

# ALLIED Connections

SUMMER 2024

A PUBLICATION OF ALLIED COOPERATIVE®



## THE RIGHT TIME TO BUY LP



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**Except for the sound of sizzling steak cooking on your gas grill, most people would just as soon forget about propane this time of year. Let's face it, summertime isn't the time you typically think about home heating...but you should!**

Allied Cooperative is pleased to once again offer special summer fill pricing to its customers. "Scheduled delivery customers will automatically receive a summer fill if their tank is at 50% or less," said Jeff Bunker, Director of LP. "If you are a 'will call' customer, we strongly encourage you to contact us to schedule a summer fill. While it's tempting to put it off until fall, demand for LP peaks during fall harvest and the start of heating season. This demand tends to drive the price up. Customers who get their fill now often see significant savings."

Summer is also the time to think about any programs you may want to participate in during

the coming heating season. Allied Cooperative will send out its Propane Prepay & Budget Programs brochure to LP customers in June. Customers are encouraged to carefully study the brochure and sign-up for the program that best meets your specific needs. If you did not receive one, please contact your local LP office. Contracts are due by August 15, 2024.

Under the Budget Payment Plan, if you were enrolled in the 2023-2024 budget program at either legacy Allied Cooperative or legacy ProVision Partners Cooperative, your budget will automatically be renewed for the upcoming heating season. There is no need to return

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

**It's "National Dairy Month" – a time when we celebrate the many contributions the dairy industry has made to our nation. It's a celebration that started in 1937 as a way to promote drinking milk at a time when production was at a surplus. The celebration has grown over time, especially in America's Dairyland – the state of Wisconsin.**

I would like to encourage you to take the time to celebrate the dairy industry by attending one of the many June Dairy Breakfasts or festivals held in our state throughout the month of June. It's a great opportunity to learn about dairy farms and the hard-working farmers that produce the amazing dairy products we all enjoy. To top it off you'll get a delicious meal at a great price.

At Allied Cooperative we are proud to serve Wisconsin's dairy industry. It's an industry that produces half of our state's \$104.8 billion agricultural economy. Wisconsin is home to 1.2 million dairy cows. A dairy cow consumes approximately 110 – 120 pounds of food per day. That's a lot of feed to produce.

We recently began feed production at our new high-efficiency mill in Hixton. This facility has the ability to make accurate, quality feed in a short amount of time. The mill's product consistency and strategic location allow us to better serve our customers and grow our business at the same time.

In Plover, our agronomy division has started making preparations for the construction of a new dry fertilizer plant. Currently the Plover plant can accommodate 2250 ton of dry fertilizer. Last year they turned the plant seven times. An investment in this location will help us meet grower demand and allow us to grow our business at this location. The Plover facility has a prime location, is situated on the rail, and is perfectly positioned to support our customers in the vegetable, row crops and livestock marketplace. A new plant will expand their capacity and blending capabilities and will also take some of the pressure off of our Adams agronomy facility.

In March we opened a new Cenex® convenience store in Augusta. The new store has been a welcome addition to this small community. Besides gasoline, it also has Roadmaster® Premium Diesel and DEF at the pumps. The store has all the things you would expect to find in a convenience store, plus Hot Stuff foods and Chester's Chicken, which I'm told has meant a great deal to many of the store's customers.

Businesses like ours help to keep rural America moving forward, and that's important to us. Your cooperative currently has operations in 27 Wisconsin communities. We provide necessary products and services, create local jobs and give back to these communities. Our goal is to continue to be of value to you, our member-owners. It has been an honor to serve you. We will continue to keep your needs at the forefront of our business.



**Rob Larson,**  
CEO/General Manager



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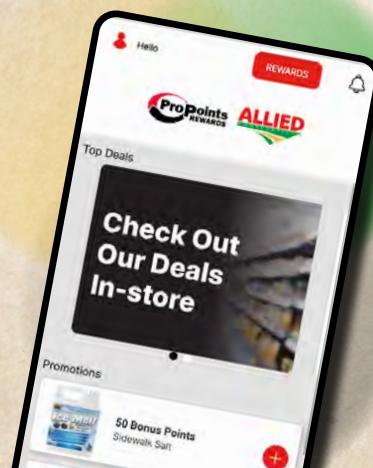
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## Earn Rewards with ProPoints

If you haven't already joined Allied Cooperative's ProPoints Rewards Club, we encourage you to do so. With ProPoints you'll be eligible for some great deals and earn reward points every time you make a purchase at one of our Cenex® convenience stores. These rewards points provide excellent savings at the register.



And now tracking your rewards is easier than ever with our ProPoints app. Go to the app store on your cell phone, search 'ProPoints app', then download. Once downloaded, select 'Sign In' if you already have a card. Enter your card ID or the phone number associated with your rewards card and enter your last name as the password.

If you do not currently have a rewards card, you can choose to 'Register.' Enter the requested information and join the club!



# Grilling with Ace

by Adam Judy,  
Retail Manager/Ace Hardware  
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**A**llied Cooperative's Ace Hardware store in West Salem is your "go to" store for all things grilling. Whether you're looking for gas grills, charcoal grills, pellet grills, electric grills or smokers ... Ace has the area's finest selection of grills. They are also a Traeger Gold Dealer -- which means they have the best selection of Traeger grills available.

Besides grills the store is well stocked with all of your grilling accessories, including charcoal, covers, utensils, rubs, sauces and more. You'll also find grilling pellets from Traeger and Weber in an assortment of flavors, including cherry, pecan, bold blend, brisket blend and more.

And if you need any help – just ask our resident grill master Adam Judy.

### Adam's top ten grilling tips!

**1. Cast iron grates.** Many gas grills are sold with cast iron grates. Some of the more expensive ones will feature stainless steel, which are easier to clean, but what most people forget to do is to season their cast iron grates. Seasoning will help to make sure that the grates last longer. Without seasoning, they can get rusty and start to fall apart long before your grill should give up the ghost. This could be as simple as taking bacon grease/lard/ or a high burn point oil, rubbing the grates cold and turning up the temperature to 350 for 30 minutes. If you haven't done this in a while, you might have to do it multiple times to get your grates a shining black color.



**2. A 5-in-1 scraper.** Every grill owner should have one of these. It works great for cleaning and getting to those hard to reach areas of your grill.

**3. Replace the battery on your igniter every year.** This will help ensure you don't end up with massive corrosion and will extend the life of a simple feature that is very handy.

**4. Get a grill light!** This makes grilling in the dark much easier.

**5. Propane gauge.** There are multiple versions to attach to your propane tank and some grills come with a scale on them, but it is always nice to know if you have enough gas to finish that burger.

**6. 3-2-1 Ribs!** If you have a smoker and haven't tried these yet, it is a must. 3 hours no wrap, meat side up; 2 hours in wrap, meat side down in butter and brown sugar; 1 hour meat side up with no wrap (sauce now if you like). Set the smoker at 190 degrees for the whole process.

**7. Cordless vac for your smoker.** Smokers need to be cleaned about every 2 to 3 cooks. Having a cordless vac makes it much easier.

**8. Put a dimple in your burgers.** After making your burger patties, press your thumb in the center and put them on the grates dimple down. This will help make sure that your burgers don't go from a beautiful patty to a small burger puck.

**9. Invest in a cover.** Getting a cover for your grill, although they can be spendy, will help you get a lot more years of use.

**10. If you have a charcoal grill, invest in a chimney starter, you will never go back to lighter fluid!**

# The Importance of Quality Alfalfa Livestock Diets



**Katie Murphy,**  
Dairy Nutritionist  
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**Ginny Yahnke,**  
Agronomy Advisor  
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**T**he impact that forage quality has on your operation is crucial to its success and profitability. Stand viability, cutting time, plant available nutrients, seed variety, ash content, and, of course, weather play a role in this.

For dairy operations, a good RFQ (Relative Feed Quality) and RFV (Relative Feed Value) target is around 180. Too much below that, the animal does not use the plant efficiently and the milk yield is not maximized. To assist in correcting low-quality forages in diets, a nutritionist often adds in soyhulls to achieve adequate fiber digestibility levels. On the flip side, when above 200 RFV/RFQ, the forage tends to move too quickly through the digestive system causing the animal to lack absorption of the available nutrients. In this scenario, straw or coarse hay is typically added to slow down the rate of passage. Therefore, it's best to aim for the 180 RFQ/RFV. Additionally, with targeting 180, the protein content will come along as well. Higher quality forage always equates to less purchased cost, which is a win for the producer.

For beef operations, a good target on forage quality is around 120 RFV/RFQ. The main forage usage goal for them is scratch factor in the rumen. Their protein requirements will be met at this quality level with how efficient their systems are and their production demands.

## **Alfalfa Upkeep**

Upkeep of alfalfa ground is vital for the longevity of your alfalfa fields. As we assess what is removed from the field each cutting, we need to remember to replace those nutrients for the following cutting/season. Without proper fertilization, nutrient levels will continue to spiral downward.

Potassium is one of the most important nutrients needed for an alfalfa stand. Potassium is needed for stand longevity, winter hardiness and nutrient transfer within each alfalfa plant. A good rule of thumb to remember is 50#/acre of potassium per 1-ton dry matter of alfalfa taken off the field. Another important nutrient we need to remember is phosphorus. Phosphorus is important to our alfalfa for many reasons from root development to nodule formulation. When it comes

to fertilizing phosphorus, we need to resort back to soil sample data. Consult with your Allied agronomy advisor on appropriate phosphorus applications and understanding your soil samples.

## **Alfalfa Harvest Timing**

Harvest timing is crucial for quality feed. For most alfalfa varieties, aim for a 28-day cutting window. For lower lignin varieties, harvest can be pushed to the 35-day mark. At the same time, keep in mind the more frequent the cuttings, the lower the tonnage results in most scenarios. If you are an operation that operates on tighter forage inventory, a slightly longer cutting window may be a good option to maximize yields without sacrificing too much on quality. It's an important balance.

## **Alfalfa and Corn Silage Storage**

Silos, bags, bunkers, or piles? There are several options of how to store silage. Available space, size of investment and speed of feeding silage all factor into the best option for a particular operation. Any option can work, but it's the management of each that determines its effectiveness. Silos can be a fool proof method as long as they are sealed correctly and work okay during winter months. Silos are self-packing and take up very little footprint on the farm. Forage moisture plays a key role in their ability to move feed out of the silo. No one likes pitching out silos, so aim for a moisture around 50-60%.

For bags, the most important thing to remember is packing it tight to reduce air pockets. These also take up a large footprint on the farm and should be made on either hard packed gravel or ideally concrete. This will help reduce feed waste and dirt contamination in the feed. Another thing to keep in mind, is that moisture can change often in a bag with it being packed in order of each wagon load. A helpful tool is to mark bags with spray paint if a dryer or wetter load is brought in so you know when to expect it and can make ration adjustments accordingly.

Bunkers and piles are similar in the packing method. Bunkers are helpful with the walls being there, but the most important aspect to remember is packing. A rule of thumb is to use 800 pounds of packing weight per ton of silage an hour. Truly the packing tractor should never stop moving during harvest. Also, make sure to apply the oxygen barrier and plastic cover to help reduce oxygen exposure. Tires should be placed over it entirely to assist as well.

For each storage option, it's also a good plan to use a silage inoculant. Inoculant options can range from basic to more effective ones like a buchneri. The more challenging the storage situation, the stronger the inoculant should be used. You will





## Hixton Mill Up & Running

Allied Cooperative has started manufacturing feed at its new feed mill in Hixton. After almost two years in the making it is exciting to see the mill in action. Located just off I-94, the location of the new mill allows for easy access for our customers and delivery efficiencies.

“The Hixton mill is fully functional and everything is going well,” said Ed Sabey, Director of Feed. “The staff is doing a great job producing bulk and bag feeds.” The high-tech mill mixes feed by computer. It has the ability to make accurate, quality feed in a short amount of time and is very efficient.

“We are here for the long haul, and we are excited to grow with our customers,” added Sabey.

For more information on Allied Cooperative’s feed capabilities or to place an order, call 715.502.3134.



see less dry matter loss, quicker fermentation, and a more stable and digestible feed.

### Corn Silage Feed Quality

When looking at corn silage quality, the most important factors to evaluate are moisture, starch content, digestion speed, and fiber digestibility. Components that impact these values are corn genetics, growing season, soil health, harvest timing and harvest method.

The moisture contributes to how well it will ferment. 65% is the ideal harvest moisture level. Good moisture will also help with the packing and storage process.

For starch content and digestibility, maturity plays a large role along with seed variety and growing season. Tightly packed starch in stressful growing years can result in slower digestibility rates. This causes the animal to not be able to readily use the starch, leading to lower milk production or poorer feed conversion rates in feedlots. Helpful tools such as Rumensin® and/or urea can be used in diets to compensate this. They assist in improving feed efficiency and utilization. The goal is to achieve starch content of 33-40%. Starch digestibility is measured by the IVSD7-o line on a feed sample. A goal for this value would be near 70%. The quicker the starch digestion rate, the more the animal will be able to utilize and increase production or feed conversion.

Fiber digestibility is the next key factor to look at with corn silage quality. This is seen as the Neutral Detergent Fiber Digestibility 30 (NDFD 30) line on a forage sample. This quantifies the digestibility of that particular forage for the approximate 30 hours it is in the animal. A goal value to shoot for with corn silage is the upper fifties or sixties. Typically a good corn silage variety will achieve this. There are BMR (brown mid rib) varieties that contain less lignin in the stalk to increase this value. An adverse effect of this can be lower tonnage at harvest, so consider where your forage inventory is at when looking at variety options.



# PURINA SHOW FEEDS

## Helping you grow champions

By **Sydney Davis** Lifestyle & Cattle Specialist [sdavis01@landolakes.com](mailto:sdavis01@landolakes.com)

**W**ith show season rapidly approaching, Purina is excited to announce some changes to our Honor Show feed line. Purina strives to constantly reevaluate our show feeds to continue to meet the changes we observe in show animals. Important changes in our High-Octane line include a transition from tubs to 40 lb. bags for Fitter 35, Champion Drive, and PowerFuel), as well as an increase from 25 lbs. to 50 lbs. in Depth Charge. Diagrams to determine which High-Octane supplement is best for your animal are available at [purinamills.com](http://purinamills.com) under the show feed section.

Also, available on [purinamills.com](http://purinamills.com) is a diagram describing which Honor Show feed to supply at different stages of production, designed to maximize your animal's production at each stage. Another important change in the Honor Show line is the introduction of Under Control which will replace Full Control. Designed with 11% protein, this textured feed is low in fat and high in fiber, specifically blended to maintain muscle during periods of weight management. Finally, Grand 4-T-Fyer, a foundation in custom diets, will now contain increased micro-ingredients to allow for lower protein in fat in a ration, while still allowing for all the benefits of the previous formula.

Purina is also excited to announce changes to our Honor Show Lamb feed line, including Honor Show Lamb EXP 15, which will be replaced with Honor Show Lamb and Goat Creep 15. The 1/8" mini-pellet feed is designed to be fed to both lambs and kids, supporting early bloom in these animals and promoting intake and transition to solid feeds. A diagram describing which feed is best for each stage of production is available for the Honor Show Lamb feed line at [purinamills.com](http://purinamills.com).

Honor Show Pig feeds are seeing many changes, allowing for more versatility in mixing throughout the growing and finishing phase. Both Honor Show Pig 219 and 319 will continue to be available, however, 419-919 will be replaced with Honor Show Pig 19P and 14P. These products have been designed to be blended to generate a custom mix which meets your needs. A diagram describing mixing instructions for 19P and 14P is available on the Purina Mills website, as well as a diagram for determining the feed to best fit your pig's stage of production.

Please speak with your local consultant if you have any questions or would like a consultation to help determine which feeds are best for your animals.

### Feed Consultants:

**Sydney Davis** (Western) 740-856-7716

**Bridget Vandertie** (Eastern) 920-495-7444





# It's That time of Year Again



by Rich Dahlke,  
Adams Grain Location  
Manager/Grain Merchandiser  
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**T**he beginning of May has to be my favorite time of year. The smell of tilled ground and green grass...the sight of beef cows with their little ones at their side...a Brewer game on the radio in the tractor cab and the sound of a neighbors' lawnmower...I'll never get tired of it. The winters are long here in the upper Midwest and I doubt many in this country appreciate spring like we do. Another thing that May hopefully brings is the seasonal grain market rallies.

2024 grain markets, so far, have been a wait and see situation at best. Bearish news was everywhere and many argued (including myself) thought that given the fundamental supply and demand situation, the price of grain was still higher than it needed to be. The macro economic situation in the U.S is hitting the American farmer hard. Inflation has the cost of inputs high and I'd argue that higher interest rates are here to stay. The outlook for grains remain bearish but lately things are starting to perk up.

Corn and beans have seen a push as of late. Some in the corn belt are wet and there are some rumblings of planting delays. Argentina is seeing a lot of disease pressure and many are questioning its impact on yields.

Southern Brazil is very wet. Flooding has made harvest difficult and many are predicting a cut of 2 to 7 million metric tons of soybeans. Along with that, the funds have been slowly trimming that big short position by buying back around 20,000 contracts. Holding a large short position going into spring is risky. I would want out too.

The takeaway here is that the time for spring and summer seasonal price patterns are here. The seasonal charts show how the futures market puts a premium on grains this time of year with weather being the biggest driver. As I said before, the supply and demand fundamentals are still quite weak. Ending stocks for grain are expected to grow significantly this year. The truth is, we are one growing season with normal trendline yields away from doubling the ending stocks of corn in this country – an amount to which we have not seen in many years. That's why we need to be a bit more vigilant through spring and early summer to capitalize on any news that stirs the market. If it looks as though we will have a normal crop in this country by mid-summer it may be too late. Know your costs and let's make some profitable sales if Mother Nature gives us the opportunity.

## Buying LP

*Continued from page 1...*

any additional paperwork. With the program auto-renewing, summer fills can now go into the budget at the summer fill rate. Customers will also receive a new budget reconciliation statement which will be included with the monthly statement. The reconciliation will make it easier to track where your budget is at monthly. For more details on this program and the options for price protection, be sure to contact our LP department.

Regardless of the payment plan you choose, customers with approved credit accounts are encouraged to take advantage of the Scheduled Delivery Program, a computerized system that estimates by history and degree days when a delivery is needed. The truck is then dispatched to your tank when it is between 20 - 30 percent. An 8¢ per gallon discount is given to all customers not on another contract due to the efficiencies gained.

Because your deliveries are based on a prior year's usage it is important to remember that, even if you are on Scheduled Delivery, you may use more or less fuel in a subsequent year because of factors including weather changes, different appliances and other changes to your home. Because of this, we urge you to periodically check your tank and call us if your gauge ever goes below 30 percent.

"Finally, we are excited about a new tank monitoring service we are offering our LP customers," added Bunker. "This professionally installed service enables you to see your current tank level through our free mobile app. If you are on our scheduled delivery service, the reading goes into our computer system automatically, ensuring timely deliveries. It delivers peace of mind and is a great value add to customers with generators, second homes or primary residences, as well as commercial and agricultural customers!"

For more information on any of these programs contact your local LP office.



## Why Tissue Sample?



by **Megan Kling**,  
Sales Lead  
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**E**very season, farmers may be leaving hundreds of dollars per acre in the field by not leveraging quality data to support their decision-making.

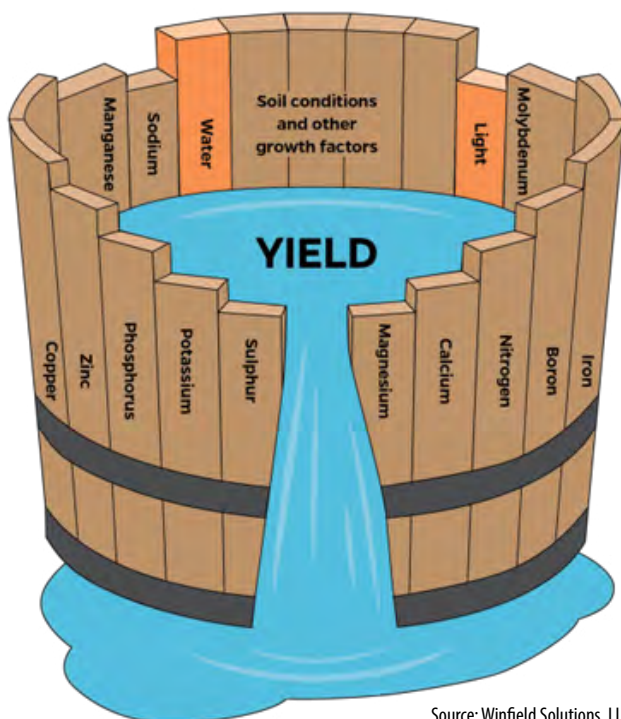
Tissue sampling provides an in-season evaluation of a fertility program. The results provide growers with an opportunity to address an insufficiency of a micronutrient and/or highlight the need to adjust

macronutrient needs going into the following cropping year. The results are a mid-term report card and can be taken on any crop.

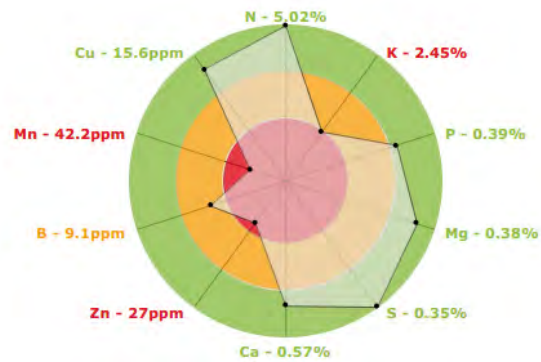
### Macros vs. Micros:

Unless farming irrigated acres, the opportunity to add large amounts of macronutrients are limited beyond a side dress application. Nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, sulfur, calcium and magnesium are all needed in high amounts and the best ROI is typically traditional forms of fertilizer. Micros needed in small amounts provide much more flexibility of applications later in the growing season, because foliar products are effective. Most micronutrients can be added into a planned herbicide or fungicide pass.

What if you could know that your soybean crop was short on Boron and with an in-season correction, 5+ bushels per acre would be the outcome. That's the information that tissue sampling can unlock. Keep in mind the law of the minimum: "If one nutrient is deficient, plant growth is limited, even if all other nutrients are adequate."



Source: Winfield Solutions, LLC



Note: The closer results are to the center of the graph, the more deficient the nutrient.  
Source: Winfield Solutions, LLC

### Why are micros important again?

**Boron** – Boron is essential for cell wall structure and root growth. But most importantly, it plays a vital role during reproduction in plants. Boron is most needed in the plant prior to pollination to support reproductive growth of tassels and ears (corn). Adding a foliar Boron product into a fungicide pass can be the ideal timing to maximize ROI.

**Zinc** – Is essential for photosynthesis and respiration of plants. Zinc also helps plants withstand cold temperatures. Insufficient Zinc can cost a producer 15 – 20 bushels per acre in corn.

**Manganese** – It's important in numerous plant functions such as chlorophyll production, lignin building, pollen, kernel weight and disease prevention.

### Keep an eye out for Interns

Allied Cooperative's agronomy department has made a priority to hire and develop college interns over the summer season. Tissue Sampling will be a large part of their project to gain experience talking with growers and providing a service. You may see them walking your fields this summer! Reach out to your Allied agronomy advisor to let them know you'd like a few samples pulled this season to find out what your crop is missing!





# Fertilizer Report



by Joe Spinler,  
Executive VP  
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## Fertilizer Supply/Demand

As I prepare this article, I can say that the past few months of the fertilizer markets have been a little less than eventful to say the least. We have seen some minor market scares due to an early season and some product unavailability due to strong demand early on. Then we shifted gears into a higher moisture pattern in the upper Midwest which allowed the system to catch up some and slow demand. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, some of this volatility is also caused by lack of commitments from end users. For the most part, pricing has remained fairly flat on most products with the exception of phosphate and sulphates. Nitrogen has gone up and done a few dollars as well, but has the potential to soften some as we get into a later side dress market. Many things need to happen, though, for that to play out.

The last piece of important news really relates to phosphates and the import of those products from overseas. Most recently the United States government reinstated countervailing duties or fees on importation of phosphate fertilizer. We have always had some sort of fees on these products, but the thought by the industry was that we would see them lessen from their current levels. Well, the opposite really happened by it being raised on some countries of origin and lessened, but not to the expected level, on others. With that said the idea that we will be seeing a significant decrease in phosphates as we head into fall, or the next growing season, is rather unlikely at this time.

As always thank you for your past and future patronage.



## Protect Your Crops with Fungicide!



by Tom Hoffman,  
Sales Lead  
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**A**s a grower, you give great thought and effort into growing a wonderful, healthy, productive crop. But have you taken all the steps necessary to help protect this crop in the last pivotal stages of the crop's development? One of the most effective ways you can protect the crops that you have put such time, effort and expense into is with a fungicide application.

In recent years, we have seen continued use of fungicide applications to our crops to protect them against numerous diseases which are unpredictable and potentially devastating. Many growers are realizing that this is a very cost-effective way to help protect their investment in their crops. It can help to reduce the cost per bushel to grow the crop, and at the same time increase yield per acre by controlling disease pressures. With many crop diseases, after they infect the plant and are not noticed and controlled, the yield loss can be dramatic.

Allied Cooperative has many great fungicide options for effective disease control for your crops. We use and promote the newest products for the most broad-spectrum control of the disease that we have present. This is important because some products don't control some of our most troublesome diseases. One example of this is tar spot in corn. If left untreated, and not using the correct product, tar spot has shown that it can reduce corn yields by half without treatment and with early infection. Not all fungicides will provide effective protection against tar spot. Consulting with your Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor to determine which products will provide the best most cost-effective disease control can help you to protect your investment. Even in years with reduced disease presence, fungicide applications have proven to protect yield and offset their expense.

Your cooperative not only has the proper products to protect your investment, but we also have application options to best apply these crop protection products. We have arrangements with a dependable aerial applicator to aerially apply products with a helicopter where necessary. In addition, we have numerous options for high clearance ground application equipment available. We have also utilized some drone application methods as needed.

Plan to protect your crop so you can plan for success! Fungicide applications are a good risk management strategy. The fungicide application season is quickly approaching and the window for proper application is relatively narrow. It can't be done all at once. Please consult with your Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor now to make arrangements for your fungicide application and help insure your successful cropping season.



## Pest Pros Scouts Missouri Potato Crop

**F**or almost 35 years, Allied Cooperative's Pest Pros division has been scouting potato fields near Charleston, Missouri during April and early May. Missouri growers typically start planting the first week of March, and are growing potatoes for the 4th of July potato chip market. Our team scouts over 6,000 Missouri acres and finishes up just in time to put their expertise to work in the Wisconsin fields.

For more information on Allied's scouting programs, contact your agronomy advisor or Pest Pros at 715.335.4046.

Missouri's potato crop  
as it looked on May 6, 2024.



## New Liquid Plant Boosts Efficiency

**T**he new liquid fertilizer plant at the Adams Agronomy location is operating in full swing this spring.

"The new facility has allowed us to be more efficient on the liquid fertilizer side for liquid starters and side-dress blends," said Tyler Zagroba, Liquid Operations Supervisor. "We have two 25-ton liquid mixers for batch blending. We have the ability to load two trucks at once, compared to one truck with

our old system. Our capacity grew by 60,000 gallons. We also have the capacity for a large quantity of cage totes. We can hold about 80% of the capacity of cage totes we will use in a season."

Our investment in this new facility has added efficiency and accuracy to our liquid operations and allows us to better serve our customers. It will also help us adapt to our customers' future needs.





# Reviving Your Lawn



by **Todd Halvorsen**,  
Lawn Care Services  
thalvorsen@allied.coop

## Last year Wisconsin suffered with drought conditions.

For the most part the lawns are coming back very nicely. There are some lawns, however, that have had areas that were burned right out. To get those areas growing again, I would suggest overseeding them this spring.

When you are seeding new grass seed, be sure to rough up the top ¼ inch of soil and include a starter fertilizer with your seed. This fertilizer should include phosphorus (which is the middle number in the nutrient analysis.)

Another big thing that we are seeing this year is a lot of insect damage. Because the drought gave lawns a dry and discolored appearance, a lot of the insects were able to feed without raising any red flags. If you are seeing signs of insect damage, you will want to purchase an insect control product, preferably one that controls chinch bugs and grubs. These areas may or may not need to be reseeded, but it won't hurt to put some seed on these areas.

Insect control is extremely important. If you have insect problems in your lawn you need to take care of them or the insects will keep eating away at your yard.

Allied Cooperative's Lawn Care Services in Marshfield, services customers as far south as Pittsville, as far north as Medford, as far west as Neillsville/Owen and as far east as Auburndale & Milladore. Our services include:

- **Lawn Fertilization**
- **Broadleaf Weed Control**
- **Crabgrass Preventer**
- **Soil Tests**
- **Lime Application**
- **Aeration**
- **Overseeding**
- **Insecticide Treatment**



**Chinch Bug damage**



**White Grub damage**



**Drought Lawn**

## Next Generation of Cenex Premium Diesel Trial Results are Stunning

by **Mike Kampstra**,  
Certified Energy Relationship Manager

**Cenex recently concluded a study of their new additive package which included an extensive tractor trial and numerous fleet trials across the country – and the results are stunning.**

Not only did the test show reduced diesel exhaust fluid consumption, but it also showed a major improvement in power and fuel economy in the trials. Full details are coming out soon, but currently aren't available to the public. However, I'm going to give you the highlights of the testing a little bit early. The additive package demonstrated a 40% improvement in breaking down harmful engine deposits as compared with the previous generation of Cenex fuels. It's also 2.5 times more effective at cleaning up injector deposits (compared with the previous package) and preventing further buildup in dirty equipment.

Those numbers are pretty good, but the next stats are truly exciting, and I think this is going to be what really sets Cenex Premium Diesel apart from other companies that dabble in fuel additives. Cenex Premium Diesel boasts 75% reduced filter blocking, up to 4.5% more power, and up to 5% better fuel economy, making it the best bang for your buck of any premium diesel fuel on the market. There's also a whole host of new data on keeping exhaust aftertreatment systems clear – and Cenex Premium Diesel is getting top marks there too. As of February, end users of Allied Cooperative are already getting the next-generation Premium Diesel additive package when they order Ruby Fieldmaster or Roadmaster XL.

**If you'd like to know more about the new additive package, or just pick our brains, we're always ready to chat. Contact us for more information:**



**Russ Bortz / SW Region**  
608.780.8614  
russell.bortz@chsinc.com



**Isaac Brown / West Region**  
715.660.6448  
isaac.brown@chsinc.com



**Michael Kampstra / Central Region**  
715.218.3792  
michael.kampstra@chsinc.com



**Justin Smith / SE Region**  
608.547.9922  
jsmith@allied.coop



## BUILDING TO SERVE

# Augusta C-Store Grand Opening

**A**llied's new Cenex® Convenience Store in Augusta, Wisconsin is open for business and we're celebrating with a grand opening! The store will hold a special grand opening celebration June 6 – 8 with in-store specials, door prize drawings, and more. The store has special prize drawings planned for the entire month of June, so be sure to stop by and register to win!

Under the canopy the store has two fuel islands with four fuel pumps. Besides gasoline, customers will also find Roadmaster Premium Diesel and DEF at the pumps.

Inside the 3,200 square foot facility, customers will find a wide range of packaged snacks, beverages, and traditional convenience store merchandise, plus food services with Hot Stuff Kitchen and Chester's Chicken. Customers will also find local products that are unique to the Augusta area.

The Augusta Cenex is located in a prime location, on Highway 12 in front of the Augusta High School. We invite you to stop by, fill your tank, pick up some Chester's Chicken, and say hello to our great team of employees.



## MAINTAINING YOUR TIRES

**Maintaining good tires helps improve your car's gas mileage, improve tire life and give a smoother ride. Check your tires for wear at least once a month as well as before and after road trips. Measuring your tires' tread will help determine whether it is time for tire adjustments or replacement.**

### STEP 1

Locate the wear bars between the tire treads. The wear bar is a narrow bridge of rubber in the groove, spanning individual tread blocks. If the tread is worn down level with the wear bar or close, the tire should be replaced.

### STEP 2

Use a tread depth gauge or a penny to more accurately measure wear across each tire, checking four points per tire. Place the metal rod of the tire depth gauge in the groove and push the casing down until it touches the tire. Check the depth reading. If it reads 2/32" or less, replace the tire. If you do not have a tread depth gauge, insert a penny into the groove of the tread with Lincoln's head face down. If you see the top of Lincoln's head, replace the tire.

### STEP 3

Look for uneven wear across the tire and from one tire to another. If one or more tires is wearing unevenly across its tread or compared to the other tires, you may have low tire pressure or a problem with your tires or suspension system. Have a professional diagnose and repair any balance or alignment issues, and regularly rotate your tires to ensure even wear.

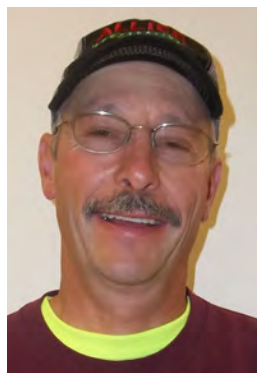
### Need new tires?

**Contact the Mauston Tire Shop at 608.847.1640 or  
Stratford Tire & Service Center at 715.687.4139**





# LP Mainstay Retires after 43 Years of Service



**A**fter 43 years of service, Bob Conant of the Tomah LP department retired at the end of April. Bob has been a mainstay of the department.

"I have said it before, but Bob Conant is Mr. LP," said Jeff Bunker, Director of Propane. "Bob basically started the Tomah LP department from ground zero and has been instrumental in making it what it is today. The knowledge and experience that he possesses is unbelievable and will be hard, if not impossible, to replace. The best part of working with Bob is his dependability. From delivery to service, you never had to worry about anything when Bob was involved."

Bob started his co-op career when he was still in high school working for Midland Co-op. After high school he planned to join the service, but chose to get married instead. At the time he and his new bride were both employed, but then they both lost their jobs. Then on December 17, 1982 he got the call to come to work at the Tomah Co-op. "It was the best Christmas present I could have ever had, because we were both out of work and it was the week before Christmas," said Bob. "That's one of the things I remember most."

Bob started out working in the Tomah Co-op store pumping gas and working late at night stocking shelves, cleaning the floors, and performing other janitorial services. He helped out hauling refined fuels when it was really cold and then would continue working in the store.

After an accident left their LP driver unable to work, Bob found himself behind the seat of a propane truck. His boss had shown him how to fill a tank one evening, and the next morning he threw the keys at him and said, "There you go, son." And that was it. Bob was the new LP driver.

He had never even lit a pilot light. And he was on his own.

There have been a lot of changes over the years. In the early days of his career, he WAS the propane department. As the business grew, they gave him a little help. In the late 1980s David Powell, Tomah Agronomy, would help him out by hauling propane in the morning. Still, they only had one truck, so David would haul fuel until noon and then Bob would haul until late in the evening. This gave them the best opportunity to meet all their customers' needs.

Times have changed. The co-op has grown. There have been mergers and acquisitions. People have come and gone. Bob has worked for ten different general managers. One thing that has never changed, however, is Bob's dedication to his job and his customers. "Bob has always cared about the customer," said Jeff. "I remember a few years back when a tornado and strong winds went through the Tomah area, Bob led a crew from Allied out to check on customers tanks right after the winds had stopped. He went up and down a couple of roads and even stopped to check on some competitors' tanks because he wanted to make sure everyone was safe! That's just the kind of guy he is."

Bob was very dedicated to his customers. He always went above and beyond to take care of their needs and wants. And though he has "officially" retired, don't be surprised if you see him in an Allied truck during the busy season. He has volunteered to help out on a part-time basis when needed.

We wish Bob nothing but the best in his well-deserved retirement. Thank you for your many years of service!





# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Allied Cooperative scholarships. This year our co-op awarded 27 - \$1,000 scholarships to area students. Recipients were selected based on their academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and an essay. Preference was given to students pursuing a degree in agriculture.



Josie Bailey Tomah, WI  
Emma Bangart Stratford, WI  
Abby Becker Auburndale, WI  
Brianna Buechner Hancock, WI

Addison Bula Grand Marsh, WI  
Breeze Bunker Sparta, WI  
Kyle Degner Wonewoc, WI  
Benjamin Dietsche Marshfield, WI

Derek Grossman Pittsville, WI  
Logan Gubser Medford, WI  
Ella Halverson Taylor, WI  
John Hoffman Weston, WI

Anna Hundt Rockland, WI  
Kyla Johnson Tomah, WI  
Anna Kayhart Granton, WI  
Marcus Kennedy Amherst, WI



*We congratulate all of this year's winners!*



# JOIN OUR TEAM

As a large cooperative with five divisions and multiple locations, Allied Cooperative employs a diverse staff in a number of different career fields. Our employees play a critical role in our success as a cooperative. If you are looking for an opportunity to grow and join an organization that values your contributions, we would love to hear from you!

Allied Cooperative's employees play an important role in our success as a cooperative. We'd love to talk to you about career opportunities with our cooperative. Come see what Allied can do for you!

For a list of current openings, visit [www.allied.coop/careers](http://www.allied.coop/careers). For more information on any of these openings, call Michelle Gubser, Director of Talent Management at 715.687.4443 extension 1017 or email [careers@allied.coop](mailto:careers@allied.coop).

Erica Spinler West Salem, WI  
Brett Thiel Auburndale, WI  
Taryn Wayerski Pittsville, WI



Jacob Kirsling Amherst, WI  
Paisley Lindner Wisconsin Dells, WI  
Dane Luchterhand Granton, WI  
Anthony Miller Bangor, WI

Bradley Neve Pittsville, WI  
Hannah Oleson Arkdale, WI  
Katelynn Osborn Athens, WI  
Phoenix Seubert Bonduel, WI





allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

## NAPA to host *Milwaukee Tool Days*

When it comes to tools, it's hard to beat the quality of Milwaukee Tools. NAPA is pleased to announce that it will hold two "Milwaukee Tool Days" events this summer. We will have Milwaukee Tool representatives in-house to offer expert advice and great pricing on power tools, hand tools and accessories. Come on out to see their latest tool offerings!

### When is it?

**JUNE 13 & 14 MAUSTON NAPA** 310 Prairie Street in Mauston

**AUGUST 1 & 2 ADAMS NAPA** 540 S Main Street in Adams



## Board Report



John Vehrenkamp,  
Board Chairman

It has been a busy few months at your cooperative as we continue to work through our first full year as one cooperative. The Board is encouraged by the progress we have made and are excited about the future of our co-op.

As members, one of the changes you will see in the coming year has to do with timing of our capital management program. Patronage refunds for the fiscal year ending 9/30/2024 are expected to be issued mid-February 2025. (Previously, ProVision Partners' patrons would expect their patronage checks in December and Allied patrons would see their checks in May). Legacy ProVision Partners members will NOT receive any patronage in the calendar year 2024,

but can expect it about three months later. Legacy Allied Cooperative members can expect to receive patronage about three months earlier than usual.

Former General Electric CEO Jack Welch once told a roomful of business leaders, "Change before you have to." We have made a lot of changes in the past few months. As one co-op we have doubled in size. Were we ready for such a change? Now more than ever, I believe we made the right decision.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Enjoy your family, your friends, the warm weather and this beautiful country that we live in! Thank you for your continued support of your cooperative.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR AGRONOMY CUSTOMERS

Herbicide and pesticide pre-application and post-application information is available online at [www.allied.coop](http://www.allied.coop). Click on the AGRONOMY tab, then the link in the CROP PROTECTION section.

If web access is not available and you would like a hard copy, call 608.339.3698, extension 2229 or toll free 800.331.3073, extension 2229.



Scan with your smart phone for easy access to the pre-application and post-application information.