



NEWSLETTER

January, February, March 2026

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Happy New Year! Wow, 2025 has flown by. It is amazing how much grain production has turned around this past year. Our wheat receipts in 2025 were the third highest total in the last 20 years. In retrospect, 2023 was our worst wheat crop on record and 2024 was towards the bottom end as well. Fall receipts in 2025 were a record for your cooperative, as we shattered the previous record from 2020. We are very thankful to have record receipts this past year. Achieving a record harvest during a global trade war has come with many challenges, especially for milo. For the first time in many years, we had to pile milo on the ground to finish harvest at our Holyrood and Blackwolf locations. Due to limited space at terminals and the rapid pace of this milo harvest, dumping on the ground was the most profitable option. Fortunately, we were able to start picking piles up on December 8th and finished on December 19th, and every bushel was recovered. All the milo coming off the ground graded very well. After deducting equipment expenses, we were able to make more margin per bushel than originally expected, making this a profitable experience. Thank you for your business and patience during fall harvest.

The cooperative landscape is rapidly changing due to tough economic times in the grain industry. The past 15 months of this trade war combined with skyrocketing expenses has been very difficult on many cooperatives around the state. As many of you know, Hansen Mueller has declared bankruptcy. Unfortunately, we sold wheat to them this past year and are awaiting payment. Many other cooperatives and producers are awaiting payment as well. It is unknown how much money we will be able to recover at this time. If the worst happens and no funds are recovered, we have positioned ourselves to be able to withstand this situation and remain financially healthy. It is more important now than ever that every service we provide must be profitable. While it has been tough for us as well, we have managed to strengthen our financials due to timely marketing and operational changes. I am very thankful to our patrons, board of directors, and employees as they have made huge changes and sacrifices these past few years to increase productivity while keeping costs as low as possible.



As we look forward to 2026 and beyond, one of our main focuses is on our aging infrastructure. Through the years farm machinery has increased efficiency at a rapid pace, while grain elevators around the country have not kept up with the change. We are working towards different options to improve efficiency at the coop to better serve our patrons in the future. Thank you!

Riley Zamrzla
General Manager

	2025	2020	Difference
Milo	1,982,447.38	1,720,432.97	262,014.41
Corn	272,402.18	235,552.50	36,849.68
Soybeans	195,399.30	295,782.04	(100,382.74)
Sunflowers	29,404.12	0	29,404.12
	2,479,652.98	2,251,767.51	227,885.47

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

HOLYROOD CHANGES



Our Holyrood location will no longer have a bookkeeper on site starting December 4, 2025. The Ellsworth office will be absorbing all patron grain sales and maintenance of accounts. You can continue to drop payments off in the office or in the new drop box that is located on the west side of the building. Holyrood

will continue to sell bulk fertilizer and various feed and merchandise as well as still taking in grain.

The Holyrood elevator will continue to operate on weekdays from 8am - 5pm. We appreciate your patience as we adapt to this change and if you have any questions, please reach out.

ROY FOLK RETIREMENT

Roy Folk retired on January 1, 2026 after over 12 years of service. Roy was our jack of all trades that ran our Hitschmann elevator as well as being heavily involved in both our agronomy and feed department. We are very grateful to have had his expertise for 12 years and wish him the best of luck with retirement.

ANNIVERSARIES

- Jan 11th - Melissa Barkow, Ellsworth Office - 4 years
- Jan 15th - Bren DeBusk, Service Station - 2 years
- Jan 26th - Jennifer Crites, Ampride Manager - 2 years
- Jan 29th - Nick Zajic, Holyrood - 1 year
- Feb 22nd - Cole Sheridan, Kanopolis - 3 years
- Mar 1st - Scott Ploutz, Service Station - 8 years
- Mar 7th - Lonnie Houk, Agronomy - 15 years
- Mar 28th - Cheryl Bruning, Ampride - 3 years

ACH OPTIONS

We are pleased to announce that we can have grain checks in your account next business day with ACH. If interested, ACH authorization forms are available on our website or in the Ellsworth office. Receipts from your grain sale can be either emailed or mailed and ACH can be a great option to beat the mail system or if you're busy in the field. If you decide to sign up for ACH, you can still receive a paper check upon request.

ACH payments are another great option to insure you never miss a payment. You can also submit payments through our Online Access portal 24/7.

LOOKING BACK

Ampride won it's first *Circle of Pride* award in early 2002. This award is given to Cenex chain stores that score over 98% by a mystery shopper that grades on cleanliness and customer service.

Cenex has now turned to awarding the *Star Store* award that requires a perfect score of 100% under the same



criteria as the *Circle of Pride*. Ampride has most recently received this in 2023. The *Star Store* award also has a mystery shopper that grades the location on customer service, cleanliness and Cenex marketing.

DOUBLE PUNCH TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY SPECIALS

Find us on Facebook
(785) 472-4782 | 1402 Foster Road, Ellsworth, KS

SERVICE STATION

BATTERIES • OIL CHANGES • FUEL
CAR, TRUCK, IMPLEMENT TIRE
REPAIR & INSTALLATION

(785) 472-4061 | Find us on Facebook
103 N Kansas Ave, Ellsworth, KS



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM AGRONOMY

Thank you to everyone who did business with us this past year. With the New Year here already, it's time to think about brome and wheat top dress applications. We offer a wide selection of wheat over the top products to help keep your crop healthy and clean. Fertilizing during this time, before your crop breaks dormancy in the spring, is ideal for maximizing yield potential. Signing acres up at your earliest convenience will ensure a timely application.



Check with us also on soil sampling for spring crops. We will still offer whole field composite samples that we do ourselves, but will partner with Heartland Soil Services for any zone or grid sampling. Also, if you know your plans for your spring acres, it never hurts to give us a heads up so we can be prepared for the upcoming season.

Out the door chemical sales have grown the past 5 years. We are very competitive and check with 5 different suppliers to get you the lowest possible price. In addition, we have a nice selection of generic cut stump treatment options for those of you clearing trees. To get a quote on any crop protection products, call, text, or stop by the shop.

Brain Gourley, CCA
Agronomy Manager

2026 PLANTING SEASON

As we head into 2026, now is the time to plan for the upcoming planting season. Whether you're planting corn, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, cover crops, or deer plots, ordering seed early can set you up for success.

We're offering early-order seed discounts throughout January, giving you the opportunity to lock in the best pricing and ensure seed availability. Planning ahead also helps with crop rotations and field preparation, putting you in a strong position for a productive season.

If you have questions or are ready to place an order, feel free to contact me.

Heather Isaac
Seed Manager

NEW ADDITION TO THE MILL

On November 20, 2025, we added a new feed truck to our fleet. A 2007 International with a Sudenga feed box was purchased for \$105,000 to help keep up with our growing feed deliveries. Matching the 12-ton capacity of our existing 2010 Freightliner, this new addition will keep us going through unexpected breakdowns. We appreciate your continued support of our feedmill as we continue to grow and evolve!



2026 CROP INPUT FINANCING

Financing options are available through the Cooperative Finance Association, CFA, again for 2026 crop inputs. Qualifying products include chemical, fertilizer and application. Crop inputs preordered before the below deadline dates will be subject to lower interest rates. If the loan has not been satisfied by November 30th, the interest rate will increase to the variable CFA Field Finance Interest Rate that is currently 8.25%. Contact our Ellsworth office for more details or to fill out an application.

Fertilizer & Chemical
Preordered by 1/31/2026

1.99% Fixed Interest Rate through 11/30/2026, THEN 8.25%* Variable Interest Rate until 1/15/2027

Fertilizer & Chemical
Preordered by 2/28/2026

3.49% Fixed Interest Rate through 11/30/2026, THEN 8.25%* Variable Interest Rate until 1/15/2027

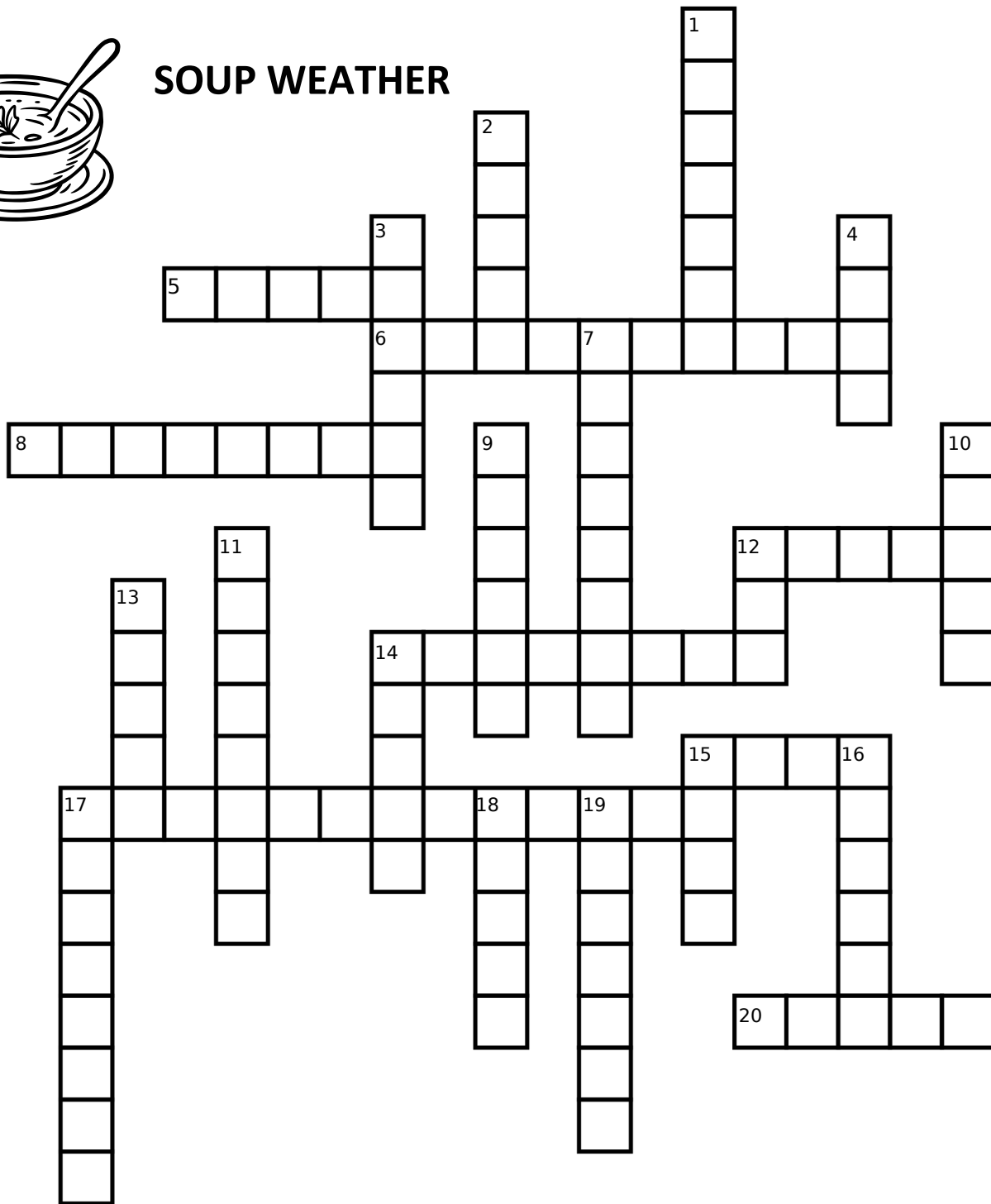
Fertilizer & Chemical
Preordered after 2/28/2026

8.25%* Variable Interest Rate until 1/15/2027

The CFA Field Finance Rate is a variable rate that is subject to change. Loans are subject to approval by CFA and must be applied for before deadline to qualify for the reduced interest rate.



SOUP WEATHER



Down:

1. clam is the popular choice in the northeast
2. since eating with a fork would be hard
3. perfect with a grilled cheese
4. soup's cousin often made with roast and potato
7. "no soup for you!" tv show
9. thick and creamy French soup
10. earliest origins of soup came from here
11. popular cold soup
12. ingredient perserver
13. beef, bone, chicken or vegetable
14. ingredient of great debate in chili
15. it's whats for dinner

16. soup's state of matter

17. iconic Andy Warhol

18. 70% of soup contains this ingredient

19. a sweet treat

Across:

5. created in Louisiana

6. Italian blend of veggies, beans and pasta

8. slow cooker

12. midwestern pairing with cinnamon rolls

14. can be purchased in a cube

15. holder of soups

17. a sick day classic

20. to serve with