



AMERICAN PRIDE CO-OP

Cooperator

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www.americanpridecoop.com

MARCH 2011

Manager's Comments

by Gary Morrison

American Pride Co-op's 75th annual meeting was held January 10th at the Brighton Armory. Two director elections were held. Bruce Schlagel was re-elected to the board of directors as the director at-large. Tom McBride was elected from District 2. In a subsequent meeting, the Board elected Chris Losh (District 1) chairman, Kent Kalcevic (District 1) Vice Chairman and Paul Schlagel (District 3) Secretary for 2011. Tom Kirkmeyer (District 1), Brian Howard (District 2) and Brett Markham (District 3) were appointed associate directors.

Our speaker was Bob Zimmerman, Vice President of Raw Materials Supply for CHS, who discussed the potential impact of pending legislation on cooperatives as well as the global energy situation.

At the annual meeting, we were pleased to report that your cooperative had a very good year in 2010. We paid patronage refunds to members amounting to approximately \$708,000. Thirty-seven percent of the patronage refunds were paid in cash, and the checks were mailed to members last December. Patronage rates were 10.2 cents/gallon on gasoline and diesel fuel, 5.0 cents/gallon on propane, and 1.6% on fertilizer, chemicals and seed.

At the meeting, the membership also approved a change in the articles and bylaws. The change increased the initial cost of a voting membership from \$10

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Scholarships Available

American Pride Co-op will award three scholarships to high school seniors this year – (2) \$1,500 and (1) \$1,000. Applicants must be entering an accredited junior or senior college in the State of Colorado to pursue an associate arts or bachelors degree. The parents or the student must hold an active membership in the Co-op.

One of these scholarships is the Cole Kugel Scholarship. American Pride Co-op is please to administer this scholarship on behalf of Cole Kugel who was the scholarship's benefactor. The two American Pride Co-op Scholarships are funded by the participation at the scholarship hole and the sale of mul-ligans at the cooperative's annual golf tournament.

Applications for these scholarships are available through the corporate office in Brighton or our branch locations. Please contact Sandy Maize at 303-659-1230 or 1-800-332-6478 for further details.



Happy Easter

*from the Board of Directors
and Employees of
American Pride Co-op*

*All American Pride Co-op locations will be
closed April 24th, Easter Sunday.*



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Poultry "101" Seminar

Saturday, March 19th 10:00 a.m.

American Pride Co-op

Brighton location

55 West Bromley Lane

featuring

Steve Young, Manna Pro Feed Specialist who will address the health and care of poultry. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Animal Health with a specialization in poultry. Whether it's your first season for raising chicks or you're a veteran, you'll find his presentation both helpful and informative.

Baby chicks will be available in the store beginning March 15th. Remember, American Pride Co-op is your headquarters for all your chick supplies.



Chick Days Are Here!



10 FREE Broiler Chicks

with purchase of (2) 50-lb. bags of Purina Chick Starter
(limit 20 free chicks per household)

Saturday, April 16th...500 Available

Saturday, April 30th...500 Available

Call 303-659-1230 or 1-800-332-6478

Your Co-op Board of Directors . . .

Chris Losh, Chairman
Kent Kalcevic, Vice Chairman
Paul Schlagel, Secretary

Tom McBride
Mike Rademacher
Jeff Rasmussen
Bruce Schlagel

Associate Directors: Brian Howard
Tom Kirkmeyer
Brett Markham

Should You Switch to Ethanol Blend Gasoline in Your Bulk Tanks?

The Federal government's recent approval for retailers to sell a 15% blend of ethanol gasoline (E-15) and a widening spread between unblended and blended gasoline has raised the question, "Should you switch to Ethanol blend gasoline in your bulk storage tanks?"

E-15 is only recommended for vehicles manufactured in 2007 and after because earlier engines may experience problems. Currently, few stations offer E-15 blended fuel.

However, E-10 (10% blend of ethanol with gasoline) is a commonly used fuel that has been around for many years and can be used in almost every application. In fact, very few retail pumps in Colo-

rado sell gasoline that is not blended with ethanol. The current differential between E-10 unleaded and unleaded is 12 cents per gallon so the savings is real. When switching a bulk fuel tank from unleaded to E-10 unleaded, several precautions need to be taken:

1. Check for water present in your unleaded tank. E-10 will absorb water and if enough is present, it will cause a phase separation that will cause vehicles to stall.
2. Plan on changing fuel filters on your tank and in your vehicles after you have used the first tank or two of E-10 as the ethanol in the fuel will "clean out" your existing tanks and plug a filter or two.

3. E-10 has a slightly higher Reid vapor pressure and may cause vapor locking in older vehicles in extremely hot weather. This problem is becoming less common as carburetted vehicles become rare.

E-10 is a great fuel and, with a savings of 12 or more cents per gallon, one that should be explored. If you have any questions or would like us to pull a sample of your fuel tanks to check for water or sediment, call our Petroleum Department at 720-685-1966 and our experienced staff will be happy to assist you.

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to \$50 and also increased the amount of equity a voting member must have in order to vote from \$100 to \$500. The change has no impact on the non-voting members of the cooperative.

Each winter, the Board of Directors and management team holds a meeting with some of our ag customers. This year, the meeting was held in February. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas on how your cooperative can better serve member needs. We were also able to explain some of our concerns for the coming growing season. The prices of energy products continue to increase, but product availability should not be a problem. The supplies of ag chemicals and fertilizer products are adequate for the spring season, and pricing trends are encouraging for producers. We hope you will contact the fertilizer department at Henderson or at Mead early to discuss your needs for the spring.

In closing, we would again like to thank each of you for your business; 2010 was a successful year for your cooperative because of your support. The farming season will be here soon, and we look forward to working with you in coming months.



New Premium Lo-Carb™ is available at American Pride Co-op

New to Progressive Nutrition's® Premium Line of feeds is Premium Lo-Carb™ pellets, a premium horse feed balanced for all types of horses. Lo-Carb™ Pellets is great for maintenance horses, performance horses, horses with metabolic concerns and senior horses that can still eat hay.

As you know, nutrition is an integral part of the management of horses. More horses than ever require special nutritional consideration such as diets lower in starch and sugars to manage metabolic concerns or "hot" attitudes. These horses also require elevated essential amino acids such as Lysine as well as safe calories from

fat and fiber. Progressive Nutrition's® Lo-Carb Pellets contain less than 6% Starch and 2.8% sugars—these values are listed on the tag. A high-Lysine feed, Lo-Carb™ Pellets also contain beet pulp for optimal weight and performance.

Formulated for optimal health and performance, Lo-Carb™ pellets will provide:

- Flexibility to feed to horses in multiple life stages
- Improved muscle and haircoat
- Low starch and sugar levels that you can see on the tag
- NO added fillers like rice hulls, oat hulls or oat mill by-product
- Added Omega 3 fatty acids from ground flax for joints, hair and skin
- Vitamins and minerals for optimal immune development.

Progressive Nutrition's® Premium Lo-Carb™ Pellets are available at Brighton and Mead Feed Departments. Stop by today so you can start seeing the benefits!

General/Corporate Offices

55 West Bromley Lane
Brighton, CO 80601
303-659-1230 • 1-800-332-6478

Branch Locations:

Henderson, CO Mead, CO
303-659-3643 303-776-5015

Diesel Fuel Is Diesel Fuel, Right?

Wrong. Diesel fuels vary widely by supplier. Only a true premium diesel fuel, like Cenex® Ruby Fieldmaster® Premium Diesel Fuel, has the combination of a high-quality base fuel and a complete, balanced additive package to increase both the performance and life of your diesel-powered equipment. It's a difference you'll notice in the field, in the shop, and in your bottom line.

Cenex Premium Diesel Fuels are specially formulated to meet the rugged demands of your heavy-duty equipment. In rigorous lab and field tests, Cenex Premium Diesel Fuels consistently outperform standard #2 diesel. And recently, Cenex Premium Diesel Fuels were enhanced to optimize performance and alleviate common problems related to using a standard #2 diesel in newer engines – including injector failure, clogged filters, reduced efficiency, power loss, poor starting, costly repairs and even engine failures.

Compared to standard diesel, Cenex Premium Diesel Fuels:

- Improve fuel economy by as much as 5%
- Improve fuel lubricity by 10-15%
- Improve power by as much as 4.5%
- Have a higher cetane number (typically 48)
- Extend the life of injectors and injector pumps
- Reduce maintenance costs
- Operate better in modernized diesel engines
- Promote quicker, more fuel-efficient starts
- Reduce smoke and emissions for cleaner air.

Plus, every gallon of Cenex Premium Diesel Fuel is enhanced with soy biodiesel - a lubricity enhancer and clean-burning alternative fuel made from domestically-grown soybeans. It protects the moving parts in your engine like no other fuel on the market.

No wonder this premium product is backed by an ironclad guarantee. If you're using Ruby Fieldmaster Premium Diesel Fuel and Cenex lubricants and anything goes wrong with your new or used agricultural equipment, parts covered by the warranty will be replaced free of charge. That's an offer you won't find with any other diesel fuel. (Visit cenex.com/tpp for more information or to enroll.)

Your equipment is worth protecting with the best diesel fuel on the market. To learn more, contact our Petroleum Department at 303-720-1966 or 1-800-332-6478 or please visit cenex.com/rubyfieldmaster.



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Ag News

Nitrogen in Grass Hay

In most grass systems, the two factors that most limit growth are moisture and nitrogen. There is only so much one can do to increase the amount of water available (i.e. purchase irrigation water and improve water usage efficiency). However, we can manage nitrogen to improve productivity on grass pastures and grass hay. Nitrogen deficiency in grass is common. When considering nitrogen fertilization on grass hay or pasture, decisions need to be made as to how much to use and when to apply. The agronomy staff at American Pride Co-op can help you determine how nitrogen fertility may fit your farm.

The first question to answer is if nitrogen fertilization is necessary. If you are currently happy with your production, don't change what you are doing. If your production is less than you desire, nitrogen fertilization may be helpful. Simply put, nitrogen grows plant tops (leaves). More plant tops mean more grass hay production per acre. Assuming other nutrients are not limiting, nitrogen can increase production and thicken stands. Nitrogen is necessary in protein production in grass as well; limited nitrogen will reduce the protein available in hay. Nitrogen can also affect botanical composition. Generally, nitrogen will favor more productive grasses over less productive grasses. For example, in a smooth brome grass, quick grass or bluegrass pasture, brome and quick grass will tend to increase with nitrogen fertilization compared to bluegrass. Once you have decided to use nitrogen, the first step is to do a soil test. We can supply soil testing advice and fertility recommendations for your yield goals.

How much nitrogen do you need? Grasses can remove 30 – 45 lbs. of nitrogen per ton of production. If you are shooting for a yield of 4 ton of hay per acre for the year you may need 180 lbs. of nitrogen.

Lastly, you must decide when to apply the nitrogen. Due to the availability of water, most people tend to want to apply the full amount of nitrogen in the spring. We recommend applying half to two-thirds of your full nitrogen need in the spring, and the rest after the first cut. In studies, split applications have produced an increase of up to 25% in tonnage over one time application. The limiting factor in our area is water when it comes to summer utilization of nitrogen. If you have enough water, a second application of nitrogen after your first cutting would be helpful.

Consider your fields. Do you need to fertilize? How much nitrogen do you need? When do you need to fertilize? Let us help you maximize your yield potential. Come into one of our agronomy locations and ask for one of our certified crop advisors. They will be happy to help you answer these questions.



Roundup Ready Alfalfa Now Available

After four years of legal battles, the United States Department of Agriculture has finally deregulated Roundup Ready alfalfa. We will have seed available for planting this spring. With the Roundup Ready alfalfa trait fee adding \$125 to the cost of each bag, growers will have to decide for themselves whether or not it is worth the investment. Understanding what Roundup Ready alfalfa does and what it does not do will be crucial in helping you decide whether or not it will be a fit for your farm.

The management of Roundup Ready alfalfa will be identical to conventional alfalfa in all areas except weed control. One area where Roundup Ready alfalfa will be of great value is in stand establishment. Weed management in alfalfa is critical during stand establishment to ensure adequate stand density and strong, vigorously growing alfalfa plants. Another area where Roundup Ready alfalfa will be of value is controlling weeds that we currently miss with our conventional herbicide programs. Weeds such as Dandelion, Canada Thistle, Wild Lettuce, and undesirable perennial grasses will be much easier to control with properly timed applications of glyphosate. However, some weeds common in Front Range alfalfa fields are not well controlled by glyphosate. Weeds such as Tansy Mustard, Common Lambsquarter and Russian Thistle are not well controlled by glyphosate. Glyphosate resistant Kochia has been confirmed in Goodland, Kansas and appears to be moving our way. Glyphosate alone will not be enough to keep your alfalfa fields clean, but used as a part of a herbicide management plan, should help keep your fields cleaner and help you produce higher quality alfalfa.

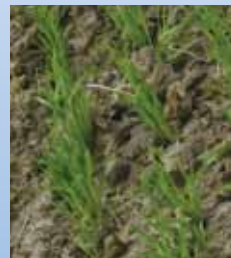


Glyphosate resistant weeds are a growing problem in the United States. Resistance management is especially important in Roundup Ready alfalfa. Since an alfalfa field will be in production for many years, repeated applications of glyphosate without use of other weed control options can speed the onset of glyphosate resistant weeds. By mixing the use of glyphosates with conventional alfalfa herbicides, we can maintain the value of Roundup Ready alfalfa by keeping the potential glyphosate resistance at a minimum.

There are many factors to weigh when deciding if Roundup Ready alfalfa is a fit for your farm. Our agronomy staff at Henderson and Mead can help you with any questions you may have, or assist you in developing a herbicide management plan.

Looking for Seed?

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- Forage
- Millet
- Grass
- Wheat

Contact our seed experts today at

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Mead
303-776-5015

Financing Available

American Pride Co-op is a resource for your crop production financing. Through our association with John Deere Credit, you could qualify for financing for your fertilizer, chemical, seed and fuel purchases.

Farm Plan™, from John Deere Credit, offers seasonal terms depending on the qualifying programs.

Contact Glen Ross in Customer Service for an application and complete details at 303-659-1230 or 1-800-332-6478.