Winter planning is underway for both Scranton Equity and its patrons.

Local artists and their creations are displayed within.
LETTER FROM THE
GENERAL MANAGER

WE ALL HAVE A LOT TO GET DONE OVER THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, AND WE WANT TO HELP OUR CUSTOMERS ANY WAY WE CAN.

As we enter winter, a lot of us folks involved in agriculture start to plan for spring. The government and a lot of private companies start trying to guess what is going to be planted in 2017, what farmers are going to do with their inventory and even take a stab at what prices will be on all commodities. About all I have to say about that is GOOD LUCK!

Your cooperative will also be planning during the cold winter months, and yes, we will be trying to determine much of the same information as the government and private companies, only on a smaller scale. We will also be planning for retirement succession with our employees, rolling stock replacement, benefit cost analyses, creating both short- and long-term business plans and reviewing all of our company policies.

For the first four months of our new year, our company bottom line is better than last year. Fuel sales are suffering both in Scranton and at Frontier Travel, down approximately 38 percent at both locations. But the decline in sales of fuel is not just down here; our regional suppliers tell us they are down across the region. All other departments are doing better than last year and we have trimmed company expenses by about 10 percent.

We all have a lot to get done over the next three or four months, and we want to help our customers any way we can.

Mike has shown the same energy as our General Manager that he demonstrated as Grain Manager. Having been here 30 years gives him good general knowledge of our company, so there hasn’t been much of a learning curve. Good thing, since there are many new faces in most of the departments, and Mike’s understanding of operations is important to continue providing goods and services without hiccups. The new department managers are showing great interest in learning all they can and how to better serve you.

We, as a company, want to earn your business. Let us know how we’re doing, so we plan for the future and continue being a leader in our Ag community.

Speaking of community, Scranton Equity is a major part of the southwest North Dakota community. Not only because we employ many people and transact considerable business, but also because we support many area functions and service organizations, our local hospitals, schools, students and other worthy community benefactors. This is all due to your support of the company you own!

Mike Wedrick, General Manager

2017: A NEW YEAR

Have a happy, healthy new year!

- From the Board of Directors

| MIKE WEDWICK, GENERAL MANAGER |

| MARK KELNER, PRESIDENT |
prosperous 2017!

I would like to extend “Best Wishes” for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017! I appreciate this contribution on our behalf.

Romine has generously offered this program since 2012. This year’s recipient promises to partner with our customers,” said Bob Engel, CoBank’s chief executive officer. “Across rural America, cooperatives of all kinds are supporting charitable organizations and working to advance the growth and development of their communities. Sharing Success enables CoBank to leverage that local knowledge and expertise and provide assistance to causes that our customers care deeply about.”

Scranton Equity is once again proud to participate in CoBank’s “Sharing Success” program for 2016. CoBank created this fund to benefit cooperatives and the charitable groups they support across rural America. Once a cooperative submits an application and it is approved, CoBank will match cooperative donations to nonprofit organizations up to $5,000. CoBank has generously offered this program since 2012. This year’s recipient is West River Health Services Foundation, and Scranton Equity appreciates this contribution on our behalf.

I would like to extend “Best Wishes” for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017!

By now, most of you know that after 35 years of service, Bob Kromarek has decided to retire and spend more time with the grandkids (and probably do a few honey-do projects, too). Or maybe he will even have time to go hunting and fishing once in a while. All of us at the Farm & Fuel would like to wish Bob the very best in his retirement.

Bob left me with some very big shoes to fill, but I can assure you that I will do the very best I can to do just that. No doubt there will be a learning curve for me and everyone else as I transition into my new position, but I expect everything will go “smooth.” I appreciate any and all suggestions, comments or just plain BS you can bring my way.

Stop in and fill up with fuel, pick up the building supplies you need for your winter projects around your place or sit a bit with a specialty drink at the Java Stop. Maybe I will even throw in a little BS of my own. You never know, you may even hear that big boisterous laugh that has been so familiar even hear that big boisterous laugh that has been so familiar to the Farm & Fuel department.

For the past 35 years.

Have a “smooth” year!

BATTERY HAS ENOUGH ‘CRANKING’ POWER FOR COLD WINTER MORNINGS

1. CHECK YOUR LIGHTS.
   Use your headlights so that others will see you and, we hope, will not pull out in front of you. Make sure your headlights and taillights are clear of snow.

2. MAKE SURE YOU CAN SEE.
   Replace windshield wiper blades. Clean the inside of your windows thoroughly. Apply a water shedding material (such as Rain-X) to the outside of all windows, including the mirrors.

3. RUN THE AIR-CONDITIONER.
   In order to remove condensation and frost from the interior of windows, engage your air conditioner and select the fresh air option. It is fine to set the temperature on “hot.”

4. GET A GRIP.
   To have adequate snow traction, a tire requires at least 6/32-inch deep tread. (New passenger-car tires usually have 10/32-inch deep tread.) If you live where the roads are regularly covered with snow, use snow tires and buy all four.

5. WATCH FOR “BLACK ICE.”
   If the road looks slick, it probably is. “Black ice,” also called “glare ice,” is nearly transparent ice that often looks like a harmless puddle or is overlooked entirely.

6. REMEMBER THE TOUGH SPOTS.
   Remember where icy roads tend to occur. Bridges and intersections are common.

7. GIVE YOURSELF A BRAKE.
   Learn how to get maximum efficiency from your brakes before an emergency. Know if your vehicle has the antilock brakes system (ABS) or antilock brakes.

8. TOO MUCH STEERING IS BAD.
   If a slick section in a turn causes your front tires to lose grip, the common — but incorrect — reaction is to continue turning the steering wheel. It won’t improve the situation and may make things worse. If the icy conditions end and the front tires regain grip, your car will dart whichever way the wheels are pointed.

9. TECHNOLOGY OFFERS NO MIRACLES.
   All-wheel drive (AWD) and electronic stability control (ESC) can get you into trouble by offering a false sense of security. AWD can only help a vehicle accelerate or keep moving; it can’t help you go around a snow-covered turn, much less stop at an icy intersection. ESC can prevent a spinout, but it can’t clear ice from the roads or give your tires more traction. Don’t let these lul you into overestimating the available traction.

Now that winter is here, we need to follow a few safety tips for driving in the North Dakota c-o-l-d! Remember to check ahead for weather and road reports before heading out. Always make sure someone is aware of your travel route and destination times. Be safe! Here are a few more tips for winter driving:

- ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ITEMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

- BATTERY HAS ENOUGH ‘CRANKING’ POWER FOR COLD WINTER MORNINGS
- ANTIFREEZE HAS BEEN CHECKED
- WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID TANK IS FULL
- ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ITEMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED
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Artists among Us

“THE ARTIST IS THE CREATOR OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS.”

Oscar Wilde’s (1891) description of an artist in the simplest of form. We, as a community, are very fortunate to be artistically wealthy. Our little, sparse corner of the state overflows with many creators of beautiful things; artists with talents in all sorts of varying forms. And though we have several, I chose two that I would like to introduce to you. Bonnie Shogren-Ogden and Marsha Lehmann are two local artists that share the same talent of painting, but in their own special artist way.

Bonnie Shogren-Ogden graduated from college in California and then moved to Anchorage, Alaska to be closer to family. Bonnie spent many years there enjoying the wilds of Alaska, and that influence can definitely be seen in her paintings. The beautiful Alaskan scenery wasn’t her only influence though. Her father, Kinley Shogren, was an artist from Ohio and was well known as a marine artist throughout the New England states and especially the Great Lakes, an area which inspired much of his work. Bonnie signs her art work using the Shogren name, in memory of her father and the great work that he has done.

Bonnie Shogren met her husband, Dave Ogden, in Alaska and soon after marriage they headed to Williston, ND to make their fortune in the oil fields. By the time the oil project was completed, they had both fallen in love with the Black Hills of South Dakota and settled in Summerset, just outside Rapid City. Later, Dave accepted a position with Scranton Equity and Bonnie commutes between their two homes. It’s a full-time job for her to keep the home fires burning in two places and pamparing (not Dave) their dog, Bandit.

Bonnie described her interest in painting as being tweaked a couple of years ago as she eyed a wooden pallet lying in the corner of her backyard. Her artistic talent surfaced with thoughts of turning that pallet into “yard art.” She painted some birds and flowers on the pallet, gave it a proper place in her flower garden and that was the beginning of her journey. Bonnie said, “That one turned out pretty good, so I painted another one with Alaskan wild flowers and gave it to a friend.” She continued to paint with acrylics on old wood and gave many of them away. Even so, she had started to acquire quite an inventory, so off she went to the art and craft shows with paintings in tow. Bonnie was well received by the public and has expanded into photographing and painting area prairie churches. She has had several special requests to paint cherished churches, buttes and prairie scenery.

Marsha Lehmann of Bowman is a local artist among us. Marsha and her husband, Rob, ranch south of Bowman. It is easy to see that her daily life is her inspiration and exposes her to many of the subjects of her paintings. Her own artist statement says it best:

“My inspiration is the area we live. It is filled with the diversity of wildlife, ranching and the wonderful rugged landscapes.

Marsha Lehmann graduated from Bismarck State College where she completed her commercial art degree. As Marsha describes her painting technique, she credits fellow ranchers and farmers as her best critics. She describes them as a very detail oriented group and says, “an outline of a cow or calf on a hill tells them if something looks off… the tilt of the head, the ears, the feet and legs… constant observation. Same with the land, both ranchers and farmers, so it stands to reason that if something in a painting doesn’t look right, it isn’t right.” She takes their advice very seriously and checks every detail; wanting her paintings to be realistic and alive, “…but keeping the paint loose enough not to be boring (and) leaving something to the imagination,” she advises. Perhaps this is Marsha’s artistic splash that separates her from other artists. A uniqueness that we see as perfection and she describes as, “…the best of my abilities, but the “perfect” is always elusive as with anything”. Meet Marsha Lehmann

Meet Bonnie Shogren-Ogden

WWW.SCRANTONEQUITY.ORG
VFD REFRESHER

WHAT IS A VFD DRUG AND WHY DID THE FDA CHANGE THEIR PROCESS?

A VFD drug is a antibiotic used for both human and animal medicine. It’s important these drugs are used correctly. The FDA’s job is to ensure these drugs are used properly, which is why they are requiring a VFD order for some medicated feed beginning January 1, 2017.

ARE ALL ANTIBIOTICS AFFECTED?

No, not all antibiotics will be considered VFD drugs. The use of injectable antibiotics will not be affected; and some drugs used in water will now require a prescription from a veterinarian. Ionomophores and coccidiostats are not affected unless they are fed in combination with a drug that requires a VFD.

HOW DO YOU GET A VFD ORDER?

To obtain a VFD order, you must have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian. A VCPR is a working relationship between a veterinarian and a person who raises livestock (client). The veterinarian’s primary role is to help and advise the client in determining which medications are appropriate for their animals (patients).

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU NEED A VFD ORDER?

Feed labels of VFD drugs have the following statement: “Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.”

WHAT’S YOUR ADVANTAGE?

RENEGADE-EA™ is part of the ECO ADVANTAGE™ platform providing outstanding performance, is approved for aquatic use, improves safety and handling and is NPE free.

RENEGADE-EA™ offers a unique blend of methylated seed oil, UAN solution and a nonionic surfactant improving stability in spray tank mixtures and increasing retention, wetting and penetration of herbicides on weed surfaces. Contact your local Wilbur-Ellis representative to find out how to get your ECO ADVANTAGE today!

www.ag.ndsu.edu/stewardship/veterinary-feed-directive

ERIC JORGENSEN

“HE WORKS HARD TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A TOASTY WARM HOME DURING THESE LONG, COLD WINTER NIGHTS.”

If you have not met Eric Jorgens yet, add it to your New Year’s list of things to do. He is one of the most important employees you will need to know during this time of year! Eric has been with the Farm & Fuel Department for over a year and his main focus is fuel and propane delivery. So if you’ve been wondering who is under that pile of clothing, climbing over the wolf meat processing business that is also located on “Grandpa Willie’s place”; a description that only locals understand with nothing more needing to be said. When asked about his hobbies he replied in his usual quiet demeanor, “Work is my hobby, seven days a week.” He continued to explain that he also helps his family with the Wolf Meat Processing business that is also located on “Grandpa Willie’s place”. With just a hint of a smile he adds, “Spending time with my wife and kids is my favorite thing to do.”

Just a short visit with Eric and it is understood where his priorities lie. Family and duty are what drive him and in that proper order. Stop and visit the Farm & Fuel Department and say “hi” to Eric or give him a quick wave out your window as he fills your tank!
Word Search

| D A M O N R E I T Z , G R A I N D I V I S I O N |

“BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, WE WILL HAVE GRAIN QUOTES BEING SENT OUT VIA TEXT MESSAGING.”

Happy belated holidays and New Year from the grain division! I am writing this article December 1st and we got our first winter blast over the past three days. I guess we knew it was coming sooner or later.

It has been pretty slow around the elevator this fall. The last half of November and first part of December have been much better as far as buying grain goes. We are moving some freight with actual grain in it and we have some sales on the books going forward.

What is this wheat market going to do? I could go on for a few changes to Super Valu. Hopefully these changes will be controlled by the people buying our grain. When they get enough, the market will go sideways or down. Why can they do this? The world supply of wheat is huge and they know that. Barring any weather events or President Trump tweets, this wheat market might not change for a while.

The durum market remains firm to down a little going into the holiday season. I think after the holidays this market will firm back up to at least current levels and maybe a little stronger by second quarter 2017. Buyers are still anticipating what kind of durum bushels are out there that are marketable.

By the time you read this, we will have grain quotes being sent out via text messaging. If you haven’t signed up already, give us a call and we will be happy to set you up with this service.

As always, we do appreciate your business, we don’t just expect it.

WHAT’S NEW AT

SUPER VALU

I hope this finds everyone home and safe, in good spirits after spending the holiday season with loved ones and friends.

With the new year coming upon us, there are going to be a few changes to Super Valu. Hopefully these changes will help the store while we continue to offer the best customer service we can. One of the changes will be our Saturday business hours. We will still be opening at 7:30 am but will be closing at 3:00 pm in an effort to cut costs on these non-profitable hours. Keep in mind that any of our changes will be done on a trial basis and we encourage any comments and help from our customers. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience that may cause.

I would like to thank Darren and Brad for bringing back the Christmas spirit by resurrecting our Equity Star!

I’ll leave you with a saying by Vincent Van Gogh: “Great things are done by a series of small things brought together”.

SCRANTON’S Winter Recipe

JOE GRIFFIN’S FRENCH DIPS

INGREDIENTS

3 pound sirloin tip roast
1 package good season Italian dressing
1 package Lipton onion soup mix
1 package Au Jus natural style gravy
10 1/2 oz. beef broth
1 cup water

DIRECTIONS


Agriculture
Boy
Bay
Crab
Calvert
Cap
Chicken
Cow
Cultivate
Fiber
Food
Crop
Fruit
Harvest
Livestock
Plant
Plow
Seeds
Soil
Sunshine
Tobacco
Tractor
Trees
Truck
Vegetables
Water

MYSTERY WORD: J O E G R I F F I N ’ S F R E N C H D I P S