



# A COMMITMENT TO EFFICIENCY



**By Pete Schmitz, General Manager**

On March 18 of this year, Farmers Union Oil Company (FUOC) conducted its 86th Annual Meeting, limited in-person at the Montevideo VFW and virtually via Zoom. The minutes of the 84th

Annual Meeting were approved along with the Note of Cancellation of the 85th Annual Meeting per Covid Executive order 20-04. Reports were given and business was conducted and approved. Troy Groothuis was elected to fill the director term of retiring Jon Kanten. Jason Norby was reelected for another term as director. The current directors are Steve Rodeberg, Chairman, Paul Sachariason, Vice Chairman, Jason Norby, Secretary, Tony Schuler, Director, and Troy Groothuis, Director.

## **Looking to the Future**

FUOC is committed to exceeding expectations with products and services, while maintaining a financially sound cooperative. With

this mission in mind, the Board of Directors will work to ensure a strong cooperative for the next generations of patrons.

Technology and information are always hot topics with our staff at FUOC. We are committed to utilizing anything that saves money and makes your cooperative operate more efficiently. Our focus is not just on services and products, but also where we need to improve the operation of the cooperative for the future. Focusing on the performance of your cooperative to make adjustments for the future always takes self-evaluations and adjustments to meet the needs of our patrons. We hope these new value added technologies and services will enhance patron profitability.

Have a great spring and take a moment on Memorial Day to remember those who served our country. Thank you for the opportunity to be your business partner. ◆





# LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL HARVEST

By Dick Erickson, Tire Center Manager

It seems like we just finished up last year's harvest, and now we're already done — or nearly done — with planting, which means it's time to start thinking about another harvest season to come. Look ahead at what your needs will be: large and small tires, tracks, or any of the boogies. If you need to have your tracks aligned, get ahold of us and we will see if we can get it corrected. Some Tracks, Quads and Camso are 8 to 12 weeks out, so try and order early.

As for servicing vehicles, whether it is a small car or a large semi-tractor, we can do them all. We do tune ups, all types of air conditioning work, brake work, front end repairs, ride disturbance problems (such as issues with your shock strights) and much more.

From May 13 to July 8, we're running a special on Firestone® car and LT tires. We also have "A Plus Up" deal on Firestone tires from June 27 until July 8. Call us for more details. ◆

## ZONES OF INFLUENCE: WHAT TO DO AND WHEN

By Jim Thompson, Agronomy Sales

When we think about plant health or enhancing crop growth, we like to break it into zones of influence.

**Zone 1:** Products added at the time of planting; including fungicides, nematicides, growth regulators and inoculants.

**Zone 2:** Products added at the time of your first post-emergence application.

**Zone 3:** Products applied during early reproductive stages. These can be additional micronutrients, growth regulators and stress reducing products that are added to a herbicide application.

A growth regulator that we have been working with is Treble which can be used anytime post-emergence to early reproductive stages in your application. Treble is a hormone-based biostimulant containing essential amino acids to help mitigate stress and improve yields.

If you're growing Enlist E3 soybeans, another product to consider is Mitigate Plus, which triggers the plant's natural abilities to minimize stress while providing efficient energy to the plant resulting in

quicker recovery and metabolism.

When applying Enlist herbicides to soybeans, the plant has to metabolize the herbicide and can display some laziness or drooping for a day or two. Mitigate Plus can be added anytime you use Enlist herbicides (or any other herbicides) to help a plant overcome environmental stressors.

A final item when looking at enhancing plant growth is the addition of micronutrient products whenever spraying fields post-emergence. There are a variety of micronutrient products that can be added. One is Sulpak, which contains sulfur — a key nutrient found in every living cell which is important in the formation of proteins. Similarly, Borpak contains boron which is essential for cell wall formation and is key in reproductive structures, leading to adequate grain fill and flowering.

There are other micronutrient packages available, depending upon the nutrients you are targeting, that we can choose from. Call your agronomist to discuss your options or if you have any questions about these products. ◆



# TAKING CARE OF YOUR PESKY PESTS!

**By Jerome Fragodt, Agronomy Manager**

Make sure to scout your field for pests, weeds and weed height to make sure your crop application of herbicides work properly. Also confirm you have the correct herbicide for the traits of beans you plant, such as Roundup Ready, Enlist E3™, Xtend®, LibertyLink®, or LLGT. Applying fungicides post-emergence to your corn and beans is getting more traction with the commodity prices we are now working with and showing in the yield.

Side dressing application of nitrogen should be happening now to make sure your crop has the nutrients for the year. If you need us to do side dressing applications, please give us a call.

Looking ahead to fall fertilizer and application season, it is looking like the market is going to be up. Talk to your agronomist, and we can work with you through this. ◆



# MEET THE MANAGERS

**Cindy Johnson: HWY 7 C-Store**

Cindy Johnson has worked for Farmers Union Oil Company since 1988. She and her husband, Mark, have three children and five grandchildren. For a couple of weeks this summer, she and her husband are looking forward to grandma/grandpa daycare.



What's unique about Cindy's store, HWY 7 C-store, is their Teco's Tacos. On Tuesdays, they have Taco Tuesdays and through the month as a special, their smothered burritos are a hot seller. As for some new items, the HWY 7 C-store is expanding their cold line products for fresher options like: salads, wraps and sandwiches. We also can't forget about the new car wash along with the discount of a dollar off when you purchase eight or more gallons of gas.

Stop on out at our HWY 7 C-Store to check out these unique items.

**Roxanne Peterson: Granite Falls C-Store**

As of this summer, Roxanne Peterson will have worked for Farmers Union Oil Company for four years. She and her husband, Vern, have been married for 36 year and have four children and 13 grandchildren. They are also raising their energetic eight-year-old granddaughter. They enjoy their time with their horses, dogs and cats.



Cooper's Chicken, which has a little bit of a kick, is what sets Granite Falls apart. They have also started to increase their cold line with freshly made salads, rice pudding, deviled eggs, sandwiches, cold chicken and sides every day.

**Noah Mann: Travel Plaza**

Noah Mann has been with Farmers Union Oil Company for six months.



The Travel Plaza has some distinctive services compared to the other stores. On Tuesdays and Fridays, there is somebody available to pump your gas and seven days a week, you can get you portable LP Tank filled.

Don't forget to check out the cold line with always revolving items each day. You can find delicious pasta salads, lettuce salads, sandwiches, wraps, yogurt parfaits and fluff salads. ◆



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## GREATER EFFICIENCIES MEANS BETTER PRICING

**By Mike Mace, Energy Manager**

I hope you have had a safe and successful planting season. The petroleum market is all over the board, but hopefully we will have the supplies at a reasonable price. We are purchasing a 4500-gallon fuel truck, which should considerably increase our efficiency and starting this spring, we now offer premium gas from our bulk trucks. We also have purchased a 60,000-gallon LP tank to have more fall inventory at a better price that we can pass onto our customers.

We will be starting our Summer Fill program at the beginning of June and you should have received a card in the mail with details.

Like previous years, if you DO NOT want to be summer filled or have concerns about your tank, please contact the office at 320-269-8861.

Also please remember, if you are digging, please contact both us and Gopher State because they do not mark the gas lines.

Fall LP contracts for crop drying and home heat prices will be coming out in September. If you have any questions, please reach out. We thank you for your patronage and hope to continue to serve you. ◆