

Manager's Comments by Craig Mans

As harvest season approaches, we have been working hard preparing facilities, equipment, and personnel to handle another busy fall. The past year has been marked by strong grain movement, facility improvements, and a large and late agronomy. While every harvest brings its own challenges, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and are committed to providing the service you expect from your cooperative.

We have spent the summer moving grain, preparing storage space, and servicing equipment in anticipation of harvest. Additional investments in storage and handling capacity continue to improve our ability to receive grain and reduce wait times for producers. The (2) new 400,000-bushel concrete tanks at Alton will be completed in time for fall harvest. The additional storage will be welcome once again this year as we are anticipating our second largest fall harvest in history.

Agronomy operations remained busy throughout the growing season, providing crop nutrients, crop protection products, and agronomic support. The wet and windy June made for a challenging agronomy summer. Our Feed and Energy divisions continue to play an important role in serving members and contributing to the overall success of the cooperative.

Midway remains financially strong thanks to the continued support of our member-owners and the dedication of our employees. We remain focused on maintaining a solid balance sheet while investing in infrastructure, technology, and services that provide long-term value to our membership. These investments help position Midway for future growth while improving operational efficiencies today. In addition to the new tanks at Alton, we were able to finalize our purchase of the Lucas, KS elevator, on May 1st. A little later than expected, but we are happy to have this excellent facility. The new location is managed by Sam Princ. Sam was raised around Lucas and has been with us for over 3 years. Austin Beatty and John Keller stayed with us through the transition and are working with Sam. We are happy to have them with us to serve the Lucas area.

Since our last newsletter, patronage checks went out and totaled over \$3.4 million in cash. The total patronage allocation was \$6.9 million with 50% paid out in cash and the other 50% was added to your Midway Coop Equity. Last year's fall harvest has kept us busy all winter and summer, but those extra bushels are adding money to the bottom line that we will be returning to our members.

As always, safety remains our highest priority. Harvest is one of the busiest times of the year, and we encourage everyone to take extra precautions both on the farm and around our facilities. Working safely protects our employees, our members, and our communities.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of Midway Cooperative. We are proud to be owned by you and appreciate the opportunity to serve your operation. We wish you and your families a safe, productive, and successful harvest season.

Midway Donations

Midway Coop donated \$2,000 with a \$2,000 match from Land O'Lakes to all 10 of our local fire departments!

Midway supported local fairs with over \$54,000 in premium auction support!

Agronomy by Ron Sothers

I want to take this opportunity to inform our members about changes taking place in our industry. As you all know, inflation of products, goods and services has been on the increase for everyone, individuals, families, and businesses. With those economic pressures in place, some of the Basic manufacturers are changing their “go to market” practices. This is occurring due to economic pressures making it obvious that finding and implementing efficiencies is critical in keeping costs down to battle these inflationary times. This will also have Midway Coop looking at ourselves and seeing how or if we can create some efficiencies to make us stronger in the future.

Along with investigating ways to be more efficient Midway Coop continues to run programs in our Agronomy Department which includes, Delayed due dates for Seed Wheat, Winter Fertilizer, and a host of different financing options for Fertilizer, Seed, Chemicals and Services. One of the best valued programs the last 2 years has been our winter fertilizer program, if you took advantage of it, you saved yourself thousands of dollars in fertilizer costs. Will this happen every year? No, but you can be assured that without a crystal ball, we do our very best to purchase fertilizer at the time of year when it is at its low. Keep this program in mind for 2027 and we will launch it in the first part of December. At this current time, be on the lookout for our Wheat seed offering, and 2027 spring crop seed offerings. For more details, please contact your agronomist.

Harvest will be here very soon, and I would again like to thank you for your patronage and wish you a safe and bountiful fall harvest!

Grain Department by Cullen Riner

The 2026 wheat harvest left much to be desired. Due to limited moisture this past spring, Midway Co-op received just under 1.8 million bushels of wheat this year. However, ongoing global conflicts have contributed to a recent rally in the commodity markets, creating opportunities for producers to price bushels. At this time, we have purchased 85% of the wheat crop.

A wet June, combined with timely rains in July and August, has this year's fall harvest looking promising. While some areas are certainly more stressed than others, overall crop conditions remain favorable. We have had an extremely busy year shipping bushels from last fall's record crop and are well positioned to handle another sizable harvest this fall. We look forward to a safe and plentiful harvest season.

The recent rally in the grain markets has continued to provide opportunities this summer to price bushels. In recent years, market volatility has remained significant, making grain marketing especially challenging. Understanding your operation's cost of production and the price levels needed to remain profitable is more important than ever.

If you have grain stored on the farm and are considering selling, please contact us for a bid. You may reach any of our locations or call the General Office at 785-346-5451. We would be glad to assist you with marketing your grain. Thank you for your continued loyalty to Midway Co-op.

As you prepare your fields for wheat planting, we encourage you to take advantage of our seed cleaning and treating plants in Portis and Lebanon. These locations can clean your seed and apply fungicide, insecticide, and a growth promoter to help support strong results for your farming operation and add value to your bottom line. Please give them a call with any questions or to schedule an appointment and be sure to ask about their bundling program. The telephone numbers for each location are Lebanon at 785-389-5311 and Portis at 785-346-2021.

Financing and Crop Insurance Updates

By Eric Mans

With the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act last year, producers were given a one-time opportunity for the 2025 crop year to receive the higher of their Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payment, rather than being limited to the program previously elected. As a result, we will begin seeing PLC payments for the 2025 crop year coming to producers this October. The Market Year Average (MYA) price used to determine ARC and PLC payments is calculated over different marketing periods depending on the commodity. For corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans, the marketing year runs from September through August. For wheat, the marketing year runs from June through May. At the time of writing, the final MYA prices for the 2025 crop year were just being finalized.

The estimated final MYA prices are:

- Corn: \$4.15/bushel
- Grain Sorghum: \$3.55/bushel
- Soybeans: \$10.40/bushel
- Wheat: \$5.06/bushel — final

For comparison, the PLC reference prices are:

- Corn: \$4.42/bushel
- Grain Sorghum: \$4.67/bushel
- Soybeans: \$10.71/bushel
- Wheat: \$6.25/bushel

Because the MYA price for each of these commodities is below its respective PLC reference price, PLC payments will be triggered for all four crops for the 2025 crop year. One important reminder is that ARC and PLC payments are based on program base acres, not the actual number of acres planted of the crop in 2025. The payment calculation is also subject to the program's payment rates, yields, and other USDA requirements, so a producer's individual payment will depend on their farm's eligible base acres and applicable program data.

Despite the lower commodity prices, the strong yields we experienced across much of the area last year helped limit ARC payments. In fact, because of the very good yields, only a few commodities in the counties across the Midway trade area generated ARC payments.

As we begin preparing for the 2027 crop year, there are some important changes to be aware of with crop insurance. One of the biggest changes involves the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO). Beginning with the 2027 crop year, SCO will provide coverage from the producer's underlying Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) coverage level up to 90% of the expected crop value. Previously, SCO provided coverage up to 86%. Because SCO will now extend to 90%, the previous 90% coverage combination of SCO and Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) will no longer be available in the same way. Producers will, however, still have the option to add ECO with its 95% trigger level. These changes make it especially important to review your individual coverage levels and how SCO and ECO work together before making your 2027 policy decisions.

For those already thinking about the 2027 wheat crop, the projected wheat price for crop insurance will be established during the August 15–September 15 price discovery period. The deadline to make changes to your wheat insurance policy is September 30.

There are also several important dates to keep in mind for the upcoming wheat crop:

- Final planting date — October 31: Osborne, Mitchell, Jewell, Lincoln, and Russell Counties
- Final planting date — October 20: Smith and Rooks Counties
- Acreage reporting deadline — December 15

Keep in mind that final planting dates can affect your crop insurance coverage and potential prevented-planting or late-planting provisions, so it is important to communicate with your crop

insurance agent if weather or field conditions prevent you from getting wheat planted by the applicable date.

As we begin preparing for the 2027 crop year, now is also a good time to look at your input financing options. Midway is once again offering financing programs through CFA and Secure by Winfield. Both programs are designed to provide flexibility and allow producers to finance products purchased through Midway. Taking advantage of these programs early can also provide an opportunity to lock in early-booking discount rates on qualifying purchases. Talk with your local Midway fieldman or contact me today to discuss the financing options available to you and to take advantage of these early-booking opportunities.

If you have any questions or want to discuss any of your financing or 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.

Seed Wheat Treatments

By: Jeff Hammer

I really need to harp on putting a simple fungicide on your seed wheat this fall. We still clean and do not treat a good percentage and for the minimal cost of a fungicide that should not be the case. Having Smut in your wheat is simply not worth trying to save \$2-3/ac. Head Scab has had some history here as well, and with some stressed corn that may be chopped for silage or picked early, those acres seeded back to wheat will be of primary concern. Scab can occur even with a seed applied treatment because infection occurs at pollination. However, if you have some scab in your seed wheat the disease level will always be worse in untreated seed. When you couple these pathogens with the defense against Pythium-borne diseases, including Septoria; having rejected wheat loads at harvest time isn't worth the risk, plus treated wheat simply yields better. Midway Co-op's cleaning locations at Portis and Lebanon will be applying Warden Cereals II at 2.8 oz/cwt which has a 3rd added mode of action Sedaxane to an already outstanding wheat treatment.

The #1 reason to apply insecticide is the increasing pressure from Barely Yellow Dwarf Virus which can be suppressed by keeping aphid numbers down. With only around 4% of the aphid population that vectors the disease, if you can keep the numbers down it will help suppress the disease. Insecticides also control wireworms and have systemic activity on grasshoppers, not to mention there is an added vigor effect from Imidacloprid. Bayer Crop Science did a 5-yr trial at different sites with Gaucho Insecticide and had a 4.4 bu/ac average response. Also, growers should consider an insecticide to slow down grasshopper feeding this fall on emerging wheat, especially on no-till continuous acres. We get systemic activity for 21-28 days and with grasshopper pressure likely until middle October, early planted wheat may be subject to damage as the grasshoppers move out of other senescing crops.

Midway Co-op's Portis & Lebanon Cleaning facilities can custom apply Resonate (generic gauchio) Insecticide at a rate of 1.0 oz/bushel. This is 2X the minimum rate for aphid suppression. Be sure to compare rates when comparing prices. We can also apply insecticide & fungicide through our bulk facilities at Lebanon and Osborne on newly purchased seed wheat & with our portable treater at other locations.

I want to also remind growers of Ascend Growth Regulator. Ascend is a 3-way blend of Kinetins, Gibberellic Acid, & Indole butyric Acid. These growth regulators promote cell division and differentiation resulting in earlier stand establishment. The biggest benefits come below the ground where root growth will be enhanced giving us more ability to buffer moisture stress in the fall and early spring. Growth regulators can help get the seedlings out of the ground quicker and more uniformly. This also underwent a big cost reduction this fall.

Wheat potential yield is established early in the growing season by virtue of stand and tillers. Protect your potential by protecting and feeding your seed! For more information on Warden Cereals, Resonate, and Ascend: Call Jeff (785-346-6487); Joe (785-345-3330); Brynn (620-282-8087); or Tanner (785-412-0165). For cleaning scheduling contact: @Portis (785-346-2021) @Lebanon (785-389-53-11). Thanks for your business.-

Wheat Fertility

by Tanner Gasper

With the recent run up in wheat prices, it looks like this could be a profitable crop for most of our producers. Good harvests start when the seed goes in the ground. Wheat drilling will be upon us quickly and it is good to have a fertility plan in place before the drill hits the field.

Nitrogen is the most important nutrient in growing wheat. Nitrogen prices have settled a little from last season but are still high with supply concerns and world turmoil disrupting the supply chain. This puts a pinch on the economics of wheat and makes it easy to want to cut something out of our fertility programs. Wheat removes roughly 2.2 lbs N per bushel produced. This would include carryover, mineralization, and applied N during the season. Most growers in our area are topdressing N needs in the winter. With recent weed pressures I have seen many growers going back to conventional tillage and applying anhydrous ammonia right now. In that case I would still like to see a split application with N applied before spring green up and not putting all your nitrogen needs on in the fall.

Phosphorous is also a major nutrient in wheat production. Wheat is very responsive to phosphorous applications. It is important for root and shoot growth and promotes fall tillering. Phosphorous movement in soils is very limited, especially in cold and dry soils so banded fertilizers on the drill puts phosphorous as close to new root growth as possible. Avail is a polymer product through Verdesian that we offer that helps to shield phosphorous from being fixated in the soil. It can be applied to dry starters or liquid and helps make phosphorous applications more available to the plant at the time of application. It is a very good product to use in a broadcast situation but has also shown good results in banded situations. A good quality starter program helps to create a healthy seedling going into the winter, lowering susceptibility to winterkill and stand issues in the spring.

Sulfur is the fourth most important nutrient for wheat production. Sulfur deficiencies tend to show themselves early in the spring during green up, before the wheat has rooted down and soil organic matter mineralization has started. Sulfur plays an important role in the formation of protein, amino acids, and chlorophyll formation. Sulfur deposition from clean air policies is lower and the use of sulfur containing fertilizers is becoming more important. A good rule of thumb is to apply Sulfur in a 10 to 1 ratio with Nitrogen applications. AMS is a good source of readily available sulfur when applying in the fall or top dressing in the spring.

Zinc is a very important micronutrient that is added into many of our starter programs for wheat. Along with plant functions, it helps to provide seedling vigor and improve plant health against disease and stress factors including drought. Growers should plan to spend about a bushel's worth of expense on zinc when putting together a fertility plan.

There are many factors that go into growing a successful wheat crop. Laying down a good fertility plan is a good first step and creates a good base to start for a bountiful harvest. Our new Bulk Fertilizer shed in Osborne has been running for a couple years now and has allowed us to handle many of the products that our producers need in our area. 40 Rock fertilizer is a dry blend fertilizer 12-40-0-6.5S-1Zn that is a clean green acid product that works well broadcast, incorporated, or in furrow with the drill that we carry at all fertilizer locations. We chose this product over a traditional MAP or DAP product because it is a balanced starter with included micronutrients that are essential for wheat production. For Liquid starters, KQ650 is a 10-25-0-5S-.25Zn liquid blend that we carry that contains sulfur and zinc compared to a traditional 10-34-0. We also have the option to make custom blends through Kugler on direct to farm loads if you have a specific fertility blend you are looking for. We also have other options for micros or specific blends that may better fit your farming needs. I hope you all have a safe and successful fall harvest and wheat drilling season. Ask your local sales Agronomist or location managers on how we can help you with your fertility needs this fall.

Preventing Wheat Diseases

By Joe Princ

It's hard to believe that summer is ending. Before we know it, we will be putting wheat in the ground. That being said, I want to talk a little bit about preventing some diseases caused by insects in volunteer wheat as I am sure that everyone's wheat was affected by mosaic this year. As we know, volunteer harbors insects that can cause yield destroying diseases like wheat streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf. Getting rid of volunteer wheat is the best way to prevent these yield destroying diseases.

Wheat streak mosaic is a virus carried by the wheat curl mite. These mites can also have other grasses as a host, as I saw some move out of pasture ground into wheat fields but in most cases, they can be linked to volunteer. Early fall infestations in a wheat crop can cause yellowing mosaic striped leaves and stunting. This can add up to 50% reduction in yield. You will also want to reconsider planting wheat next to fields that have cover crops containing rye and triticale as those cover crops have infected many wheat fields with mosaic the last several years.

Barley yellow dwarf is another disease that is often times confused with wheat streak as it has similar symptoms. BYD is spread by several different aphids but the most common being oat bird-cherry aphid and corn leaf aphid. The aphids spread the disease by eating on infected plants and carrying it to other wheat. Barley yellow dwarf is characterized by yellow to purple colored, stunted plants grouped in small patches. The best way to manage for BYD is planting varieties with known tolerances and delaying planting until after aphid populations decline.

The first step in preventing these diseases is controlling volunteer wheat. If using glyphosate to control volunteer wheat is your method, you need to consider the fact that the plants need to be completely dead for 2 weeks prior to planting those fields or fields in close proximity. This means that fields need to be sprayed at least 3 weeks in advance to give time for the chemical to work and the insects to move on. If we receive some moisture in the next couple of weeks, we will want to be sure to watch for volunteer germinating so we can get those fields cleaned up to help minimize the spread of these diseases.

The next step in prevention is planting later. I know that fall is a busy time and there are lots of crops to be harvested but waiting till the hessian fly free date for your area is a good rule of thumb to go by. I receive questions about using an insecticide seed treatment to control these virus spreading insects. Seed applied insecticides help prevent Barley Yellow Dwarf from becoming widespread but keep in mind the aphids must feed on the wheat to ingest the insecticide so minimal damage can occur. As far as controlling wheat curl mites, insecticides are ineffective. If you have any questions give your agronomist a call.

By Brynn Boxberger

As we move closer to the tail end of the season, insect pressure across our area has been fairly varied, with most fields showing some level of insect activity but relatively few situations warranting concern on their own. Scouting became important as corn, soybeans and grain sorghum moved into their reproductive stages, when insects can have a much greater impact on yield. K-State reported this year has included activity from several familiar crop pests, with pressure varying considerably by crop, planting date and location.

In soybeans, bean leaf beetles and webworms have been among the primary insects to watch as the crop moves through pod fill. Bean leaf beetles can continue feeding on green pods, while webworms can cause severe defoliation, along with binding of leaves due to their silk webbing. Webworms also prefer to use pigweeds as a host, when pigweeds are killed, they will seek for soybeans or alfalfa. The amount of feeding has been variable, however, making field-by-field scouting much more important than assuming an entire area is experiencing the same level of pressure.

Corn leafhoppers have been another notable development this year. Populations were detected in central Kansas during July and continued to expand into additional areas of the state. In early August corn leafhoppers were confirmed in eastern Kansas, although tested insects were negative for corn stunt Spiroplasma. Late-planted and double-cropped corn remain of particular interest because these fields can be at greater risk from late-season leafhopper activity.

In grain sorghum, keep an eye for aphids, armyworms and other head and foliage-feeding insects as fields progress through grain fill. This summer has been an unusual one, as we have seen an increase in aphid numbers in milo. The cases we have seen, we have warranted against spraying due to plenty of beneficial insects reducing the aphids in a timely manner.

Overall, the 2026 insect situation in north-central Kansas has been a scouting year rather than a blanket-treatment year. Insects have certainly been present, but pressure has varied considerably from field to field. As crops finish pod fill and grain development, continue to keep an eye on soybean pods and the upper canopy, as well as developing sorghum heads. Scouting remains important as late-season insect feeding can still take yield away even when a crop looks good from the road. Give us a call if you want some fields looked at or have any questions on pests you may be seeing. Thanks!

Petroleum Department by Trevor Oliver

Harvest is one of the busiest times of year for our petroleum department. Fuel consumption increases, delivery schedules get tighter, and a lot of our customers are trying to accomplish the same thing at the same time. Our job is to make sure we're prepared to keep fuel moving when you need it.

That preparation happens well before the truck pulls into your driveway. We're watching inventory, planning deliveries, monitoring the fuel markets and working with customers to understand what they expect to need.

I also want to remind customers that you don't have to figure everything out on your own. If you're wondering whether it makes sense to contract some of your fuel, when you should schedule a delivery, or how to prepare for the upcoming propane season, give us a call. Sometimes a quick conversation can help you make a much better plan.

Our goal isn't to predict the market perfectly. It's to help you manage your fuel needs, keep your equipment running and avoid unnecessary surprises.

If you'd like to discuss your fuel needs, contract options or a propane delivery, reach out to your Midway Co-op petroleum team. We'd be happy to help you develop a plan that fits your operation.

Bulk Oil Deliveries September 28th & 29th

We will be making our next bulk oil deliveries September 28th and 29th. If your shop, farm or business uses lubricants regularly, now is a great time to check your inventory and get your order in. We Offer TMS 15W-40, Maxtron 15W-40, and HTB hydraulic fluid.

Why Buy Oil in Bulk?

- **Convenience and Pricing:** Keep the oil you use most on hand instead of making frequent trips to pick up smaller quantities and you are guaranteed to always be getting the best price for volume.
- **Less Packaging & Waste:** Bulk delivery reduces the number of individual containers you must handle, store and dispose of.
- **Keep Your Equipment Moving:** Having commonly used oils readily available means less chance of delaying maintenance because you're out of the oil you need.
- **Better Inventory Management:** Knowing how much oil you have on hand makes it easier to plan routine maintenance and keep your shop organized.
- **Delivered Directly to You:** We bring your bulk oil directly to your farm, shop or business, saving you time and handling.

Need a Fill?

- Take a look at your oil tanks and estimate what you'll need heading into fall and winter. If you're getting close to needing a refill, contact your Midway Co-op petroleum team before September 16th so we can get you on the delivery schedule. We will also be contacting current bulk oil customers to plan their needs with them. If you are interested in being added to our bulk oil delivery; call one of our locations to get signed up. We also have cost share options for bulk storage totes available.

PETROLEUM SPOTLIGHT

Meet John Hall,

We're excited to welcome John Hall to the Midway Co-op Petroleum team!

John has joined us as an LP delivery driver as of June 15th and will be serving our customers throughout the Lebanon area. In addition to making propane deliveries, John will also be working with customers on their equipment and helping with the day-to-day service around the shop that keeps things running smoothly.

John and his wife Hailey, who is a teacher at Mankato, also have a son and daughter. We're excited to have John on the team and look forward to introducing him to many of our customers throughout the Lebanon area. If you see John out making a delivery or working on your equipment, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to him.

Welcome to the team, John!

EIA SHORT TERM OUTLOOK:

U.S. crude oil inventories

"We expect commercial crude oil inventories in the United States to be below the five-year (2021–2025) low through the end of 2026 because of high refinery runs and lower net imports.

In April and May 2026, U.S. net imports of crude oil fell below 1 million barrels per day (b/d) as exports of crude oil from the United States surged to historically high levels and crude oil imports fell. Starting around mid-April, increased exports combined with decreased imports put pressure on U.S. stocks, which declined every week from April 17 to June 26. Increasing refinery runs in May also contributed to inventory draws, after refiners completed seasonal maintenance. After ending April around the five-year average, U.S. commercial crude oil stocks decreased by 25 million barrels in May, 15 million barrels in June, and 4 million barrels in July. We forecast net imports of crude oil to remain below average through the end of our forecast because of relatively high international demand for U.S. crude oil exports and lower U.S. imports, keeping inventories low.

This outlook assumes no additional releases of crude oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve beyond the levels announced on March 13, 2026.

U.S. refinery inputs

We expect higher "crack spreads," an indicator of refinery profitability, through the end of 2026 will result in relatively high crude oil inputs to refineries. Through the first seven months of the year, crude oil inputs to refineries have been the highest since 2019, and we forecast net inputs will remain near the top of the five-year (2021–2025) range through the end of the year.

We expect U.S. refinery demand for crude oil will be about 17 million b/d through August, in line with the five-year average. In September and October, we expect refiners to reduce utilization and crude oil inputs for seasonal maintenance, dropping below 16 million b/d on average in October, resulting in reduced petroleum product production during that period. In November and December, we estimate refinery production to increase, while remaining below 17 million b/d, as refiners seek to capitalize on higher-than-average margins.

We estimate refinery margins in July have increased because of tighter global refined product market conditions. Lower refined product exports from Russia, the resumption of conflict around the Strait of Hormuz (limiting the flow of products from refineries in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), and reduced crude runs through refineries in China have all contributed to lower global refining activity. We estimate that these factors will contribute to ongoing tightness in global petroleum product markets, thereby supporting refinery margins for U.S. refiners through the end of the year."

Feedmill

by Dean Heise

I don't like to buy insurance but with cattle prices the way they are, a little prevention may go a long way when we are looking at weaning. Elevating the level of zinc on grass the last 30 – 45 days before weaning has shown to improve the health and reduce the number of retreats on receiving calves. The same as you and I take zinc to fight off the flu bug, increasing zinc before weaning will improve the immune system. Ask about the "Wean" version of minerals with the added trace mineral fortification.

Weaning soon and feeding them 45-120 days can show some nice returns with the low price of grains. Weaning a little early will help let the cow herd get in better shape before winter sets in and allow time to get calves started on feed before harvest hits. We have seen less stress and sickness in earlier weaned calves the last several years than calves weaned later in the fall when temperatures fluctuate more. If you want to feed them, get them off to a good start with our **Inbounding** complete receiving feed or **Jumpstart Stress Mineral**. These are both non-medicated so you don't need to get a VFD from the Vet to use them. Using either of these for the first week before switching to your own grain mix, getting the essential vitamins and minerals into the calves to help boost their immune system pays huge dividends. Receiver tubs provide added sugars for energy and better microbe function in the rumen, additionally they supply chelated minerals and essential vitamins for improved immunity and having that "candy block" there will stimulate saliva production to help buffer the rumen.

Protein and energy requirements of the cows and calves will not be met as the pasture grasses are getting shorter and more dried out. With varying forage qualities and quantities in pastures, supplementation on grass will allow you to leave livestock in pastures longer to use more of the available forage. Creep feeding will help alleviate some of the pressure from the cows. We have bulk creep pellets in stock or we can customize creep feed to match your needs. Creep feeding will also help in the transition of weaning and getting them started on feed. Another way of supplementing the cows can be supplied with cubes, low-consumption protein lick tubs, or any number of commodity by-products. We keep distiller cubes in an overhead bin at Osborne and Lucas if you want to pick them up or we can deliver them to your farm/ranch. We stock consistent consumption **CTI** cooked protein tubs as well as the **VITALIX** line at Bellaire and can special order **VITA-FERM's** line of products also. Give us a call and let us help you find the right supplementation program to fit your operation.

Nitrates are a concern with the dry conditions that have been occurring in much of the area to the west. If we get a rain, wait 4-6 days to allow photosynthesis to convert the nitrogen into sugars and carbohydrates. Corn, oat hay, feed cane, milo, weeds and more can all have high nitrate levels that we need to watch out for. The more stubble you can leave will make a huge difference in nitrate levels. We did a test cut on some feed and the 4" cut height had 2x more nitrates as the 8" cut height. The extra 4" stalk is not going to give you that much extra feed to compensate for having to dilute the high nitrate levels with other feedstuffs so it is useable. Putting it up for silage will help reduce the levels by usually 50%.

Don't forget that **October is the next mineral promo month**. During that month, for every 12 bags of range mineral you buy – YOU GET 1 BAG FREE.

Technology

By Jonathan Adams

AI Is Taking Root in Agriculture

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming another tool in the modern farmer's toolbox. While AI may bring to mind computers and robots, many of its agricultural uses are surprisingly practical—helping producers make better decisions, reduce input costs, and get more from every acre.

One of the biggest uses of AI is precision agriculture. By analyzing information from satellites, drones, equipment, weather stations, and field sensors, AI-powered systems can help identify differences across a field. Farmers can use that information to determine where fertilizer, seed, or crop protection products are needed instead of treating every acre exactly the same.

AI is also showing up directly in farm equipment. Modern sprayers can use cameras and computer vision to distinguish weeds from crops and apply herbicide only where it is needed. Other systems can analyze crop health, predict potential disease or pest pressure, and identify problem areas before they become obvious from the road.

Beyond the field, AI can help producers sort through large amounts of information. Weather forecasts, soil data, yield history, commodity markets, and input costs can all factor into decisions about planting, irrigation, marketing, and harvest timing. AI doesn't replace the farmer's experience—it can help turn all that information into something useful more quickly.

The technology is still developing, but agriculture has always been an industry built around finding better ways to produce more with less. From GPS guidance and yield mapping to today's AI-powered tools, the goal remains much the same: make better decisions, improve efficiency, and keep agriculture moving forward.