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OUTLOOK
SPRING 2019



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BRAD HAUGEBERG
CHS SUNPRAIRIE
general manager

LOOKING FORWARD TO A **GREAT SPRING**

As I write this article on the first day of March, there seems to be no end to the winter and no sign of spring anywhere. The only

indication is that the days are getting longer. Having said that, an early spring is not likely and that usually makes for a very condensed and challenging planting season. It's not too late to change that, but it better start warming up soon.

On another note, we are very happy with our first harvest season at our new terminal, named Wiley. I still get asked, "Why Wiley?" During construction of the new terminal I came across some railroad maps from the 60's through the 70's that show a siding near where we built that was named Wiley. There are a couple different stories as to why it was named Wiley. However, there are a few people that remember that siding, and I personally found where the switch used to be and the remnants of the siding. The pole that used to bear the sign is still there but obviously the sign is no longer. Those maps are on display at the Wiley location. Now back to how the facility performed. We did a market analysis as to what we felt we would handle at that new facility and we are right on the money with our projections. I want to thank the many that supported us in this new venture, as this facility will be there for decades to provide a market for that area.

These new state-of-the-art facilities are amazingly efficient with everything literally operated with a mouse on a computer. We decided to always have a spare mouse on hand and a couple extra batteries...just in case. It would be a shame to be down for a while because of something as simple as dead batteries in a mouse.

Lastly, this upcoming spring will be the first season for our recently expanded Dakota Agronomy Partners LLC, with the agronomy assets contributed from the three parent cooperatives of DAP. While something this sizeable typically experiences a snag or two, I can tell you that this past winter there has been an incredible amount of time spent on trying to prevent any issues that could arise, and I am confident that DAP will continue to succeed. Particularly because the three parent cooperatives share the same vision and are completely invested in the success of this joint venture. CHS SunPrairie is very appreciative about the great relationship we have with Border Ag and Energy and our long-time partner, Enerbase Cooperative Resources.

Thank you to all of our patrons and have a SAFE spring! ■



TONY BERNHARDT
ENERBASE
general manager



A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR YOUR COOPERATIVE

Greetings from the staff and management of Enerbase. 2018 proved to be a better year financially than 2017, due to an improved economy of scale and better gross margins for your cooperative. By now you should have received an annual statement in the mail. If you have not, please feel free to stop by our Minot office and pick one up.

As always, the current board and management have been busy looking at the future of your cooperative along with growth opportunities that present themselves. As you probably already know, Farmers Union Oil of Velva/Drake/Butte/Anamoose was consolidated into Enerbase in September of last year. I must say that this has been a seamless process due to the Velva/Drake and Enerbase employees' ongoing willingness to work together as one team, and better yet, a family within the cooperative. Enerbase continues to look towards futuristic aspirations that make sense to the patrons and also fits the model that has been created. The growth that Enerbase has encountered has been very significant, but Dakota Agronomy Partners has also made aggressive strides to the future as well.

Your board of directors and management have had many planning sessions in the past to allow for discussions, along with valuable decisions that continue to be made for the future of Enerbase. This year is no different. Enerbase will continue to deliver to you, the owner, a commitment of stock retirement and cash patronage earned on an ongoing effort to redeem the equity that you deserve, and continue to be aggressive on equity redemptions for past and future business.

On the operations side, we plan on allocating \$1 million dollars this year, covering various areas within Enerbase to enhance your experience with doing business at your cooperative. Enerbase Cooperative Resources will continue to improve on the assets of the cooperative as needed for growth, as well as look to future expansions that may come before us. On behalf of the board of directors and the entire management and staff, I sincerely would like to take this time to thank you for your business and look forward to a bright future for your cooperative! ■

Enerbase continues to look towards futuristic aspirations that make sense to the patrons.



WAYNE JOHNSON
BORDER AG & ENERGY
general manager

You are the owner of this cooperative system that was built to provide the owner service.



MAKING IT WORK

Greetings from the north; boy it is nice to be done with winter. The old saying by native North Dakotans came true this year, “No matter how nice the weather is today, you will pay sooner or later.” This was spot on this past winter.

The best way to deal with winter is to get over it and think positive about spring. Border Ag is excited to get going with the first year with all our agronomy assets operating under Dakota Agronomy Partners. This undertaking took a lot of time and effort for the three parent cooperatives and crew at DAP. As we have stated before, we all believe this was and is the right decision and we all need to support it. Board and management realize that the first year could be rough, but we all must be positive and patient to see this thing through.

As one of the parent cooperatives, Border Ag has seen some efficiencies already. Sharing of help I think is going to be the key component here as hiring key people in rural areas is getting hard to do. Money seemed to be the thing that solved everything in the past, but the younger workforce doesn’t want to live in small towns. We all ask that our patrons please give us a shot at your business and be patient with the staff, so we can make this work. Remember, if you are a patron of one of the parent cooperatives, you are involved with the other two as well. Let’s make it work.

The cold weather has slowed grain movement this past winter, not to mention the poor grain prices. Talks have been a little better with China, but the results won’t be noticed until next shipping season as we are already marketing the South America crop. This spring in our trade area we are anticipating more of the same; wheat, canola and soybeans will be the big crops for us.

We can no longer co-load shuttle trains on the CP at Lansford and Kramer. We will still be ordering small trains at those stations and trucking some to Bottineau and Russell. Brandon Burbidge will be spending time in Russell and Lansford so give him a call on any marketing needs. Larry Raap is the lead merchandiser and is in the Bottineau office. Mark Patterson is out and about making farm calls and will be working with DAP for seed and agronomy needs as well.

In closing, I ask you to remember that you are the owner of this cooperative system that was built to provide the owner service. This business model was built on that belief by past patrons and management and we are too far in to change. We might not be the best price everyday but with your support we will be here every day to serve you.

Hope you have a great spring. ■



DAN SEM
DAKOTA AGRONOMY PARTNERS
general manager

UP FOR THE CHALLENGES MOTHER NATURE HAS IN STORE

Last year we put the crop in the ground in 35 days and everyone started around May 1st. Looking out the window today, it looks like we are going to need some help from Mother Nature in pulling that off again.

season. Freight continues to be the crutch in the middle of spring and we are constantly looking to lock in partners to make sure supply arrives timely.

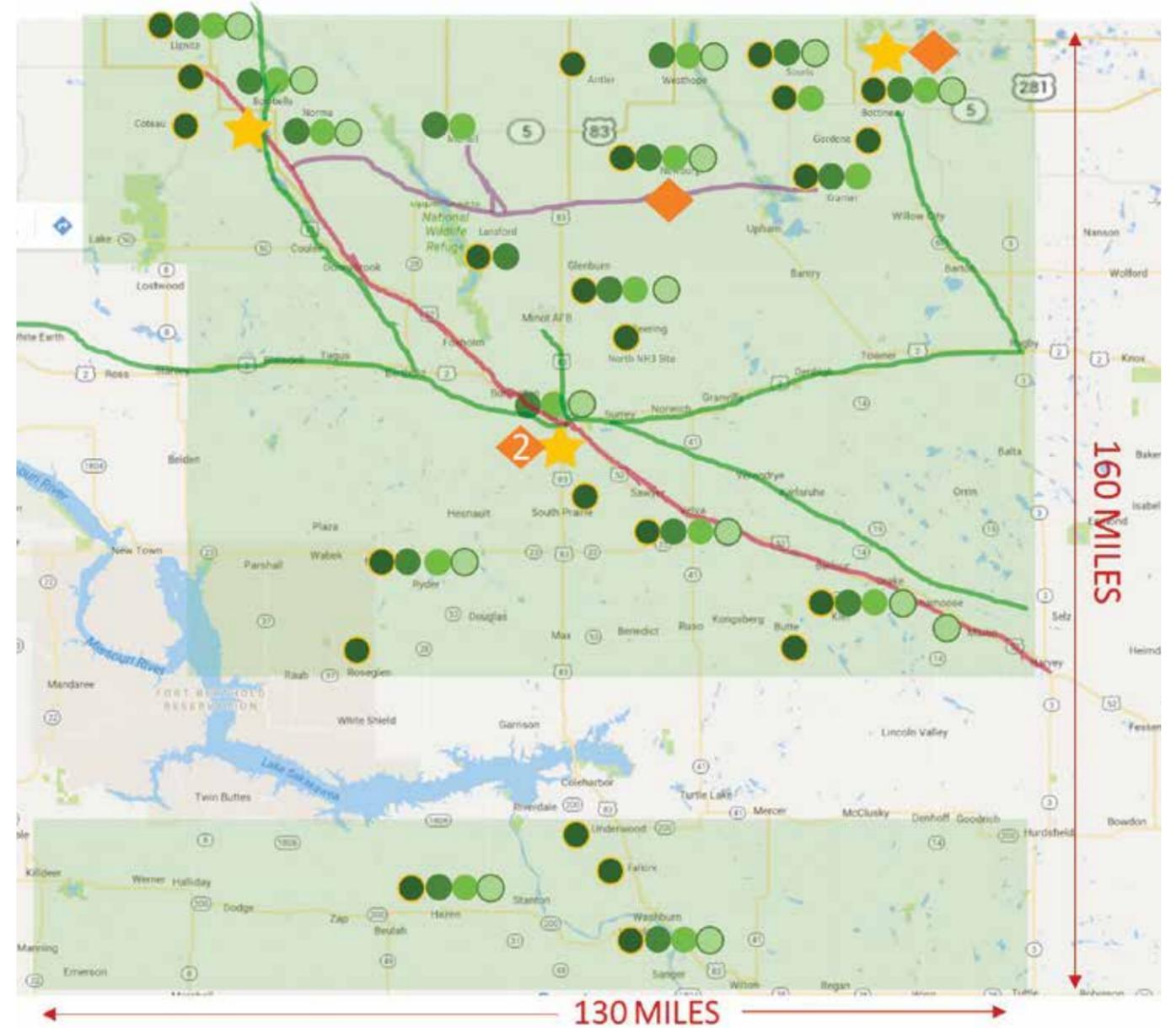
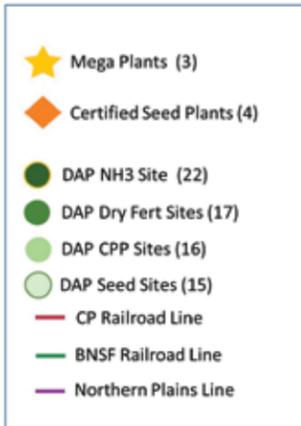
DAP has doubled in size and we are happy with the new group of great employees and assets that came into DAP with the merger and acquisition back in September. We are not changing a lot with our new size, and we are continuing to keep our focus on being the best partner for our growers each and every season. Pooling our resources will give us many options we didn't have before. When servicing an area of this size and scope it really boils down to communication internally with employees and customers to set the table for a successful season.

My hope is that as you are reading this, we are turning wheels and positioning product on the farm. Our agronomy team has been working hard during these cold winter months, educating themselves on what is new for 2019 and what will work best for our growers this season. We are ready for the spring season to get underway and our team's performance will prove that we are up for the challenges that Mother Nature has in store for us again this year. ■

The new DAP trade area has given us some good options to spread our services where we are needed.

For the Spring of 2019 we are in good shape on supply going in for the most part. The new DAP trade area has given us some good options to spread our services where we are needed to serve our growers. Our fleet of application equipment is poised to cover the territory we now have. The board of directors realized the need for enhancement of the fertilizer assets in the eastern part of our trade area and has approved funding for improvement. We know this will help that area with fertilizer logistics greatly. We have also upgraded a few of our machines to ensure we have the ability to offer Precision Ag options where they are wanted and needed. Variable rate fertility has become more common, and our equipment needs to have the latest and greatest to perform in that arena.

Markets have been on a bit of a roller coaster in the crop nutrients equation, and I believe that possession of fertilizer products will be the key to a successful



DAKOTA AGRONOMY PARTNERS TRADE AREA



KATHY GONZALEZ
ENERBASE
lubricant terminal manager



PROTECTING YOUR EQUIPMENT THROUGH EVERY SEASON

Need a Year-Round Tractor Hydraulic Fluid? Choose Maxtron® THF+

Whether it's planting or harvest, the turnings of the seasons are some of the busiest times of year on the farm for many customers. With so much going on, it's easy to let seemingly small tasks, such as changing

tractor hydraulic fluid (THF), fall through the cracks.

From the dead of winter to the peak of summer, a quality synthetic like Cenex® Maxtron® THF+ can protect an operation year-round. Here's how Maxtron THF+ is engineered to stand up to even the most extreme weather conditions.

Operability on the coldest mornings

All fluids crystallize when they get cold enough. For example, water turns to ice because on a microscopic level, the molecules crystallize into a rigid structure. The same thing can happen to a lubricant. As temperatures drop, the natural waxes inside a lubricant begin to form crystals. As a result, the lubricant becomes thicker, which can be a big problem for equipment. To properly protect critical components, a lubricant must reach all the moving parts inside a hydraulic system. If the lubricant is too thick to run smoothly, it won't flow to all the spots it needs to, leaving critical components exposed to wear. Without the protective barrier of a lubricant, moving parts are left to grind dangerously against each other, which can ultimately result in catastrophic damage. A premium full synthetic tractor hydraulic fluid like Cenex Maxtron THF+ is engineered to fight back against the cold. The secret to a full synthetic's cold weather resistance? It all starts with the base oil. Typically making up 80 to 90 percent of a lubricant's composition, a quality base oil is crucial to a good lubricant foundation. And while the base oils that go into conventional lubricants are refined to meet their own respective specifications, the base oil of a synthetic lubricant goes a step further. Not only are the base oils for synthetic lubricants refined, but they're also broken down to their base molecules for chemists to reshape and create uniform sized molecules. The change is microscopic, but the difference is drastic. With uniform molecules, a synthetic lubricant's base oil becomes exceptionally stable against the cold compared

to conventional base oils. The base oil inside Cenex Maxtron THF+ combined with a powerful additive agent known as a cold-flow improver means that even when the temperature gets frigid, the lubricant will still flow freely so customers can experience quick starts, precision operability and protection for their critical components — even on the coldest winter mornings.

Durability through the hottest afternoons

While the cold can prevent a lubricant from reaching moving parts, extreme heat can result in the opposite problem. It causes the lubricant to thin, which means it won't stay put and protect moving parts. A thinned-out lubricant can be equally disastrous for equipment. Although heat produces the opposite effect as cold on a lubricant, it still ultimately results in the same problem: the places on equipment that need lubrication the most are left without a protective barrier. Besides a loss of viscosity, heat can also accelerate oxidation. A naturally occurring process, oxidation affects many organic substances. For example, think about what happens when a banana is left out for an extended period. The browning that eventually occurs is the banana oxidizing. Now imagine putting a banana in a hot oven. It'll get brown much faster. This is because heat drastically speeds up oxidation. Oxidation is a big problem for a lubricant because it destroys the benefits and additives that help it protect equipment. If left unchecked, oxidation can eventually turn a lubricant into thick black sludge. But because synthetic oils like Cenex Maxtron THF+ are engineered to combat thermal instability, they're far more resistant to oxidation compared to conventional lubricants. Whatever the weather, using a premium full synthetic tractor hydraulic fluid can eliminate the frequent draining and switching of a lubricant depending on the season, saving you money and time. And with the tight tolerances of today's equipment, it's more important than ever to use a lubricant engineered to meet precise demands even at extreme temperatures. By switching to Cenex Maxtron THF+, you can be confident that your operation is protected no matter the conditions.

Enerbase carries Maxtron THF+ in a variety of sizes, including 2 ½ gallon jugs, 30 gallon drums and bulk. Call our Oil Warehouse at 837-2129 for all your lubricant needs. ■



LANCE KALMBACH
CHS SUNPRAIRIE
procurement/broker



LOCKING IN PROFIT

We all know of the uncertainties that affect crop prices including weather, supply, demand, currencies, trade wars, etc. We can look at all the charts and graphs and read articles about what the markets should be doing but they always have an IF scenario attached to the above mentioned. Part of your marketing plan should be based off the things that are far more certain and much easier to predict. One would be hard pressed to find an article on marketing that doesn't include knowing your break evens and having some price targets to manage the high risk that it takes to raise a crop. If you have the opportunity to lock in new crop prices that hit your price targets, isn't that less stressful than just hoping the markets are high enough at harvest to pay the bills? While we can't say it never happens, we can certainly say that harvest time is typically not the best time to be a seller in the cash market and we are also almost certain your local elevator will not be offering a DP contract in the middle of harvest, leaving almost no options if you have no storage space.

A perfect example is today as I write this article, February 22nd. The November soybean futures contract closed at over \$9.54 and a basis of -\$1.50 gives you a new crop price of \$8.04 delivered off the combine or you could choose a futures fix contract at the \$9.54 and leave basis open. Although this is nothing of a grand slam, if you are going to plant soybeans, wouldn't this be a good way to get some of your inputs covered? New crop spring wheat futures are around \$5.75, and although I would like to see them closer to \$6.00 to start much for new crop sales, it is

If you can contract part of your crop at a profit and the prices continue to go up, isn't that a good thing?

something you should be watching. Now, again, we are not asking you to contract up to where your last year's yields were or your APH, but a portion to get some of your inputs covered. I always hear "if I contract, the prices will surely go up." If you can contract part of your crop at a profit and the prices continue to go up, isn't that a good thing? How many people that are experts in the field do you think could tell us the day when prices are going to be the best for the year? I would say with certainty, not one. So, instead of trying to hit those home runs, try to get a better than average and sell when the market gives you the opportunity to lock in a profit. By all means, we need to pay attention to the weather, supply, demand and news events that are constantly changing, but using the information that is far more certain and easier to predict will help you make better marketing decisions, spread out some of your risk and hopefully take away some of the stress that comes along with it. Your CHS SunPrairie marketing team offers a variety of contracts and tools and we would be more than happy to help manage your risk.

Thank you for your business! ■

CONGRATULATIONS!

Border Ag & Energy SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Every year Border Ag & Energy awards two area students with \$500 scholarships to help with their first year of college. This year's recipients are:

AUSTIN TONNESON

Austin Tonneson is a senior at Bottineau High School. He is the son of Robert and Betty Tonneson of Bottineau. Austin plans to attend Dakota College at Bottineau to pursue studies in the field of Crop and Weed Science. He has been active in FFA, DECA, President of Student Council, Treasurer of National Honor Society, Football Captain, 2018 all state football, 2017 all region football, and placed in 2016, and 2017 state track and field. Austin has worked on all aspects of the family farm – Tonneson Farms.

GRACE SOLEMSAAS

Grace Solemsaas is a senior at Mohall Lansford Sherwood Public High School with a 4.0 grade point average. Grace plans to attend North Dakota State University in Fargo to pursue studies in Economics with the goal of helping guide farmers financially and economically. She has been active in FFA, Student Council, National Honor Society, 4-H, volleyball, Science Olympiad, basketball, softball, math track, FCCLA, and North Dakota Junior Point Show Association and has held offices in all of her activities. In addition to all of her activities she works and helps on her parent's farm/ranch.

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JESSAMY FORNSHELL
CHS SUNPRAIRIE/DAKOTA AGRONOMY
controller



PATRONAGE & EQUITY... KEY BENEFITS OF THE COOPERATIVE SYSTEM

Greetings. By now everyone should have received their patronage checks from CHS SunPrairie. This year you received a cash portion as well as non-qualified equity certificates. These certificates will be included in the equity revolvement program and redeemed at the CHS board's discretion. Please note that the non-qualified equity portion will not be taxable in 2019, rather it will be taxable in the year of redemption.

Patronage and equity are key benefits for owners of CHS and the cooperative system. CHS is committed to distributing patronage and redeeming equity for its owners while maintaining a strong balance sheet so it can continue to provide owners with the goods, services and supply chain capabilities required for long-term success.

Over the past five fiscal years CHS SunPrairie alone has returned more than \$17 million in cash to its owners. Members pay attention to patronage refunds, there is nothing like a check in the mail to remind one of the meaning of ownership! If you are doing business with us and not receiving patronage, why not? Give me a call so we can discuss qualification. It's quick and easy to get signed up!

DAP patrons receive their patronage from the three parent cooperatives; CHS SunPrairie, Enerbase Cooperative Resources and Border Ag & Energy. In order to receive full patronage for your business with DAP you must fill out each parent cooperative's patronage form and submit all three to DAP. The patronage paid out will be total DAP activity at the parent cooperatives ownership percentage.

At the end of FY18 (August 31, 2018) ownership was:

CHS SunPrairie 61.75%
Enerbase 20%
Border Ag & Energy 18.25%

Effective September 1, 2018 ownership changed to:

CHS SunPrairie 59%
Enerbase 15%
Border Ag & Energy 26%



CHS is committed to distributing patronage and redeeming equity for its owners while maintaining a strong balance sheet so it can continue to provide owners with the goods, services and supply chain capabilities required for long-term success.

CHS SunPrairie pays out their patronage in February so you should have already received it. You can expect your Enerbase portion in September and Border Ag & Energy in December.

Thank you for your business during fiscal year 2018 and for your ongoing commitment to your cooperative system. ■



BRANDON BURBIDGE
BORDER AG & ENERGY
lansford location manager



KATIE WOODBURY
DAKOTA AGRONOMY PARTNERS
agronomy sales rep

MAKING OUR GROWERS **PROFITABLE**

We are looking another spring planting season in the eye, as I write this on this last day of February, and there are more questions on the grain markets than answers.

Trade policy has been weighing on the markets more than usual this past crop year making it more difficult for farmers to decide when is the right time to market. It has also been difficult in the grain trade as well. Buyers have been playing their cards a lot closer to the vest. We have been seeing domestic users not being as aggressive in their buying with the lack of confidence in the export program. They just haven't had to be aggressive. There has been a bearish feel to the markets these past ten months. To go with it, we had overall good production in the US and Canada, as well foreign producers providing enough that we have no real supply problems in the world. Russia stated recently that they will not curb exports, but many experts felt that they would have to restrict them to some extent. Brazil and Argentina are going to pull together an average to slightly better than average crop. Each year they have more and more acres being broken up and being brought into production. Our Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue has stated that there will be no Market Facilitation Program in 2019.

Marketing with the current prices and price outlooks has been stressful for most producers. Growers need to know their expenses in and out, and control what they can control. Get market orders for new crop in and working. Figure out what you can get by with on old crop pricing and be in

contact with your local managers and merchandisers. Our goal is to make our growers profitable, and it makes our job a lot easier when both parties are willing participants and our growers are happy with our service.

Being as landlocked as can be, north central North Dakota has had decent rail service as of late. Although as I am writing this, they have been slipping in service due to the cold and snowy weather the upper Midwest and northern great plains have experienced as of late. Shuttle trains have been mostly on time, but single and smaller trains have been slipping. That will continue to be an issue until we thaw out this spring and get the trains moving on time and being able to move.

Border Ag and Energy had been able to co-load shuttle trains between the Lansford, Russell and Kramer grain facilities up until end of the year 2018. Going forward in 2019 and beyond we are only able to load the shuttle train at our Russell location. All the upgrades have been completed in Russell and we are now loading the 105 car CP unit trains out of Russell. This has been a new challenge that we are working through. We have put a price differential in place between the satellites (Kramer, Lansford, Souris, Westhope) and the terminals (Bottineau/BNSF shuttle loader and Russell/CP shuttle loader).

We look forward to continuing working with you through this next crop year and let's have a safe spring. ■



ELEVATING YOUR OPERATION'S **SUCCESS**

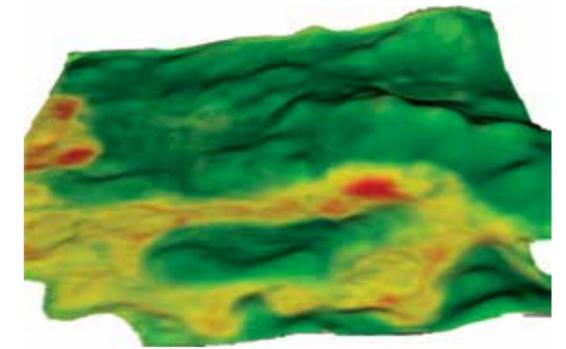
Precision Agriculture has evolved quickly since the 1990's. We began by using GPS to improve accuracy of placement of inputs. Since then we have been striving to improve accuracy, efficiency and incorporation into all aspects of agriculture. As technology improves, and our knowledge and potential continue to grow minute by minute, Precision Agriculture is becoming the new normal. Most aspects of farming can be put underneath the "Precision" category today. Most operations are currently using some sort of precision: from section control on sprayer booms and drills, to variable rate applying nutrients and crop protection products, to utilizing GPS and autosteer in equipment.

My goal is to encourage you to think about precision and how **you** use it in your operation **today**. Specifically, what tools, equipment or services do you currently use that make your operation more efficient and optimize inputs? Examples could be as simple as using autosteer to reduce seeding overlap/skips, or the yield monitor to record production per acre. Are you using variable rate fertilizer and/or seeding prescriptions? These technologies all fit under the "Precision Ag" umbrella.

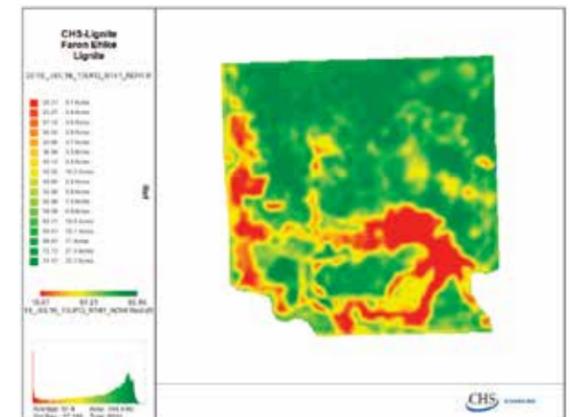
The next question is what would you like to **try**? What piece of equipment, product or services do you see benefiting your operation in the future? How do you test new products and **verify** that they are improving your operation? This doesn't mean using drones on every acre or having the entire farm grid sampled. It means testing new technologies to determine which ones will enhance your operation with an economical return. The following options are what the industry is finding most beneficial, and easiest to implement.

- Variable Rate Application (Nutrients, Seed and Crop Protection)
- Zone Management
- Soil Testing
- Tissue Sampling
- Imagery
- Veris Mapping
- Yield Data Collection

Technology is expanding so rapidly that the number of choices can be overwhelming. In addition, each operation is different and has different needs. So where is the best place to start? Variable rate application is the perfect way to take inputs from lower production areas and put them in areas you know have higher potential yields. Some may



Urea Prescription Map in 3D window to visually compare fertilizer rates to topography.



Sentinel data taken in mid July of same field as above.

already be doing this by turning off the fertilizer when you go through a slough bottom that finally dried out. Others may be turning up the seeding rate on ground known to have high productivity. Expanding this process to the entire field can help optimize the use of inputs and better manage the ever-changing price tag.

The assurance that your inputs are purchased at the best price, and knowing they will be utilized efficiently, can give you peace of mind in your cropping decisions. With the improvements in today's technology, creating zones and writing prescription maps is economical and worthwhile. The staff at Dakota Agronomy Partners is excited to share our experience and help you utilize the tools we have to offer. Together we can elevate your operation's success. ■



CRAIG GIROUX
ENERBASE
equipment sales

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO **BUY MACHINERY?**

Updating equipment is a necessity and we find ourselves always upgrading or adding to the equipment we have.

When purchasing equipment, it is best to talk to your salesperson and find out when the best deals can be made. Most vendors have annual booking discounts available and when planning ahead you can save extra money when updating

equipment. Auctions are another thing I would like to talk about. Sometimes there can be some really good deals at an auction, but I recommend if you are going to an auction and know there is a piece of equipment you might be interested in, you should call and find out what the new price is. I have seen things like conveyors, augers, fuel tanks and even hopper bins go for as much as brand new ones.

Another way you can save some money is purchasing through a cooperative like Enerbase as we pay dividends on all purchases. If we can help you save money on your purchase or help get the equipment delivered to your location give us a call. We have a large inventory of hopper bins, augers, conveyors and we also stock and sell parts for them.

The last thing I can recommend is to try and plan ahead as much as possible. 2018 seemed like everything happened at once, and with that everyone needed equipment all at once. From the middle of July through October I don't know if there was more than a day or two that we weren't delivering bins and augers or anchoring bins. It was fun meeting new people and getting to see some farms I hadn't been on yet.

So far for 2019 the snow pushers for skid steers, tractors and large loaders have been the popular items. I can't wait to see what the rest of 2019 will bring. Thank you again to everyone for your business in 2018 and wishing everyone a successful 2019. ■



RITCH CARGO
CHS SUNPRAIRIE
feed division manager

GRASS TETANY IN BEEF CATTLE

Fortunately the long wait is finally over and it is the time of the year to start thinking about turning cows out to greener pastures.

Although this comes as a big relief, we need to watch out for grass tetany. The most common form is hypomagnesium tetany, which occurs when grasses are low in magnesium (less than 0.2% Mg), high in potassium, and high in nitrogen. These conditions occur during the early turnout period. A combination of these nutritional factors, as well as the cow adjusting to the new feed, can express this condition. Cattle who have tetany exhibit uncoordinated gait, which leads to convulsions, coma and death. More often than not, the signs are not observed before the cows are found dead. Grass tetany can usually be prevented by supplementing high magnesium minerals or high magnesium tubs to cows. It is recommended that feeding these products begins a couple weeks before turnout so cows are acclimated to the higher magnesium level, as magnesium oxide is very bitter. A consistent intake of 3-4oz of high magnesium mineral (10% Mg) protects the cattle from tetany. If you have pastures that green up early, graze less susceptible animals on these higher risk pastures. Planting legume species in pastures will decrease the incidence of tetany in grazing cattle.

FlaxLic: It's What Everyone's Talking About

What is this FlaxLic that everyone keeps talking about? FlaxLic is an all-natural supplement that contains Omega-3 fatty acids. Each tub contains 15% fat that is derived from flaxseed and linseed oil. Like amino acids, minerals and vitamins, long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) are essential components of the animal's diet. Essential fatty acids cannot be synthesized by the animal in adequate amounts, and therefore must be included in the diet to achieve optimal performance. There are two essential fatty acids. They are linoleic acid, an omega-6 fatty acid and linolenic acid, an omega-3 fatty acid. They serve as building blocks to synthesize important reproduction hormones and are the backbone of pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory compounds produced in the animal's body, therefore critical for immune function. There have been multiple trials done that have produced excellent results. On the male side it has improved sperm count by 22% and sperm motility by about 9%. It also improved feed efficiency by 15% on those bulls participating in the test. Research on the female side began with brood mares in Texas. FlaxLic showed to improve the number of fatty acids



in the blood and also an increase in the progesterone level. Progesterone is a hormone that is essential for maintaining pregnancy. Follicle size was also increased which results in greater estrogen. Flaxseed has been known to increase conception rate on first exposure. There are also study results that show a decrease in pregnancy losses when females have flaxseed in their diet. FlaxLic is a great asset to any breeding program for many reasons that include improving first service conception, increased sperm motility, heightened estrus activity, and a reduction in embryonic mortality. In the long run, FlaxLic will allow more live calves to be born and in return put more money in your pockets.

Contact your CHS SunPrairie feed team about product availability. CHS SunPrairie's feed team is dedicated to serving our customers and looks forward to continuing to do business with you. Feel free to give Ritch or Evie a call with any questions you may have. Thank you for your continued support. ■

FlaxLic is a great asset to any breeding program for many reasons.



KARISSA BERG
DAKOTA AGRONOMY PARTNERS
crop consultant



KEEPING YOUR FIELDS CLEAN

Hello from Dakota Agronomy in Newburg! As I am writing this article at the end of February, I am looking out the window and can hardly see the cars going by on the highway because the snow banks are so tall. But spring has to show up at some point, right? I also find myself getting anxious for spring to get here so I can get back out in the fields and back on the four-wheeler!

Each and every year we are faced with crop challenges. Sometimes these can be predicted, other times they occur randomly. You have a huge investment put into the crop that is growing and it is important to keep an eye on it throughout the growing season. Scouting your fields on a weekly basis can help catch and diagnose problems early so that the proper action can take place before a major crop loss occurs.

Here are a few things that are important to take notice of during the growing season:

Crop Emergence

Is the crop coming up even or uneven? If the crop is coming up uneven it could be from poor germination, weather related, insect or disease related, etc.

Weed Pressure

Even weeds in the early stages are stealing essential nutrients and water from your crop, which are vital in producing healthy plants.

Insect pressure

Insects need to be sprayed when levels reach the economic thresholds.

Diseases

Always be on the lookout for foliar diseases. Many of these can be prevented or minimized.

Herbicide and Insecticide Performance

Monitor how effective the herbicide or pesticide application is by assessing weeds and pests.

Signs and Symptoms

Look for anything that appears abnormal. These can include stunted or off-color plants, dead or missing plants, abnormal crop growth, etc.

Early in the season it is important to be identifying weeds that are in the field so that you know what weeds are growing and how big they are, and which herbicide will give you the best control. It is very important to get the weeds controlled before they reach a height of four inches. I would highly recommend applying a preemergence herbicide application this spring if you have weed issues. I have seen excellent results on fields that get a preemergence herbicide application on and the field stays so much cleaner the rest of the growing season.

After the crop starts to emerge, stand counts become important to make sure the proper amount of plants have emerged. As the crop continues to grow it is important to keep an eye out for insects and disease as well as environmental factors that may affect the crop. Keeping an eye out for any new weeds that may be growing is key in order to get them under control with the in-crop herbicide application. By this point in the growing season, the crops should be forming a nice canopy to help prevent any future weeds from growing, thus hopefully keeping the field clean for the remainder of the growing season.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Dakota Agronomy Partners location. I hope everyone has a safe and happy planting season! ■

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MARK SCHATZ
DAKOTA AGRONOMY PARTNERS
ryder location manager



COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Hello from the Ryder area. As I write this article, the sun is shining, and the sky is blue...but it's only five degrees outside. It may not be spring quite yet, but we know it is just around the corner. This winter has been a long one as the temperature in the recent weeks has barely been above zero. I don't know about you, but I am eagerly looking forward to the start of the spring planting season.

As you all know, little field work was done last fall due to it being cold and wet. With the way last fall's weather treated us, I don't know of many acres that were sprayed or prepared for this coming spring. Overall, not much fertilizer was put down over the area. This may make this spring a little more hectic than the crazy planting window we typically see.

In the Ryder area we had a rather successful fall anhydrous

season, but on the dry fertilizer side of it, it was pretty quiet. With the way the markets have been and the unknowns regarding the soybean market, this has not made it any easier for growers to come up with a set-in-stone planting plan. With this in mind, one of the best ways to make this spring go more smoothly is to stay in good communication with your local agronomy team. If you plan on having acres spread with fertilizer or sprayed, having maps printed and having a blend of fertilizer figured out ahead of time can make things much more effortless. I realize having a plan and efficient communication aren't always going to make things easy. Logistics, if you can remember last spring, can sometimes take a good plan and throw it out the window. We are not always able to control when we will get an anhydrous load delivered or if our fertilizer train gets delayed for whatever reason. With the way Dakota Agronomy is set up and with the dedicated employees we have, we are able to work together with our people and machines to be as efficient as possible to service our growers in as timely a manner as possible.

Overall, having a plan and staying in good communication with your local agronomy team will be crucial to making this spring as successful as possible.

I hope you all have a safe and successful spring! ■

One of the best ways to make this spring go more smoothly is to stay in good communication with your local agronomy team.



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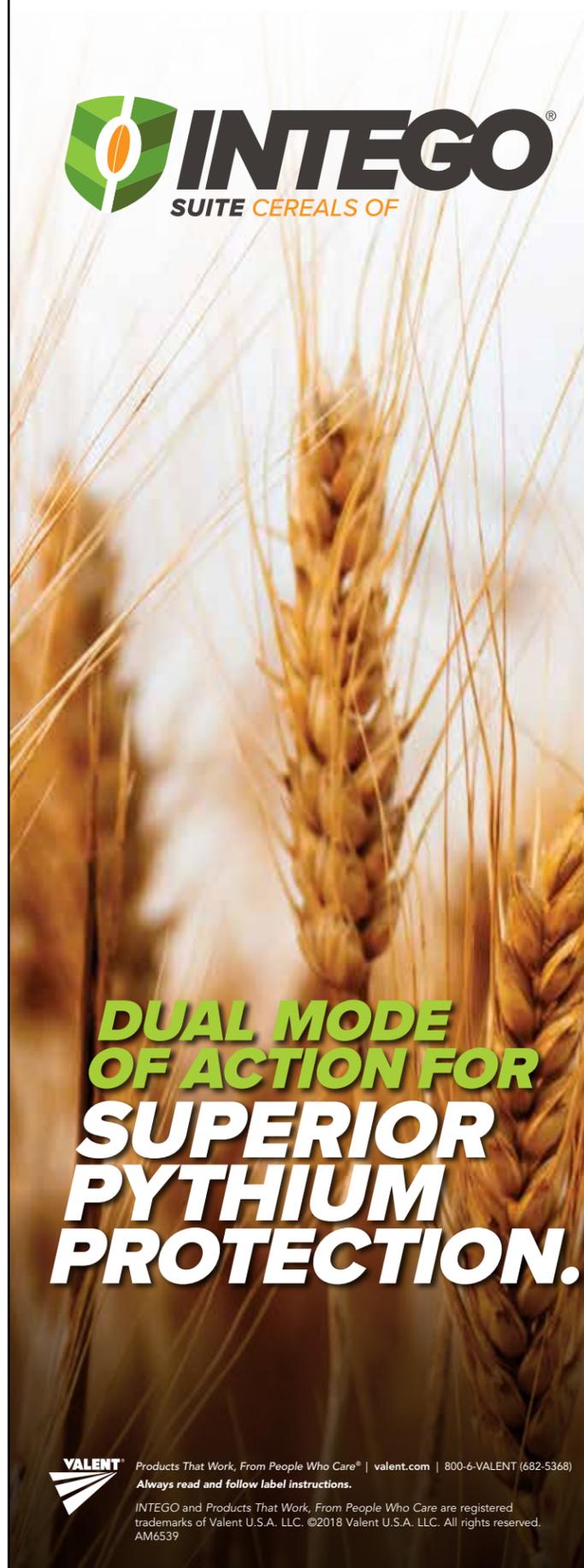
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AMANDA HAUGEN
ENERBASE
petroleum department

QUALITY PROPANE AND SERVICE FROM ENERBASE

It is finally Spring, but unfortunately in our area we still have a while until we can shut the furnace off.

Many of our patrons use propane to heat their homes. We have five propane trucks to serve our community and the drivers of those trucks have a combined experience of over 130 years!

Propane tanks come in different sizes for your home or shop. Most households have a 1,000 or 500-gallon tank. There are also 250-gallon tanks but those are typically too small to use for home heat.

Propane tanks are only filled to about 80%. This is considered full to allow for expansion. Tanks have a hood on the top with a gauge showing the percentage left in the tank. We recommend calling in for a fill when the tank is around 20%. This allows time for our drivers to fill your tank before it becomes dangerously low.

We have a few different programs our patrons can take advantage of:

- Budget Billing runs from October to May. This allows the patron to pay a monthly amount based on estimated usage

and price of propane throughout the heating season, instead of paying for the fill at once. This helps budget for heating expenses.

- Keep Full is a program where we will automatically stop every month from November to March and fill your propane tank. This service is available to charge customers in good standing.
- We are an approved Fuel Assistance Vendor and bill ND Fuel Assistance directly.
- We also offer a Summer Fill program. This is typically when propane is the cheapest. We mail out postcard reminders to fill for the upcoming heating season. We usually start this program in July.

This heating season started out pretty mellow with the nice temperatures and minimal snow. That changed a bit after the New Year. The bitter cold temperatures and measurable snowfall made the need for propane home heat increase. We are blessed to have an excellent propane staff to handle all mother nature has to throw at us! Thank you to all our propane patrons that entrust us with your home heating needs. Fingers crossed warmer weather is around the corner. ■

ENERBASE ENERGY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

🌀 **Sheri Endresen** will be taking care of Energy Sales effective May 1, 2019. She began her career with Enerbase in 1990, most recently as the Energy Department Manager, since 2008. The experience received managing the Energy Department will provide an exciting and knowledgeable transition in her new sales role.

🌀 Taking the lead as Energy Manager is **Kathy Gonzalez**. She began her career with Enerbase seven years ago, gaining experience across the Enerbase divisions, most recently managing the Enerbase Oil Warehouse providing direction and leadership with the wholesale and retail oil products. Kathy will bring her management experience and broad knowledge of oil and petroleum products as she begins her new chapter with Enerbase.

🌀 **Amanda Haugen** has been promoted to Assistant Manager of Propane and Petroleum. She began her career with Enerbase in 2013 as the Credit Manager, working closely with the propane department ensuring accurate and timely delivery and providing excellent customer service. She will continue with those skills ensuring growth in a leadership role with her new position.

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