

Local coops vote to merge

**(KNZA)--Stockholders of Hiawatha-based Ag Partners Cooperative and Seneca-based Nemaha County Cooperative Association voted Thursday on a proposed merger, and according to representatives close to the coops, the merger is approved.**

**The voting happened at separate meetings at the Fisher Center in Hiawatha and Corning Community Center in Corning.**

**A two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at each meeting was required to pass the unification.**

**Now that it's approved, the merger becomes effective September 1st.**

**The new consolidated company will be known as Ag Partners Cooperative, Inc. and the corporate office will be located in Seneca.**

**The new unified cooperative will be overseen by a 14 member board consisting of seven current members from each cooperative.**

**The board of directors of both cooperatives agreed unanimously in May to pursue the merger, citing economic dynamics, pressures and competition.**

**The boards say the merger will strengthen both companies and provide a more efficient utilization of assets.**

Many Signals Communicatons