

Apache Farmers Cooperative

Update

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New Chemical Laws being Considered

During the Oklahoma Ag Expo in Oklahoma City one of the sessions was of particular interest since it would affect many customers.

The program was Phenoxy Effects and Hormone Restrictions / Minimizing Risk of Herbicide Drift Damage to Susceptible Crops. The speaker was Bill Taylor, Agricultural Services Administrator, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Mr. Taylor contends with the next legislative session we may have new Phenoxy/Hormone laws that without a restricted use pesticide license farmers, home owners, landscape operators, and others will not be able to purchase pesticides as they have in the past.

The new restricted pesticides (over a gallon) will include but not restricted to Amine 2-4D, LV 6 2-4D, Weedmaster (or any Banvel 2-4D), Remedy, Cimarron Max, and Tordon. Many more products will come under any new laws. More effort to check sales records will also be included.

Next spring is not a good time for customers to find out they cannot purchase products as they have in the past if this law is implemented. The workbook costs \$10.00 and a \$5.00 charge to have it processed. It is an open book test. If you do not have your license please consider doing so at your earliest convenience. Not only farmers and commercial applicators but homeowners, recreational users, and anyone that tries to purchase products covered under the new legislation will be affected.

All locations will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, 2006 in observance of the holidays.

Other Mobile Customer Service Numbers

Harold Head (Service and Repair) 580-704-6638
Jeremy Glass, CCA (Agronomy) 580-704-6634
Rick McNeill (Bulk Feed Delivery) 580-704-6645
Check out the other mobile cell numbers on the left. Call!

Monthly Board Meeting Attendance

Your Board of Directors has approved the following policy. Anyone wishing to express their concerns to the board at a monthly meeting will need to comply as follows (cont'd back page)

Board Meeting, (cont'd from front page)

- 1) Contact a management employee or the Board President prior to the start of the meeting.
- 2) Expect to state your concerns and receive an explanation to your fullest satisfaction.
- 3) After you are satisfied and excused from the remainder of the meeting the board will continue the business of your cooperative.

Get the most from expensive nitrogen

By Doug Rich (reprinted from High Plains Journal)

Nobody can predict accurately what the cost of fertilizer will be between now and next spring except that it will be expensive. Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc., recently held a fertilizer industry update at their production facility in Coffeyville, Kan., along with representatives from Coffeyville Resources, a producer of low cost upgraded nitrogen fertilizer products. The cost of natural gas, the raw ingredient for most nitrogen based fertilizer production plants, is

reaching historic highs. Neal Barkley, with Coffeyville Resources, said the cost of natural gas has risen from \$4 per 1000 BTUs in 2002 to \$14 per 1000 BTUs in 2005. "Most ammonia production is natural gas based," he said. Some production facilities may start to shut down as soon as December to avoid building up inventories of high priced product just in case the cost of natural gas drops. They don't want to get caught holding high cost inventories.

This is not true for Coffeyville Resources, which uses new technology to produce ammonia from low cost petroleum coke. Their Coffeyville production plant operates using partial oxidation gasification technology to produce 370,000 short tons of ammonia annually. Two-thirds of this ammonia is upgraded to 638,000 short tons of urea ammonium Nitrate Solution (UAN). The Coffeyville plant, which markets ammonia products in Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, is operating at full capacity. Like most products, there is a worldwide market for fertilizer and what happens overseas can impact the market here at home. Dr. Larry Murphy, president of Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, said China will be over producing ammoniated phosphate, commonly known as MAP or DAP, by 15 percent this year. "That will ease some of the demand," Murphy said. The U.S. sends a lot of fertilizer to China and India but if China overproduces these products it could depress prices here in the U.S. As a result plants in the U.S. may switch from MAP to Super Phosphoric Acid (SPA), Murphy said. Murphy noted that several new urea plants could come into production within the next year or two. Unless natural gas prices take an unexpected dip, farmers will need to find some way to deal with much higher input costs. "The emphasis will be on doing things right to try and get the maximum use efficiency out of the products that growers buy," Murphy said.

"The cost of fertilizer will impact cropping patterns," said Randy Whisenhunt with Ag Service in Hillsboro, Kan. Murphy said his personal opinion is that there would be more wheat, soybeans, sunflowers and more dryland cropping the plains states. Whisenhunt advises his customers to begin with a soil test to determine actual fertilizer needs, to think outside the box and go beyond N, P and K, and to review their fertilizer placement. "Any deficiencies or partial deficiencies of a nutrient will cut down on the use efficiency of the primary nutrients of N, P, and K," Murphy said. Two micronutrients Dr. Murphy mentioned were sulfur and chloride. Sulfur and chloride are recognized as essential nutrients in a balance fertilizer program. Sulfur is particularly effective in reduced tillage and low soil temperature situations.

In starter fertilizer applications, sulfur has increased yields by five to 10 bushels per acre in wheat production. In stress situations such as drought, sulfur intake increases. Chloride has a role in photosynthesis and enzyme activation but most Great Plains and Prairie soils test low in chloride. Great Plains states receive very small amounts of chloride in precipitation. A great deal of research has been done with chloride and the benefits are well documented.

Small grains that have access to adequate levels of chloride form heads earlier and complete head emergence sooner than plants grown in low chloride soils. Whisenhunt said it is important to get the plants up, growing, and mature before it gets hot and dry. Research in Kansas and the Great Plains shows that wheat responds consistently to chloride fertilization. Corn and grain sorghum have shown a positive yield response to chloride, also.

The final piece of the use efficiency program is fertilizer placement. Jeff Mayfield with Ag Service said they stress applying fertilizer in a band rather than a broadcast application. Strip till is an alternative for growers using reduced till and no-till farming practices. "We believe this is where it is going," said Mayfield. He also recommended putting three-fourths of the fertilizer in a band application and one-fourth in a starter application. "Put it where the plant can get it." Fertilizer prices are going to be high. How high is anyone's guess depending on the market for natural gas. Growers must look for ways to get the most out of the nitrogen that they decide to buy.



For the safety of our patrons and the consideration of increased liability and workers compensation costs the Apache location warehouse dock has been remodeled. The center steps have been removed. Please come to the counter first before you pull around to the dock so that we may conveniently load your order in a proper and efficient manner. We have installed a warehouse printer so that as you order at the counter your order will be prepared for loading at the dock to expedite your valuable time. We understand that this is a change in the 30 years of routine in Apache but now this procedure matches most warehouse ordering and loading procedures in every other warehouse. Thank you for the opportunity to service you efficiently and safely.