

THE STRUGGLES OF KYRGYZSTAN

Roger Webster, owner of Treynor Ag Supply, recently spoke to Club members about a trip early this year to Kyrgyzstan. Roger made this two-week trip as a consultant to help producers there with agricultural management to enhance production. Since Kyrgyzstan broke away from the Soviet Union as an independent country, they have been struggling for political and economic stability. Roger noted there were over 5 million people of mostly Turkish origin living in an area about the size of S. Dakota on about the same latitude. Agricultural land is divided into small acreage tracts with the average farm size of 5 ac. Most of production is obtained by manual labor without benefit of machinery, hybrid seed, and agricultural chemicals, Roger stated. Crop residues are taken from fields and stored for cooking fuel and heat. Little bank credit is available for production supplies to put out a crop. Farm to market roads are poor and much of production is sold in open market conditions, Roger explained.