



**Southwest
Grain**

The Grain Mill

Summer 2026



From the board room

Hello and greetings from your CHS Southwest Grain producer board members. It's hard to believe it's time to write my summer article for the Grain Mill. I'm writing this over the 4th of July weekend and the heat is on! By the time you read this, July 2026 will be in the books and we will be getting a better idea of how the crops and yields will look for our 2026 harvest. With this heat and little chance of moisture, the outlook for a decent crop could be a challenge.

The crops have sure been moving along fast the past couple of weeks. The canola fields are vibrant yellow and it's amazing how many fields there are coming north from the South Dakota border. It seems like maybe 20 miles north of I-94, you don't see as many. There, it seems the fields will show up yellow with sunflowers and blue fields of flax. Undoubtedly, it is a beautiful time of year in the countryside! Which got me to thinking, wouldn't it be cool if we could modify the colors of the blooming crops to be reds, oranges and maybe even purples with flecks of gold! But we know those colors only last a few weeks before it's time to start thinking about harvesting.

Producers are getting wheat in, as they are cleaning up bins to make room for the new crops. It is hard to move grain at these lower prices, but we are hopeful to fill up the storage with our 2026 crops. Yields across the CHS Southwest Grain region will be hit or miss, as the rains have been spotty across the territory, with only small areas getting measurable rainfall lately.

Brian and Kayla and their crew are on top of making sure we have plenty of room for the harvest to save more space on the farm for row crops later this fall.

Those later crops still have the potential of having a better yield if we can get some nice, gentle rains.

Producers, I encourage you to visit with managers at your locations about the opportunity in pricing your grain using basis or hedge to arrive contracts. New Salem and Lemmon can take crops other than wheat at their locations.

Winter wheat does seem to be doing good as far as nice heads and tillering out adequately. We need to remain hopeful it doesn't start shrinking up and getting lighter weight kernels. As we move forward with the last round of spraying, we are hoping we can see the wheat prices move up.

There are a lot of scenarios to help with the upward movement. The south is experiencing their poorest winter wheat crop due to high heat. The European Union also has been getting record heat with the heat dome situated over a lot of the country, as well as it being their smallest crop year since the early 1900's. We need to keep our fingers crossed that the future market will consider all these factors in an upward tick.



Shane Sickler

Chair

CHS Southwest Grain Producer Board

Our livestock producers have been busy getting cattle to summer pastures and keeping fences in good shape as well as working on haying every chance they get. In visiting with area producers, unfortunately, it appears most think the hay crop will be less than average this year. Livestock producers are also in need of more beneficial rains to keep dams full and grass green.

Currently, we are all busy preparing equipment for harvest, greasing all parts and pieces and getting trucks washed, as well as getting everyone in the harvest mood and assigning their jobs. We all need to keep safety foremost in everything we do, no matter how big of a hurry we get in. One accident or mishap can create a major hardship. Often those cut corners don't save much time in the end anyway.

I want to thank everyone at all the CHS Southwest Grain locations in helping to get our crops and livestock to this point and staying focused on a good crop of grains and calves. All your employees are here to help you bring home a successful harvest!

As I end my article, I'd like to make a personal note to recognize the loss of a great friend and dependable and genuine human so many of us have relied on over the past 40+ years, Daryl Jurgens. Daryl was a big part of my family's harvest each year. He was also part of the CHS Southwest Grain family as he was part of the cooperative when it first opened and was one of the first transport truckers. Daryl moved wheat from all locations to the Boyle terminal. I can't even imagine the millions and millions of bushels he and his family have hauled from the fields and bins of area producers to the terminal. He and Carolyn and their boys put in endless hours working for each of us year after year. Even now in 2026, Carolyn and Mike continue to serve producers and CHS Southwest Grain in many ways, through all the seasons, either at the terminal or the fertilizer plant. Daryl, you will surely be deeply missed, especially hearing that jake brake echoing through the hills and down the country roads just in time to join our family for our daily harvest supper in the field before taking that last load from the field back to CHS Southwest Grain. Thank you for being a part of our family's journey through life and farming. I know others share this sentiment.

As I close, remember to be safe and take the time to enjoy and thank those around you helping with your 2026 harvest. And always remember to take care of each other!

Management and operations report



Joel Sparks
General Manager and
Senior Director of Operations
joel.sparks@chsinc.com

Hello all! At the time of this writing, July weather has been unsettled. June was cooler than normal, which was helpful with the amount of rainfall we received. At this point we are receiving enough moisture week to week to keep things going, but we are at a point where a good soaking is needed in most of our region.

In looking at the crop status presently, there are some very nice areas and some that are struggling. Fortunately, we have avoided the hail damage we saw around the Minot area in the late June storms. There was a much-needed rally in the wheat markets in late April into May that many producers were able to take advantage of and was a welcome relief from the generally depressing wheat market. The countryside shows a lot of yellow right now and we are hopeful for a good canola crop.

Our fertilizer season is largely wrapped up at this point. I'm grateful for our agronomy team and their hard work to make it all happen. I'm thankful for our agronomy operations director Shannon Hanson's, hard work. He and I just wrapped up our first agronomy season in southwest North Dakota. Many things went well and some things will be improved for next spring. We meet regularly to discuss what went right and what needs to go better. We also review our plans for next spring. As you all know, even with the best equipment, our most important asset is our team members. I'm grateful for Amy, Brooke, Rick, Mark, Ashley, Hope, Marla and Mike for their fantastic work and expertise. They really are a great team of experts.

From an equipment perspective, the facilities largely ran well with adequate supplies. The Killdeer project was completed later than we needed it to be, but we are now ready for next year. It's also important to mention our applicator team with Riley and Jeff at Dickinson, Jordan and Cody at New Salem and Brandon, Jeremy, Wayne, Phil, Steven and John at Lemmon. They are an integral part of our co-op, and we appreciate the long hours they put in to get the work done. There are many others on the team that I didn't call out by name that are equally important and I'm grateful for their hard work.

The energy business has been a wild ride. Risk management has been difficult with the volatility from the Iran conflict. We have some improved tools in place should this type of scenario arise again. Supply has been good to the country as CHS has leveraged its strength and size to navigate challenges in the supply chain.

I'd like to thank our patrons and customers for their support. I appreciate your hard work, loyalty and dedication. The ag economy is not where it needs to be to support the work you do, and I know this brings added stress. Thank you for what you do to support your families, your communities and our cooperative. As always please contact me at 701-941-9609 if you have any comments on what we are doing right and what we can do better to support you. Thank you to those who took our spring survey. We look at those locally and across CHS to see where we need to focus to serve you better.

Thank you and stay safe.

Producer Board Members

Chairman, District At Large

Shane Sickler : 701-290-1322

Vice-Chairman, District B

Mike Gerving : 701-471-2057

Secretary/Treasurer, District C

Steve Verhulst : 605-567-3324

Members:

Scott Gaugler (District A) : 701-290-2669

Loren Bock (District A) : 701-290-5143

Jeff Schroeder (District B) : 701-220-8659

Harlan Doll (District B) : 701-226-1691

Rhett Peterson (District C) : 406-599-8362

Clint Kvale (District C) : 605-374-7808

Josh Haugen (District AL) : 701-290-2024

Tim Wegner (District AL) : 701-290-7159

Locations

Administrative Office

3645 98th Ave. SW

Taylor, N.D. 58656

1-800-736-0450

701-483-6212

Service Locations:

Belfield

305 1st Ave SE

Belfield, N.D. 58622

701-575-4386

Dickinson

1722 South Main

Dickinson, N.D. 58601

701-487-2971

Elgin

P.O. Box 40

Elgin, N.D. 58533

701-941-9630

Gladstone

471 Rothschilder St

Gladstone, N.D. 58630

701-483-0021

Hettinger

302 Mirror Lake Road

Hettinger, N.D. 58639

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Killdeer

P.O. Box 120

Killdeer, N.D. 58640

701-483-4554

Lemmon

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Lemmon, S.D. 57638

605-898-1540

800-736-0450

New England

P.O. Box 220

New England, N.D. 58647

701-483-4555

New Salem

P.O. Box 0

New Salem, N.D. 58563

701-204-7044

Reeder

502 Railroad Ave

Reeder, N.D. 58649

701-941-8675

800-736-0450

Regent

P.O. Box 70

Regent, N.D. 58650

701-941-9885

800-736-0450

Richardton

Drawer F

Richardton, N.D. 58652

701-483-4559

Grain Terminals

Boyle

3645 98th Ave SW

Taylor, N.D. 58656

701-483-6212

Dickinson

1519 W Broadway

Dickinson, N.D. 58601

701-483-6781

Lemmon

201 2nd St E

Lemmon, S.D. 57638

605-898-1540

800-736-0450

New Salem

4456 County Road 139

New Salem, N.D. 58563

Agronomy

Dickinson

1722 Hwy 22 S

Dickinson, N.D. 58601

701-483-4552

Lemmon

201 2nd St E

Lemmon, S.D. 57638

605-898-1540

800-736-0450

Feed Plant

CHS Animal Nutrition

4855 GTA Dr.

Dickinson, N.D. 58607

701-483-1277

Petroleum

Dickinson

1722 South Main

Dickinson, N.D. 58601

701-483-5157

Lemmon

201 2nd St E

Lemmon, S.D. 57638

605-898-1544

877-655-3354

Propane

Dickinson, N.D.

701-483-5157

Lemmon, S.D.

605-898-1544 877-

655-3354

Elgin, N.D.

701-941-9680

800-316-2944

New England, N.D.

701-579-4496

Richardton, N.D.

701-829-1032

Petro department



Jared Bookhardt
Energy Manager
Dickinson, N.D.
701-483-5157

Interesting Note:

Do you love candy like I do? The story of Milk Duds® is an interesting one. How did the candy get its name? Developed in 1928 by F. Hoffman & Company in Chicago, one of the creators, Edwin Holloway, wanted a perfectly round caramel center and chocolate covering. Time and time again they tried but could not perfect the candy and they called the lopsided chocolate a “dud” because it was not round. They put “milk” in the name as it was one of the main ingredients. To this day, they are a classic candy favored by many. The creators almost canned it, but instead called their duds Milk Duds, and the rest is history. Hershey currently produces these candies in their Pennsylvania manufacturing facility.

Energy at a glance:

Propane: Summer filling will be ending as we enter August with our deferred billing sent out with the Aug. 15 billing cycle. Fills after this time will be back onto their normal invoicing cycle.

Propane monitoring: This program is developing into one of our most popular customer programs, and I would say it is crucial to make sure you do not run out of propane. At no charge to you, we can place a cell phone monitor on your tank and keep you full. The goal is not to let you run out of propane. With a link provided, you can see your tank level anywhere in the world and our drivers are watching your level and making sure you do not run out of propane. It happens always at the most inopportune times like late at night, on weekends and holidays.

Propane service work: As we enter late summer and fall, service work will pick up. This is a flurry of activity around setting up liquid propane (LP) tanks, trenching new lines and replacing old or outdated regulators. LP tanks are also being ordered for projects in the area. Most families are leasing their LP tanks as the yearly rental is substantially lower than an up-front purchase of the tank.

Propane winter contract: We are in the process of looking at an LP winter contract. Contact your local certified energy specialist or the office at 701-483-5157 to inquire about details and timing.

Diesel and gas: Refined fuels continue to remain extremely volatile. With several weeks in late June and July trending down, a wartime premium has turned that backwards and the markets are back up, making purchasing decisions difficult. For the farmer, having product in the tank may be the key takeaway. We have product in our bulk tanks, and the farmer should do the same as we roll into harvest and fall work.

Tank Sizes: Ensuring you have the right tank size for your operation is also key to mitigating the volatility in energy markets. Go big or go home was once a saying you heard often at the farm gate, but with many mid-to smaller-size farms, 4,000 – 6,000 gallons or smaller may be all you need. We sell a full assortment of 300-gallon tanks all the way up to the 2,000-gallon tanks. These are standard and in stock most of the time. For the larger tanker load tanks, availability has been good and turnaround times have been faster than before COVID years.

Lubricants: Cenex® lubricants are high quality products that meet and exceed many of the OEM recommendations. What we are seeing in the industry right now is a severe backorder on some products. CHS Southwest Grain has been working hard to make sure we have your products in stock. With much of the base oil stocks in the world in extreme short supply, Cenex and its partners have worked very hard to make sure we have your products in the right sizes and the right quantities. No matter if you need hydraulic oil for a blown line from haying, to making sure your combine has the right viscosity oil, CHS Southwest Grain is a one-stop shop for all your lubricant needs. We carry greases, fuel tanks, hoses, nozzles, hydraulic oil, gear oils, anti freezes, DEF, RV anti-freeze and the list goes on. Please call ahead as we can have your order ready to go as you arrive.

Thank you for your patronage and feel free to call the office with questions you may have.

This content was not created with A.I.

Updates from **Lemmon**



Brannon Peterson
Operations Manager
Lemmon, S.D.



We would like to recognize Steven Langley as our CHS Southwest Grain Employee of the Month for June.

Steven has continuously gone above and beyond this spring and throughout the year. He ran a sprayer this spring and is always willing to do whatever it takes to serve our customers' needs. This included working continuous weekends and holidays and even spending nights in the truck when needed. Steven makes feed deliveries when called upon and will perform whatever maintenance is required to make work happen. Thanks, Steven, for all your efforts and teamwork this spring and beyond!

New employee in Animal Nutrition



Kailey Appledoorn
Animal Nutrition Consultant
Richardton, Dickinson, Killdeer
& Belfield

Please join us in welcoming Kailey Appledoorn, who is joining the team as an animal nutrition retail sales representative.

Kailey brings a strong background in agriculture, with hands-on experience in farm and ranch operations, animal care and customer support. She most recently worked as a production analyst with Lime Rock Resources in Dickinson, N.D., where she analyzed production data, prepared detailed reports and collaborated with field teams to ensure accuracy and compliance. This role strengthened her analytical skills and attention to detail, which will translate well to supporting customer needs and managing accounts.

In addition to her professional experience, Kailey has lifelong involvement in farm and ranch operations at Rock Springs Ranch near Gladstone, N.D., where she has been actively involved in livestock health, feeding, calving and day-to-day operations. She also brings previous customer-facing sales experience and a strong commitment to building relationships and supporting local agriculture.

Kailey holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural business, with a minor in management, from West Texas A&M University.

The May 2026 Grain Mill winner was from Reeder, North Dakota.
Bruce Hagen was awarded a \$20.00 credit to his CHS Southwest Grain account.

Each time the winner (\$20.00 credit to account) is not claimed, credit will increase
by another \$20.00 in the next issue of the Grain Mill.

Read your newsletter . . . We will award \$20.00 to this issue's winner. It could be YOU!

\$20.00

We have randomly selected a name from our patron list and hid it in this newsletter.

FIND YOUR NAME AND WIN A

\$20.00 CREDIT TO YOUR CHS SOUTHWEST GRAIN ACCOUNT!

Call Kayla at 701-483-6212 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. MT



Feeding season prep

Plan ahead for success



Sarah Thompson
Animal Nutrition Consultant
Lemmon, Hettinger,
New England & Reeder
605-673-1059

Across the region, weather conditions continue to vary widely. Some areas have received timely moisture while others remain dry, and after a cool start to summer, temperatures have risen quickly. With so many variables, the best approach is to plan for the worst and hope for the best. Having a Plan A, B, C and even D can help avoid costly surprises later.

Don't overlook hay quality

Last year's rainfall made harvesting high-quality hay difficult. While yields were high in many areas, producers struggled to bale hay at the proper moisture level, resulting in mold and mycotoxin concerns. Carryover hay and uncovered silage may also have deteriorated further over time.

Before feeding, consider testing or retesting stored forage. Hay analysis is an inexpensive management tool that can help reduce the risk of abortions, respiratory issues and other health problems during feeding season.

Sweet clover considerations

Yellow sweet clover can be an excellent forage when grazed early, but caution is needed when baling. If hay is put up too wet and becomes moldy, it can produce dicoumarol, a compound that interferes with blood clotting and can become fatal in severe cases.

Testing suspect hay for dicoumarol is recommended. Processing or grinding sweet clover hay can help improve intake and digestibility.

Grain hays and nitrate risk

With dry conditions in some areas, more grain crops may be harvested as forage this year. Grain hays generally offer the best feed value when harvested early in the milk stage. As maturity increases, forage quality declines and additional supplementation may be needed to meet nutrient requirements.

Producers should also be aware of nitrate accumulation, particularly in grain hays and drought-stressed corn. While ensiling can reduce nitrate levels, nitrates are cumulative across the entire diet. Elevated levels can lead to abortions, reduced fertility, tissue loss in extremities and in extreme cases, death.

Testing remains the best way to assess risk before feeding.

Water quality matters

Water quality is often overlooked but plays a major role in herd health and performance. Producers relying on dugouts, dams, creeks and rivers should monitor both water quantity and quality throughout the season.

Watch for common concerns such as:

- High total dissolved solids (TDS)
- Elevated sulfate levels
- Algae blooms
- Bacterial contamination

Also, verify that calves can access water sources, especially when tank levels fluctuate after larger cattle have watered.

Final thought

As feeding season approaches, evaluating forage inventories and water sources now can help prevent costly challenges later. Feed and water testing are relatively inexpensive investments that provide valuable information for making sound nutritional and management decisions. A little preparation today can save significant headaches tomorrow.

Please reach out to your local CHS Southwest Grain with any questions.



Stay safe around farm equipment



Nikita Lorenzen
Safety Specialist
Taylor, N.D.

Farm vehicle safety is critical for preventing accidents, protecting operators and ensuring smooth operations on public roads. Both farmers and motorists share responsibility for reducing risks.

Key farm vehicle safety:

1. **Use and maintain slow-moving vehicle (SMV) signs:** Farm equipment should display a bright, clean SMV emblem (orange triangular sign) at the rear center. This signals to other drivers that the vehicle travels at 25 mph or less, helping prevent rear-end collisions.
2. **Visibility and lighting:** Ensure lights, mirrors and reflective surfaces are in good condition. Increase following distance, especially in low light or poor weather, to give yourself and others more reaction time.
3. **Operator awareness and rest:** Avoid operating under the influence, fatigue or distraction. Dress in snug, non-loose clothing to prevent entanglement in moving parts.
4. **Equipment inspection and maintenance:** Regularly check tires, brakes, lights and safety guards. Keep all protective equipment in place and functional.
5. **Road rules and right of way:** Farm equipment does not have an automatic “right of way” on public roads. Follow traffic laws, yield when required and be prepared for sudden stops or turns.

Safe driving around farm equipment

1. **Recognize SMV signs:** Motorists should slow down immediately and increase following distance when they see an SMV sign.
2. **Passing safely:** Only pass when it's legal, safe and you have clear sight distance. Maintain at least a single lane's width between your vehicle and the equipment.
3. **Anticipate hazards:** Be aware of wide loads, swinging implements and limited visibility. Avoid passing in no-passing zones or on narrow roads.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the 2026 CHS Southwest Grain scholarship recipients! We wish you the best of luck as you begin your college career.



Darla Barnes will be attending South Dakota State University and will major in ecology and environmental science with a specialization in rangeland ecology and management.



Audrey Dvorak will be attending the University of Wyoming and will major in elementary special education with a minor in animal science.



Tessa Dvorak will be attending Kansas State University and will major in animal science with pre-vet track.



Katelyn Gebhart will be attending South Dakota State University and will major in nursing.



Casey Kindsfater will be attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and will major in mechanical engineering.



Maksim Nelson will be attending North Dakota State University and will major in mechanical engineering.



Jaycia Thomas will be attending the University of Mary and will major in nursing.



Kacee Wasem will be attending Colby Community College and will major in animal science.

Updates from the Elgin location



Jeremy Imhoff
Location Manager
Elgin, N.D.

Hello from the Elgin location. I hope your summer is going well. Spring work started early this year and it's starting to wind down. We are now switching gears from small grains and row crops to sorghum and millet needs. We have been very dry this year. The rain develops around us, or it skirts by us. The wind seems to be the only constant! Keep in mind, we have all your forage needs if pastures get short this year due to lack of rain.

On another note, we had a very busy year filling NH₃ tanks and moving dry fertilizer. I want to thank all our customers who supported us this spring. I think the season went good as far as getting tanks filled and no one getting hurt. We did have a few hiccups, but we worked through those. We are now switching gears to maintenance at the NH₃ plants. We must do the five-year required work, which includes changing all the hoses, changing the pop offs and reworking the stands. We also will be giving them a good coat of paint.

As we all know, the moisture opportunities have been few and far between this year. We do offer water testing here for any dams or stock ponds. With the lack of rain to flush and or refill the dams, water could become a problem for cattle. We offer an initial test for the solids to see if the water sample needs to be sent off for further evaluation. Once we get the results, we will contact you to explain the results and give you a copy of the findings.

CHS Southwest Grain has a full line of SmartLic[®] tubs with ClariFly[®] in them to assist with fly control. We carry a full line of garlic salt products which include cobalt and EDDI blocks and loose salt. The location also offers Payback[®] Ultramin minerals with ClariFly in them. The combination of the tubs, salt blocks with garlic and mineral with ClariFly gives the producer a great opportunity to fight flies. We also have a full line of pour-ons, which can help with fly control. With the New World screwworm now in the United States, it is important to be vigilant about fighting flies and keeping your cattle healthy. If you have any questions about our fly control programs, salt, tubs or minerals, please give Kristine a call. Calf creep is available here on location and we also offer delivery to the field if you are looking to stretch the grass.

It is also that time of year we are currently doing the propane summer fill for all your home heating needs. Please contact us at the elevator to get the current price or get on our list so we can get out and fill your tank up. Just a reminder that we do fill propane tanks of all sizes at the elevator. We can fill your grill tanks, camper tanks, 100-pound bottles and even RV tanks.

We have a full line of chemicals to assist in any of your spraying needs. If we do not have it at the location, we can get it ordered and usually have it the next day. We offer crop scouting to help you get a handle on the weeds that may be coming up. Come in and talk to Ashley and she can help answer your questions.

Just a reminder these are the phone numbers for Elgin:

701-941-9630 is our main line number

701-941-9680 is our propane line number

As always please have a safe and enjoyable summer, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us so we can assist you.



IT TAKES A CO-OP.™



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