Harvest of 2016 is well underway. Overall throughout the Gateway FS area, yields are being reported as “average” for Corn acres harvested. Early soybean acres harvested, which is a limited sample size at this writing, are being reported as “above average.” Selling prices per bushel are well off the highs from earlier this summer due to the expectations of a big corn harvest in the majority of the Corn Belt. More direction on the grain market will be forthcoming when the actual yield information is available from USDA in early January 2017.

Barge Trip
Early in September of this year, the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders (LKSI) sponsored the 15th annual Barge Trip on the Kaskaskia River. Thunderstorms forced the trip indoors to the KC hall in Evansville, where the KC Members provided excellent food and a meeting space for our group of 275+ people. Many thanks go to the KC members in Evansville.

This year the theme of the trip was “The 100th Anniversary of Illinois Farm Bureau.” Rich Guebert, President of Illinois Farm Bureau and Randolph County resident was the keynote speaker. U.S. Representative Mike Bost was on hand as well as State Representative Jerry Costello, State Senator Dave Luechtefeld and the U.S. Army Corp’s Col. Anthony Mitchell.

Baldwin Agronomy Plant Progress
In the spring of 2016 we completed the dry fertilizer storage and blending building at the Baldwin site. The facility was operational for the spring season. The facility is used by customers as well as outlying Gateway FS fertilizer plants. The new facility proved to be a huge help in getting and keeping product available for customers during the busy spring season.

We are started on Phase II of the Baldwin site development. Currently under construction is a state of the art Ag Chemical blending/mixing building. We will have the capability to load 2 trucks simultaneously at a rate of (400 gallons per minute). The loading process will be computerized, which will eliminate potential contamination issues as well as track inventory efficiently.

We are also started building an equipment storage shed to park sprayers, spreaders, and tender trucks. This building will be open to the south. As sprayer costs increase, it makes sense to get them out of the weather when not in use.

We will continue developing this site as the year progresses. The next steps are a seed warehouse with a seed treater, NH3 storage installation, LP Gas installation and an office with warehouse space.

Gateway FS Fiscal Year End
July 31 marked the end of the fiscal year end for Gateway FS. Our auditors are in our offices as I write to verify the year end results.

We will finish the year down 29% from last year as a result of a smaller 2015 harvested crop compared to the 2014 crop. Also, having an impact is the continued tightening of the farm economy.

We expect to pay patronage again this year, the amounts and rates in each business segment will be determined by the Board of Directors at the completion of the audit. Patronage information will be mailed to each customer in the first 2 weeks of November.

Once again our employees did an excellent job of providing products and services to our customers. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts to make Gateway FS successful.

Growmark Finishes a Good Year
Growmark, a regional cooperative of which Gateway FS is member, reported good year end results at their annual meeting in late August. As a Growmark member, they will distribute patronage to Gateway FS in October of this year. We will in turn make those funds available for patronage distribution to our customers for our July 2017 fiscal year end.

Thank You
Thanks to every customer for your support this past year. I’m sure we will have many challenges in the upcoming year. I am hopeful our team at Gateway FS can help with those challenges. Good luck with the reminder of the fall harvest and enjoy this issue of the Gateway News.
October is Fire Safety Month

The Gateway FS Charitable foundation recently donated $3,000 to the Irvington UCC Food Pantry. The food pantry services all families in need in the Randolph County area around Chester, IL. Pictured accepting the donation from Craig Yoch, Gateway FS Charitable Foundation board member is Pastor Stacy Tate, head of the program and Pat Koenigstein, head of the program and Pat Koenigstein. The Gateway FS Charitable Foundation was formed to provide assistance to food pantries located in the Gateway FS five county territory of Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, and Clinton Counties. Gateway FS assists farmers in the growing of food and the charitable foundation helps by giving back to the community assisting food pantries providing food to families in need.
Proper Eye Protection

Our eyesight is extremely valuable. Something as simple as pressure washing your deck can have dire consequences to your eyesight. Tripping over a hose and dropping the wand could not only cause physical damage from the water pressure, the chemicals you are using to clean can cause irreversible damage if gotten into your eyes. Loose paint chips, dirt, or even pieces of the surface you are cleaning can become projectiles that can cause damage to yourself or those who happen to stand around you. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health states that around 2,000 workers a day have some sort of eye injury that requires medical treatment. This is very serious. You would not think this but even the minimal amount of water pressure can kick up cement chips, metal slivers, rusty nail bits, and any other substance that can cause physical and permanent damage. Many of you work in a workshop or your home garage on various projects and equipment. There are oils, chemicals, cleaning solvents and many other hazards you don’t even think of until you start washing with your pressure washer. Most of the time when you think about eye protection, it is too late. Goggles are necessary and should be worn in any situation when your eyes could be injured.

Goggles do not have to be bulky and uncomfortable. Some goggles on the market offer features that are perfectly tailored to the individual and have different safety ratings based on what they will be used for. For example, when using a pressure washer, it is necessary to have goggles that offer ventilation or fog resistance. Foggy goggles can lead to other accidents. Look for goggles with indirect vents which will allow airflow while at the same time keep the debris away from your eyes. If the eye protection that you choose is not comfortable and doesn’t fit right, I suggest you make a different choice of eyewear. You most likely will take the risks and not wear any protection at all if they are uncomfortable.

Most goggles have shatter resistance to help shield your eyes from flying debris. Eye protection should be made of shatterproof polycarbonates. Please avoid glass or older goggles that have lost their protective abilities. Always remember, proper eyewear can prevent loss of vision and serious injury. When it comes to your eyesight, you should treat yours as invaluable and protect it accordingly. If you need guidance for proper eye protection, please do not hesitate to call. If a painting or cleaning project is in your future, we can offer pressure washing as a service to help you along. You can email me at bgarleb@gatewayfs.com or call 618.972.9516.

Energy News Letter

The oil market has been relatively consistent over the past year. With oil trading in the low to mid-forties per barrel in the past month. Last year we were looking at close to the same range for early fall. This is mainly due to the fact that we have seen the major oil producers unwilling to cut production. No one wants to sacrifice their market share at this time to support the oil price by cutting production. OPEC continues to talk of cutting production at their meetings but seems this is something that is more talk than anything. With the travel season behind us the demand for gas should continue to be reduced. This should help the prices at the pump come down as we move into late fall and winter.

As we move into the fall and harvest is well under way. The weather forecast seemed very favorable for farmers to let the corn dry in the field. Along with an average to below average grain drying year and a very mild winter last year and a good supply of propane, I do not see any reason that the propane market will make any large moves besides the seasonal moves as we get into the heating season. Most of these moves will be dictated by how hard the winter is for the country.

The Prairie du Rocher levee is in need of being recertified which will cost the town thousands of dollars. There is an effort headed up by the Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce to raise money to offset the cost of having the levee recertified. With Gateway FS having an elevator and a fuel station in the town, we have decided to donate 3 cents per gallon, to the levee fund, for all gas or diesel that is sold through the Prairie du Rocher Fuel 24 from September 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016. Brad Maschhoff
Energy Dept. Manager

The Gateway FS Charitable foundation recently donated $1,000 to the St. Paul’s Lutheran Community Food Pantry. The food pantry services all families in need in Monroe County area around Columbia, IL. Pictured accepting the donation from Craig Yoch, Gateway FS Charitable Foundation board member is Gene Haberl, manager of the pantry. The Gateway FS Charitable Foundation was formed to provide assistance to food pantries located in the Gateway FS five county territory of Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, and Clinton Counties. Gateway FS assists farmers in the growing of food and the charitable foundation helps by giving back to the community assisting food pantries providing food to families in need.

The Paint Corner

By Brian "Boomer" Garleb

- Gateway News - Page 5

October/November 2016 - Gateway News - Page 5
**Gateway FS, Inc. - FULTS, IL**

**MONROE County**

Planted: 4/9/16

Harvest Date: 9/14/16

Irrigation: None

Soil Texture: Silt Loam

FERTILIZER: WOLFTRAX HI YIELD, DAP, POTASH, AMS, SOLUTION 28%

Crop Specialist: MATT KELLER

**Gateway FS, Inc. - Red Bud, IL**

**Monroe County**

Planted: 4/5/16

Harvest Date: 9/29/16

Irrigation: None

Soil Texture: Silt Loam

Crop Specialist: Bryce Parsons

**Gateway FS, Inc. - Perryville, MO**

**Randolph County**

Planted: 4/18/16

Harvest Date: 9/7/16

Irrigation: None

Soil Texture: Clay Loam

Crop Specialist: Michael Ellis

**Gateway FS, Inc. - Waterloo, IL**

**Monroe County**

Planted: 4/15/16

Harvest Date: 9/22/16

Irrigation: None

Soil Texture: Clay Loam

Crop Specialist: Gary Brandt