

Supply:

Continued from Page 5

"There's a lot of price uncertainty of course, but in my opinion crop prices will remain high," Wysocki said. "Maybe not \$12 (per bushel of soft white wheat at Portland), but still up there. With drought in Kansas, war in Ukraine, world wheat prices should stay high, but you need supply to sell."

Turning to the effect of inflation and supply chain disruption on local farmers and ranchers, Wysocki said, "Fuel price hikes affect a lot of expenses. You have to pay more to haul grain and for field work. It affects the availability of agricultural chemicals, fertilizer and pesticides. Supplies are short and cost more. Glyphosate (Round-Up herbicide) cost is up and supply down. (Farm chemical companies) will sell to their big, regular customers first. If you shop around all the time, then you might not be able to buy any. Other herbicides, same situation."

He also said equipment maintenance this past winter was more difficult than usual due to the supply chain problems.

"Parts are a problem," Wysocki said. "Combine repair needed to be done early, before the Midwest soaked up all the spare parts. Distribution and freight cost more, even when supplies are available."

Older producers have gone through tough times and know how to tighten their belts, he said, but this might be the first time younger farmers have faced challenges like this.

"Inflation might affect interest rates. If you need to borrow capital to buy land, or for an operating loan, it could cost you more, or you're simply priced out," he said.

Kevin Scheibner, 51, a who grows wheat and runs a cow-calf operation in upper Wild-horse Creek near Athena, echoed Wysocki's comments on the effects of inflation.

"Seed costs and any petroleum-based products have gone through the roof," Scheibner said. "But we make adjustments and carry on. American farmers face whatever the world throws at us, and keep moving forward."

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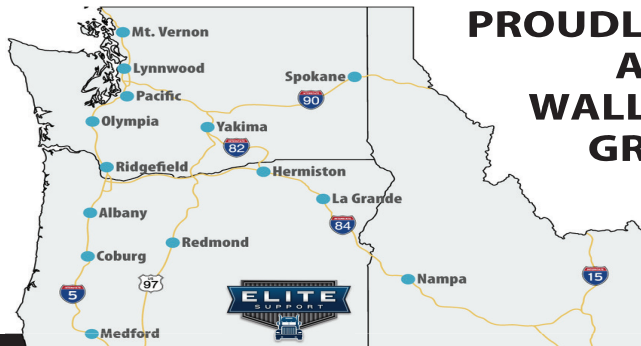


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