

Ag Producers Co-Op Invests In Skyland Grain

ULYSSES, KS and BUSHLAND, TX - Kansas-based agricultural company, Skyland Grain, LLC and Texas based cooperative, Ag Producers Co-op, announced today that they have signed an agreement for Ag Producers Co-op to invest in the Skyland Grain joint venture effective April 1, 2021.

Scale and diversification, both in services and geography, are important to the cooperative model that serves the local farmer. "Skyland Grain is a unique and evolved cooperative partnership that allows us to provide our member-owners with greater risk management and the benefits of size. Culturally, we also fit well together," stated Gregg Allen, CEO, Ag Producers Co-op.

"Skyland Grain and Ag Producers Co-op are both strong and

progressive companies. This relationship will offer outstanding opportunities to all of our farmer-owners across Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and West Texas. Together, we create a stable and progressive future for our members," said David Cron, CEO, Skyland Grain, LLC.

About Skyland Grain LLC

Skyland Grain, LLC, with cooperative roots since 1915, is headquartered in Ulysses, Kansas, and began operation August 1, 2004, with Johnson Cooperative Grain, Co. and ADM Grain Co. as the founding parent companies. On February 1, 2010, Syracuse Cooperative Exchange also became part of the joint venture, followed by The Cairo Cooperative Exchange on May 1, 2015. The three co-ops joined together in 2017 to form Skyland Co-op, Inc. In

September 2019, Cropland Co-op became a part of the joint venture, making ADM, Skyland Co-op, and Cropland Co-op all owners. Most recently Cropland Co-op's membership unanimously voted to merge with Skyland Coop, Inc.

Today, Skyland Grain, LLC operates grain receiving facilities in 42 locations across Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. They have a total licensed grain storage capacity of over 100 million bushels.

Additionally, Skyland Grain provides full-service energy and a full service agronomy department that provides bulk liquid, dry, and anhydrous ammonia fertilizers, chemicals, and seed, as well as custom application for fertilizer and chemicals.

About Ag Producers Co-op

Ag Producers Co-op is the

result of multiple mergers and acquisitions including Sunray Co-op, Olton Grain Co-op, Olton Co-op Gin, United Farm Industries, Inc., Hart Producers Co-op Gin, Bushland Grain Co-op, and Dalhart Consumers Fuel Association. In September of 2015 they acquired AGCO in Spearman and then Robinson Grain in Panhandle, June of 2016.

Today, Ag Producers Co-op is producer owned and producer focused on supply and marketing operation, specializing in grain, cotton, agronomy services, fuel, and retail stores across West Texas. They operate facilities in 22 locations. They have a total licensed grain storage capacity of over 68 million bushels and three cotton gins.

Unified Supervisors meet

Unified Greeley County supervisors chairman Kirby Kleymann, Justin Phillips, Monty Moritz, Corbin Myers, and Scott Steele met Monday, February 8th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in a regular meeting at the courthouse that was also streamed online. Also present were public works superintendent Brock Sloan, public works administrator Gina Bond, and county clerk Jerri Young, and county attorney Charles Moser.

Kleymann called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was a meeting with Don Walter, concerning property he owns and his plans and timelines to respond to two nuisance violations.

Sheriff Jessica McDaniel and head dispatcher Alisha Markley requested an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for a period of 10 minutes, to include themselves and the supervisors. Motion was so made, seconded and passed.

Supervisors returned to open session, then entered a second executive session for an additional 10 minutes.

Community Development Director Christy Hopkins and Scot Elliot entered the meeting. Hopkins requested an executive session for 30 minutes with the supervisors, herself and Elliot to discuss a land request. A motion was so made, seconded and unanimously approved. Session to end at 11:20.

Travis Elliott of Elliott Insurance presented county property insurance and workman's comp insurance premiums for the coming years. He explained some that there have been some increases in property values. There are insurance company programs that can be signed up for to decrease premiums by \$6,000. After further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the insurance through Elliott Insurance for \$163,293. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

County Health nurse Lisa Moritz met with supervisors. She said Greeley County continues to have 100 total covid-19 cases with no active cases at this time. She

said the Health Department has given 200 first doses of the Moderna covid-19 vaccine to Greeley County residents, and 30 second doses to Greeley County residents. In addition, the hospital has given 115 doses to county residents. The health department held two mass vaccination clinics that ran smoothly. There are still 100 doses of vaccine available for Greeley County residents, so anyone wanting the vaccine should call the Health Department to get on the list. They are working in the phases prescribed by the state.

Lisa inquired about a stipend for cell phones for herself and assistant Melissa Miller. They have been using their personal cell phones during covid-19 and for other department programs. Supervisors agreed to one stipend and Lisa will see if another can be paid through some health department funds.

Lisa requested an executive session for a period of 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel, to include

supervisors excluding Monte Moritz who recused himself, Lisa and Melissa Miller. Motion was so made, seconded and passed.

An issue was discussed concerning the Health Department and the Food Pantry helping with covid-19 isolated persons' meals.

Barkley Gentry provided supervisors with information and bids concerning a sprayer for the Noxious Weed Department for about \$4,000. After discussion a motion was made to approve purchase of a sprayer from Simpson for \$4,060.40. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment — \$336,002.06 for GSD and \$32,860.74 for MSD. Minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting were approved.

Susan Kail and William Mitchell were appointed to the cemetery board unanimously.

Resolution #2021-004 appointing Dustyn Smith as county Emergency Manager was approved unanimously.

Resolution #2021-005 -Nuisance Violation was unanimously approved. Resolution #2021-006 - Trailer House Violation was unanimously approved.

A hospital renovation payment was approved for \$53,047.15.

Sloan reported on county equipment.

Official minutes of supervisors' meetings are available at the county clerk's office.

Sen. Moran Appointed to Senate Committees

Sen. Moran Maintains Key Role as Republican Leader on Veterans' Affairs Committee

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) today announced his committee assignments for the 117th Congress. Sen. Moran will continue serving as the lead Republican on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) in addition to a new committee assignment as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). Sen. Moran will serve on the following committees for the 117th Congress:

- U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
- U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
- U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (Ranking Member)

"These key committee assignments allow me to advocate for a number of priorities that are important to Kansans and our special way of life," said Sen. Moran. "In addition to my previous committee assignments, it was a priority of mine to join the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee while we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Serving on this committee and on Appropriations will be beneficial to Kansans as we work to manufacture more vaccines, tests and PPE to

help end this pandemic."

"I am honored to continue serving as the lead Republican on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and will work to make certain our veterans have the resources they need to achieve success in their life after service," continued Sen. Moran. "I am committed to using my role on these influential committees to advocate for our farmers, ranchers, Native Americans, veterans, manufacturers, innovators, students, moms and dads to deliver results to the great state of Kansas."

Sen. Moran will continue his position on the powerful Appropriations Committee where he has made it a priority to provide farmers and ranchers with the resources they need to feed the world and ensure Kansas military bases — Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth and McConnell Air Force Base — receive the tools, resources and supplies they need to play a leading role in protecting our homeland. Additionally, Sen. Moran will continue to make certain law enforcement officers receive the tools they need to carry out their responsibilities of protecting our communities and remains committed to advancing medical research essential to saving and improving lives, growing our economy and maintaining America's role as a global leader in medical innovation.

Sen. Moran's membership on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee will further allow him to advocate for Kansans and rural America on a wide array of issues pertaining to banking, financial services,

insurance, housing, community development and global competitiveness.

In his position on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Sen. Moran led an investigation into the abuse of Olympic athletes and passed legislation to empower athletes and create safeguards to protect against further abuse. The Commerce Committee is especially important in supporting aviation and aviation manufacturing, which are critical to our state. This committee touches nearly every facet of the economy providing Sen. Moran a position to be an advocate on highways, rail, shipping, space, interstate commerce, consumer issues, economic development, technology and product safety.

As a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Sen. Moran will have the opportunity to shape health care policies during the COVID-19 pandemic to make certain all Americans, including those in rural areas, have access to vaccines, testing and personal protection equipment (PPE) to help end this pandemic.

Sen. Moran has worked throughout his time in Congress to improve the quality of life for the nearly 250,000 veterans living in Kansas. He has served on both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees and served as chairman of the Senate committee during 2020. He will continue his service in the 117th Congress as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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