs. These endowments grow over time and provide grants year after year, supporting the long-term stability of rural communities.

## The Midway Coop Ag Fund

One option for producers in the Midway service area is the Midway Coop Ag Fund, which is hosted at the Osborne County Community Foundation. This field of interest fund is designed to support the following fields of interest through grant making:

- Agriculture-related projects and programs
- Local FFA chapters
- 4-H clubs
- Educational initiatives
- Efforts that strengthen the future of agriculture in Osborne, Russell, Smith, and Jewell counties

Gifts of grain to this endowment help ensure agriculture remains strong and that youth programs continue to shape the next generation of producers.

## More Ways Producers Can Give

In addition to grain, community foundations can accept cash and several types of non-cash gifts, including:

- Gifts of real estate
- Gifts of stock or securities
- Livestock donations
- Planned estate gifts

These options allow donors to support their communities in flexible and tax-advantaged ways.

## A Simple Process with a Lasting Impact

The process to gift grain is straightforward:

1. Deliver the grain to your local elevator as usual.
2. Before it is sold, notify the elevator and your community foundation that you intend to make a grain donation.
3. Complete the Gift of Grain donation form.
4. The elevator will transfer ownership to the foundation, which will then direct the sale.

With even a small portion of a harvest, producers can help grow local endowments and uplift communities across Kansas.

For more information about giving a gift of grain or supporting the Midway Coop Ag Fund, contact Mindy Miller, OCCF Director, at [director@osborneccf.org](mailto:director@osborneccf.org) or 785-345-5130.

The following community foundations are also in the Midway Coop service area.

Russell County Area Community Foundation (785) 445-3611

Smith County Community Foundation (785) 686-5290

Jewell County Community Foundation (785) 378-5055

## **Agronomy by Ron Sothers**

Spring is coming and we are very busy spreading fertilizer. Our Winter Fertilizer Program for the second year in a row has proven a very good value compared to where prices went after our offering. Remember, we are locking that price, with delayed Due date of April 30th with no money down. That is a program that you won't find anywhere. That said, Geopolitical issues and war with Iran and multiple other things, has a lot of pressure on Fertilizer prices. This is why Midway Coop offers these programs, to help our members navigate these volatile times.

We also have Financing available for chemicals with some very good terms and percentage rates, with some 0% offerings from some of our basic manufacturer's that have some deadlines, so talk to your agronomist soon for these. We are still taking orders for corn and soybean seed and have milo and various sorghum Sudan and BMR feeds.

We have received some good moisture, and we have more chances soon. The wheat has reached Greenup early and it is getting time to start top dressing. With the moisture we have had the winter annuals will be there and while taking care of weed control it is also a good time to give your wheat a boost with extra nitrogen if the yield potential looks good. Please remember our employees went through a long and very fruitful Fall harvest with a lot of hours. Then we throw them right back into the skillet with application, seed, chemical and NH<sub>3</sub>. I know how hard they work and we all should be mindful and grateful for all that they do.

## **Grain Department by Cullen Riner**

Hello again, I hope this letter finds everyone doing well. This winter has brought some welcome moisture to our growing area. Even though we had a harsh cold snap, the rain and snow have brought much needed moisture to the soil. As temperatures warm up, we will need some additional moisture for the wheat and the fall crop planting season. Hopefully spring will be accompanied by plentiful moisture.

Although better than last year milo demand isn't great. A record corn crop that looks like we will have + 2 billion bushel carry out number, another anticipated record South American soybean crop and another disappointing year for wheat exports has basis levels for all commodities relatively soft. The biggest factors that will be influencing the markets moving forward will be exports, U.S. weather as we enter our growing season, and any global conflicts that could disrupt grain shipments.

Coming off a record fall harvest, all our locations have been busy shipping grain. As I am writing this letter, we have bought 98 % of this year's wheat crop, 83 % of the milo, 81 % of the corn, and 97% of the soybeans that were delivered to our elevator locations this past year. Our employees have been working very hard to get our ground piles picked up. By the end of March, we will have all our milo ground piles moved. We have or will soon be starting to pick up corn that is in bunkers at Alton, Bellaire, Lebanon.

Now just for a few reminders, the end of March brings Midways fiscal year to an end. I once again wanted to mention that we can now ACH grain checks directly to your bank account. We have also rolled out our Midway Coop app which allows producers to check grain balances, sign contracts, etc. If you would like more details about any of these services give us a call at the General Office in Osborne. With wheat harvest around the corner, I also want to remind producers to stop by their local elevator to update accounts and splits if you have any changes this year. Thank you for your loyalty to Midway Coop.

# 2026 Farm Bill Updates and Insurance Deadlines

## By Eric Mans

Lots of big changes this year to the Farm Bill and to crop insurance courtesy of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, with more options and flexibility for managing risk for our producers. To start with for the 25 crop year our designation for ARC or PLC does not matter, we will be getting the better of the two options. For the 26 crop year we will have to make a designation for ARC or PLC again, but that decision is going to be delayed until sometime in the fall so we will have ample time to see market and crop conditions. For the second consecutive year the PLC price escalator kicked in and we have higher PLC reference prices for the 2026 crop year. Wheat changed from \$5.56 to \$6.35, corn went from \$4.26 to \$4.42, grain sorghum went from \$4.51 to 4.67, and soybeans went from \$9.66 to \$10.71.

The sales closing date for the 2026 spring planted crops is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Any changes you want to make to your federal crop insurance policy must be made by this time. The base prices for the 2026 spring crops are set through the month of February. Remember with revenue policies for spring planted crops, producers get the higher of the Base Price being set now or the Harvest Price which is the average price in October. Thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act we will have lower premiums this year as the subsidies on multiperil policies increased between 3%-5% depending on your policy type. The OBBBA also expanded eligibility for Beginning Farmer or Rancher benefits from 5 to now 10 years, and must be applied for by March 15<sup>th</sup> along with your federal crop insurance policy application.

March 15<sup>th</sup> is also the date to add Enhance coverage option (ECO), Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) or Crop and Livestock Income Protection (CLIP) to your policy for spring planted crops. ECO and SCO are area based coverage products similar to ARC that offer bands of coverage on top of your individual multi-peril policy. They offer coverage at higher levels (beginning at 95%) and are becoming an attractive way to mitigate risks from area wide drought and large price declines during the crop year. The OBBBA increased the subsidy on these from 65% to 80% which makes them an even more affordable option to add to your crop protection plan. CLIP is a new federally subsidized umbrella style revenue policy, which allows producers to bundle multiple crops (or crops and weaned calves) together for higher coverage (up to 85%) at lower premiums. Like ECO and SCO it works independently of your underlying revenue policy and is also subsidized at 80%, making it a new interesting way to manage full farm profitability.

For further details or questions regarding your farm bill designations, insurance policy elections or more information on ECO, SCO and CLIP please stop by the General Office in Osborne or call me at 785-346-5451 or my cell at 785-346-4654.

# One-Pass Herbicide Options in Corn

By: Jeff Hammer

It certainly hasn't felt like February and March as I am writing this. I know the diversified producers who decided to try calving in February are not regretting that decision this year. With that said it doesn't feel like planting season is too far away and if you don't have a chemical plan together it's probably time to start thinking about one.

I have had recent success on our farm in corn of using group 14 and group 15 chemistries together with Atrazine to layer solubility. Group 14 products such as Flumioxazin (Valor, Fierce, Kyber) and Saflufenacil (Sharpen, Verdict) have shown very little developed weed resistance and possesses some great burndown properties. I will always favor chasing the planter around with the sprayer if you have your own, but obviously this is difficult if you are hiring custom application. The closer you have that residual product to crop emergence the better chance you have of extending the residual product until crop canopy is achieved. Products like Verdict and Sharpen can be applied right before crop emergence to fit the post-plant/pre-emerge window. In corn however, you have to be careful with Flumioxazin as there is normally a planting restriction of 7 days due to concerns with crop injury.

The Group 15 product of choice in corn for me is Pyroxasulfone. This active ingredient can be found in Zidua, Anthem Products, Fierce, & Kyber to name a few and coming off patent has made basic manufacturers be more competitive with it this year. The beauty of mixing this chemistry with group 14's and other Acetamides (group 15's) like Metolachlor, Acetochlor, Dimethanamid, is how the solubility becomes segregated. Pyroxasulfone has low solubility which means it remains active in the soil with lots of moisture while other Group 15's listed above are much more soluble making them active with very little moisture. When you combine soluble Group 15's like Dual/Outlook/Degree with lowly soluble Zidua/Anthem products & a Group 14 product you can build a robust residual program. We have even seen success mixing Group 27 Callisto (Mesotrione) along with the above chemistries to add another mode of action further creating a more challenging environment for weed emergence. If you don't mind paying a little more for convenience, Storen is a great option from Syngenta with Dual, Pyroxasulfone, Mesotrione, and bicyclopyrone in one premix shuttle. Talk to your Midway Co-op Agronomist or Branch Manager for all your fall herbicide recommendations and let us help you build the perfect herbicide plan for your farming operation. Also, don't miss the 0% financing opportunities about to end for many chemistries with Secure, CFA, and John Deere financing.

# What's in the Tank?

## by Tanner Gasper

Spring is right around the corner and soon the sprayers will be running. We have had a little winter moisture and abnormally warm temperatures. Remember, to stay ahead of our growing weed pressure it is best to start clean, stay clean. There are no new herbicides in the pipeline, so we need to enhance the herbicides that we currently use. As our herbicide run is about to start, I wanted to cover tank mix partners and why we choose the products we add in the sprayer tank. Each adjuvant has a specific job to do, and we try to pick the right products that fit our growers' needs.

### Water Conditioning

Hard Water antagonizes herbicides and ties up active ingredients prohibiting them from making it into our target weeds. That is why we need to add water conditioners to make herbicides effective. Class Act NG is still our go to AMS blended water conditioner that we use as a base for many of our herbicide applications. It has been around for many years and proven to be a very effective additive to our tank mixes. Class Act NG is a combination of ammonium sulfate, a nonionic surfactant, and Winfield's Cornsorb® technology all in one easy to use liquid product. In my opinion, it has shown to be a superior tank mix partner compared to using Dry AMS alone or a Ph modifier. North Dakota State posted findings from a 2009 study comparing uptake of Glyphosate, Liberty, Sharpen, 24d, and several other herbicides in randomized blocks using differing adjuvants and water conditioners. Their findings were "most adjuvants did not enhance glyphosate to the levels of NIS+AMS. It appears acidic AMS replacement adjuvants are not created equal, and there is a wide variability in their capacity to overcome hard water antagonism". Rates of Class Act used depend on hardness of the water being used. I have had several growers be concerned on the cost of the "extras" being added to our sprayer tanks, but how expensive is it to have 20% of your herbicide tied up in hard water?

Midway also has access to a new product available called Mix-All Elite. It is used at a rate of 1-2 pt per 100 gal of water. It helps to keep herbicide in solution and limits the amount of active ingredient that builds up in your foam or settles out to the bottom of the sprayer tank. If you have ever noticed grime on your sprayer walls or end up with half of a sprayer tank full of foam after you have finished a field, this product helps to eliminate those issues. It also works to keep herbicide in suspension in the water droplets sprayed to further uptake herbicide in the plant. I think it would be a great adjuvant to use during milo/corn pre's that have atrazine tank mixes to keep nozzles clean.

### Surfactants

Surfactants work to solve several issues when spraying herbicides. Often called wetters or stickers, non-ionic surfactants work to reduce the surface tension of water droplets spreading them out on the surface of the leaf. They slow down evaporation and keep water from beading up on plants. Most weeds have either a waxy or hairy surface and spray droplets will bead up, like water droplets on a dusty floor. NIS products break through that layer to get the herbicide down into the surface of the leaf. Preference or Permeate are our top choices for herbicides that need surfactants in our tank mixes. Both products are used at a 1-2 qt/100 use rate and provide great control in tank mixes of generic burndowns where glyphosate or 24d are used.

# Wheat Management

## By Joe Princ

As this mild winter turns toward spring, many wheat fields in our region have already greened up and are looking good. With the moisture we received last fall the wheat stands coming out of winter are some of the best I've ever seen and if the weather cooperates this spring I feel like we have the opportunity to have a really good wheat crop this year. That being said, I want to refresh everyone on top-dress and weed control options.

Spring nitrogen applications are very important to maximize yield potential in winter wheat. Getting nitrogen into the root zone before jointing ensures the crop has enough available nitrogen to support tiller development and spikelet formation. Many growers choose liquid UAN for topdress applications due to ease of handling and the ability to mix with herbicides. When using UAN I don't like to go more than 30# of N with it and especially when mixing with a herbicide. We want to always use a 50/50 ratio of fertilizer and water to minimize burn on the leaves. If you need to use higher rates than that, I would recommend using streamer nozzles and coming back with a separate herbicide pass. Also adding Kugler KQ XRN which is a 72% slow release nitrogen in with UAN can help to reduce damage associated with UAN applications.

Another option would be using Kugler 342C. This product contains nitrogen, potassium, sulfur and zinc and chloride. This multi-nutrient fertilizer performs well in no-till and cool soil conditions and supports early root growth and stress tolerance. Chloride has also been shown to suppress diseases that may be present in wheat fields. XRN can also be added into the tank with 342C to maximize yield potential.

Finesse is our go to herbicide going over the top of wheat. This product when paired with a little 2,4-D is really good at killing emerged weeds like mustard, henbit, and chickweed. If bindweed, buckwheat, and kochia are an issue we want to make sure we use the high rate (0.5 oz) to get those hard to kill weeds. The high rate can also suppress cheat or downy brome however there are better options for those. If cheat or downy brome is a problem Olympus at 0.9 oz or Powerflex HL at 2 oz are the better option. If you plan on planting corn into your wheat stubble the following year, Olympus has an 18 month rotation restriction whereas Powerflex HL is only 9 months.

We have a lot of potential for our wheat crop this year and we want to make sure we take advantage of that and get the most out of our investment. If you have any questions call your branch manager or agronomist for questions or advice. Thank you for all your support of Midway Co-op!

# Corn Disease Planning

## By Brynn Boxberger

Corn disease pressure in this part of the state can widely vary from year to year, making it tricky to plan for protecting both profit and yield for the fast-moving year. While we don't have a crystal ball to tell what the weather will exactly do this year here are some things to consider. Grey Leaf Spot usually finds its way into most areas, a disease that can cause substantial economic losses, and will thrive with humid conditions. You can count on southern rust showing up, as it is a rapid spreading disease from the south, especially with our Kansas winds. If we see a good amount of rain again, northern corn leaf blight is bound cause significant yield losses. Although we haven't seen tar spot here yet, I believe it is slowly but surely making its way west through the seasons.

The most reliable and economical first line of defense is selecting corn hybrids with strong disease tolerance. Especially hybrids with high tolerance to grey leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight. With the way corn prices are right now and potentially in the future, an approximate yield response of 5-8 bushels is needed to break even on a fungicide application. Fungicide applications can provide a good line of defense under the right conditions. If you're warranting a fungicide application, timing between tassel and grain fill is still crucial, as well as a good residual fungicide.

As you're sitting down to plan and budget the farm for this year, you might consider how a fungicide pass might look in the budget (of course considering what the weather throws at us). Plan for the probability rather than the possibility, starting with a strong hybrid selection, evaluating field risk, and thinking about fungicide decisions based on in-season scouting and realistic thresholds. Keep in touch with your agronomist about seed selection and throughout the growing season scouting so we can help you and your farm!

# **Petroleum Department**

## **by Trevor Oliver**

As we head into the busy spring season, we want to take a moment to thank you for continuing to trust us at Midway Coop with your fuel and energy needs. Whether you're filling up for the workday, hauling grain, preparing for planting season, or stocking up on propane, we are grateful for your business and loyalty.

### **Spring Readiness**

With planting and field prep underway, now is the time to:

- Check your on-farm fuel storage tanks
- Replace storage tank filters
- Schedule bulk fuel deliveries early
- Confirm pricing programs that protect your margins

If you anticipate higher usage this season, give us a call so we can help you plan ahead and avoid disruptions.

### **Pricing & Supply Update**

Fuel markets have remained volatile this year. While global events influence pricing, our commitment remains local — securing competitive supply and keeping your operation moving. We continue to monitor markets daily and offer forward contracting options when available.

If you'd like to discuss locking in a portion of your fuel needs, we're happy to walk through options with you.

### **Facility Improvements:**

We're continuing improvements at our location to better serve you:

We have upgraded and purchased a New Fuel truck to add to our fuel delivery fleet out of the Osborne Location, making sure your needs are met and that you never run out when you need it most.

Over the last year we have also upgraded station pump equipment and monitor equipment in both Lebanon and Osborne. By doing this it has made our inventory control and record keeping a more helpful task. It also has helped to better predict our fuel needs, saving us time and Money, giving us the upper hand on predictability within such a volatile market, which in return helps you the consumer.

### **Community Commitment:**

We believe strong communities are built on relationships. Supporting local producers, small businesses, and families is at the core of what we do. When you do business with us, you're keeping dollars local and supporting jobs right here at home.

Thank You.

We don't take your business for granted. If there is ever anything we can do better, please let us know. Your feedback helps us continue to improve for you. We look forward to serving you this season.

Sincerely, Your Fuel Service & Station Service Teams!

# Feedmill

## by Dean Heise

### Bull Preparation

Now is the time to make sure bulls are physically capable of performing for the upcoming spring and summer breeding season. Bulls need to be in great condition to be ready for the 20–45-day marathon season of breeding, not just with energy (grain/grain mix) but with vitamins and trace minerals (preferably chelated, especially high in Zinc) as well for proper semen production and immunity. Bulls need to be in breeding condition at least 45 days, preferably 60 days before you plan to use them and maintain that until ready for use because thin bulls can run out of stamina. They also need to be ready early since the semen they produce today takes about 6 weeks to get “used.” Semen and soundness checks need to occur now so if you need to find a replacement, the sales are still on and you do not have to settle for the leftovers.

### Fly Control Season

Flies are not only annoying to you, but they are also continuously biting and sucking blood from your livestock which requires more energy for maintenance. More energy on the maintenance side means there is less energy for milk production and daily gains, hurting your pocketbook! We can add several different things for fly control.

The feed through control methods – JustiFly/ClariFly, Altosid/IGR, Rabon – need to be fed before the flies start. All of these prevent the eggs from developing into flies, they don't kill flies already flying around. These products need to be started in March most years depending on how soon we warm up. If we have 3 consecutive days in the 60's, flies will start to hatch. These have been around for a long time and have proven they work, sometimes you question how well when you still see flies on the animals after paying for the Larvicide. JustiFly is available to mix into loose mineral mixes and available in salt blocks and loose salt forms.

Garlic can be started and stopped as you want since it works by smell. We have used it for several years now with very good results on face flies, varying control of ticks and marginal horn fly control. Customers were very pleased with the reduction in pink eye cases when using the garlic mineral.

Essential Oils have been increasing in popularity the last several years to help with heat abatement. By lowering body temperatures, cattle spend less time in the ponds getting foot rot, less time standing under shade trees concentrating the manure piles which increases fly density, and more time out grazing so they can increase milk production and increase average daily gains.

### Breeder Mineral Season

With the economy these days, you want to make sure every cow gets bred back in timely fashion. Post calving nutrient intake is very crucial to the ability to get the cows rebred and maintain the health and immunity of the calf. As we look at providing the needed vitamins and minerals, start feeding BREEDER XTRA 30-45 days before breeding season because the price of mineral supplementation is minimal compared to the price of feeding an open cow for a year with no return. We have formulated BREEDER XTRA mineral to maximize conception rates. It has chelated (bonded to amino acids and highly available) Zinc, Copper, Cobalt and Manganese along with organic Selenium and elevated levels of Vitamin E to boost the immune system as well as 5% Magnesium for grass tetany. It also contains Moss yeast product to help reduce scours by attaching to gram negative bacterium (E. coli and Salmonella) to slough them out of the system so they do not attach to the intestinal lining to create problems. Customers that have been using this product are seeing 95-100% conception rates. It is also grouping the calves in a tighter calving window, 75-80% of the calves are coming in the first 20 days. A general rule of thumb is 1 lb of mineral per cow per week; if they are consuming too much – add some salt to limit the consumption since they can only adsorb so much mineral (rock) each day. Is it really worth saving 35-50 cents per week and run the risk of having an open cow? If you have questions on which minerals are right for the time of the year, give us a call and we will be glad to discuss your needs and our minerals are made here in house so we can modify for your specific needs and wants.

We can customize any mineral you want with the addition of Garlic, Heat Abatement, Fly Control, Antibiotics, Yeasts (Moss), or Chelates.

**April is the next mineral promo month. Buy 12 and get 1 free!**

# Technology

## By Jon Adams

### Get Paid Faster with Direct Deposit — And Track Everything in the Midway App

At Midway Co-op, we're always looking for ways to make doing business easier, faster, and more convenient for our producers. Setting up Direct Deposit for your grain checks is one of the simplest upgrades you can make.

#### **Faster Payments — No Waiting on the Mail**

When you enroll in direct deposit, your grain payments go straight into your bank account. No waiting on postal delivery. No trips to town just to deposit a check. Once your settlement is processed, your funds are deposited directly and securely.

#### **Safe & Secure**

Paper checks can be delayed, lost, or misplaced. Direct deposit eliminates that risk by sending funds electronically to your account. It's a secure, reliable way to make sure your payment gets where it needs to go — every time.

#### **Save Time During Busy Seasons**

Harvest and delivery seasons are busy enough. Direct deposit removes one more errand from your to-do list. No paperwork at the bank, no tracking checks — just automatic deposits.

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### Stay Informed with the Midway App

Pair direct deposit with our mobile app and you'll always know exactly where things stand.

Through the Midway Co-op app, you can:

- View grain balances
- See proof of yield reports
- Track deliveries and settlements
- Monitor activity on your account
- Stay up to date on important information
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Learn how to access and use the app here:

<https://www.midwaycoop.com/news/midway-co-op-news/access-your-information-anytime-anywhere>