

April 2021  
Vol. 2 No. 3



# the coverall

*Community Committed,  
Agriculturally Driven*



[www.mvcoop.com](http://www.mvcoop.com)

1901 E. Hwy 160  
Monte Vista, Colorado  
719-852-5181

[mvcds@mvcoop.com](mailto:mvcds@mvcoop.com)

### The Monte Vista Coop Board of Directors

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In 1949, a group of forward-thinking farmers formed the Monte Vista Coop to pool resources to buy in bulk. Today, the Monte Vista Coop has more than 7,000 members and offers farming and ranching necessities. Each department is strategically operated with the best interest of our area farmers and ranchers in mind, helping to keep our local economy robust and thriving.



## Meat In Day March 20: MVC Supports Colorado Ag & Livestock

The Monte Vista Coop hosted the MVC Meat In Day Hamburger Fry March 20 to support Colorado agriculture and livestock industries in efforts to oppose Colorado Governor Polis' declaration of March 20 as "Meat Out Day," asking the state's residents to avoid eating animal products on that day. San Luis Valley counties joined more than 25 counties across the state to declare March 20 as "Meat In Day" to support local agriculture and livestock producers. The Monte Vista Coop joined the movement and invited community members to the Meat In Day Hamburger Fry, held in the parking lot of the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store. Serving over 720 hamburgers, the Monte Vista Coop proudly fed hundreds of local San Luis Valley residents. Local FFA chapters and 4H club members were invited to the event in an effort to support agriculture education, and the prospects of our future producers.

## MVC Fuel the Cure Fundraiser

The Monte Vista Coop Petroleum Division had the honor to donate \$5000 to the SLVRMC Cancer Center and Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center from the "Fuel the Cure" fundraiser that took place in January 2021 based on propane sales. The Monte Vista Coop would like to sincerely thank our members and customers who participated in this fundraiser by purchasing propane during the month of January. Pictured from left to right: Scot Schaefer – MVC Board of Directors Chairman, Skotty Morris – MVC Petroleum Division Director, and Kelly S. Gurule- Director, SLV Health Foundation and Volunteer Services.



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# The Garden Center

By Kat Siglinger, MVC Admin

The Pandemic saw a resurgence of home gardeners and the trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Last year most gardening supplies quickly sold out nationwide. Luckily, I had purchased my seeds, fertilizer, insect control, soil amendments, pots, and tools early from the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store and had nearly everything I wanted and needed.

I currently garden in a hoop house to help extend the San Luis Valley seasons. I am also a huge fan of container gardening. My current push is to get my soil samples tested at the Monte Vista Coop and amend my soil as needed. It might be too early to plant most crops, but it is a perfect time to plant sweet pea seeds. The sweet pea seeds are currently for sale at the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store, located at the front counter. I always plant them on one of my fences around my garden beds. The bees and pollinators love sweet peas, and the scent can be intoxicating on a warm summer day.

Although I am no longer active as a Master Gardener for the Colorado State University, I still enjoy helping fellow gardeners and passing along helpful tips:

**March:** I usually start getting my planting beds ready. I amend the soil and add my fertilizer. I start my tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, lettuce, and greens such as collards and kale, and herbs inside. I remove the mulch from my rhubarb patch and begin watering it on a weekly basis.

**April:** I plant many of my native and wildflower seeds during this month. I transplant my onion starts, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, and greens into the garden beds. I remove the mulch from my garlic bed. I start my spinach, English peas, beets, carrots, radish, and potatoes and cover the beds with row covers to help retain heat at night. April is also a perfect time to install, maintain, and repair my drip irrigation systems. Water is such a precious commodity that it only made sense for me to choose drip irrigation. It can be challenging to accommodate all my various situations, but I have found everything I need in the MVC Farm Store landscaping and plumbing supplies. The staff in the hardware department has been great at helping me select what I need.

**May:** A really tricky month! We have such nice days that it is hard to not get impatient and plant everything outside. Our last average frost date is June 15th and our average first frost is September 15th. I plant many other flower and herb seeds at this time. I plant bush and pole beans, corn, pumpkins, my winter and summer squash, and cucumbers. I cover the beds with row covers to hold the heat at night and to shield tender new plants from our harsh winds. I transplant tomatoes and peppers into 10-gallon containers. They are then moved into the hoop house for several weeks.

**June:** What an exciting time! Once I am sure we have passed our average last frost, I move the tomatoes and peppers outside to enjoy the summer. If needed I can put them back into the hoop house temporarily. I also remove the row covers and plant all annuals and tender herbs. It is also the time to begin to harvest all "cool weather" crops and enjoy the fruits of my labor.

Whether you are new to gardening or a seasoned veteran, I encourage you to stop by the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store for all your gardening supplies.



Stay Connected with the MVC!

WWW.MVCOOP.COM MVCADS@MVCOOP.COM

## The Monte Vista Coop Farm Store MONTHLY SALES

**April:** Weekly Spring Sales

**May:** Super Sale May 3 - 22, 2021

**June:** Father's Day Sale TBA

*In-store customer appreciation drawings held monthly.*

## Week Night Dinner Recipes

Recipes from the MVC Women's Appreciation Cookbook

### Hawaiian Haystacks - Stephanie Schaefer

2 (10-3/4 oz) cans cream of chicken soup  
1 cup chicken broth  
2 large cans chicken  
4 cups cooked white rice  
1 (9.5 oz) can chow mein noodles  
3 medium tomatoes, diced  
1 green bell pepper, diced  
1 (20 oz) can pineapple chunks, drained  
1 cup grated Cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup sunflower seeds  
1/2 cup coconut  
1 small can sliced black olives  
1/2 cup diced onion

Combine soup and chicken broth in a medium saucepan to make gravy. Stir to blend. (Add a little bit of water if necessary). Add cans of chicken. Simmer about 8-10 minutes until heated through. To build the haystack, first place rice on bottom of serving plate. Then add chow mein noodles, and then the chicken gravy. Add remaining ingredients as desired.

### Meat Pie - Lynn Widger

1 - 1.5 lbs. hamburger  
1 medium onion, chopped  
minced garlic or garlic powder, to taste  
1 pie pastry  
1 cup shredded cheese  
1 can (14 oz) tomato soup  
3 T. Worcestershire sauce  
1-2 T. mustard  
salt & pepper to taste  
diced green chile (opt)  
mushrooms (opt)  
potatoes (opt)  
zucchini (opt)  
red or green bell peppers (opt)

Brown hamburger in skillet. Remove hamburger from skillet. Saute onion in same skillet with oil (added as needed), add minced garlic or garlic powder, salt and pepper to taste. You may also add optional ingredients at this time, if desired. Combine meat/veggies and onions in skillet and add 1 can tomato soup, Worcestershire sauce and mustard. Heat through. Assemble pie. Use a crust for both bottom and top or just the top. Top the meat mixture with shredded cheese. Then top with crust. Bake at 375 degrees to 400 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

### Ice Cream for Breakfast

Add a yummy scoop of ice cream to a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast! Enjoy!

- Kat Siglinger

# Propane FAQ

## What is the minimum order for propane and refined fuels?

- 100 gallons or more on bulk but the recommended amount to fill is 150 gallons which is more cost effective.

## How long does it take to get my tank filled?

- It could take up to 7-10 business days
- This does not include weekends or holidays

## What are my responsibilities as a will-call customer?

- Will-call customers are responsible for contacting the Monte Vista Coop Petroleum Division to schedule a delivery for propane levels of 35% or higher. If the levels of your propane tank are lower than 35%, there could be additional fees to fill your tank if propane is needed before the 7-10 business day time frame. Please call 719-852-5181 and ask for the Petroleum Division.

## What if my propane tank percentage is low and I need a delivery right now?

- The Monte Vista Coop Petroleum Division will deliver same day to the requested location with applicable fees applied. After hours deliveries will be completed after the drivers scheduled route, will-call orders and after 5:00 pm. Weekend and holiday delivery rates will be higher than regular day delivery rates.

## Message from your delivery driver: Please answer your phone!

-Unanswered phone calls can create extensive delays, miscommunication between driver and customer, and payment discrepancies that are preventable.

## Snow removal really helps!

-Snow and road hazards make it very difficult for deliveries to happen. You could be skipped for delivery for up to two weeks if roads are not cleared.

**All orders are dispatched through the MVC main office. Drivers do not take orders. The driver will not wait for payment on COD.**

## What are my payment options?

- Set up a chargeable account by contacting the Monte Vista Coop Credit Department.
- By calling the MVC main office prior to delivery with information from a valid credit/ debit card.
- Paying for propane with cash or check does not include additional charges.
- Paying with cash or check may be completed by giving your payment to your driver or by dropping it off at the Monte Vista Coop in Monte Vista and Alamosa.

## What should I do if suspect a leak inside a structure?

- Get out!
- Do not touch anything inside of structure and leave doors open!
- Once you have reached a safe distance from the structure where the leak is suspected, call 911.
- Emergency services will determine a plan of action and will contact the MVC.

# Agronomy Insight

By Mike Hampel, MVC Agronomy Mgr.

Happy spring to everyone! Spring activity is beginning to pick up. Because our liquid tanks are full and our dry sheds are bursting at the seams, we are in excellent position to supply your spring fertilizer requirements. Our big rigs have been serviced, the windows cleaned, hoods polished, and tire pressure checked. The agronomy team is chomping at the bit to get out on your fields. Over the last several months, many of you have heard that the supply of fertilizer is tight and prices have escalated. If you heard or read this, it is true! What caused all this to happen? In a nutshell:

- Mosaic, the largest phosphate producer in the U.S., filed a grievance with the Dept. of Commerce and the International Trade Commission in June 2020. They claimed that imported phosphates from Russia and Morocco were being subsidized by their respective governments. This allowed Russia and Morocco to push their phosphate products into the U.S. below local production costs. The investigation revealed this to be true. As a result, a five-year plan of higher tariffs was installed to offset the gov't subsidy. Because of the "reach-back" function of the investigation and imposed tariffs to the June date, imports of dry phosphates (11-52-0) dried up immediately. Then, the wheels fell off! Supply became extremely tight and prices began to climb.

- The Corn Belt had an open fall which allowed more tons to be applied than normal. Inland inventories were drained.

- Grain prices have increased – the fertilizer manufacturers want their piece of the pie from your acre. When the markets see \$5-6 corn, \$13 soybeans, and \$6 wheat, everyone has dollar signs dancing in their dreams.

- The Texas cold weather event. Fertilizer manufacturing plants were forced to shut down so their natural gas could be redirected to the Texas market. The two-week manufacturing interruption eliminated a huge supply of nitrogen products in an already tight market. Currently, most nitrogen manufacturers are on allocation, and will probably continue allocating through the spring.

Because you have a successful and well-run co-op, we were able to layer in fertilizer inventories ahead of the supply shortages. However, we were not able to avoid the price increases.

The crop protection products are having some of the same issues. There are shipping containers in the U.S. ports that are full, but cannot get unloaded. Or, the containers are empty, but cannot get loaded. Glyphosate (Roundup) is a good example. Most of the tech material is produced and imported from China. The production process is interrupted when the tech material is tied up in the transportation channels. This will not affect us too much, but it sure affects our eastern Colorado neighbors on the high plains. To guarantee supply, Tony Serak has spent a great deal of time over the last few months sourcing the crop protection products you need. You should be good to go!

Now, a little bit about me. I am a native Kansan, raised on a dairy farm in south-central Kansas. I came to your co-op in April of last year. (I can honestly say that David Gylling's retirement left your agronomy department in great shape with a team of outstanding personnel.) The COVID-19 protocols have prevented me from being out and about to meet you on your farms. I am truly happy to be here and to be an employee of your Monte Vista Coop. You can reach me at the 3-Mile facility (852-4046) or on my cell phone (496-7276) or email (mhampel@mvcoop.com). I look forward to our visit!

## Auto Tips from Gary

MVC Car Care Center Mgr.

Coming in May 2021

## All Season Tires



Contact the MVC Car Care Center for availability and pricing for all special orders!

# 719-852-5181

With summer fast approaching, the Monte Vista Coop Car Care Center is available to help you get your vehicle prepared for the hot summer months. I recommend that you have the tires on your vehicle inspected. This will ensure that they are in adequate condition for summer travels. I also recommend that you check the air pressure in your tires. When temperatures rise, tires will gain air pressure. Have the engine oil and oil filter changed, check your fluid levels, test the battery, and check coolants/ antifreeze mixture. It's also a good idea to carry an emergency kit inside your car during your summer travels. Please contact the MVC Car Care Center and we will get your vehicle ready so you can enjoy the amazing Colorado summer!



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The Monte Vista Coop annual meeting will be held June 3, 2021.

Visit our website [www.mvcoop.com](http://www.mvcoop.com) for more information

## Sign up in June

for Budget Billing

Please contact Pat Medina at 719-852-7967

## MVC Lawn & Garden Fertilizer

*Manufactured by: The Monte Vista Coop  
Available at the Monte Vista, Alamosa, Center,  
and La Jara MVC locations.*

**Lawn Fertilizer 20-10-5 \$22.99**  
**Garden Fertilizer 16-20-6 \$15.99**  
40 Lbs. ea.

## MVC

### Women's Appreciation Cookbook

Join the Monte Vista Coop and help us celebrate all of the hard working women of the San Luis Valley by purchasing an MVC Women's Appreciation Cookbook, available for sale in the Monte Vista

Coop Farm Store. \$20 each.  
*All proceeds go towards the Monte Vista Coop  
Dedication to Education Foundation.*

The Monte Vista Coop is

# NOW HIRING!

Visit our website for an employment application [www.mvcoop.com](http://www.mvcoop.com)

Mail this portion of the newsletter and your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift from the Monte Vista Coop.  
Mail entries to: MVC Marketing Attn: Stephanie Schaefer 1901 E Hwy 160 Monte Vista, CO  
Name:  
Phone number:  
Email: