

ALLIED Connections

SUMMER 2025

A PUBLICATION OF ALLIED COOPERATIVE®

ADAMS AGRONOMY'S NEW FERTILIZER TOWER

The Adams agronomy plant is operating with a new fertilizer tower this spring. The brand new 200-ton Waconia tower with HIM Precision Blender replaces a tower that was installed in 1996. The tower is fully automated and features the newest technology to improve efficiency and increase blending speed.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Rob Larson,
CEO/General Manager

Our summer edition of “Allied Connections” is the only newsletter that we send to both the agricultural and consumer side of our business each year. Because so much of our newsletter content is farm focused, our other quarterly editions are only mailed to our agricultural customers. If you would like to read any of these issues, you will find them online at www.allied.coop. With that being said, some of the information I share in this article may seem redundant to ag customers who have read our previous newsletters, but it is new information to our consumer customers, so I thought it was important to share.

Business Success

We held our annual meeting in March. We were pleased to report that we had a solid financial year with sales that exceeded \$472 million and local net earnings that totaled over \$19 million. With ESP and regional earnings included we exceeded \$50 million net before income taxes, which is a record year of earnings for both co-ops combined.

We are now 8 months into our 2025 fiscal year and have 20 months under our belt as a merged cooperative. We continue to perform very well as a company. We have strong sales and our financials are solid. We continue to see good organic growth throughout our organization and are very pleased with our progress as a company. With our talented staff we have accomplished much, including improved safety programs, expanded technology and strong efficiencies throughout our entire company – this includes operations, administration, and each of our divisions.

Retail Successes & Perks

For the consumer end of our business, our LP and retail divisions have done very well for our company, both last year and in our current year. Your co-op has 13 convenience stores, 4 Country Stores, 2 NAPA auto parts stores, 2 tire shop/service centers, an Ace Hardware store, and a lawn care service. Our retail division was profitable and added value for our members.

We would like to encourage our retail customers to utilize their services and to take advantage of some of the perks available at these locations. Our convenience stores have a program called “ProPoints Rewards”. With it, customers qualify for a variety of special offers and rewards, as well as 3 cents per gallon off on gasoline purchases. Our Ace Hardware store also has a rewards program where you can get dollars off your purchase and other perks and incentives, and the Country Stores offer some great programs through

Purina. It’s worth checking into some of these programs as they really do help you stretch your dollar.

Construction Projects – Investing Today and Into the Future

We recognize the value of these businesses to our rural communities and have invested in them to help ensure their continued success and viability. In the past year, we opened a new Cenex convenience store in Augusta. We have had remodeling and improvement projects at several of our convenience stores and have expanded our Ace Hardware store in West Salem.

At the same time, we have continued to invest in our agriculture businesses. We have a new fertilizer tower at our Adams facility and are making considerable improvements at the Auburndale grain site. We will also complete the construction of the new Plover fertilizer plant and look forward to opening that in late spring or early summer.

In the summer of 2025, we will begin construction of a new 7800-ton fertilizer plant in West Salem. In addition, we recently purchased property right next to our existing location in Galesville and are preparing for a plant expansion there in the near future.

The majority of these projects we are able to accomplish through cash flow instead of taking on long-term debt.

Capital Management Plan

Of our \$19 million in local earnings in fiscal year 2024, \$13 million was returned to our members through patronage refunds. Patronage refunds are paid in two ways, cash and equity. The co-op paid patronage at a rate of 55% cash and 45% non-qualified equity. The co-op paid the tax on this non-qualified equity. Cooperative members have \$25 million in qualified allocated equity remaining and the Board’s intention is to retire that equity within the next six to eight years.

Charitable Contributions

There are a lot of reasons to do business with a co-op, patronage is certainly part of that equation. Our co-op is a strong supporter of our local communities, supporting food pantries, FFA programs, fire departments and more. This year we gave out 30 scholarships totaling \$30,000 to children of our members. These are just a few of the many ways we give back to our communities. Our business is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of our members, and we are working hard to deliver the best products and services available to meet our customers’ needs.

Serving You

I believe the biggest reason to choose Allied Cooperative, however, is our people. We have a talented staff and are well able to serve all size customers and operations. We work hard to ensure that our customers receive the best

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Main Office

540 S Main St | PO Box 729 | Adams, WI 53910

Central Regional Office

2327 W Veterans Pkwy | PO Box 988 | Marshfield, WI 54449

West Regional Office

70 South State St | PO Box 20 | Hixton, WI 54635

East Regional Office

354 Morrow St | Seymour, WI 54165



ON THE MOVE

Ace Hardware Remodels and Expands



Allied's Ace Hardware of West Salem spent the winter months remodeling and expanding their store in order to provide a more complete and better shopping experience. The store gained 1500 square feet by expanding into the office space which was no longer needed in this facility.

The additional space allowed them to introduce Stihl gas equipment and some battery lines as well. The store has also expanded its outdoor equipment. "Right now I have 15 different models of lawnmowers displayed," said Adam Judy, Retail Manager. "It's nice to have the extra space to do that."

The store has added new signage inside and has redesigned some of the aisles to make a more welcoming and efficient shopping environment. It has also added a "front porch" which allows them to display products outdoors like lawn and garden equipment and patio furniture.

The West Salem Ace Hardware store is well regarded in the community and has become the "go to" place for all things grilling. If you value personal service, expert advice, and a hands-on experience—then their slogan fits Allied's Ace Hardware store well ... "Ace is the place with the helpful hardware folks."

Adams Tower

Continued from page 1...

"There is a lot of technology on this tower," said Roy Gervais, Southern Fixed Assets Manager. "That technology combined with the thorough and efficient blending provided by the HIM Precision Blender, and we are able to provide our customers with product that is consistent and exactly what they ordered."

The system has two scales side by side, which allows us to weigh two products at the same time, then automatically dump into the blender. While it is blending it automatically weighs the next load on top. The unit blends completely in 30 seconds and then dumps the product into a surge hopper that can hold two blender loads ready to be emptied into the trucks. The system is twice as fast as our old tower. This quick and efficient process results in reduced waiting time in line for product and more efficient management internally.

As with anything new, there is a learning curve. Adams Location Manager, Rich Grabarski, has taken the lead on operating the system through the rush of spring planting, but looks forward to furthering the department's training on the system as the season progresses. The same tower is planned for the Plover and West Salem fertilizer plants. Having similar technology in multiple locations helps with training, parts and overall management of our facilities.



Rich Grabarski

Protect Your Crops with Fungicide!



by Tom Hoffman,
Sales Lead
thoffman@allied.coop

We all give great thought and effort into growing a wonderful, healthy, productive crop. Have we 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 to protect our crops that we have put such time, effort and expense into, is to protect it with a fungicide application.

In recent years we have seen an increased usage of fungicide applications to our crops in order 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 and it can help to reduce the cost per bushel to grow with the increased yield per acre received by controlling diseases. 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. 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 yields 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 apply products with a helicopter where necessary. We also have high clearance ground application equipment available and have 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. The window for proper application is relatively narrow and it can't all be done at once. Please consult with your Allied Cooperative Agronomy Advisor now to make arrangements for your fungicide application and help ensure your successful cropping season.

Brand	Bu/Acre @ 15.5% moisture	Gross Income
No Fungicide	213.07	\$ 744.88
2 Pass Delaro® Complete	246.35	\$ 848.43
1 Pass Delaro Complete	223.38	\$ 768.44
2 Pass Delaro Complete	243.23	\$ 839.65
1 Pass Delaro Complete	219.23	\$ 764.67

The chart above shows fungicide test results from one of our 2024 plots.



AG PARTS AVAILABLE AT NAPA You may not always think of NAPA for your tractor and equipment needs. But Allied's NAPA stores have a full line of agricultural products, including hitch pins, tractor parts, tune up kits, yokes, u-joints, roller chain, hydraulic couplers, hydraulic hoses and more. Stop by the Adams or Mauston NAPA stores and discover the many products they can provide for your farm.

What are “adjuvants” and why do we use them?

Adjuvants are a term used in our crop production society categorizing products that are non-pesticide substances added to crop protection solutions to enhance their performance and application. They improve characteristics like spreading, penetration, droplet size, and reduce potential application problems, ultimately increasing the effectiveness of the crop protection product applied.

Here are a few adjuvants we commonly use at Allied Cooperative:

Non-Ionic Surfactants

Commonly mixed with many post-emerge crop protection products to help spread the crop protection product on the leaf surface and ensure better coverage. Names of some products: Class Act® NG®, Preference and Optify™ L27.

Crop Oils

Commonly mixed with select post-emerge crop protection products to help penetrate the plant leaf cuticle so the crop protection product can be more effectively absorbed into the pest that is trying to be controlled. Some of our crop oils have a high surfactant oil concentration (HSOC) and require about half the use rate of some other crop oils. Names of some of these products: Superb® HC and Destiny® HC.

Water Conditioners

Water is a common spray carrier and almost always contains some contaminants that may interfere with herbicide solubility or activity. Such things as hard water or high pH water can interfere with solubility and activity. Water conditioners modify the water to correct these water issues and enhance product effectiveness. Some of these products include: Class Act® NG®, AMS™ and Optify™ L27.

Drift Control Agents and Deposition Aids

These products modify the spray solution to reduce driftable fine spray droplets as well as improving the deposition of the crop protection product onto the intended target. These products help greatly in getting the product where it is intended to be applied and helping to prevent drift where you don't want it applied. Common product name: InterLock®.

There are many adjuvants that can be used and there are many adjuvants that we use that can be a pre-mix combination of one or more adjuvants. Correctly using adjuvants is important because using an incorrect type or rate of an adjuvant can result in poor control of the pest, ineffective absorption, crop injury, off target movement, foaming, and compatibility problems amongst other things. Your agronomy staff at Allied Cooperative uses, and promotes, the proper high-quality adjuvants for the best performance. Many herbicide labels require specific adjuvants. Be sure to ask our staff about the best adjuvant to maximize your crop protection product's performance.



Don't forget (or cut) your Micros



by Mike Soley,
Agronomy Advisor
msoley@allied.coop

The price of commodities has had producers looking for ways to cut costs. Some might think that focusing only on the N, P and K and cutting the micronutrients (or micros) out is an option. But consider this: a 230 bu corn crop needs roughly 7# of zinc and 1# of boron. Both of these micros are critical for crop health and yield, and they are also the two most common deficient micros in Wisconsin.

Here are a few reasons why you should keep the micros in your plan:

Micronutrients play a crucial role in physiological processes within plants, including chlorophyll synthesis, enzyme activity, nitrogen metabolism, cell wall structure and seed development. Without adding micros

these processes can be affected, because many of our soil types can't hold or supply the necessary amount.

Some common micronutrient deficiencies include:

- **Boron deficiency:** Can lead to stunted growth, reduced fruit and seed production.
- **Copper deficiency:** Can result in stunted growth, poor root development, and reduced fruit production.
- **Iron deficiency:** Can cause chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) and reduced photosynthetic capacity.
- **Manganese deficiency:** Can lead to stunted growth, poor root development, and reduced yields.
- **Molybdenum deficiency:** Can cause stunted growth, reduced nitrogen uptake, and other problems.
- **Zinc deficiency:** Can lead to stunted growth, chlorosis, and reduced yields.

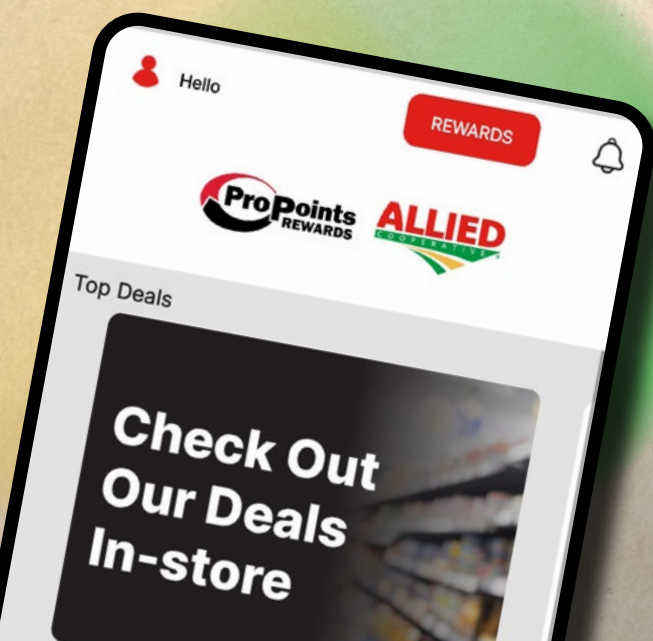
There are many ways to supply your crop's micro needs. Whether it's through standard micro products that we can add to your dry or liquid blend; specialty fertilizers like Aspire® (boron) and MESZ® (zinc) infused on the granules; or foliar options (MAX-IN® products) applied with an herbicide pass—there are many ways to add micros to your program. Tissue sampling can help determine if your crop is lacking not only macros, but micros as well. Maintaining micros in your fertilizer program can lead to a successful crop.

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!



Short Update on Crop Nutrients



by Joe Spinler,
Executive VP
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In our last newsletter we talked about some of the factors affecting fertilizer markets and their supply and volatility. Well let's just say that at the time of writing this newsletter not much has changed and some has gotten worse. It appears that higher than normal corn acres are and will be planted. It also appears that imports of some fertilizers have been affected by tariffs and lack of buying and commitments from the end-user. Those are the big talking points from March, and they still are today.

Phosphates remain snug with fewer suppliers sending products to America due to the unknown nature of what will happen with tariffs. Phosphates continue to stay high and at this point there is not much indication that they will soften much over the summer months. This is impactful for areas that do a lot of fall fertilization as it could reduce demand for the fall and in doing so increase it for spring of 2026. So, it's almost like a snowball rolling down the hill that continues to get bigger and doesn't break apart.

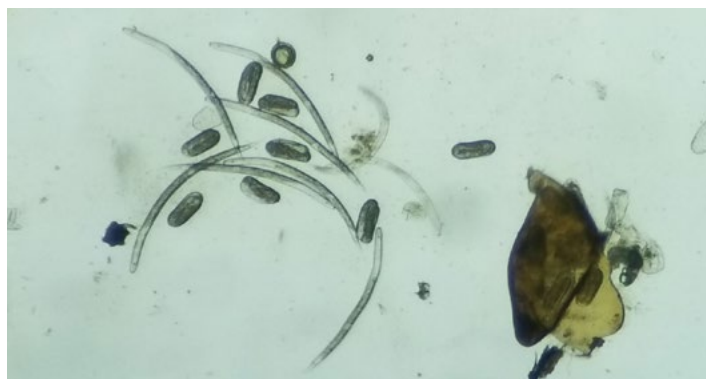
Urea supply is also tight due to some of the same reasons as phosphates, but the biggest one is increased demand and just-in-time inventory. The United States was not priced high enough to attract the tons this winter, nor were the consumers willing to commit. This created pent-up demand which has driven prompt pricing very high which will help attract tons, but most will not arrive in time for this year's crop. Crop dress tons of Urea will remain tight all summer.

Potash remains stable-to-soft a few dollars which will help offset the high prices of other inputs. All and all I would say we are certainly bullish on fertilizer heading into summer. Please reach out to your agronomy advisors if you have any questions on markets and where we think things might be heading.

Free Soybean Cyst Test



by Matt Selenske,
Pest Pros Location Manager
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Pest Pros Lab is tackling the "Billion Dollar Pest". By partnering with the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the UW-Madison Extension program, we offer 4 Free SCN tests every year to every soybean grower in Wisconsin. Wisconsin growers' soybean checkoff dollars and grant money from the WSMB fund this beneficial program.

The test offers a complete soil nematode analysis to help growers make important decisions such as varietal selection and rotation schedules. Results offer population counts of the SCN eggs and other plant parasitic nematodes as well as a risk assessment of potential yield damage based on those populations for each crop in the rotation. We offer quick results, usually coming within a week so growers can act fast on potential problems. Professional services are also available to consult on any questions.

These samples can be pulled along with spring or fall fertility samples to make decisions such as variety choice or field locations. Samples can also be pulled during the growing season to troubleshoot problem areas within a field.

Talk to Pest Pros or your local Agronomy Advisor about our sampling services! To get your testing kits, including the postage paid packaging to ship the samples to us, email freescntest@mailplus.wisc.edu or visit your local Allied agronomy office.



Now Easier than Ever to Manage Your Co-op Account

Allied Cooperative has a new platform available to its customers. AgVantage POCKET (Portal of Communication, Knowledge & Technology) offers more advanced and user-friendly options for our customers. With POCKET you can:

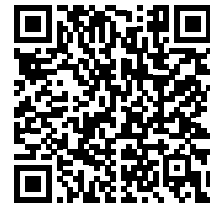
- Get a quick glance at account balances.
- Generate a statement PDF for any month and year.
- View Prepaid and Booking contract balances and activity on those contracts.

- Pay your bill online with an ACH account or a credit card. (Processing fee applies.)
- Look up invoices and details about the invoice with the option to download them.
- Credit card processing through Paypal integration.

If you paid online at allied.coop in the past, your customer login information transferred into this new system. However, if you bookmarked or created shortcuts to our old platform, you will need to go to the customer login

section of our website to access the new platform. We have instructions on how to create a shortcut to the new platform on our website.

To sign-up for POCKET go to www.allied.coop and click on Customer Login or scan the QR code below.



Sign-up for Email Statements

Did you know, you can have your monthly statement emailed to you? Email statements offer several advantages over traditional paper statements, including faster delivery, increased security, and convenience. They are also more cost-effective for the co-op, as they eliminate the need for mailing.

Sign up for email statements! Just go to allied.coop/credit and complete the simple signup form. You can also email your request to credit@allied.coop. Be sure to include the name on your account and your account number in the email. Please reference that you would like your monthly statement emailed.

Sign up for email statements by 6/30/25 and be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Allied Cooperative Gift Certificate!

A Note from our CEO

Continued from page 2...

possible service from us. We have made some adjustments internally to our workflow, simplified some of our processes and implemented new technology in an effort to improve your experience with us.

Our employees go above and beyond, and I would like to thank them for all they do. Your cooperative has almost 700 employees during our peak season. Our business is diverse and so are the jobs we do. We have full-time, part-time and seasonal employees and each and every person is an integral part of meeting our customers' needs. They are the backbone of our company, and they impact everything from daily operations to achieving long-term goals. Spring is a particularly busy time of year in our business, with long hours and a lot of hard work. You would be hard-pressed to find a team more dedicated to getting the job done. I appreciate everyone's efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our valued customer, for your continued patronage. Your support allows us to grow as a cooperative, enhance services and create value for you, our members. Serving you is a privilege, and we don't take that lightly. We will continue to work hard to earn your business.

Spring Preparations at Allied Cooperative



by Austin Bohm,
Ag Technology Specialist
abohm@allied.coop

Each season, I typically focus my newsletter articles on how growers can utilize technology to get the most out of their operations. This time, I thought it might be helpful—and maybe even a little interesting—to give you a look behind the curtain. Here are a few things Allied Cooperative did internally to prepare for the 2025 growing season and how we're working to better serve you.

Applicator Training Overhaul

This year, we completely redesigned our applicator training program to be more applicator-focused. We aimed to strike a balance between core agronomic knowledge and advanced machine capabilities, helping our team make the most of the cutting-edge equipment we're fortunate to operate.

Every Allied applicator participated in a three-day event at our Tomah Agronomy location. We covered fertilizer and chemical education to ensure our team fully understands the products they apply. We also spent hands-on time with monitor simulators, focusing on both John Deere and Raven systems used across our fleet.

What made this year's training especially valuable was the collaborative input we received. I gathered feedback from both applicators and agronomy managers to help shape the structure and content of the event. That input helped guide our efforts this year—and will continue to play a key role as we refine and improve the program in the years to come.

We were also fortunate to have the strong support of our equipment partners. Representatives from our John Deere and Case IH dealerships played a tremendous role in the event, helping walk through equipment-specific features and answering operator questions in real time. Their involvement gave our team added clarity and confidence going into the season.

Training wasn't limited to the classroom—we also got out in the field for sprayer cleanouts, pan testing for fertilizer spreaders, and calibration work for both dry and liquid machines. It was a productive few days, and I'm confident it will pay dividends this spring.

One-on-One Ride-Alongs

Beyond group training, I've been spending a lot of time riding one-on-one with both new and experienced applicators. For newer team members, my focus is on building confidence and a strong understanding of the job. For our experienced

applicators, it's about sharing tips and tricks I've picked up from others across our service area.

A big part of this is consistency. I want to ensure that our growers in the rolling hills of Independence receive the same high-quality application as those farming the flat ground of Edgar—and vice versa. During these ride-alongs, we've been pan testing fertilizer, evaluating spray patterns, and fine-tuning machines to make sure they're dialed in and operating at their best.

Automated Blending Systems

We've been continuing to invest in systems that help our teams work smarter and more efficiently. This winter, we partnered with Kahler Automation to install new automated blending systems at our Adams and Tomah Agronomy locations. These systems streamline repetitive tasks and support our team in delivering consistent, accurate blends to our customers. While automation is just one piece of the puzzle, it helps our staff focus more on customer service and day-to-day operational needs.

Improving Grower Data Connections

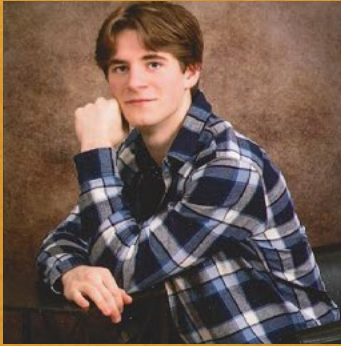
Another key focus has been improving how we manage and share data. I've been working closely with our agronomy advisors to connect grower accounts through Climate FieldView™ and the John Deere Operations Center. We're syncing field boundaries, sharing prescriptions, and sending variable rate seeding recommendations directly to in-cab displays. This helps ensure a smooth and efficient season, with fewer hiccups and more time spent being productive.

These are just a few of the things we've been working on to ensure a successful growing season. At Allied Cooperative, our goal is to deliver the service and support our growers deserve—backed by the right technology, well-trained people, and equipment that's running at its best.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your agronomy advisor to learn more about how we can support your operation throughout the growing season.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 Allied Cooperative scholarships. This year our co-op awarded 30 - \$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.



Alexander Baumgarten Spencer, WI
Blake Bennington Marshfield, WI
Shade Bunker Sparta, WI
Ava Campbell Melrose, WI

Rachel DeVries Adams, WI
Wyatt Dorshorst Marshfield, WI
Sylvia Durrant Pittsville, WI
Hannah Falkers Viroqua, WI

Jack Glover Manawa, WI
Brooke Grossman Pittsville, WI
Emily Gubser Medford, WI
Brady Hall Tomah, WI

Claire Haske New Lisbon, WI
Kylie Heller Mauston, WI
Dea Jacobson Alma Center, WI
Jacob Kling Taylor, WI

We congratulate all of this year's winners!



Lauryn Wiesman Stratford, WI
Ashley Wyss Melrose, WI



Jonathan Klumb Marshfield, WI
Owen Klussendorf Medford, WI
Madison Knecht Spencer, WI
Maria Lauer Wautoma, WI

Tysen Lindner Loyal, WI
Katelyn Matzke Hixton, WI
Madison McMaster Tomah, WI
Alexis Meyer Loyal, WI

Nathan Pyka Independence, WI
Stephanie Sigl Seymour, WI
Darenk Trzebiatowski Waupaca, WI
David Trzebiatowski Waupaca, WI

FEED DIVISION

Contracting and Supplies *Looking out for Your Best Interests*



by Ed Sabey,
Director of Feed
esabey@allied.coop

As we transition out of spring and into summer, it is a good time to inventory feed supplies and investigate markets conditions and situations that could benefit your business. Allied Cooperative can work with your operation to maximize your profitability through contracting best-case use pricing and products that will work for your operation. If you are not familiar with our feed purchasing options, please reach out to our feed team to discuss what products and pricing structures would be best for your operation.

Contracting commodities and feed products can be a very effective tool that can boost the profitability of your farm and can be written in different forms. This can not only benefit the producer, but also your supplying co-op. Your co-op stays tuned daily to what the markets are doing, evaluating information on new products and ensuring the products you receive are of the quality that meet your needs.

Allied Cooperative's feed team will accept challenges from your farm. We will investigate and put together a roadmap that works for you. This plan may come in many different forms. We are happy to join into a business partnership with you that keeps you on the path to success, and at the same time strengthens your co-op now and in the future.

Bringing value to the farm

Allied Cooperative has many services available to our customers. If you would like more product information or intel on market situations, be sure to reach out to your feed representative. The feed team at Allied can bring great value to your operation by combining their education in the industry with real life experiences. We have a great cross-section of talents and interests that can be a real asset to you. Our number one concern is your success and watching out for your best interests. Let us help you achieve your goals!

Introducing Farm to Flock



By Brian Herrmann,
Seymour Country Store
bherrmann@allied.coop

We are pleased to introduce Allied Cooperative's newest addition for your fine feathered ladies, Purina's Farm to Flock® 18% Layer. Purina's Farm to Flock layer features whole grain nutrition, and a proprietary ingredient to aid in preventing the spread of avian influenza.




Do you like to see the ingredients providing your flock's nutrition? Purina's Farm to Flock Layer is packed with whole grain goodness you can actually see! Purina's Farm to Flock layer contains a blend of whole ancient grains like oats, red milo, and corn. You will also find whole safflower seeds, whole sunflower seeds, whole wheat, and split peas in Purina's Farm to Flock layer. All this combined with a high protein mini pellet ensures hens get everything they need to consistently lay eggs and stay healthy.

Purina's Farm to Flock layer contains not only sound nutrition, it is also filled with flu-fighting goodness! FeedLock® is Purina's breakthrough ingredient in it's Farm to Flock layer that packs a punch against bird flu and other pathogens. When bird flu and other pathogens come in contact with the FeedLock ingredient, they get broken down and it basically kills the pathogen.

Purina's Farm to Flock 18% layer gives you peace of mind with every bite they take. With every bite your hens are getting nourished to be the best they can be. The love you give your hens = "Happy Healthy Hens". Happy Healthy Hens give you high quality nutritious eggs!

Visit one of Allied Cooperative's Country Stores and pick up some Farm to Flock for your hens!





Agronomy Nears Completion of New Fertilizer Plant in Plover

After many months of planning and construction, the new dry fertilizer plant at our Plover location is nearing completion and is expected to open later this summer.

The new plant was built on our current site and has the capacity to store 14,000 ton of dry fertilizer. It features state-of-the-art mixing and high-speed blending. This will allow for faster receiving, blending and shipping of product to our fleet, as well as customers that come in to pick up their own products. The building will also have more bins and a larger capacity to allow us to carry more products.

The facility features trackside unloading, which allows the railcars to be positioned directly next to the unloading area, and unloaded indoors which will reduce weather-related delays and allow for a more efficient flow of fertilizer.

The facility also has an office facility and small conference room, which will allow us to retire the mobile unit which has held the offices for many years.

Allied Cooperative's Plover agronomy plant is situated in the heart of Wisconsin's Central Sands potato and vegetable market. This area is recognized as one of the premier vegetable growing regions in the nation with potatoes, sweet corn, green beans, peas, carrots and cucumbers all ranking near the top of U.S. production. Traditional row crop growers also depend on the services provided by our Plover location.



Managing Heat Stress



By Pete Koss,
Dairy Specialist
pkoss@allied.coop

Summer heat stress has already tested us, are you ready for when it hits for real?

Heat stress has been a bit of a moving target—as our cows get bigger, make more milk, and eat more. The threshold for heat stress has dropped from 72° to 67° and now folks are talking about 65°. Weather in general has gotten warmer the past several years. Both combine to make more days of heat stress.

As long as we get cool nights—below 65°, the cows can recover some – shifting eating patterns to eat more during the cool of the night and milk can stay almost normal. Once we lose night cooling, the stress is constant throughout the day and the cows can't compensate enough. Those effects “accumulate”—recovery time is slower after each new hot spell. The most obvious sign of heat stress is a drop of 3-7 lbs. of milk per cow per day.

Unfortunately, by then a lot of negative things have already happened and it isn't just the milk cows that are affected.

Repeated studies at the University of Florida have shown that the calves from dry cows that have been heat-stressed are 12%-14% lighter than calves born at the same time to cows that had good cooling. More research showed that those smaller calves did not milk as well in their first lactation as the offspring of cows that were not heat stressed during the dry period. Even the offspring of those calves that were born under heat stress did not perform as well as those that were from the dry cows that did not experience heat stress. So, the effect of one season's heat stress can impact multiple generations.

Ways to stay ahead of heat stress:

- 1) Look for signs of heat stress.** The most obvious sign of heat stress is rapid respiration rate. Watch the cows breathe. Normal respiration rate for a cow under thermoneutral conditions is 45-45 breaths/minute. If their respiration rate is over 60 breaths/minute, they are experiencing heat stress. You can also use an infrared (IR) thermometer/gun to measure the skin temperature of the upper udder. Temperatures above 96.5° indicate heat stress.
- 2) Look in the right places.** Anytime animals bunch up, their body

temperatures will go up. The holding area going into the parlor is usually the first place you see cows experiencing heat stress. Poorly ventilated places (like old stanchion barns where dry cows often live) also get hot quicker. Open lots with no shade are another stress area.

3) Manage heat stress. Add fans first, sprinklers later if you have the opportunity. Fans over stalls first – allows them to lie down more hours and rest their feet. Fans over the feed alley will encourage more eating but also more standing. Sprinklers work well during dry weather WITH fans to help with evaporative cooling. There is little evaporation of water from the skin on high-humidity days/little cooling. Cows bunch together when heat stressed—always in a dark part of the barn. Play with curtain settings to give cows more shaded area and encourage them to spread out. **DON'T FORGET WATERERS.** Provide at least 3” of water space/cow. Adding a water tub can be a good move with little investment. Feed more at night – cows will eat more during the cooler part of the day, don't let them run out of feed in the middle of the night.

What else? We typically increase the energy and protein density of the total mixed ration (TMR) to make up for the drop in feed intake. This will NOT get all of your milk back. There are a lot of other things going on metabolically in the cow that suck up extra energy. Increasing buffer in the ration and adding yeast can help modulate the rumen. Adding more potassium to the ration is an economical way to provide more electrolytes. We also offer a new product for heat stress—Fortiva™ Cool Cow®—providing betaine to maintain hydration of the cow, live yeast for rumen modulation, and MOS and beta glucans to help immune function. Betaine is a partial alternative to electrolytes—minimizing electrolyte loss. Betaine also helps reduce shrink on animals being transported. The betaine can start working in a couple of days. For the full benefit of the added yeast, feed for 30 days. Contact your Allied Cooperative feed representative for more information and pricing.



Auburndale Grain Updates



by David Rappa,
Director of Grain
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In late April, the Auburndale grain location broke ground on new updates to increase their speed and efficiency. In the past, the site would experience very long wait times to dump wet corn during the peak days of corn harvest. We would see producers get frustrated with the lines and drive past Auburndale and go to other Allied grain locations to get dumped putting strains on those locations as well. We recognized that it was an issue that needed to be addressed.

This grain site was originally constructed to service the feed mill in Auburndale, but we are seeing a transition in the immediate area with smaller dairy farms selling the cows to larger dairies and switching to growing more row crops. We see this as a large area of internal growth for the grain division and we wanted to speed up the site to service our producers needs, because we know time is money and harvest equipment just keeps getting bigger and faster.

The project consists of adding an additional 3,000 bushel per hour dryer, a new full semi dump pit, a new distributor, and speeding up existing legs and conveyors to handle the additional receiving and drying capacity. It is a complicated project, because we are modifying an existing facility to get the highest speed, while still being cost conscious. We have done this at other Allied locations, and it really has helped speed up harvest operations.

The dryer foundation was completed in April and the new dryer was installed in May. The new pit will be added this summer. With the new dryer the site will be able to dry 7,500 bushels per hour. As part of the project the receiving leg is being sped up from 10,000 bushels per hour to 16,000 bushels per hour as well as speeding up the other equipment to accommodate the additional drying capacity.

Adding the full pit for dumping will also speed up the unloading of grain as semi hoppers will be able to just open both doors and the conveyor will remain full, where in the past the receiving conveyor would run empty when the trucks would have to reposition and pull to the next hopper. The full semi pit will dump at 10,000 bushels per hour and the current receiving pit will be sped up to 16,000 bushels per hour allowing for another truck to dump at the same time in the

north pit. In essence, we should be able to clear lines twice as fast as before.

With the updates being made from an operational perspective we will utilize the Auburndale main site for dumping wet corn and soybeans during harvest and the Auburndale West site for dumping dry corn and soybeans. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for harvest.



Propane

Already Looking Ahead to the Next Heating Season



by Jeff Bunker
Director of Propane
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Spring is in the air, and while last year's heating season is fresh on your mind, it's the perfect time to begin making plans for next year's heating season.

In June we will mail out our Propane Prepay & Budget Programs brochure to all Allied LP customers. We would like to encourage you to carefully study the brochure and sign up for the program that best meets your specific needs. If you do not receive one by June 30th please contact your local office.

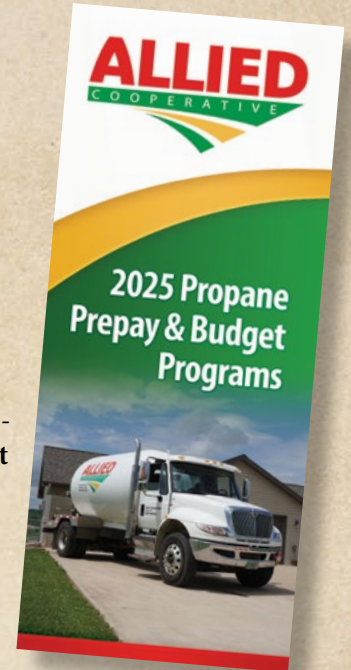
Programs offered include the **Guaranteed Price Propane Prepay Program** which allows you to prepay your propane—guaranteeing the that price for your prepaid/contracted gallons will not change from September 1st through April 30th of the contracted year's heating season.

The **Budget Payment Plan** gives you the peace of mind that comes from knowing the amount your bill will be ahead of time. There will be a total of 12 monthly payments starting in June with a true-up in May. The program is based on your average consumption.

Regardless of the payment plan you choose, customers are encouraged to take advantage of the Scheduled Delivery

Program. The **Scheduled Delivery Program** is 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%. **An 8¢ per gallon discount is given to all customers not on another contract due to the efficiencies gained.**

Of course, customers can always elect to select the **Will Call Program**. With this program the customer watches their own tank gauge and calls the office to order propane when their gauge reads between 20-30%. Customers with an approved credit account will receive a statement, with the entire balance of your bill due on the 20th of the month following your fill. Customers without an approved credit account must make payment at one of our offices in advance of the delivery.



Energy Solutions Strategy



by **Michael Kampstra**,
Certified Energy Relationship Manager
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With warmer weather here, it is time to start thinking about **Summer Fills**. Summer fills will begin around the middle of June. Call your local office for pricing and any questions you may have on upcoming programs. If you are on scheduled delivery you will automatically receive a summer fill if your tank can receive minimum delivery gallons.

Landlords or customers with multiple properties or vacation homes may find increased peace of mind by installing **tank monitors**. Allied's tank monitoring services utilizes a wireless process to access your tank's information, tracking the level so that we can automatically respond to any changes in your fuel consumption, and complete deliveries as needed. With these monitors customers can view their tank monitors at anytime right over the Internet.

For more information on these programs or to discuss which will best fit your family's need and budget, please contact your local Allied LP office:

Adams: 608-339-3394
Arcadia: 608-323-3311
Hixton: 715-963-3211
Marshfield: 715-687-4443
Tomah: 608-372-2458
West Salem: 608-786-1100

Cenex®, a leading provider of energy solutions, has announced the launch of its new strategic offering that brings together premium diesel, lubricants, propane and energy equipment to provide customers top-performing solutions for heavy-duty industries. Included in the launch is an expanded line of high-quality lubricants designed to serve as the entry point in its product hierarchy.

The new products include Cenex® HD diesel engine oil, Cenex® Tractor Fluid and Cenex® AW hydraulic fluid in ISO 32, 46 and 68. These products are strategically positioned to offer dependable protection and value to customers who seek cost-effective solutions without compromising on essential performance standards. When placed in the product line-up, customers have the option to tailor their lubricant needs to the level of performance needed for their application

“The new strategy brings a powerhouse of CHS and Cenex® products together to offer a full energy offering of fuel, lubricant, propane and equipment solutions to our customers,” states Matt Dinslage, VP Lubricants for CHS. “We have included a good, better and best lubricant product hierarchy in key areas to simplify decision-making and provide solutions that meet a customer’s needs at the performance level they want.”



Your Vehicle's Air Quality



by Kevin Bucel,
NAPA Stores Manager
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When it's warm outside, driving can be one of life's true pleasures. But when the mercury rises and it's time to roll up the windows, you may find a few vehicle issues that you hadn't planned on.

Air Conditioning

If you find that you only feel warm air coming out of your vent, your A/C system could have an issue. It can be intimidating to diagnose air conditioning problems in your car. These systems operate much like the cooling system of your engine. The evaporator pulls hot ambient air over a series of coils that contain a refrigerant. The heat is absorbed and chemically transforms the refrigerant from a liquid to a gas. The gas enters the compressor and pressurizes the chemical before finally passing it into a condenser, which returns the chemical to liquid form while dissipating heat. That process

repeats and eventually the hot, humid air in your cabin is replaced by cool, refreshing air.

If you find your vehicle is blowing warm air, adding refrigerant to your car can give your AC system a boost. Most older vehicles (early 90s-mid 2000s) use r134 refrigerant. Many newer vehicles use r1234yf. It's important to know what type of refrigerant you need as the vehicle will have different port sizes. Allied's NAPA team can help you select the right product and guide you in how to fix the A/C in your car so you can stay cool while you drive this summer. We can also help you with A/C parts for your tractor/equipment.

Cabin Air Filters

You may smell musty odors coming from your car's duct work. That's a clear sign you need to replace your cabin air filter. Unhealthy and unpleasant air is

everywhere, but why allow it to funnel into your car and make even the shortest drives unbearable? A new cabin air filter improves the air quality in your car dramatically.

Some manufacturers recommend replacement every 10,000, 12,000, 15,000 or 20,000 miles or every 6 to 12 months. Inspecting and replacing the cabin filter does not require much time and little in the way of tools, if any at all. Check your owner's manual for the specific location and procedure. It takes just a few minutes to remove the filter to see if it's dirty enough to replace.

Allied's NAPA team can ensure you get the right filter for your vehicle. Visit knowhow.napaonline.com for tips on how to change the cabin air filter in your vehicle.



Why is Tire Rotation so Important?

Did you know that you can make your tires last longer with regular tire rotation. Extending the life of your tires, saves you time and money in the long run—and who couldn't use a little more time and money?

In normal driving, your front tires wear more on the outside edges, because they handle much of the cornering forces in turns. Front-wheel drive vehicles have even more force on the front tires. Rotating the tires ensures that all of the tires do some duty on the front end as well as getting a little break on the back end. That way, all four tires wear more evenly over their life and last longer. It will also make your ride smoother and handling safer.

Your tire manufacturer will have a recommendation for how often you should rotate your tires. It's usually somewhere around 5,000 to 8,000 miles. Be sure to stop by the Stratford Tire & Service Center or Mauston Tire Shop for the best in tire service and repair.

SAFETY CORNER



by Jerrod Buchholtz,
Director of Safety & Compliance
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Propane Safety Tips to Prepare for Barbecue Season

Grilling season is upon us and that means a lot of time spent with family and friends for the backyard cookout. While you decide between ribs or chicken or burgers and hot dogs (or all of them!), this is also a good time to brush up on propane safety best practices. Nothing ruins a cookout like a trip to the emergency room.

Here are some important things to know:

Transport and Store Propane Cylinders Safely

When you need more propane for your grill, Allied Cooperative is here for you! You can get your propane cylinder safely and expertly refilled at one of our LP filling stations or exchange it at one of our convenience stores. Allied has LP filling stations in Adams, Black Creek*, Galesville*, Fairchild*, Marshfield*, Mauston, Pittsville*, Tomah, and West Salem. (*Please call ahead.)

There are some things you need to know about how to get cylinders to and from your home, as well as storing them. Here are some safety tips.

- Whether your propane cylinder is empty or full, always keep it upright when transporting. When a cylinder is on its side, there is a risk of a liquid propane leak.
- Always close the cylinder valve – even if the cylinder is empty.
- Always place the cylinder inside a well-ventilated area of the vehicle.
- Always proceed directly to your destination and immediately remove the cylinder from your vehicle.

Never store or place your propane cylinder indoors in an enclosed area such as a basement, garage, shed or tent. And never store it in an area of excessive heat. Never store or place a spare cylinder under or near a barbecue grill. Do not smoke or have any ignition sources in the area while handling or transporting cylinders.

Get Your Grill Ready

While giving a spring cleaning to your grill, don't forget to thoroughly inspect it and make sure it's safe to operate.

The first thing to do is to run a leak test. Coat the hoses, valves, and regulator with soapy water, then turn on the propane cylinder. Any bubbles are a sign of a propane leak. Tighten connections and run the test again. Replace the

hoses or tank if bubbles still appear. It is best practice to rinse the soap off after leak testing.

During winter, spiders and other critters enjoy the warm refuge of your grill. The spiders' homes there can cause blockages in the tubes. When using your grill for the first time each season be sure your grill is operating properly.

Play It Safe When Grilling

Once you're ready to grill, don't leave propane safety best practices behind! We have some tips to help keep your cookout from ending in disaster.

- Clean your propane grill, not just the grates, regularly. One in five grill fires are caused by leftover grease.
- Light the grill with the lid open, and make sure it is fully lit before closing the lid.
- Never use your propane BBQ grill indoors or in an enclosed or covered area like a garage or carport. Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, a potentially lethal odorless and colorless gas, can build up.
- Keep the grill on a flat, level surface with at least five feet clearance from the house, outdoor furniture, trees, bushes, and anything else that is combustible.
- Keep kids and pets away from the grill.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended. Make sure you have everything you need on hand like tongs, mitts, brushes, sauces, food, and platters before you start the grill.
- Don't use your grill if the igniter is broken. Look into buying a grill with an automatic igniter. We have an outstanding selection of top-quality propane grills at our Ace Hardware store in West Salem!

**Come to Allied Cooperative
for a safe propane cylinder refill!**



allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI



ENTER YOUR GREAT SHOTS IN OUR CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Allied Cooperative invites you to enter our 2026 Calendar Photo Contest! We are looking for striking digital images of local scenery, agriculture and nature, throughout all four seasons, to be used in our next calendar. Winners will receive a \$30.00 Allied Cooperative gift certificate and plenty of bragging rights. Please submit your high-quality digital photos, as well as your name and contact information, via email to info@allied.coop. Contest deadline is September 15, 2025.

Board Report



John Vehrenkamp,
Board Chairman

If you attended our annual meeting in March you heard me tell the story of fellow farmer and long-time patron of our co-op, Gordon Deeren. Gordon passed away recently at the age of 101, but actively farmed up until about a year ago. He was considered a bit of a legend in the Galesville area and was a mentor to many (myself included.) I spoke with Gordon and asked him 'what is the secret to your success and your longevity?' He just smiled and said, 'It's quite simple, just keep moving.'

I found that to be solid advice, not just for my own life, but for the co-op as well. Just 20 months ago we brought together two successful co-ops with the goal of making a better one. The idea was to take the best of both, to put our synergies together to improve service, to make us more efficient, to improve our buying power, and make us more competitive and better for our patrons. I am pleased to report that this goal, although not finished, has been moving forward in a positive direction. Our Board has had a common goal to make the merger work and work better. Better for the patrons, better for the employees and better for the future of this co-op -- to keep moving.

Your co-op is coming off its most successful year-to-date, and I'm proud of all we accomplished. But we cannot just sit back and admire our success. We must keep moving. Your co-op is undergoing several expansion products and making facility improvements. We are working hard to make sure that we can continue to meet your needs today and into the future. Our co-op roots go all the way back to 1912. We are who we are today, because our co-op forefathers kept moving. So must we!

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. For more information on any of these openings, call Michelle Gubser, Director of Talent Management at 715.502.3128 or email careers@allied.coop.



Like