

ACE REACHES PINNACLE AGAIN!



Andrew Hatz

ALLIED COOPERATIVE

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For the second year in a row, Allied Cooperative's Ace Hardware team in West Salem was awarded with the Pinnacle award from Ace Hardware Corporation.



This is the highest rating an Ace branded store can achieve and is highly coveted by all stores. "This is just the cherry on the top for 2022!" said Adam Judy, store manager.

The Pinnacle Performance Retailing designation honors Ace Hardware Corporation's top-performing stores worldwide based on key performance drivers, including quality, service and convenience.

"Some of the things we have done this year is expand our offering as a store with more up to date inventory and better brands and have kept our inventory level above 97% in stock," said Adam. "Our employee engagement survey rates how well the store is managed and how our employees feel about working here. We need an 80% score to be pinnacle and our store had a 93% satisfaction score!"

Continued on page 3...

ALLIED COOPERATIVE LOCATIONS

ADAMS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE / LP GAS / FUEL

540 S Main St • PO Box 729
Adams, WI 53910
608.339.3394 / 800.247.5679
www.allied.coop

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

251 Railroad St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.3698 / 800.331.3073 (Agronomy)
608.339.0357 (Grain)

CENEX PUMP 24

451 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.3626

NAPA AUTO PARTS

540 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.6412

ARCADIA

OFFICE / LP / FUEL / OIL

N28281 State Rd 93 Arcadia, WI 54612
608.323.3311

AGRONOMY / FEED

245 Van Buren St Arcadia, WI 54612
608.323.2144 (Agronomy)
608.323.3818 (Feed)

BLAIR

EAST GRAIN PLANT

1015 E Broadway St Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2298

WEST GRAIN PLANT

420 N Park Rd Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2335

GALESVILLE

AGRONOMY

W19801 Winnebago Rd
Galesville, WI 54630
608.582.4711

MAUSTON

AGRONOMY / FEED / GRAIN / TRANSPORTATION

N3709 Townline LL Rd
Mauston, WI 53948
608.847.6006 (Agronomy)
608.847.6896 (Feed)
608.847.5212 (Grain)

MAUSTON TIRE SHOP / NAPA AUTO PARTS

310 Prairie St Mauston, WI 53948
608.847.1640 (Tire Shop)
608.847.7501 (NAPA)

MINDORO

MINDORO COUNTRY STORE

N8319 Cty Rd C Mindoro, WI 54644
608.857.3414

PLAINFIELD

PEST PROS

10086 1st St Plainfield, WI 54966
715.335.4046

PLOVER

AGRONOMY

4809 Monroe Ave Plover, WI 54467
715.345.1955 (Office)
715.498.2767 (Cell)

TOMAH

DOWNTOWN OFFICE / LP

TOMAH COUNTRY STORE & FEED

711 Fair St Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2458

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

10533 Estate Rd Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2090

WEST SALEM

OFFICE / LP GAS / FUEL / TRANSPORTATION /

ACE HARDWARE

570 Commerce St
West Salem, WI 54669
608.786.1100 / 800.657.5189
(Office/LP/Fuel/Transportation)
608.786.4141 (Ace Hardware)

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

165 S Mill St
West Salem, WI 54669
608.786.1103 (Agronomy)
608.786.4154 (Grain)

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

GRAIN PLANT

3990 Commerce Dr
Wis Rapids, WI 54494
715.423.3000

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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Allied Cooperative recently closed the books on its fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. The year was a "short year" for us in accounting terms, as the Board of Directors elected to change our fiscal year end to September 30th – a time when our inventories are at their lowest. This change creates efficiencies throughout our business, and helps alleviate some of the pressure on our accounting department during tax season.

Despite the shorter year, our sales reached an all-time high of \$241.3 million and profitability followed suit with net savings of \$16.9 million. Every division within the company demonstrated outstanding performance and we are proud of their achievements.

On March 28th we will highlight the details of our fiscal year at our annual meeting. (See page 4 for more details.) While it is difficult to make comparisons due to the shorter year, we are very pleased with the overall results recorded. These results would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our member/owners, and for that we must say thank you. Your support and encouragement are vital as we grow and change to meet the demands of today and the future.

Through these positive results, we were able to pay out \$2.68 million in equity retirement to our members. And still to come, we will be paying out \$6.67 million in cash patronage to our eligible members in the coming months. This is just a part of the cooperative advantage, but an advantage that we know our members appreciate.

After much consideration and preparations, the Boards of Directors of both Allied Cooperative and ProVision Partners Cooperative have approved to finalize an Agreement and Plan of Merger. If approved, by the stockholders of the respective cooperatives, this will result in the merger of the two cooperatives into one entity. Eligible voters will receive voting packages in early March. Our goal is to continue to grow into a size and scale that can offer the highest level of service, while providing the other co-op advantages you have come to expect.

I would like to thank you for your continued support. I have great confidence in the future of this cooperative and look forward to serving you in the months ahead!

Sincerely,

Tim Clemens, CEO





PINNACLE Continued from page 1...

Ace Hardware Corporation developed the “Pinnacle Performance Retailing” designation as part of its long-term retail growth strategy for its more than 5,300 stores in approximately 70 countries. Ace retailers achieve the prestigious Pinnacle status by having store-based teams complete key performance drivers that provide a better overall shopping experience in their local community.

Achieving Pinnacle Performance Retailing is a tremendous accomplishment for an Ace store and Allied Cooperative congratulates the West Salem Ace Hardware team on their accomplishment. ■

Adam Judy, Manager of Retail Stores

When it comes to Grills, you get what you pay for!

by Adam Judy, Manager of Retail Stores

Over the last three years the team at your local Ace Hardware® has sold and assembled thousands of grills — all different styles and makes. If there is one thing that we have learned from our experience, as well as using the grills ourselves, it is that you get what you pay for. That’s why we gear over 90 percent of our grilling inventory around best brands. If you are looking for a smoker, we carry Traeger®. If you are looking for a gas grill, we carry Weber®. If you are looking for a griddle, we carry Blackstone®.

Following are some things to look for when purchasing a grill and some things to look out for when it seems like too good of a deal:

Quality and engineering

Ace Hardware will assemble any grill over \$399.99 for free for our Ace Rewards members. This has made us professionals when it comes to putting a grill together. There are a lot of things we are paying attention to during the assembly process that the customer might never see, for instance:

- How well are the parts manufactured?
- Do the bolts line up with the pre-drilled parts?
- How many parts are there?
- Are the instructions easy to read?

Over the years we have learned that some brands that do better than others. While they might be more expensive than their cheaper counterpart, they will last longer and you will get a better grilling experience all around.

Marketing

Something else we have seen is the willingness for even the best brands to lower quality for accessibility in the marketplace. Major retailers will sometimes go to these best brands and let them know that they would like to carry their grill, but at a lower price point. Depending on the company and how serious they are about protecting their brand, some companies will skimp on certain parts of the grill to get to that price point. Instead of stainless steel gas lines, they might use tin or

aluminum. They might use a thinner gauge metal for the griddle top or grates. They will also skimp on accessories or parts that would usually be included in the packaging. Ace Hardware orders the items the way they were intended. So next time you see someone with a grill that looks the same, but is \$20 or \$30 cheaper make sure to do some investigative work to see why.

Hopefully this gives you some insight for your next grilling purchase. If you need help or have questions, a friendly Ace associate is always on hand to help you pick the right grill and give you the know-how to keep your backyard barbeque smoking, searing and tailgating for years to come!



Jonathan Gustafson

info@allied.coop

Spring 2023 | 03

Planning 2023 for Planting 2024



by Dan Bergman,
Seed Sales
Inventory Manager
dbergman@allied.coop

After a long winter of cold and snow, it may feel like there's plenty of time to finalize your 2023 plans – and 2024 planting seems far off. However, behind the scenes, discussions with our seed suppliers regarding forecasting and allocation of hybrids and volume for 2024 have already begun.

We are seeing more new launch products come to market quicker and the life of seed hybrids ending sooner. Several factors influence this trend, including environmental and economic pressures, along with innovation, research, and development. Of course, everyone hits some home runs with hybrids that are consistent year after year withstanding disease pressures, under varying weather conditions, and across a broad spectrum of soil types. Even those, like everything, will see its life cycle end.

Some hybrids may do well in one part of our territory, okay in another, and not so well elsewhere. Others may look good in testing and launching, but don't hold up once released. It's very important to have Allied Cooperative members/growers engaged in this process year after year. With your help, we all get real life examples of how new hybrids perform as compared to just data sheets.

If you haven't finalized your 2023 seed plans, it's not too early to complete, especially with some hybrids sold out and others getting very tight. If you have submitted your seed order, it's not too late to make some small changes. Whether it's an experimental, limited launch, or new release hybrid – a sample size bag, or a planter full. Make this part of your seed plan every year.

At Allied Cooperative, we represent the top 4 seed hybrids companies. Brevant, Croplan, Dekalb/Asgrow and NK/Enogen. Take time to reach out to one of our agronomy advisors, along with field service representatives from our suppliers, to see what opportunities they have for you to find your next favorite hybrid.

As you incorporate this into your plans and have your crops planted, please take time to scout fields, visit local test plots, and tour WinField's Answer Plots, alongside of our staff and representatives, throughout the growing season to continue getting a hands-on look at performance. Then, pass along your constructive feedback and let us know how that will affect your next year's plan. Those efforts are very important in helping us ensure we have the best products available for you and your farm. Thank you in advance for your participation that continues to help us plan for the future. ■

2023 Allied Scholarships



Allied Cooperative is currently accepting applications for its 2023 college scholarship program. Selection for the scholarship is based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities, community involvement and/or employment, and honors and awards. Applicants are also asked to submit a short essay. Preference will be given to students pursuing a degree in an agricultural related field.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2023. Winners will be notified by the end of May. To request a scholarship application, please contact Karmen Bernacchi at kbernacchi@allied.coop. You may also download an application on-line at www.allied.coop.



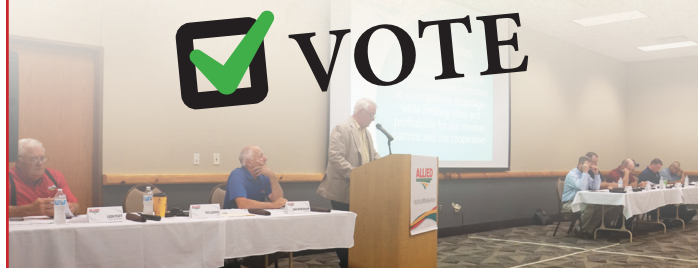
Allied Cooperative invites all members to attend our 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 28th, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Cranberry Country Lodge
319 Wittig Rd., Tomah, WI

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE!

Election of the Board of Directors will take place by ONLINE ballot or in-person before our annual meeting. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters.



A (WAY TOO EARLY) OPINION ON GRAIN MARKETS



by Rich Dahlke,
Adams Grain Location Manager/
Grain Merchandiser
rdahlke@allied.coop

I've stalled long enough. Its time for the grain guy to put his money where his mouth is and give his opinion on where grain markets are headed for 2023. We really don't have enough good information yet, but we can still speculate. Lets take a stab at it.

The USDA was kind to the American Farmer in the January report. Many, including myself, did not expect the ending stock numbers on both corn and beans to decrease. That was a nice surprise. Because of it, we continue to enjoy \$6 corn and \$14 beans. Will 2023 be the year the bull market comes to an end? It very well could. Remember, it is rare to sustain a bull market for more than 2 years in a row.

The South American crop is big. Corn has seen some demand destruction over the last year. With China coming out of a COVID lockdown, it should be good for demand but the value of the dollar and for other geopolitical reasons, the Chinese may at least try to look elsewhere for some of their grain needs. Don't expect exports to China to grow all that much this year. Its not all bad. If the USDA is correct, the amount of beans grown in the US will not increase much which will keep the ending stock number similar to or slightly

higher than last year. This will limit the downside to beans. Stay tuned to the March planting intention report to see if this holds true. I tend to think we will plant more beans than the USDA thinks we will.

Corn scares me a little. The USDA thinks we will plant 92 million acres of corn this year. If this is even remotely close, the ending stock number will be expected to grow by about 550 million bushels to a total of 1.79 billion bushels that don't have a home. That's a fairly large number and does not support \$6 corn. There may be some increases in demand going forward — as COVID recovery continues, we use a bit more ethanol, and feed demand is expected to return to 2021 levels — but those are just small amounts. Corn used for ethanol fluctuates a little year to year, but that industry is about as big as it is going to get without finding a new use for it. The new energy boom may come from biodiesel. With the amount of soybean

crush plants in the planning stages in this country, it certainly has the potential to be similar to the ethanol boom 15 years ago. That would be a huge market changer by bringing another customer to the table hungry for domestic beans. Time will tell.

So, the outlook is a little conflicted. Beans should be ok. Corn, maybe not so much. As we move closer to spring we can gather more info to form better opinions. Mother nature still has the last say. Nonetheless, many producers are finding that we are above breakeven at todays prices. Like I said earlier, it is rare to see a bull market last more than 2 years. We don't have a lot of weather premium worked into the market yet, but I am certainly not telling anyone to postpone sales. Let's put aside market hype and sell the rallies. I may even protect my sales with puts. ■

Life Under an LP Tank Lid



How often do you look under your propane tank lid? It is amazing what you will find in this area. Our drivers have regular run-ins with bees, wasps, frogs, toads, bird's nests and the occasional mouse. For some reason the lid of propane tanks makes a great prefab home for many creatures, but it is not exactly what it was intended for.

When you are out by your tank, open the lid and check things over. Here are some things you should look for:

- 1) Look at the tank gauge to verify the percentage of gas in the tank.** A good time to order is when your gauge reads 20%.
- 2) Check for debris, and remove any debris that you find.** The lid is there to protect your high pressure regulator and tank valves from the elements and damage. Debris around the regulator can cause it to malfunction.
- 3) Listen and smell for leaks.** Keep in mind when your appliances are running, very often you can hear gas moving through the regulator at the tank. This should not be confused with a leaking regulator.

Taking the time to look under that "prefab bird house" every once in a while can save you from costly out of gas charges and inconvenient down time for system repairs. ■



by Marilyn Whalen,
Agronomy Advisor
mwhalen@allied.coop

Importance of a Two-Pass Soybean Program

We've all heard of the "Start Clean, Stay Clean" motto and it's becoming more important every year. As an industry, we need to move to implementing a two-pass herbicide program on our soybean acres. One pass herbicide programs are a thing of the past. In this article we will be sharing many benefits of a two pass Soybean program.

First pass herbicides should be applied before early season weeds emerge. We get comments from growers in spring that say, "My fields are clean- there is nothing to spray" or "If I apply too early, I am wasting my residual." Both are great points. Here's another way to look at it, by getting out early you are improving the residual herbicide's chance to have proper soil contact. When the first pass is applied to a field that has weeds already 6 inches tall, there is too much plant matter to allow the chemical to properly get down to the soil surface. By going early we are also increasing the odds of adequate rainfall to activate the herbicide and in heavy residue fields allowing more time for the herbicide to wash off the residue and get into the soil. By going early, you are also saving money by using lower rates of Roundup® or even none at all on the first pass. Using a preplant residual is a good start, but it is not a one-shot wonder. Most residual herbicides can hold weeds for about 30 days. Even though you are using residual on the 1st pass don't let your guard down — it is important to use a residual again on the second

pass, carrying weed suppression until the crop has canopied. For example: Water hemp starts germinating in mid-May and can continue to germinate late into season.

A second herbicide pass in June is essential to keep your fields clean for the rest of the season. There are added costs by adding another residual and burning down the second flush of weeds, but think about what you are losing in yield. If a soybean field has more than 20 water hemp plants per square foot, it can reduce soybean yield by 44%. See the chart in this article provided by Winfield United — it shows the yield loss due to weed competition with the soybean crop. Each day water hemp can grow 1 to 1.25 inches, if we wait for weeds to emerge and then spray, we are already too late. Xtendimax® and Enlist® are excellent products in our fight against resistant weeds. Both labels state that you should apply before weeds are 6 inches tall. So often we are spraying weeds much bigger and setting us up for even more resistance.

At the Wisconsin Agribusiness Conference in January, Dr. Rodrigo Werle, UW-Madison Weed Scientist, gave a talk on the 6 Rs of Water hemp Management. The 6 Rs are:

Respect: Respect the herbicide labels- full rates, weed size, right adjuvants and carrier rates.

Residuals: Layer residuals with multiple effective sites of action.

Resistance: Use multiple mode of action and switch your herbicide program every couple of years to provide new chemistry that weeds are not use to.

Rotate: Encourage crop rotation and changing herbicide mixtures.

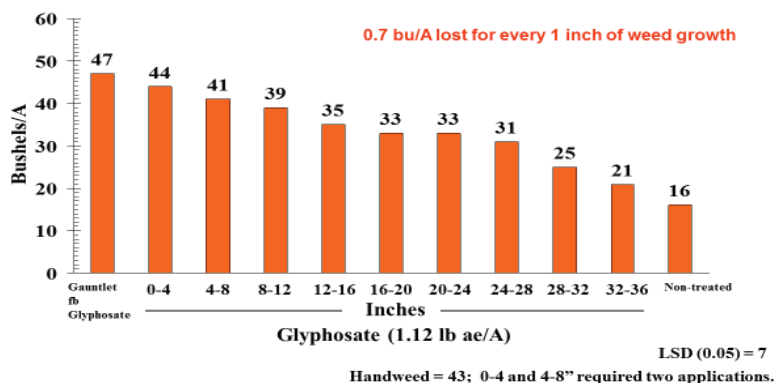
Rapid: Strategize ways to promote rapid canopy closure.

Rogue: Remove escaped weeds before they go to seed before harvest.

Please reach out to one of the Allied agronomy advisors to get a plan in place before spring. We will be happy to help you customize a two-pass herbicide for your farming operation. We also encourage you to get your crop rotation maps ready and handed in to the location you are working with. We are looking forward to working with all of our growers to make it another successful crop season. ■

Weed Management in Soybeans

(Southern Illinois University)



Microbial Products for Enhanced Yields



by Pat Cauley,
Agronomy Advisor
pcauley@allied.coop

The big buzz in agronomy lately is all the different microbial products that have entered into the market space. One product that we have had success with recently is Foster™ FC.

Foster FC is a fertilizer catalyst that contains eight different strands of bacteria that are designed to enhance microbial diversity, work hand in hand to enhance nutrient mineralization and increase nutrient availability and uptake. These bacterial strains are parent stock derived from soils in the United States that give them the ability to hold a wide variety of biotic and abiotic stresses. The eight different microbial strain functions are:

- **Bacillus Coagulans:** Boosts phosphorus and potassium solubilization for improved crop uptake
- **Bacillus Licheniformis:** Promotes root establishment and aides in soil mineralization to convert nutrients into plant available forms
- **Streptomyces Rimosus:** Produces large amount of enzymes and has strong fungal remediation activity
- **Streptomyces Vioalascens:** Aids in breaking down organic matter and providing colonization
- **Thermobacillus Composti:** Boosts plant biomass and produces enzymes to break down organic matter into a plant useable form
- **Thiobacillus Feroxidans:** Accelerates Iron solubility and helps provide a chelate form of calcium, magnesium, manganese, and zinc.
- **Pseudomonas Putida:** Improves phosphorus and potassium availability
- **Rhodopseudomonas Palustris:** Boosts nitrogen assimilation in the rootzone for improved nitrogen uptake

Something unique about Foster FC is the compatibility it brings which allows it to be mixed with fertilizer, herbicides, and different adjuvants. Foster FC can be applied in-furrow, 2x2, or included in a herbicide application. Its advertised shelf life is two years. During this last growing season, we trialed this product on soybeans with a few local growers. At the conclusion of the trial, we consistently increased the yield by 4.2 bushel and on the high-end we increased it by 7.9 bushels. If you are looking to maximize fertilize efficiency through improved microbial diversity, Foster FC is your product of choice. ■



info@allied.coop

VanHaren named to Hall of Fame



Every February, the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association sponsors a three day Grower Education Conference and Trade Show. One of the highlights of the event is the industry's award banquet on Wednesday evening. Awards are given out to recognize outstanding contributions in various areas such as research or volunteer work to promote growing potatoes in Wisconsin. One of the most prestigious awards is the Potato Hall of Fame, which recognizes growers and other people in the industry that have made a significant mark on the potato and vegetable community.

On February 8, Randy Van Haren of Allied's Pest Pros division was inducted into the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association Hall of Fame. Randy started Pest Pros in 1984 and has been a vital part of the industry providing service and expertise to potato and vegetable growers past and present. He often described his work as "babysitting" the crop, and helping the growers make the best choices to maximize profitability. Throughout the years Randy has employed many interns and consultants that have gone on to have careers in agriculture, research, and government agencies. This honor was well deserved for a long career of working with growers and mentoring young minds. We are proud of Randy's success and congratulate him on his achievement! ■

Spring 2023 | 07

Making the Most of Seed Treatment



by Nathan Ausen,
Agronomy Advisor
nausen@allied.coop

We do our best to select and plant high quality seed and genetics at an appropriate time for optimizing soybean yields. Plus, now we read and are told, and even see on our yield monitors, that planting early can give us a yield bump. However, planting seed too early can result in yield reductions, particularly if emergence is delayed or if soil diseases are a concern.

Seed treatment can provide protection against diseases and insect pests. There are many seed treatments available to manage soybean pests, these products are effective weeks after planting. There are many products and product combinations, which can make it difficult to decipher which treatments will consistently provide positive returns on your investment.

At Allied Cooperative we offer Nvincible® Plus (inoculant), Acceleron® Standard FI, (fungicide & insecticide), ILEVO® in both low rate and high rate (Nematodes SCN low rate & SDS high rate), and White Mold Protection System Tripidity™/Heads Up® (Bio Stimulator White Mold Protector).

So where do we begin? Some people purchase their “treated” soybeans, without knowing what all they have on them. They are cheaper so they take a chance on them, only to find out they were only inoculated or had been treated with a fungicide only, with no inoculant on them.

Although not a seed treatment, inoculants like Nvincible Plus may be applied to soybeans at the treater. Soybeans have the unique ability to form a symbiotic relationship with a soil bacteria and form nodules on the roots that can biologically fix nitrogen. During this process, atmospheric nitrogen (N) is converted to plant available N. Because of this symbiotic relationship, soybean farmers typically do not apply N fertilizer to soybeans, but will apply inoculants on the seed to ensure that biological nitrogen fixation occurs.

Fungicide seed treatments can manage two different types of pathogens:

- **Seed-borne fungal pathogens, such as seed decay fungus**
- **Soil-borne pathogens that infect seedlings, roots and the sudden death syndrome (SDS) fungus.**

If you are considering a fungicide seed treatment, then it's important to know that they are more likely to benefit you when you have a field that has a history of soybean seedling diseases and/or SDS.

- **If you are planting into wet, cool soils below 60°F**
- **Planting into compacted soils**
- **Have a field with a history of flooded soils**
- **Are seeding at rates less than 140,000 seeds per acre**
- **Practice no-till or reduced tillage and have high surface residue**
- **Have high levels of seed-borne fungal infection**
- **Did not rotate crops second year (or more) of soybeans**
- **Late cover crop termination**

Each of these instances increases disease and nematode risk. Some cover crop species may be pathogen hosts while others may reduce nematodes. Soil temperature and cover crop species will influence insect, disease, and nematode risk. Terminated cover crops can result in mulching soil that results in higher moisture availability and keeps soil cooler longer.

Nematicide seed treatments can be classified as either chemical or biological agents with varying modes of action. While nematicide seed treatments provide seedling protection, they are not meant to be a silver bullet for season long nematode control. Consider a seed treatment as just one additional nematode management tool. The two best tools for managing nematodes continue to be rotating crops and planting nematode-resistant varieties.

If you are considering a nematicide seed treatment, they are more likely beneficial if the following circumstances are at play on your farm:

- **You have fields with a history of plant-parasitic nematodes**
- **Combine the seed treatment with nematode-resistant varieties**
- **You have limited crop rotation options**
- **You have a manageable population of plant-parasitic nematodes**

Before using a seed treatment, contact your agronomy advisor and submit soil samples for nematode testing by our Pest Pros lab. This will help you determine if nematode populations are in a range where seed treatment may be beneficial. From my experience, we are not always dealing with soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), but other nematodes like root lesion nematodes and root-knot nematodes, both of which can be managed effectively with ILEVO®. It is just my opinion, but I believe there is a correlation between SDS and fields with high nematode populations.

So, what can we use as a seed treatment? I recommend starting with the ILEVO seed treatment. It is the only product that protects against both the root rot and foliar on SDS, making it the most complete SDS protection product available on the market. In fields that have been infected with SDS, ILEVO seed treatment has been shown to be effective in helping minimize the impact of the disease on yield loss. As we know, Nematodes cause significant yield loss every year in soybeans. In fact,

Continued on page 10...

Combating Fuel Volatility

Energy markets faced near-unprecedented volatility in 2022. Unfortunately, it looks like we are in for more of the same in 2023. Fuel contracting can help take the risk out of this volatility for your farm or business. If you have not yet locked in your fuel prices for the upcoming spring season, now is the time to do so. Contracting is a great risk management tool that can help control your fuel costs especially during these volatile times with fuel prices constantly jumping up and down.

For a small down payment or a full prepay, your price can be locked-in and you can have the peace of mind of no longer worrying about when to buy. You will know your price ahead of time. This allows you to know what your input costs are ahead of time, affording you the time to focus on running and growing your business. No more time is spent trying to "outguess" the market.

For more information, contact one of our Certified Energy Specialists listed below and discuss buying options. We can offer you some guidance with market information, so you can come up with the best strategy for your operation.

Contact the Allied Cooperative Energy Division for more information at 800-247-5679. ■



Russ Bortz
608.780.8614



Rich Karpinski
608.403.1178



Justin Smith
608.547.9922

PATRON POINTS LAUNCHES NEW APP



If you're not a member of Patron Points, you should be! With Patron Points, every dollar you spend at Cenex Pump 24 in Adams earns you points towards valuable rewards. Earn a free cup of coffee, a McDonald's meal or save up your points for \$50 Cenex gift cards.

And now Patron Points just got easier! Patron Points users can now download a handy app from their app store and watch their points grow, and take advantage of special discounts and offers made available exclusively to our Patron Points users. Stop by Cenex Pump 24, pick up your Patron Points cards and start saving today!

info@allied.coop



The Importance of Micronutrients



by Rich Grabarski,
Adams Agronomy Location
Manager
rgrabarski@allied.coop

As we look at the demands of growing corn and soybeans, we must not forget the importance of adding micronutrients to our fertility program. All crops require boron, sulfur and zinc in different amounts to reach maximum yield. Over the past few years, Allied has been adding certain specialty products to our product line to meet the demands of the crop. Some of these new products include MicroEssentials® SZ, MicroEssentials® S10, and Aspire®.

MicroEssentials SZ (12-40-0-10S-1Zn) and MicroEssentials S10 (12-40-0-10S) are mono ammonium phosphate products that have sulphur and /or zinc in one uniformly designed granule. MicroEssentials allows for phosphorus to be more plant available by using the sulfur to create a pH change around the fertilizer granule. This relationship allows for the phosphorus and the sulfur to be available for season long release. The sulfur is also available in 2 forms - elemental and the sulfate form. This allows for season long availability. MicroEssentials SZ allows for zinc to be uniformly applied while being part of every fertilizer granule. We are carrying MicroEssentials SZ in Adams and MicroEssential S10 in Tomah and West Salem. More information on MicroEssentials can be found at <https://www.croptonutrition.com/microessentials>.

Aspire (0-0-58-.5B) is another specialty product that combines potash and boron in one uniform fertilizer granule for a more efficient delivery of boron to the crop. The boron in Aspire comes in two forms to allow for season long availability to the crop. Aspire has been incorporated in all crops from alfalfa, potatoes and cabbage to corn and soybeans. Aspire can be purchased at most of our agronomy locations. Please contact your local agronomy advisor for more information on making these products part of your crop plan. ■



SAFETY CORNER

Planting Season Ramping Up

With planting season ramping up, more farm equipment will travel rural roads and highways. Motorists are encouraged to slow down, be alert and be patient when encountering farm machinery on roadways this spring. While farm equipment can mean many different machines, generally in the spring it includes sprayers, tractors pulling planters or tillage equipment, and trucks hauling agricultural products. These vehicles are wide and travel at speeds no greater than 25 miles per hour.

Below is a list of safety tips for motorists approaching large farm equipment:

- **Farmers will pull over when they are able to let motorists pass, but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so.**
- **Be patient. Farm equipment is wide, sometimes taking up most of the road.**
- **Be careful when passing. Do not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure or tunnel.**
- **Do not try to pass slow-moving farm equipment on the left without ensuring that the farmer driving the equipment is not planning a left turn. It may appear that the driver is pulling over to allow someone to pass when the farmer is actually preparing to turn. If you are not careful, you could drive right into its path, endangering yourself and the farmer.**
- **Avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road.**
- **Allow plenty of time to get to a destination, be aware of alternate routes and avoid distractions.**

SEED TREATMENT

Continued from page 8...

SCN and the other nematode types cause more yield loss in soybeans than any other pest. Complementing nematode-resistant soybeans with ILEVO seed treatment adds another level of protection that results in reduced nematode damage and increased yield potential. ILEVO seed treatment protects against key pests in opposing weather conditions. While nematode damage increases in hot, dry conditions, SDS thrives in cool, wet conditions. With ILEVO seed treatment, your soybean crop is protected against both, regardless of the conditions.

Next, Acceleron Standard FI provides protection against pythium, early season phytophthora, rhizoctonia solani and fusarium for more rapid and increased emergence of seedlings under cold conditions. The insecticide gives you protection from pests, including bean leaf beetles, early season soybean aphids and seed corn maggots.

The white mold protection system of Tripidity/Heads Up will give you a multi-mode layer of action and protection to suppress white mold disease, under high pressure field situations. The first piece, Tripidity, is a bio-stimulant seed treatment that has cytokinin, gibberillic acid, and indole-3-butyric acid (IBC) hormones that provide early seed vigor for a healthy crop development. Thus, hopefully giving you evenly emerged stands.

The second piece, Heads Up, is a product originally developed for peas, then soybeans in Canada. It's not a fungicide, but considered a reduced risk bio-fungicide. How Heads Up works is by system acquired resistance (SRA) for its mode of action. This works by the product, is applied to the seed as a treatment, then the germinating seed takes in the treatment. The SRA of Heads UP will stimulate the plants own genetic resistance to the diseases by activating its own natural defense response before the disease sets in. Like white mold, this is a systemic action so works throughout the whole plant and full season.

In conclusion, taking good field history notes and getting an accurate diagnosis of pest problems can help you make decisions about the type of seed treatments you need, and which seed treatments are most likely to provide a benefit. Explore the seed treatment options available to you with your agronomy advisor. ■

Growing Your Own Chickens

The price of eggs has left most of us a bit sticker-shocked over the past year. In fact, egg prices jumped 60% in 2022 for most of America. All of this “egg-flation” has left many people considering raising backyard chickens.

While many communities allow homeowners to raise chickens in their backyards, if you are thinking about keeping chickens be sure to check with the local zoning authority first. They will be able to tell you if keeping chickens is permitted and whether you’ll need a permit. Some communities limit the number of chickens you can keep if you live in town, and others might not let you keep a rooster because early morning crowing doesn’t always make for happy neighbors.

In the end, if you are one of the growing number of people that recognize the numerous advantages that these lovely birds provide we’d love to help you get started!

Allied represents Sunnyside Hatchery poultry with a wide variety of chickens, ducklings and turkeys. Whether you are looking for broilers or layers, we can help you select the best chicken for your specific needs. Baby chicks, ducklings and turkeys may be ordered at our Mindoro Country Store, Tomah Country Store, Adams NAPA store or Mauston Feed department.

Once your chickens arrive you will need to feed them. Visit us for all your chicken feed supplies. Then enjoy the spoils of home-raised chickens! ■



info@allied.coop

FOOD PLOT DAYS

March 24 & 31

1 pm - 5:30 pm



ALLIED
COOPERATIVE

ACE
Hardware



Ace Hardware and West Salem’s Agronomy department are working together to host a Food Plot Days at our West Salem Ace Hardware Store.

A food plot is a high-yield, protein-rich ‘vegetable garden’ varying in size from 1/4 of an acre to hundreds of acres, and possess a variety of high-quality plants that will attract, grow and hold deer, keeping them within close proximity, and returning frequently to feed. Food plots are a great way to maintain a quality deer herd, maximizing antler growth and body mass.

The event will be chock full of information for wildlife enthusiasts that are interested in learning how to plant high yield food plots that will attract and hold the most wildlife. There will be expert advice on seed and fertilizer, including reps from Allied’s agronomy division, LaCrosse Seed and Midwest Mass to answer your questions and ensure you are well prepared for the season ahead. We will have expanded products and catalogs available to order products you don’t see. We will also have sprayers and spreaders for sale on display.

The event is FREE and in an open house format. Come when you are able ... all are welcome!

When: March 24 and March 31 (on a Friday)

Time: 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm

DID YOU KNOW?

If you’re fighting flies, mosquitoes, and other insects throughout the summer, you’ll be grateful for raising backyard chickens, who will cheerfully consume these pests and keep their numbers down. Insects are a vast source of nutrition for your chickens, and they may make a big difference in the quality of your eggs.




TAKE \$5⁰⁰ OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25⁰⁰ OR MORE!

COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. NO PHOTO COPIES ACCEPTABLE.



Coupon expires 5/31/2023

Offer valid only at the following Allied Cooperative locations: Ace Hardware in West Salem, WI; NAPA Auto Parts in Adams, WI and Mauston, WI; and Tomah Country Store, Tomah, WI (excludes all feed). One coupon per customer. Photo copies not acceptable. May not be combined with other offers.



allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

SPRING INTO SAVINGS

Don't miss out on the great sales taking place at some of our retail locations this spring!

MARCH

Black Oil Sunflower Sale

50 lb. bag, just \$25.99 on sale March 13-24

Available at the Mindoro Country Store, Tomah Country Store, Adams NAPA, and Mauston NAPA

APRIL

LP Fill Sale

On sale April 17-21 at the Tomah Country Store, Adams NAPA, and Mauston NAPA

Get Ready to Garden!

Garden Supplies, Potato & Onion Sets, Garden Seeds & Fertilizers! Available at the Tomah Country Store throughout the month of April.

(If you're looking for potato & onion sets, we are happy to transfer to other Allied Cooperative locations from the Tomah Country Store. Call us at 608.372.2458 and let us know what you need!)

MAY

Deer Plot Savings

Antler King Food Plot Blends & Food Plot Seed by the pound. Available at the Tomah Country Store, Adams NAPA, and Mauston NAPA



BOARD REPORT



John Vehrenkamp,
Board Chairman

For the past several months, your Board of Directors has been studying and considering the potential benefits of a merger with ProVision Partners Cooperative. After carefully considering the strengths and synergies of both co-ops, the Board has elected to recommend a unification of our cooperatives. Eligible voting members will receive a voting package in the mail in early March with a plan of merger, new bylaws, a voting ballot and other pertinent information. We hope that you will take the time to vote.

Should you have questions, we encourage you to attend one of the following informational meetings:

March 14, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Adams Community Center
569 N. Cedar St., Adams, WI

March 14, 2023 3:00 p.m.
Stoney Creek Hotel - Thomas G. Rowe Room
3060 S. Kinney Coulee Rd., Onalaska, WI

We look forward to sharing our plans with you and having conversations with you regarding them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or any of our Board Members.

Thank you for your continued patronage – and have a safe spring season!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As a large cooperative with five divisions and multiple locations, Allied Cooperative employs a diverse staff in a number of different career fields. If you are interested in joining the Allied Cooperative team, please visit our website at www.allied.coop. There you will find a list of current job openings and an application. We look forward to hearing from you!

Allied Cooperative's employees play an important role in our success as a cooperative. As a cooperative, our core values are teamwork, integrity, dependability, efficiency and service to others. If your values match ours, we'd love to talk to you about career opportunities with our co-op. Come see what Allied can do for you!

For an up-to-date list of openings visit www.allied.coop/careers. For more information on any of these openings call (608) 339-3394 or email jobs@allied.coop.



Like