

FCDC NEWS

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Ottawa Cooperative Association



If you drive into the city of Ottawa, you will most likely pass right by our tallest building and hardly think anything of it. Those of us that have lived in Kansas all of our lives have become use to seeing grain elevators when we travel about this great state of ours. These are Kansas skyscrapers. In most cases they are the home of an area CO-OP that serves our agricultural industry. Our community is fortunate to be the home of the Ottawa CO-OP, which has 15 locations in six different counties.

The CO-OP was originally formed in 1950 by 49 farmers and today has around 1,200 members. Clark Wenger took over as manager in 2014 after serving 15 years as the CFO. Mr. Wenger shared that the Ottawa CO-OP is a service-based organization. They work to serve our agricultural community every day. Since agriculture is a key economic engine for our region, the Ottawa CO-OP is a key player in the success of our region.



When Mr. Wenger says the Ottawa CO-OP is a service based organization, he is correct. When you drive by the CO-OP you may think they just store grain. They do so much more for the agriculture community. They assist our farmers in raising their crops, selling their crops, and financing their operations.

With 80 employees the CO-OP offers sales and expertise for a variety of products including but not limited to: Fertilizer, Chemicals, Seeds, Feed, Farm Supply, Fuels, Oils & Grease, Tires and Accessories. Some of the services provided include: Car & Truck repairs, Fertilizer & Chemical recommendations, Soil Sampling, Crop Scouting, Grain Marketing, and Financing options.



The CO-OP is also an important voice for the farmer. They are an active member of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas CO-OP Council. These organizations work to help educate our community on the issues related to agriculture and provide political action support as well. It is important that agriculture has a voice in our communities, as it is a key economic engine to our cities and towns across the state.

If we did not have a CO-OP you would miss it. Our farmers expenses would increase, and they would lose a competitive advantage. This would impact our local economies, not just your grocery bill. The CO-OP provides many needed services and the support our agriculture businesses need to thrive and even survive.

It is important to know that while a CO-OP serves its members, you don't have to be a member to benefit from their services. If you think there is a service that the CO-OP can provide to you or others you know, please reach out to the Ottawa CO-OP today.

