



NEWSLETTER

April, May and June 2026

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

With spring in full swing, things have gotten increasingly busy here at the Coop! Our agronomy department has been hard at work topdressing this year's wheat crop while also gearing up for the upcoming fall season — but like many of you, we're keeping a close eye on the current global situation and what it could mean closer to home.

The ongoing conflict has introduced some uncertainty into the market, particularly when it comes to fertilizer and oil. One key pressure point: approximately 30% of the world's urea passes through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively closed for the past month. As a result, urea prices have climbed roughly 30% since the end of February — and that upward pressure has rippled across other nitrogen products as well.

The good news? Availability has not been an issue at this point. We are committed to keeping you informed and well-supplied as the season moves forward. We're hopeful the conflict will be resolved quickly to prevent any longer-term disruptions to the supply chain.

This situation is changing daily, so stay tuned — we'll keep you updated as things develop.

Riley Zamrzla
General Manager

VALAN VOPAT RETIREMENT

After more than 20 years of dedicated service, Valan Vopat will be hanging up his hat and retiring from the Coop on May 15, 2026. Valan has been a vital part of our agronomy team for over two decades, bringing not only a wealth of knowledge and dependability, but also a sense of humor that kept us all on our toes. Thank you Valan and we wish you a retirement full of well-deserved rest.

ELLSWORTH SCALE REPAIRS

The Ellsworth scale will be getting torn out and replaced starting Monday April 13th. This project will take about 2 weeks with a completion date of Friday April 24th.

We ask that customers planning to pick up bulk cubes during the scale closure, to coordinate with our mill so we can come up with weight solutions. Scale updates will be posted on our Facebook page and in the office.

ANNIVERSARIES

- April 1st : Braydan Browning, Agronomy - 7 years
- April 1st : Cordel Whitmer, Agronomy - 2 years
- May 9th : Amy Westerman, Office - 4 years
- May 21st : Brian Gourley, Agronomy - 19 years
- May 31st : Cole Sheridan, Kanopolis - 4 years
- June 14th : Alan Sheridan, Blackwolf - 32 years
- June 19th : Nancy Jensen, Office - 30 years

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Riley Zamrzla.....General Manager/President
- Jake Svaty.....Chairman
- Jim Zamrzla.....Vice Chairman
- Jake Kubick.....Secretary

- Bernard Habiger.....Director
- Josh Homolka.....Director
- John Kueser.....Director
- Evan Warta.....Director

HAASE JOINS COOP TEAM

Combining my real-world knowledge from growing up working on my family farm with my Animal Science degree with a Minor in Mass Communications from K-State, I am thrilled to be joining The Ellsworth Coop as your new Feed Marketing Manager. The Coop has a long and respected history of serving this community, and I am honored to carry that tradition forward on the feed and marketing side of our operation.



One of the most important factors I want to communicate is that to operate the mill sufficiently, we must schedule in advance. Our feed mill operates at full capacity consistently. We are grateful for the trust you place in us to supply your operations. However, a fully booked mill means we have little room to accommodate last-minute or rush orders without disruption.

To help our mill team serve you best, we kindly ask all customers to plan and submit feed orders as early as possible. Preferably, a week's notice. Early orders enable us to schedule production safely, efficiently, and in a timely manner, ensuring that your feed is ready when you need it, without cutting corners or delaying others.

Thank you for your continued loyalty to The Ellsworth Coop. It is a privilege to serve the agriculture community in my hometown, and I am excited for what lies ahead. Together, we can keep your operations well-fed and running strong.

Nicole Haase
Feed Marketing Manager

SPRINGTIME IN THE MILL

Time is flying by, and we are deep into the spring feed run! Things are busy, and we are grateful to be working with so many great people. The high demand does create some scheduling challenges, so we are typically scheduling about a week in advance to keep everyone well-stocked with feed.

Producing horse feed brings its own unique challenges in terms of flushing and sequencing, ensuring that no cross-contamination occurs. We are extremely diligent in these processes, though they do require additional time. Show season has also roared to life, and we are busy crafting show rations for all species.

Thank you for your patience as we work through some equipment updates and occasional breakdowns. We are always looking for ways to modernize our facility and improve efficiency, and more upgrades are on the way as parts and our millwright become available. Some upcoming work will take place in our feed load alley, and we will do our best to keep everyone informed as we move forward.

Tub and mineral contracts are winding down — if you haven't yet placed your spring/summer mineral or tub order, please give us a call and we'll get you taken care of.

Our nutritionist, Levi McPhillips, continues to serve the area. If you have any needs — whether it's advice, rations, batch sheets, break-evens, market forecasts, or anything else — don't hesitate to reach out. With cattle markets at record highs, every pound matters!

Thank you again for allowing us to be a partner in your operation. We truly appreciate your trust and your business.

Greg Farney
Feed Service Specialist

HARVEST PREPARATION

Spring is flying by, and wheat harvest will be here before you know it! Now is the perfect time to stop in or give us a call to verify your field accounts or get any new ones set up. Having your account information up to date before you hit the scale means less time waiting and more time doing what matters most — getting back to the field.

As an added convenience, ACH payment options are available, putting your grain sale payments directly into your account within 1 to 2 business days. Fast, simple, and one less thing to worry about during the busy season.

We appreciate your business and patience throughout the busy season, and wish everyone a safe and prosperous year!

Amy Westerman