

# Co-op Gleanings

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Number 1

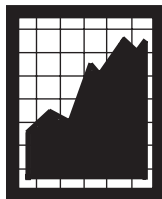
## General manager

The board of directors is in the final stages of hiring a new general manager for your Elkhart Cooperative Equity Exchange.

Watch for more information as the selection process is finalized.

## From the Grain Department

By Barry Meyer



The USDA's acreage report came out Friday, March 30, 2007. Their prediction for corn was 90.5 million planted acres for 2007, up 15% from last year. Most experts (Barry is not in this group) estimated the planted acres at around 86 to 88 million. Kansas is predicted to plant 10% more acres, while Texas and Oklahoma are predicted to plant 11% more corn acres than last year. The market reacted immediately with the two days of limit-down trading for corn and wheat.

Total wheat acres were estimated at an increase of 5% from 2006. Kansas had an increase of 5%, while

Texas and Oklahoma were estimated at an increase of 7 to 8%.

Soybean acres were estimated to be down 11%.

The markets are finally beginning to trade some weather. Maybe this will help us establish which direction the grain markets will go on a daily basis. The Corn Belt is very wet right now, and all factors will need to be perfect for this 15% increase in corn acres to be planted. Many of the extra acres will need to be planted in ground that is not optimal for corn. For the wheat acres, we'll just have to see what happens with the freeze. There is talk that bean acres may be bought away from corn which could help both grains.

We have been shipping some corn and milo from all locations. The facilities at Dermot, Richfield, Feterita, and Eva will be emptied and cleaned by the time wheat harvest rolls around. At Rolla,

Keyes, and Elkhart, we'll have as much space empty as possible. We will have rail cars ordered for these three locations and transfer trucks for the other four. Now all we have to do is get this harvest in the bins.

All of us at the Elkhart Co-op wish you a safe and successful spring planting season. Watch out for the little ones as they become more active with spring activities and summer is just around the corner.

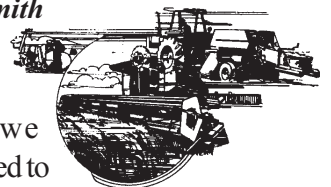
If you have any questions regarding grain or anything to do with your operation, give us a call or stop by your local branch. If we don't have the answer, we'll find someone who does. I hope that my new crystal ball isn't defective.

## Crop production notes

By David Smith

What a different situation we have compared to

a year ago. We are looking at the potential for a good wheat crop. By now we should be through with the top-dressing and I would like to share



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some notes with you about wheat diseases.

These notes from Oklahoma come from Dr. Bob Hunger as of March 1, 2007. He says Wheat Soil-borne Mosaic Virus (WSBMV) and Wheat Spindle Streak Mosaic Virus (WSSMV) symptoms are just starting to be clearly expressed in wheat in the plots around Stillwater. With the milder temperatures this past week, the wheat has started to grow and "green-up" considerably. So the symptoms of these two diseases should begin to become more and more apparent on susceptible varieties.

Wheat foliar diseases: Yesterday, I did not find any leaf rust in any of the susceptible varieties in Dr. Jeff Edwards' (Wheat Extension Agronomist at Oklahoma State University) variety demonstration here at Stillwater. In contrast, actively sporulating powdery mildew was heavy on the lower leaves of susceptible varieties.

Here are a few additional foliar disease reports received today:

March 1, 2007 — Dr. Brett Carver, wheat breeder at Oklahoma State

University, reports there is still no rust showing up in Southwest Oklahoma based on a breeder plot tour from El Reno to Ft. Cobb to Hobart. Nothing to get excited about save for some old powdery mildew at Lahoma in North Central Oklahoma. Early risers are coming out, while late breakers are still laying low.

From Texas on February 28, 2007 — Dr. Dave Warrall, Agripro wheat breeder says Ross visited Castroville and Luling last week. He didn't find any rust at Castroville but found really heavy seedling rust on susceptibles at Luling. He couldn't find any stripe rust at either of the locations, or at Hillsboro. We have a little bit of leaf rust at Lockett but you really have to search to find any active pustules. I looked at commercial fields in southwest Oklahoma last week and found about the same level of leaf rust there as that we are seeing here. Now that it is warming up, things will start to pop.

**Fertilizer prices:** There seems to be no end to the rising prices. Furthermore, we see no change in the near future.

It is almost corn planting time. I would recommend using a residual

herbicide along with Roundup on Roundup Ready corn. There are several options available and if we can be of help in deciding which to use, please call.

We thank you for your business in the past. Please give us the opportunity to provide your crop production inputs and services this production year. Have a safe spring!

## Fuel and lubricant news

By Billy Wayne Hines

### Gas from the gas man:

Your investment in diesel powered ag equipment is a long-term investment. It makes good economic sense to protect and maintain your engine with a high-quality diesel fuel, one that's formulated for the rugged demands of agriculture equipment.

Soy-Enhanced Ruby Fieldmaster™ Premium Ag Diesel Fuel is uniquely formulated to keep your equipment in top shape. In addition, it contains soy biodiesel, an alternative fuel made from soybeans grown right here in the United

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### Corn Dec 2007, CZ7, 1 Day



### Wheat July 2007, KWN7, 1 Day



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States. Using Soy-Enhanced Ruby Fieldmaster in your diesel equipment provides many benefits including:

- Optimum power for increased productivity.
- Better fuel economy.
- Quicker engine starts, faster warm-up time.
- Generate less smoke and burn fuel more efficiently.
- Reduced maintenance costs.
- Reduced input cost per acre.
- Backed by the Total Protection Plan™ Warranty.

These exclusive additives in Ruby Fieldmaster work together with a high-quality base fuel for maximum power and longer engine life:

- High cetane for quicker, more fuel-efficient starts.
- Aggressive detergents clean the fuel system and maintain clean injectors.
- Soy and other friction-reducing agents reduce wear on the fuel pump.
- Demulsifiers reduce moisture-related problems by preventing water from going through the fuel system.
- Corrosion inhibitors prevent corrosion and rust formation inside the fuel pump.
- Stabilizers prevent gum and varnish buildup which can clog filters and collect in the fuel pump and injectors.

Here at the Elkhart Co-op we can help you protect your diesel equipment with Soy-Enhanced Ruby Fieldmaster Premium Ag Diesel Fuel. For more information, contact us. Call 620-697-2135. We appreciate your business. See ya!

## From Dermot

*By Carolyn Milburn*

Looks like spring has sprung and everyone is busy getting ready to plant corn. We have a lot of



fertilizer moving out of Dermot and we are starting to move some more corn. We are all getting excited and hopeful about a good wheat crop and some are already looking forward to a good fall crop. So, the moisture we have had has been good for a lot of attitudes around the country. The warm temperatures have gotten everyone thinking it is time for me to fire up the tea making. Maybe I will in a few days.

The markets have been like the weather, something changing every day. Things have changed a little bit around Dermot also. As many of you may already know, as of March 24 Ron Honig has not been here. He has taken a job as a crop scout in Hugoton. He has been missed, but we want to wish him well with his new venture. Everything is the same here except for tire repairs for the time being. Felix has been here staying busy filling tanks and doing other jobs.

There is not much else to report at this time. We would like to say “thank you” for your continued support of your co-op. We appreciate your business, and if we can help you with anything, please let us know. You are welcome to come by any time for a cup of coffee or a glass of tea. Thanks again and have a safe and happy spring.

## From Keyes

*By Chris Townsley*

Here at the Keyes Branch, we have been busy shipping grain to prepare for the upcoming wheat harvest. Over the past few months, we have shipped out 120,000 bushels of milo, 90,000 bushels of corn, and 25,000 bushels of wheat. We are beginning to see several empty bins with even more grain to go out this month and next. At this time, the wheat in our area continues to look as good as we have experienced in quite some

time. Even though the crop is a long way from being in the bin, it looks as if we will need all the room we can get to handle the grain.

I would also like to remind anyone who will be storing grain on the farm to be sure and check the condition of the bins before filling them with new-crop wheat. Make sure the bin has been thoroughly cleaned and swept down. After cleaning it out, it is recommended that the bin be treated with insecticide or fumigant to kill any insects remaining in the bin. Another precaution that will protect your grain is to add an insecticide to the grain as the bin is being filled. For a small amount of money, you can protect your investment from costly damage later on down the road. As we have seen in past years, it doesn't take long for insects to cost you a lot of money. Please feel free to call or come by and we will help you in any way we can to ensure your grain will be protected.

While on the subject of harvest, I would also like to let our customers know that we will not be using the little scale this year. For those of you who have small trucks, we will be weighing all trucks on the longer scale. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you at the co-op.

## From Richfield

*By David Bashford*

Hello from the Richfield Branch. It has been very busy around Richfield with the wheat being top-dressed and strip-till rigs in the field. By the time this is printed, both of these operations should be coming to an end.

Most of last year's fall crops have been shipped out and your local elevator should be empty going into wheat harvest. It is time to start preparing to store grain on the farm. Make sure last year's grain is out of

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the bin, all cracks and crevices are cleaned and sealed, and bins treated to prevent a fresh hatch of insects.

Thanks for doing business at your co-op. We appreciate it.

## Rolla News

By Richard Carter

We have been having some beautiful spring days. All of the wheat looks good now and we just hope we can keep it that way until harvest.

We have RT3 and Roundup Original Max in bulk at Rolla. We also keep a good variety of other chemicals on hand to help with controlling the weeds. For your lawn, we have weed and feed products and a couple of choices of just fertilizer.

I would like to thank all the employees who helped with the sale at the Rolla station. We are still looking for someone to buy or rent the station. Let us know if you know of someone who would be interested.

Our thanks to all of you for the business you have given Elkhart Co-op in the past. We look forward to serving you in the future. If you have any questions or problems, feel free to stop by or give us a call.

## Kansas wheat organizations support cellulosic ethanol

Leaders from Kansas Wheat, the cooperative agreement between the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, were pleased to learn that the Department of Energy has awarded a grant to Abengoa Energy to build a

cellulosic ethanol plant in Kansas. Abengoa Bioenergy Biomass of Kansas, LLC of Chesterfield, Missouri, was awarded up to \$76 million to build a plant in Kansas. The plant will produce 11.4 million gallons of ethanol annually and enough energy to power the facility. Any excess energy will be used to power the adjacent corn dry-grind mill. The plant will use 700 tons per day of wheat straw, milo stubble, corn stover, switchgrass, and other feed stocks.

“Kansas Wheat is ready to provide Kansas wheat producers with the guidance and education they need to be able to make informed decisions concerning cellulosic ethanol,” said Joe Kerj, president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. “Cellulosic ethanol has great potential to add additional value to the number-one crop in the state.”

Kansas wheat is working with the Kansas Department of Commerce to develop a decision-making tool designed to help wheat producers decide if it will be feasible to sell their straw for cellulosic ethanol, taking sustainable agriculture guidelines into consideration, and what price would be required to make it affordable. The tool should be ready and available to producers within a year. Construction of the new cellulosic ethanol plant will likely take two years.

Kansas Wheat through the Kansas Wheat Commission is already funding research with producer check-off funds at Kansas State University to determine better ways to process straw for making cellulosic ethanol. Research will also need to be funded in the near future to determine ways to improve wheat varieties to both yield high-quality grain and produce an adequate supply of biomass. Genetic engineering will also play an important role in this research as well as

enhancing switchgrass or other native grasses to make them more productive for cellulosic ethanol. “Cellulosic ethanol has the potential to be the next great agriculture success story in Kansas,” said Dusti Fritz, CEO of Kansas Wheat. “Our organizations’ established relationships with Kansas State University and producers in Kansas position us well to take the lead on cellulosic ethanol. We are excited about the new plant coming to Kansas and are ready to work with state government, Abengoa, K-State, and wheat producers to make this project as successful as possible.”

**Mission Statement**  
**to be a strong, viable business exceeding our customers’ needs, by providing highest quality service and products at competitive prices.**

**Cooperative Description: Benefits and Responsibilities**  
 A cooperative is a business operated primarily to provide benefits to members through marketing transactions and through a distribution of patronage earnings from the transactions.  
 In return, *members* have a “responsibility” to provide ownership capital and exercise member control (governance).

**Elkhart Cooperative Equity Exchange Officers and Directors**

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