From The Board Room

Looks like SPRING is here and a new planting season has begun for 2015. We hope this will be a better season on time perspective. Seeding has begun two to three weeks earlier than last year and the land is not as wet. Moisture levels are very adequate as we are still seeing tractors stuck in mud holes. With the earlier start should lend to not as rushed a season. Be sure to be visiting with your service center for your needs for the spring season.

The Board has finished another strategic planning session and the new brochures with the updated information for SWG. Be sure to pick up a brochure at your service center to be informed of your cooperatives direction for the future.

A reminder to patrons who have turned age 70, you are eligible to receive your dividend from SWG and CHS. If you need assistance, contact the Administrative office and they will help get the process started to receive your money.

SWG is undertaking a fertilizer expansion at the Lemmon location to improve the fertilizer supply chain for the southern region of SWG territory. This project is in the final planning stages with construction to begin yet this spring. We will keep you informed on the progress.

Have a SAFE and successful spring planting season.

Harlan Klein, President
SWG Producer Board

Champion of Champions Jacket Award Program

Once again this year, Southwest Grain will be taking part in the Champion of Champions Jacket Award Program. Any active 4-H or FFA members who registers for the program by May 15th, 2015 receives a free T-shirt. It is required that Payback® brand feeds be fed according to directions for at least 90 days (beef) and 60 days (swine, sheep, goat) prior to show. Any member who wins either champion or reserve champion at any county or state fair in the market, carcass or breeding class for beef, sheep, swine, or goat projects will receive a special award jacket.

These outstanding 4-Hers participated in the 2014 Morton County Fair in New Salem, ND. After receiving champion or reserve champion in the market, carcass or breeding class for beef, sheep, swine or goat projects: Southwest Grain New Salem, Crystal White & Dustin Elkins from CHS Nutrition awarded these hard-working 4-H members with a Payback Champion of Champions jacket, customized with their name. Also with summer and fly season just around the corner, we have a variety of fly control options available from Lewis cattle oilers, the vetgun, pour-ons, insecticides for mixing in the oilers and more. We also have on hand Payback minerals with fly control as well as an assortment of SmartLic protein and mineral tubs containing IGR to use while on pasture. Keep in mind the best fly control for your cattle will be to utilize two methods of fly control.

Watch for the call creep booking in May or call me at Southwest Grain in New Salem or Elgin.

Kristine Koepplin
Animal Health & Livestock Nutrition Specialist
It looks like spring of 2015 may have arrived and, as we wait for fields to get ready to plant, it seems like we are in for yet another version of normal when it comes to farming and ranching. The planting season is starting off earlier and drier than last year so we hope this is a more normal planting season. In spite of the challenges that the 2014 crop year produced, it seems like we have again adapted to the circumstances and will move forward. The 2014 crop is moving thru the system and is finding markets to create disappearance of the lower quality crop. Grain movement has been good as rail freight seems to have improved with the major slowdown in the oil business and some of the investments the BNSF made in their track system start to show increased volume on all segments of the rail road. In recent events there has been more shuttle cancellations that will again free up more rail freight in the near term. The cancellations were due to the lack of a corn export program out of the Pacific Northwest (PNW), and with the majority of the corn still in the bin, this will likely push the rail freight issue out a few months when we start to look for space for the 2015 crop. Shuttle cancellations free up power, and equipment for the railroad to use in other freight programs such as DET and COT (non-shuttle) programs. The cost of gas and diesel has set back dramatically and should stay at lower levels for the near future, so those energy input costs are quite a bit lower than compared to a year ago. Generally, a lot of the commercial grain storage is still full, farm storage is full and there is a lot of grain in bags, so we will continue to ship grain as car placements dictate and will do our best to move the crop to market. Not much has changed with the overall supply of grain as compared to demand and the global supply of all grains is well ahead of the demand increase. The increase in the value of the US dollar has caused the lack of export demand for the commodities produced in the US. US commodity values are low but still too high in the global markets. Our grain handle at the end of the first 7 months of fiscal year 2015 is a little behind last year but not as bad as could be expected with the challenges of moving a lower quality crop into the markets. We will soon be making freight decisions for the upcoming marketing year and we hope the placement of those trains is adequate to handle the demand. Lack of demand for rail freight has the values in the market segment trading at tariff values which is dramatically less than what we were faced with last fall.

The input markets continue to show flat seasonal prices but will show some increases as supply may get held due to the logistics of getting all of the products delivered timely when farming kicks into full swing across a large part of the upper Midwest all at the same time. Commodity values remain low so these input prices will have to make some fundamental longer term, to allow the economics to work. The fertilizer manufacturers continue to hold prices in a range and all are concerned with in season logistics or getting the product where and when they are needed for the planting season. By the calendar we are only about 90 - 110 days away from the 2015 harvest season in the Northern Plains. It seems like these seasons get closer together every year. Energy products continue to show significant weakness due to the huge drop in crude oil pricing and the refined product prices have started to follow crude oil in our immediate area. Propane is at a low point due to the lack of drying demand last fall and a somewhat milder winter overall. We are looking ahead to start pricing propane supply for the next drying / heating season already but with the overall weakness in the energy sector, it is hard to make big decisions at this time. Keep an eye on these energy and fertilizer markets and be looking to take some purchases at these levels. OPEC will meet again in June of 2015 to see if it makes sense to cut their production.

As of this writing we have closed the first 7 months of fiscal year of 2015 (Sept. 1, 2014 thru March 31, 2015) and the year, so far, is generally ahead of budget but behind in some areas. We are on pace to post another profitable year for fiscal 2015. Grain handle for the fiscal year to date will be down about 1.8 million bushels as compared to the same point last year, which is a result of the quality issues discussed earlier. Rail freight for the immediate demand is adequate and is still being affected by the lack of export business of the Pacific Northwest, as well as a slowdown in crude oil shipments, as compared to a year ago. The input side of the business did show lower prepay dollar volume, as well as some carry over product from last year’s prevented plant acres. Energy is having a very good year with increased volumes and margins. A good start for the fiscal year and hopefully it will follow thru as it progresses. The 2014 patronage checks were mailed in February so those should be in hand by now. We distributed about $4,000 in patron dollars in cash locally to our customers for the business they did during fiscal 2014.

The demand for feed continues to be on a normal pace and our sales efforts on feed are showing growth due to the higher values of cattle, which helps to somewhat offset the lower volumes in grain prices. With the strong cattle markets, the economics of adding extra pounds to the calf crop makes good sense, whether you use creep feed or supplements, as the cost of gain is much lower than the selling price of the calves. As I watch the market reports for cattle sales across the region, it is amazing that the value of cattle continues to hold in at near record prices. It also looks like the cattle numbers are trying to build with the majority of the bred heifers going back to the country locally. There is some concern starting to show in the cattle producing areas with the ongoing drought conditions. Check with your nearest SWG feed sales people and help them understand your plans for the summer feeding season. Also check with your SWG feed sales people for all of your animal health needs. We have some very knowledgeable staff that is continually training to service your animal health needs. Let them know what you need and they will make sure it is available when you need it. It looks like the grass will have a good growing season, and it still makes sense to supplement cattle on grass to stretch the supply. A good mineral program is still one of the most important management programs for cattle.

As of the safety side of the business, we continue to update and maintain our facilities and continue with ongoing training for our employees and evaluation of our programs to create a safety culture that is good for both the company and our owners. We are looking at making some changes to the Safety Program to take it to a new level of commitment and do what is necessary to make that happen. Thanks to all of our employees for making safety a priority and for maintaining our level of compliance excellence, by not only making “Safety First” but “Safety Always”.

The grain addition at Lemmon is moving along and is on schedule, maybe a little ahead of schedule, due to moving along and is on schedule, or for maintaining our level of compliance. The addition at Lemmon is progressing on feed are showing growth due to the higher values of cattle, which helps to somewhat offset the lower volumes in grain prices. With the strong cattle markets, the economics of adding extra pounds to the calf crop makes good sense, whether you use creep feed or supplements, as the cost of gain is much lower than the selling price of the calves. As I watch the market reports for cattle sales across the region, it is amazing that the value of cattle continues to hold in at near record prices. It also looks like the cattle numbers are trying to build with the majority of the bred heifers going back to the country locally. There is some concern starting to show in the cattle producing areas with the ongoing drought conditions. Check with your nearest SWG feed sales people and help them understand your plans for the summer feeding season. Also check with your SWG feed sales people for all of your animal health needs. We have some very knowledgeable staff that is continually training to service your animal health needs. Let them know what you need and they will make sure it is available when you need it. It looks like the grass will have a good growing season, and it still makes sense to supplement cattle on grass to stretch the supply. A good mineral program is still one of the most important management programs for cattle.

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The grain addition at Lemmon is moving along and is on schedule, or maybe a little ahead of schedule, due to the open winter. The contractors are in the process of installing the equipment, which should be complete and ready for startup sometime in late June or early July of 2015. We are in the process of looking at several fertilizer capacity expansions in our trade area, as we see a need to get more storage capacity at our

**Continued on page 3**


**Regional Manager’s Report**

Hettinger Into It's 4th Year

main rail locations, as well as at some of the off rail locations. These projects will help us to be in a better position to have the supply in place when it is needed, and will help offset some of the logistical issues we continue to have in season. The planting pace that seems to happen in such a short window of time will continue to create logistical issues every year. The equipment can cover a lot of ground in a short period of time and, with our planting windows subject to the weather, this will be an ongoing concern. We are excited to watch these projects progress and look forward to our ability to re-investing in agriculture to better serve our patrons.

Another ongoing reminder related to equity retirement, any requests for equity retirement either for age or estate require a form to be filled out. You can contact our main office and we can help you with the necessary forms to get this done. Also remember that the age requirement is currently at age 70, so please keep that in mind. With the strong earnings of CHS, there is a focused and please keep that in mind. With the strong requirement is currently at age 70, so contact our main office and we can help you with the necessary forms to be filled out. You can feel free to contact us with any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Thanks again for your continued support of the cooperative system, and for putting your trust in our company and our people. The success of your cooperative is not about any one person or event, but a true team effort. Please feel free to say something.

Delane Thom
Regional Manager

Propane Summerfill Program
Beginning Soon

Hello again to everyone from all of us in the Petroleum Department. What a change from markets this time last year.

In the propane arena, we are experiencing much lower pricing than last spring thanks to a variety of things. First, we had very low demand for crop drying, and then winter started much milder than usual, both factors leading to above average inventories. The usage for fracking is down dramatically due to falling crude prices.

We will be starting our annual Propane Summerfill program near the end of May or beginning of June. The program will be the same as in the past, home heat customers will be given a Deferred Billing delivery which will be billed on or about August 15th and will be due on August 25th to get your cash discount.

Qualifications for the Summerfill program will be the same as in the past:

1. Your account must have an adequate credit limit and not be past due.
2. You must take a complete fill (tank to 80%).
3. You must take delivery on or before July 31st.

In the refined fuel arena, crude has stayed range bound between $42 and $52 for WTI, which equates back to $30 to $40 for the Bakken Crude. There has been much speculation as to when prices will get back in a range to resume the oil field activity. Some speculate it won’t be until late 2016 or even early 2017.

The entire staff at Southwest Grain Petroleum would like to thank you for all of your support in the past and look forward to helping you in the future.

Jim Renke, Manager Energy Division

REEDER RAP-UP

The season is upon us! It has been going quite well here in the Reeder area. We haven’t heard near as many stories about being stuck as we did last year. Maybe everyone is just a little more educated when it comes to that!

Calving is pretty much wrapped up now and it sounds like everyone had pretty good luck again this year. A mostly open winter seemed to help that a lot. Those that are going to IA their cattle should be ordering their MGA products for their synchronizing program. There is a hint of green grass now in the pastures, so don’t forget about the magnesium tubs. We carry a variety of Hi-Mag products that will help the fight against grass tetany. The IGR tubs are on the next shipment and will be ready when you are.

Thanks to all of you who had your anhydrous tanks looked over and did the required repairs. We have been filling tanks steadily and supply has not been an issue, so far. I probably should not have said that, but we are keeping ahead is right now!!

The guys have been busy keeping the fertilizer bins full and the blender has not shut off, so that says that a lot of money has been going into inputs. I will talk to Jim Bobb and see if we can do something on the other end to make sure everything goes the way you want it to!!!

The falling numbers issue did not go away, but Jim and his crew have done a fantastic job of marketing any wheat with issues. I hope most of the low numbers are gone and we can get back to a normal harvest.

Once again, I would like to thank the employees here at Reeder. The crew has done a great job during this hectic time, so my hat is off to them.

Thank you for your business and I hope everyone has a safe season.

Larry Doerr, Manager Reeder Elevator
NE-MAG 22 IGR

A Nutritional Supplement Containing (S)-Methoprene Insect Growth Regulator for Continuous Feeding to All Classes of Beef and Dairy Cattle through the Horn Fly Season.

NE-Mag 22 IGR is a Nutritionally Engineered® supplement that is completely mineral-fortified with added magnesium and designed to provide sufficient (S)-Methoprene insect growth regulator to prevent the emergence of adult horn flies from manure of treated cattle. This unique supplement is second to none when compared to other low-moisture blocks. This block is the product of a state-of-the-art patented process that provides a unique 24-hour feeding system. NE-Mag 22 IGR is an exceptionally dense, all-weather block that will give you the most for your money. Here’s how:

✔ NE-Mag 22 IGR supplement is fortified with Altosid® which offers the most effective and convenient way to control horn flies in beef and dairy cattle.

✔ Economical: A low feeding rate means lower feeding costs (on a per head per day basis).

✔ High Mineral Fortification: This supplement is mineral fortified, eliminating the need for additional free-choice minerals, resulting in significant cost savings.

✔ Weather Resistant: The patented, “continuous flow” system creates a quality, low-moisture, exceptionally dense block that maintains its integrity even in hot, humid weather or precipitation.

✔ Minimal Labor: SmartLic® NE-Mag 22 IGR is easy to feed. Simply place the blocks in areas of easy access to the cattle.

✔ Returnable Steel Barrels are economical and environmentally friendly and eliminate the expense of additional feeding equipment. Ask us about other available packaging options and packaging size options.

Nutrition and Reproduction-
Reducing the Lates and Opens

This free-choice mineral must be fortified with the required macro minerals, trace minerals and vitamins. Free-choice mineral is normally consumed to fulfill the cow’s nutritional wisdom to seek phosphorus. Green grass generally contains moderate to high levels of phosphorus. Therefore, an adequate mineral may include a phosphorus level as low as 6 percent. If the free-choice mineral’s phosphorus or magnesium level is too high, intake is compromised with a resultant nutritional deficiency of other components of the mineral product.

Most research trials indicate that any well-designed free-choice breeding mineral program will include chelated trace minerals. Most of the forages in the Great Plains are deficient in copper, zinc and manganese, and antagonists (tie-ups) are likely in many of the forages and water. Chelated trace minerals come in all shapes and sizes, some good—some not so good. They are also included in free-choice minerals at varying levels, some at the proper levels—some only as tag dressing. Industry standards include chelates at 1/3 of the total trace mineral level.

CHS NUTRITION supplies various products under the PAYBACK brand designed for range cow supplementation - prior to, during and after the very important breeding season.

Protein and energy supplementation products may include Range Cubes, SmartLic® Tubs or Payback Liquid Supplements.

Ultramin 12-12 Mineral and Ultramin 12-6 Mineral are highly fortified free-choice minerals that contain Zincpro chelated copper and zinc at industry standard levels. They are highly palatable, include yeast and are weather-ized to assure consistent consumption. These products are nutritionally engineered to maximize range cow fertility.

Maximizing beef cow fertility requires many important management decisions. Proper nutrition and supplementation is vital to the reproduction process and ranch profitability.

Kim Hager
Beef Nutritionist
CHS Nutrition

Kim Hager
Optimizing beef cow fertility is crucial to the economics of beef cattle production. Total conception rates, as well as first cycle conception rates, may be the two most important factors affecting total pounds weaned, cow productivity and ranch profitability. This is evidenced by the age-old practice of selling open cows in the fall as being the leading criteria for culling management.

Fertility rates are greatly affected by nutrition. Beef cows are bred during peak lactation and, therefore, need adequate and balanced supplies of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. There has been abundant research that shows body condition score (BCS) at calving is tied very closely to reproduction. Mature cows should be in a body condition score of 5 plus and 2 and 3 year-olds and older cows should be 6 plus. The majority of weight loss from cows in a BCS of 5.5 or less is muscle. Consequently, thin cows at calving, have vastly increased nutritional requirements, which will most certainly require protein and energy supplementation. Cows in optimum body condition going into breeding and consuming adequate supplies of highly nutritious forage may not require protein and energy supplementation. Forage and water analyses, ration balancing and genetic evaluation will more precisely determine nutritional requirements.

All cows will require a high quality free-choice mineral that is being consumed at the desired rate of intake.
What Exactly is Grass Tetany?

Chances are you feed an added magnesium supplement to your cows every year. It’s what you have done for years, and probably what your parents did for years before that. But do you know why? What is happening in the cow to make this necessary? In a few words, I hope to explain to you the importance of supplementing magnesium.

Grass tetany, in short, is a magnesium deficiency. When older cows or ewes are in their heaviest lactation, in cattle this is when calves are just born until about 2 months of age, they have a higher plane of nutrition. These cows and ewes are putting so much into milk production that they need more vitamins, minerals, and protein to function.

University states that “Cloudy, windy, rainy weather with the daytime temperature between 40 and 60 F seems to be the environmental conditions most critical, especially through times of high rainfall. An important thing to remember is cattle have very limited magnesium reserves, so constant supplementation is critical, especially through times of high risk.”

When you get into some of this weather in your area, be sure to get some supplement!

Have a wonderful spring!
Beth Hendrickx
Livestock Nutrition and Animal Health Specialist
Lemmon Elevator

Gladstone News

Greetings, once again, from the Gladstone station. We are presently cleaning spring wheat Monday through Thursday, by appointment only. We do feed rolling on Fridays. We did clean barley during the month of March, but not much, only about 3,500 bushels.

We will stock MinLic IGR tubs, along with Payback mineral with IGR, for your summer fly control needs. We will also have Calf Creep B68 on hand for your creep feeding needs. It’s never too early to start creep feeding. Watch for our creep feed booking day to be held sometime in May.

When you get ready to work those calves, give me a call so I can have what you need, when you need it.

I would also like to mention that I do handle net wrap and baler twine. In the net wrap, we have the 64” and 67”. In twine, we stock the 20,000/130 plastic

NE-MAG 22 IGR

FEEDING DIRECTIONS

When used as directed, **NE-Mag 22 IGR** will provide sufficient (S)-Methoprene insect growth regulator to prevent the emergence of adult horn flies from manure of treated cattle. Existing adult horn flies will not be affected. Start feeding before horn flies appear and continue use until cold weather marks the end of the horn fly season. Allow free choice to cattle. Cattle should consume an average of 0.8 ounces of **NE-Mag 22 IGR** per 100 lbs. of animal body weight per day, which is equivalent to 8 ounces per day for a 1,000 pound animal.

Provide access to fresh water and free-choice salt at all times.

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Contains Altosid®

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

(S)-Methoprene [CAS #65733-16-6]: ..........................0.005%

OTHER INGREDIENTS: ...............................................99.995%

TOTAL: ..............................................................100.000%

Crude Protein, minimum ........................................22.0%

Crude Fat, minimum ..............................................5.0%

Crude Fiber, maximum ............................................2.0%

Calcium, minimum .................................................2.3%

Calcium, maximum .................................................2.8%

Phosphorus, minimum ...........................................2.0%

Potassium, minimum .............................................2.5%

Magnesium, minimum ..........................................2.0%

Cobalt, minimum ....................................................3.0 ppm

Copper, minimum ...................................................300 ppm

Iodine, minimum .....................................................15 ppm

Manganese, minimum .............................................1,200 ppm

Selenium, minimum ...............................................6.6 ppm

Zinc, minimum .....................................................1,200 ppm

Vitamin A, minimum .............................................80,000 IU/lb

Vitamin D, minimum .............................................8,000 IU/lb

Vitamin E, minimum ..............................................80 IU/lb

NE-Mag 22 IGR contains 22% crude protein (not more than 10% as non-protein nitrogen).

ALTOSID® Insect Growth Regulator is a registered trademark of Wellmark International. Made in U.S.A.

SmartLic® is a registered trademark of New Generation Feeds.
New At New Salem

Feed business is picking up and cattle oilers are a hot item this year for extra fly control. Call us if you have any questions. We have the Lewis cattle oiler with mineral feeder in stock. Also call us for all your mineral and animal health needs. We would be glad to help.

We are busy cleaning seed and treating seed, so if you need any of those services, give us a call as well. Also, we have feed oats and seed wheat, along with sunflowers, corn, millet, sorghum, soybeans, etc. For all your seed needs, keep us in mind. We will be treating soybeans as well, so if you need that done, get on our list early.

We want to welcome our two latest employees on board with the team here. Welcome Mitchel Grade who will be at our feed plant. Mitchel was hired in early February. He grew up and graduated in Bismarck. He is fresh out of college, and excited to be here. He will be splitting his time between Elgin and Richardton, and will be a valuable resource for our locations.

Our central agronomy staff has grown drastically over the winter months. This has not been an easy undertaking, and we thank the central agronomy division for all of their efforts to help us meet your needs. Andy Knebel started with us full time this winter as an Agronomist, but was around last summer as an intern. He is fresh out of college, and excited to be here. He will be splitting his time between Elgin and Richardton, and will be a valuable resource for our locations.

I hope that everyone has had, or is having a successful calving season. As we approach the branding season please let us know if there is anything you need to help get your herd ready for the summer pastures. Don’t forget to ask about our Mag products for grass tetany, or IGR products for fly control.

Deborah has taken a position over at the Boyle Terminal in the main office. She has been a wonderful asset to our team and helped us grow to meet your needs in countless ways. She will be dearly missed, and we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

I would like to wish everyone a SAFE and productive spring planting season. I know in the rush of everything it is easy to become complacent in the dangerous things we do. Please take the time to make sure we all come out whole on the others side. As always please let us know if there is anything we can do to help make you and your operation more successful.

As we near the end of April, the seasons are finally starting to change. We’ve gotten some ground worked, and are getting a jump on the spring season. I was starting to feel like we were getting a little late, but as I have started filling NH3 tanks, I have noticed that the inspections seem to be about a week ahead of last years. I think that the open winter has lead me to feel like we might be behind.

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Welcome Tanner Sjomeling, our new agronomist. Tanner lives in Bismarck, grew up in Pollock, South Dakota and has been with us since late February.
**Grain Division Report**

Jim Bobb

After the past couple years, it is good to see producers busy planting. Maybe everything can get planted and the preventive plant acres will be non-existent in 2015. Most farmers are taking advantage of the weather and making excellent progress on cereal grain plantings. As with every planting season, energies are spent on production and less on marketing. Be careful. Market prices are trading lower in summer and harvest unless a major weather occurrence emerges. The US dollar has strengthened 20% since last September, devaluing export commodity prices.

Due to the mixed quality levels with the 2014 crop, demand and destinations have changed dramatically from past years. In the month of March, Southwest Grain loaded, on rail, 2,704,434 bushels of spring wheat. This consisted of 1,872,603 bushels, or 69%, of milling quality, falling numbers over 300. Another 7% of spring wheat shipments had falling numbers between 275-300 or 187,518 bushels. Of the remaining bushels shipped, 644,313 had falling numbers under 274 and made up 24% of spring wheat shipped. Shipped bushels are an accurate reflection of falling numbers received for this time frame. Each class of wheat has a similar ratio of quality.

On the first of April the BNSF simplified rail rates, doing away with a fuel surcharge, but included an increase in freight of 9%. They had not taken an increase for over a year and as their velocity improved on all freight movements, they seized an opportune time to make adjustments to rates. The secondary market for freight fell apart in December and since has traded close to or at tariff. This is a savings of $.61 a bushel compared to the highs last October. If the BNSF can stay current with grain commodity car requests, the secondary market will not be a factor. Let’s hope this is the future of grain rail shipments - on time and affordable!

Delayed Pricing program on spring, winter wheat and durum has been at $.04 per bushel service fee since mid-February. Not all locations had space to offer this program. All Delayed Pricing program bushels have a contract deadline of May 31st. As this day approaches everyone will have the same opportunity for renewal. This year, May 31st falls on a Sunday, so all contracts will need to be renewed by Friday, May 29th. You will have the option to pay up the service fee and write a new contract at $.04 a bushel with an expiration date of May 31, 2016. Once again, we will need to have this done by Friday, May 29th or we will sell the grain and mail out a check. In mid-May I will mail out a notice with your options to everyone who has an open Delayed Pricing Contract.

Most of the commodities are range bound but the trend continues to be lower. With any rally you should make additional sales of old crop inventories. Above I touched on the strength of the US dollar. The Canadian dollar is discounted to the US by 20%. We see Canadian wheat taking the majority of the export business and also coming into the US - this is true for any agricultural commodity. Weather conditions worldwide have improved and with the southern plains receiving moisture and more in the forecast, futures are driven down hard. With weather events there will be days when the market up trends sharply. If you are planning on selling grain, use these opportunities to price.

The Durum market short term will not have a rally as world stocks and especially North America’s stocks are sufficient. Domestic mills have been full for months now as semolina sales are extremely slow. The quality of the North American crop was very poor, which has some wondering if there is enough good quality durum available to get to new crop. At the end of March USDA showed an increase in prospective durum seedings of 18% for the 2015 crop year. New crop harvest will begin in Mexico in late May and move into the US desert shortly thereafter. So, the window of opportunity for a rally in durum is rapidly shrinking.

A friendly reminder as you shift from planting to hauling wheat. Please clean all equipment thoroughly before hauling. We continue to reject loads of wheat containing kernels with seed treatment.

Have a safe and prosperous spring!

Jim Bobb, Manager Grain Division

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**Dickinson And Boyle Terminal Updates**

Kevin Lein

I started writing this article on April 15th and spring work must have started because our truck traffic has slowed in the last few days.

On December 18th we received our own falling numbers machine and the crew at the Boyle Terminal has done a great job getting trucks through as fast as possible. We also have had NDGI run some samples for us when we are really busy. It is not an easy task and it takes time to run each load. Thank you for your patience while waiting in line. These guys have a system down and work extremely hard every day, all day, without breaks most days. We thought 150 loads would be the maximum we could dump per day, but we had many days of 175 to 200 and even a 205 load day.

We have two new employees here at the terminal; Jeremiah Homola and Scott Sharbono were hired in January. Outside of work, Jeremiah enjoys golfing and fishing and Scott’s hobbies are playing pool and muscle cars. Welcome aboard guys!

At the Dickinson Durum Terminal

They are sending a sample of each load to NDGI for falling numbers and grade. Seems like most of last year’s durum has low falling numbers. Through the spring and summer months, we will be busy doing repairs to equipment in preparation for harvest. Have a great spring and summer!

Kevin Lien, Manager Boyle and Durum Terminals

Scott Sharbono

Bruce Schatz

**Greetings From The Elgin Station**

As I write this, we are nearing the end of April and the weather is getting warmer, but the winds keep blowing, which is drying out some of the water holes.

The farmers in the Elgin area are getting a good start on seeding small grains. Remember that we do not clean seed at this location.

Grain at the elevator is moving and will as long as New Salem has room. Ranchers are busy calving and will be for the next month or two. We still handle a full line of animal health products and a full line of feed, including cow cake and mineral. It’s also getting to that time of the year to think about calf creep; give us a call soon.

We have all of your fertilizer, chemical and seed needs. We have a blender and can make most blends of fertilizer. We have spreaders for rent as well.

Propane supply seems to be good, so hopefully, we will have a good summer fill price, which should start soon. Give Karen a call for all your propane needs, 701-584-2944.

Thank you for your business.

Bruce Schatz, Manager Elgin Elevator

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**Southwest Grain, working hard to help you grow value... today...and into the future.**
Spring Wheat Seed Still Available At Regent

Hello from all the Regent gang! We have been busy the past few months cleaning spring wheat for seed. If you need some cleaned, please call for an appointment.

We are sitting full of wheat because of the road restrictions. Hopefully they take them off soon.

Spring work is well on its way. I have some spring wheat seed that has not been spoken for yet. Contact us for variety and price. I am waiting for pricing on creep feed and should know soon. We will have bulk creep on hand. Right now we have a good supply of Smart-Lic tubs, including ones with IGR for fly control. We handle all kinds of animal feed. If we don’t have something that you need, we can usually get it in a matter of a day or two. That also holds true to animal health products. Nadine and I are both vet dispensing techs and are able to get prescription drugs from the West River Vet Clinic. We do have some prescription drugs on hand.

Haying time will be here soon. We will have twine and net wrap on hand.

Thank you for your past patronage. Everyone gets in a big hurry this time of year…slow down and be safe. We don’t want to see anyone injured!

Terry Hartman, Manager
Regent Elevator

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Farm Rescue

Three hundred. Is it just a number? In late October 2014, Farm Rescue marked a significant milestone. In the cornfields of Minnesota, we assisted our 300th farm family.

What’s the big deal? When told this fact, one might raise their eyebrows, say “Wow,” and move on to the next topic. However, 300 means so much more to Farm Rescue and to myself. The number reminds me that 300 farm families have been impacted by what we do: they will be able to stay on their farms. They will keep doing what they love. And their local businesses, schools and communities will thrive with their support.

You were there. The support for Farm Rescue has been incredible. Our mission pulls on the heartstrings of many, with over 200 business sponsors and almost 1,000 volunteers sharing our vision. I am humbled by the individual who invests in something larger than themselves. The business that sees Farm Rescue as the venue to support their community. The volunteer who takes vacation time to serve others. You. Your spirit, support and belief in our mission continue to create a lasting impact within our communities. Thank you!

Together. Injuries, illnesses and natural disasters devastate many farm families each year. Your support is vital to our mission of helping the family farmer continue their viable operation by bridging an unexpected crisis with assistance in planting, haying or harvesting. The need is present, but so is the opportunity to impact more families and communities. Join us in making that impact. We cannot do it without you. I encourage you to look at the ways to lend a helping hand found on page 15.

300 is not just a number. It’s the positive, ongoing impact on families and communities.

Sincerely,
Bill Gross
Founder and President

Custom Application Services Available

Well spring is here (for now)! I hope all is going well for everyone, as we all get busier by the day.

This is just a quick reminder of the custom application services that SWG has to offer for all of our trade area. We have sprayers, floaters, and seed treaters strategically located throughout the area, to cover all locations. It may take a little more planning for some of the traveling, so please call ahead.

With the early spring, there is a lot of seeding going on without a burn down. It is possible to spray post planting to pre emerge, but if Mother Nature does not cooperate, things could get a little hairy. The cheat grass is doing very well, so if you need help, we are here. You can call your local SWG for more details.

Thanks for your business and have a safe spring.

Rick Poehls, Manager
Lemmon Agronomy