ALLIED Connections

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ALLIED COOPERATIVE®

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WHY FUEL QUALITY MATTERS

The Value Behind Cenex Top Tier Gasoline and Premium Diesel

We're all feeling the impact of high fuel prices at the pump these days. And while Allied Cooperative may own convenience stores, that doesn't mean we're immune to those costs. Rising fuel prices impact every part of our business, just like they do for the customers we serve.

But even in a challenging fuel market, there is value in knowing that Cenex® offers Top Tier gasoline—something not all fuel providers, including the leading convenience store chain in Wisconsin, can say. That difference matters more than drivers realize.

Not All Gasoline Is Created Equal

At first glance, gasoline may seem like a simple, standardized product. After all, much of it is stored in shared terminals and distributed broadly before retailers add their own

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Rob Larson,
General Manager/CEO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Our June edition of Allied Connections is a little different from the rest. It's the one time each year we share this newsletter with both our agricultural and consumer customers. Since much of our content throughout the year is focused on agriculture, our other quarterly editions are mailed specifically to our farm customers. If you're ever interested in seeing those issues, you can always find them on our website at www.allied.coop.

We are nearly eight months into our 2026 fiscal year, and I am very pleased with our financial performance to date. Allied Cooperative continues to perform well, supported by strong sales and solid financials. While we recognize the economic challenges impacting many sectors—especially agriculture—we are navigating these conditions carefully and remain encouraged by the steady progress we are making as a company.

Retail & Consumer Business

As a farmer-owned cooperative, a lot of our day-to-day conversations revolve around agriculture—and rightfully so. But our retail business is also important to the overall strength of Allied.

Having a diversified business helps keep our cooperative strong and stable, and our retail locations play a big part in that. Just as importantly, many of these locations are in small, rural communities where we're more than just a place to stop—we're a vital part of the community itself.

Today, we operate convenience stores in 12 communities, along with an Ace Hardware store, seven Country Store/bag retail locations, and two NAPA Auto Parts stores. We have a lawn care business in Marshfield, two tire/service centers, and an LP/Refined Fuels division that serves homes and businesses across central Wisconsin with propane and fuel oil for home heat. Every one of these departments matter, and it really does take all parts of our cooperative working together to be successful.

Project Updates

This spring marked an exciting milestone for our West Salem agronomy team, as they completed their first season operating out of a newly constructed fertilizer plant. This facility was finished just in time to support the demands of the spring season. As part of this transition, we demolished the former feed mill while preserving the existing feed warehouse. Construction is now underway on a new office at that same site.

Looking ahead, we are excited about breaking ground on a new fertilizer plant in Galesville. These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to growth and our dedication to better serving our customers and communities.

On the retail side, we recently completed remodeling projects at our Cenex convenience stores in Pittsville and Fairchild, and we're preparing for new asphalt at our Northfield location in the near future.

Giving Back

At Allied Cooperative, giving back is at the heart of who we are—both to our customers and to the communities we serve. As a cooperative, our members share in our success through patronage refunds, with cash and equity returned based on the cooperative's performance each year. Both agricultural producer and consumer members are eligible for this patronage. Since 2015, we've returned nearly $120 million to our members through cash patronage and equity retirement. It's a powerful example of what being part of a cooperative can mean.

We also take great pride in supporting the communities where we live and work. With a focus on agriculture, community safety, education, and hunger-related initiatives, we gave back more than $130,000 last year alone.

Our support reaches a wide range of organizations and efforts—from FFA and 4-H to local volunteer fire departments, dairy breakfasts, food pantries, animal shelters, and more. We're proud to support youth through livestock projects and county fairs. And once again this year, we awarded $30,000 in scholarships to children of our members.

Looking Ahead

As we continue through the final stretch of our fiscal year, I want to thank you—our members and communities—for your continued trust and support. Whether you're working with us on the farm, stopping into one of our stores, or relying on our energy services, you are an important part of what makes this cooperative strong.

I also want to recognize our employees. This is a busy season across all of our divisions, and we're grateful for the dedication and effort our team brings each and every day. Their commitment is what keeps everything moving forward.

We're proud of where we are today and excited about where we're headed. With a strong team, a clear focus, and continued investment in our facilities and communities, we're building something that will serve our customers well for years to come.

Thank you for being part of Allied Cooperative.

The Benefits of Raising Your Own Flock

In a world where grocery store shelves are always stocked and convenience is king, more families are choosing something different, raising their own flocks. What once felt like an old-fashioned practice is making a modern comeback, especially among homemakers and everyday shoppers who want more control over what ends up on their family's table.

At first glance, chickens might seem like extra work, but once you look a little closer, they offer something that's hard to find in a carton at the store: freshness, transparency, and a sense of connection to your food.

Backyard eggs are simply different. The yolks are richer, often deep golden and the flavor is noticeably fuller. When your hens are eating a varied diet—grass, bugs, quality feed, and garden goodies—you're getting eggs and meat that reflect that quality. You know exactly how they were raised, what they ate, and that they were collected just hours (not weeks) before breakfast.

Beyond the practical benefits, there's something deeper that draws people in. Chickens bring a rhythm to your day. Feeding them in the morning, collecting eggs in the afternoon, closing the coop at night—it creates a simple routine that feels grounding. For many families balancing busy households, kids, and work, this small daily ritual becomes something calming and rewarding for kids and parents alike.

They're also surprisingly enjoyable! Chickens each have their own personalities—some are curious, some are bossy, some follow you around the yard like little companions. What starts as "just getting eggs" often turns into a genuine hobby.

For those focused on feeding their families well, chickens also open the door to a more sustainable lifestyle. Kitchen scraps don't go to waste—they become treats. Manure can be composted and used in gardens. It's a small but meaningful step toward a more self-sufficient home.

Of course, raising chickens isn't completely effortless. They require care, protection from predators, and attention in all seasons—especially in our Wisconsin Winter, but many find that the benefits far outweigh the effort.

At its heart, raising chickens is about more than eggs or meat. It's about slowing down, being intentional, and reconnecting with where your food comes from. It offers a way to take something ordinary—like breakfast—and make it just a little more meaningful. Once you've cracked open your first fresh egg from your own backyard, it's hard to go back!

by Taylor Willson,
Sales Specialist
Purina Animal Nutrition

Mole Control

by Adam Judy,
Retail Manager, Ace Hardware
ajudy@allied.coop

Many of us know what it's like to have moles in our yard — raised underground channels causing issues while mowing or simply walking in the backyard, the unsightly look of mole hills, or the destruction of root systems in our grass, flowers, and gardens.

I wanted to take a moment to discuss why we might see moles in our yard, along with some ways we can get rid of them and make sure they don't want to come back.

Moles are insectivores, which means they dine primarily on earthworms, grubs, and other small creatures. They are oblivious to the roots and plants they destroy. Moles can dig over 100 feet of tunnels in one night while looking for food and then simply move on — creating havoc on the plants they dig underneath while also providing an ecosystem for a much worse nuisance. Voles (sometimes called meadow mice) are known to utilize unused mole tunnels to get where they need to go, creating even more havoc on backyard flowers, grass, and even trees.

The weakened or damaged turf from mole activity can also make your lawn more prone to weed infestations.

Some ways to take care of moles:

1. Mole traps: Mole traps will effectively eliminate the current mole problem. This is a band-aid fix. Although you may have taken care of one mole, there is no guarantee another one will not come into your yard looking for its next meal.
2. Pellet lime: Pellet lime can help manage moles by altering the soil pH and creating an environment that is less favorable to grubs and earthworms, forcing moles to move elsewhere. Pellet lime also reduces soil acidity and helps encourage a healthier, thicker lawn that can better resist damage.
3. Milky spores: Milky spores are an organic bacterium that kills Japanese beetle grubs. After the grub ingests the spores while feeding, it develops a fatal disease. The spores multiply inside the grub, turning its bodily fluids milky white and killing it within 7–21 days. After the grub dies, the carcass releases billions of new spores, providing long-term, organic control. Milky spores are typically applied to lawns in the spring and fall for three consecutive years, providing up to seven additional years of protection without further application.

If you already have mole damage:

1. Flatten the ridges with your feet or a lawn roller. This will reconnect the roots to the soil.
2. Reseed if the grass is dead. I recommend 1–2 lbs. of grass seed per 1,000 sq. ft.
3. Apply pellet lime to your lawn to help with growth and minimize insect and grub populations. I recommend about 25 lbs. of pellet lime per 1,000 sq. ft., or 250 lbs. per ¼ acre.
4. Check to see if you have a grub issue:

   a. If patches of turf pull up easily from the soil — almost like rolling back a rug — grubs may be feeding on the roots.

   b. With a shovel, remove a 1 sq. ft. area of your lawn. Soil containing more than 5–10 grubs per square foot indicates an infestation.

With any luck, you can create a yard where your grass flourishes and your mole problem is eliminated. Milky spores and pellet lime are sold at your local Allied Cooperative Ace Hardware, and as always, ***Ace is the place with the helpful hardware folks.***

Don't Overlook Your Tires:
What to Watch for with Tread Wear and Tire Aging

Your tires are one of the most important safety features on your vehicle yet they're often overlooked until there's a problem. Good tires help with braking, handling, fuel economy, and overall driving safety. Taking a few minutes to regularly inspect your tires can help prevent costly repairs, improve performance, and most importantly, keep you safe on the road.

Check Your Tire Tread Regularly

Tread depth plays a major role in traction, especially during rain, snow, and wet road conditions. As tread wears down, tires lose their ability to grip the road and channel water away effectively.

You should also look for:

- Uneven tread wear
- Bald spots
- Cracks or cuts in the tread
- Bulges or bubbles in the sidewall

Uneven wear can sometimes indicate alignment issues, improper tire pressure, or suspension problems that should be addressed before they lead to bigger repairs.

Tire Age Matters Too

Even if your tires still have decent tread, age can become a concern. Over time, rubber naturally begins to dry out and break down, especially when exposed to sunlight, heat, and changing temperatures.

Signs of tire aging include:

- Dry rot or cracking in the sidewall
- Small cracks between tread blocks
- Vibration while driving
- Tires that feel hard or brittle

Most manufacturers recommend paying close attention to tires once they reach around six years of age, regardless of tread depth. Tires older than ten years should generally be replaced.

Proper Maintenance Helps Tires Last Longer

A few simple maintenance habits can extend tire life and improve performance:

- Keep tires inflated to the recommended pressure
- Rotate tires regularly
- Maintain proper wheel alignment
- Avoid overloading your vehicle

Proper tire pressure is especially important. Underinflated tires wear faster, reduce fuel economy, and can increase the risk of tire failure.

One simple way to check tread depth is the "penny test." Insert a penny into the tread groove with Lincoln's head facing down. If you can see the top of his head, your tread is getting too low and it may be time to replace the tire.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you're unsure about the condition of your tires, stop in and let our team take a look. We can inspect tread depth, check for signs of aging or uneven wear, and help you determine when it's time for replacement. A quick tire inspection today can help avoid problems down the road — and give you peace of mind every time you drive.

Mauston Tire Shop
310 Prairie St, Mauston
608-847-1640

Stratford Tire & Service Center
118723 State Hwy 153, Stratford
715-687-4139

Cool Treats & Canine Fun are in Store!

Mark your calendars and grab the leash — our annual Doggie Ice Cream Social is coming up on July 18 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Central Wisconsin Country Store in Marshfield! This free community event is always a tail-wagging good time and a wonderful opportunity for pet owners and their four-legged friends to enjoy a fun-filled summer morning together.

Guests can look forward to a variety of activities designed especially for dogs and their humans. Highlights include an agility obstacle course where pups can test their skills, a Q&A session with Dan Leonard, a "make-your-own" dog cookie station, and a fun photo backdrop perfect for capturing memories with furry companions.

Every guest will receive a complimentary gift bag packed with treats and toys, along with a special bandana for their dog. Both pets and owners can also cool off with refreshing summertime treats while enjoying the event atmosphere.

We hope you'll join us for a morning full of smiles, treats, and plenty of wagging tails! The Central Wisconsin Country Store is located at 106 S. Peach Avenue in Marshfield — trust us, it's worth the drive.

Small Maintenance Steps Can Make a Big Difference at the Pump

by Kevin Bucel,
NAPA Auto Parts Manager
kbucel@allied.coop

With fuel prices continuing to put pressure on household and farm budgets, many drivers are looking for ways to stretch every gallon a little further. While none of us can control the price at the pump, there are several simple maintenance habits that can help improve fuel mileage and keep your vehicle running efficiently.

One of the easiest places to start is with proper tire pressure. Underinflated tires create more rolling resistance, forcing your vehicle to work harder and burn more fuel. Checking tire pressure regularly and keeping tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended levels can help improve mileage while also extending tire life.

Keeping your engine in top condition is just as important. A clean engine air filter helps your engine breathe properly and maintain efficient performance. If your vehicle has an accessible fuel filter, replacing it at recommended intervals can also help maintain fuel flow and efficiency. Small maintenance items like these are inexpensive compared to the long-term cost of poor fuel economy.

Spark plugs are another often-overlooked component when it comes to mileage. Worn or incorrect spark plugs can reduce engine performance and fuel efficiency. Using the spark plugs recommended for your specific vehicle is important — cheaper "economy" plugs may save a few dollars upfront, but they can sometimes cost you more over time through reduced mileage and performance.

Driving habits also play a major role in fuel economy. Higher speeds typically mean lower fuel efficiency, especially on the highway. Simply slowing down a few miles per hour and avoiding aggressive acceleration can make a noticeable difference at the pump.

At Allied's NAPA Auto Parts stores, we're here to help you keep your vehicle in top shape with quality parts, filters, spark plugs, maintenance supplies, and expert advice. A few simple maintenance steps today can help save fuel, improve performance, and keep your vehicle dependable for the miles ahead.

NAPA AUTO PARTS

branded detergent packages. But what goes into that final step makes a meaningful difference in engine performance and long-term durability.

That's where Top Tier gasoline stands apart.

Developed in 2004, Top Tier fuel was created to exceed the minimum detergent requirements set for gasoline. Its purpose is simple but important: reduce carbon buildup and prevent deposits on critical engine components like intake valves. These deposits can lead to rough idling, hesitation during acceleration, engine knocking, and reduced fuel economy.

An extensive study by AAA found that higher-quality fuel with enhanced detergent standards can provide measurable benefits. In fact, consumers may be wise to consider fuel quality—not just price—when making purchasing decisions.

Why Top Tier Matters Today

Modern engines are more advanced than ever. They operate under tighter tolerances, higher compression ratios, and stricter emissions standards while also being engineered for improved fuel efficiency. These improvements, however, also make engines more sensitive to deposit buildup over time.

Because of this, several major automakers—including Audi, BMW, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mercedes-Benz, Subaru, Toyota, and Volkswagen—now recommend Top Tier gasoline to help maintain engine performance and emissions standards over the life of the vehicle.

One of the key advantages for consumers is simplicity: when you purchase fuel from a Top Tier retailer, all grades of gasoline must meet those elevated detergent standards. That means you don't need to upgrade to premium fuel to benefit from the cleaning protection.

Even in times of higher fuel prices, Cenex Top Tier Gasoline delivers added value by helping protect your engine and maintain fuel efficiency over time.

The Same Commitment to Quality in Diesel Fuel

That commitment to performance and protection extends beyond gasoline.

Cenex Roadmaster XL® and Ruby Fieldmaster Premium Diesel are designed specifically for today's demanding diesel engines, whether on the road or in the field.

These high-performance fuels are engineered to provide superior lubricity, improved combustion, and enhanced engine protection compared to conventional diesel.

Key Benefits of Cenex Premium Diesel

- Enhanced Performance: Higher cetane levels (typically 48 or above) support cleaner combustion, improved power, and fuel economy gains of up to 5%.
- Engine Protection: Advanced detergent additives help prevent injector deposits and coking—critical for modern high-pressure fuel systems.
- Superior Lubricity: Improves lubricity by 10–15%, reducing wear on injectors and fuel pumps and extending component life.
- Improved Cold Weather Performance: Helps reduce fuel filter plugging and improves fuel stability, minimizing downtime in challenging conditions.
- Lower Maintenance Costs: Helps reduce soot buildup and diesel particulate filter (DPF) regeneration frequency, lowering overall maintenance needs.
- Consistent Quality: Terminal-blended additives ensure precise, reliable performance without the variability of aftermarket fuel additives.

Fuel Quality That Pays Off Over Time

While fuel prices may fluctuate, the long-term value of higher-quality fuel remains consistent. Better detergency, improved engine protection, and enhanced efficiency all contribute to reduced wear and potentially lower maintenance costs over the life of your equipment or vehicle.

As a Cenex fuel provider, our focus is not just on fuel—but on helping customers get the most out of every gallon.

by Troy Thompson,
Director of Refined Fuels / C-Stores
tthompson@allied.coop

Spring Grain Markets... and Birthdays

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

The greatest days of the year are not always marked by holidays, special events or birthdays (more on that later). To me, the best days are the first few days of May. Unlike most, seeing the first few dandelions in the yard doesn't make me get out the "Weed B Gone". It gives me a feeling of relief. Seeing the planters roll through the field being baptized in dust and diesel smoke along with the dandelions are all a promises of spring fulfilled. I like to think that dust cloud is the land's way of giving us its blessing the only way it knows how. The grain markets are seeing better days as well. Right on time.

If you have been reading my articles you know I have not been terribly optimistic on the grain markets. The huge Brazilian bean crop , lack of exports and U.S. beans being about $1.20 higher on the world market than Brazilian beans keep my optimism tempered. But, as for now, the funds largely seem to be ignoring the burdensome Brazilian crop and focusing on the situation in the U.S.

The U.S. will crush a record amount of beans this year for oil. We are crushing way more beans than we export which is a very good thing. We cannot rely on China to soak up the huge amounts of beans as they used to. That market is maturing. I've spoken many times in the past about how we need to find more domestic markets for soybeans and it looks like we are finding them. New crop bean futures hit $11 today. The highest we have seen in three years. The speculator loves the bean complex for now. Beans, bean oil and meal all look underpriced to where other commodity indices are, and the funds have bought into it to the tune of 400,000+ contracts.

How big this long position will get is hard to say but it can go away quickly. The big Brazilian crop isn't going away. We are $1.20 overpriced on the world market. How many bean acres are we gaining every day in the U.S? The June USDA report may give us an idea, but I bet it's larger than previous guesses. Be aware of these things and make some new crop sales.

Seasonal corn is also moving higher as it often does this time of year. The drought in the hard red winter wheat areas and continued strong exports are supporting it. American corn is cheap compared to other commodities and is of good quality. It also doesn't have a lot of competition right now. Expect a record year for exports. Some are also trying to make a story that the high cost of fertilizer will cause a production cut. That remains to be seen but we are doing our best to chew through last year's record crop. If oil continues to stay strong this upward momentum for corn should also continue. As in the case of beans, we should be making sales into this rally. New crop cash corn is approaching $4.60 which is the highest it's been in 3 years. Maybe even look at 2027 new corn. We can get you a contract for that also. The months of May and June prove to be good times to sell grain.

As I write this, it is my birthday. I feel lucky to have it in the first week of May. Birthdays used to feel heavy to me as they sometimes can when we dwell on our own self mortality but, like today in the grain markets, this one feels different. I think I'll give the big tractor and planter the day off. I think I'll give the dandelions a haircut on the old Cub Cadet that shares my age and burns oil like it's Kuwait in 1991. I think I'll take a local crop tour in my old C10 Chevrolet that also shares my age. I'll see if the cassette player still works with some Bob Seger and Merle Haggard tapes I'll find in the glove box. I'll drink my favorite sour mash from a coffee cup and irritate my wife and teenagers like only I can. I think you should do the same.

Hope you all have a safe planting season.

Planning Ahead for Your LP Needs

Prepay & Budget Contracts

In July 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. Like last year, if you are enrolled in the budget program your budget will automatically be renewed. There is no need to return any additional paperwork.

New this year: Our Budget Program is from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The Prepay contract starts October 1, 2026 and runs through April 30, 2027.

Scheduled Delivery

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. We can't emphasize the value of this program enough – both to you and your cooperative. With this program, the truck is automatically dispatched to your tank when it is between 20 and 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 years 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.

Tank Monitors

If you choose to check your own tank gauge vs. being on the scheduled delivery program, we suggest you consider a new tank monitor. These monitors give you the ability to know what is in your tank at all times through our mobile app. This is a great value add for commercial and agricultural customers, customers with second homes, generator users, or customers who have mobility issues or difficulty checking their tank. Knowing what's in your tank helps avoid same-day or after-hours/weekend charges.

by Jeff Bunker,
Director of Propane
jbunker@allied.coop

For more information on these programs or to discuss which will best fit your family's needs 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**

Are You Handy?

Give Your LP Tank a Fresh Look!

Has your leased LP tank seen better days? If it's looking a little weathered or worn, now might be a great time to give it a fresh coat of paint.

If you're willing to do the work, Allied Cooperative will provide the paint to help spruce up your tank and improve its appearance around your home or farm.

A freshly painted tank not only looks better, it also helps protect the tank from the elements and extend its life.

If you're interested or would like more information, contact your local Allied Cooperative LP Customer Service Representative today!

Use It While It Still Matters

Planting is behind us, and now the crop is starting to show what kind of season we're heading into. As you go through the rest of this newsletter, you're going to see a lot of important topics. Stand evaluation, nitrogen timing, weed control, tissue testing, and fungicide decisions. All of those decisions matter.

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

They all come back to one thing, what is actually happening across your fields right now. That starts with the data we just created during planting. Most of the time, that information doesn't get touched until winter. By then, you're trying to remember what happened, fix maps, and line everything up after the fact. It works, but it is a lot harder than it needs to be.

Fix It Now, Not This Winter

Now is the time to check planting information. Make sure variety maps are right. Make sure hybrids are actually where you think they are. If something is off, this is the easiest time to fix it. Trying to fix planting maps and yield maps at the same time after harvest turns into a mess. Fixing it now means yield will already be tied to the right varieties when you get to fall. It is quicker, and more importantly, it is accurate.

Don't Lose Your Trials

That same idea carries into side by sides and product trials. Every year there are good trials that don't get used the way they should because they were not mapped clearly. A flag gets missed. A trial gets harvested into. By fall, it is more of a guess than a comparison. Whether it is done through the planter, application equipment, or mapping software, getting those trials mapped now allows you to harvest both the crop and the data at the same time.

Weigh wagons still have their place. There is value in being out there and seeing it firsthand. But if you do not want to slow things down or coordinate around plots, mapping gives you another way to capture that data without the extra steps. Working with your Allied Agronomy Advisor, or even our summer interns, we can help get those areas set up so they are actually usable later.

Use Imagery to Support In-Season Decisions

As the crop keeps moving, this is where in-season tools start to matter more. Aerial imagery is one of the easiest ways to see what is going on across the entire field, not just what you catch from the road or walking a few spots. We are getting updates every five to seven days, so it is not a one-time snapshot. It is a running look at how the crop is responding.

You will see uneven emergence. You will see areas that are ahead or behind. You will see spots that probably deserve a closer look before making decisions on nitrogen, weed control, or tissue testing. When it comes to fungicide, it gives you a better feel for the whole field, not just the good looking areas or the worst ones.

Tie It Back to Where ROI Comes From

Where this really starts to matter is when you combine that imagery with what you already know about the field. Yield history and soil data like cation exchange capacity (CEC) tell you where a field has consistently performed. That is usually where your best return comes from. Imagery adds what is happening this year—weather, water, stress, all the things that do not show up the same every season.

When you put those together, you get a much clearer picture of where inputs are actually going to pay. That is where variable rate nitrogen starts to make more sense. Instead of treating the whole field the same, you can use those layers to adjust side dress rates across the field. Areas that have a history of performing that still look good this year can justify more investment. Areas that are struggling might not. Especially in a year like this, where costs and margins matter, being more intentional about where those dollars go makes a difference.

It Doesn't Have to Be Perfect

None of this has to be perfect to be useful. If your data is connected through Climate, Case IH Field OpsTM, AgFiniti®, or John Deere Operations Center™ it is easier to work with. If it is not, we can still pull it and make sense of it. The goal is not perfect data. It is usable data.

Work With Your Agronomy Advisor

At the end of the day, all the topics in this newsletter tie together. Using your data and tools like imagery helps make sure those decisions are based on what is actually happening across your fields, not just one spot or one pass.

Final Thought

Most of the answers you are looking for this season are already in your fields. The question is whether you are set up to use that information while it still matters.

What's at Risk When Nitrogen Goes Unprotected

Ginny Block,
Agronomy Advisor
gblock@allied.coop

Unprotected nitrogen is vulnerable from the moment it hits the soil. Warm temperatures accelerate the conversion of ammonium to nitrate, the form most prone to leaching and denitrification. Heavy rains can wash nitrate deep into the soil profile, out of reach of developing corn roots. Surface-applied urea or UAN can volatilize within days if not incorporated or treated with a urease inhibitor. Losing 20 to 40 pounds isn't unusual in a wet spring like we have had this year. If we think about losing 40 pounds of nitrogen, that's roughly $36 per acre, along with potential yield loss on top of that. In a market where every bushel counts, we cannot afford to watch our nitrogen leave. We may not be able to control the weather, but we can control how prepared we are for it.

Added Insurance

We are able to protect our nitrogen investments before they hit the soil. AnvolTM, Instinct®, and N-Serve® are all options available to help protect nitrogen sources. While they each serve different purposes, all are beneficial in reducing nitrogen loss. Going into topdress season, the product we need to focus on is Anvol. Volatilization is the process of converting urea products into a gas after the urease enzyme reacts with urea fertilizer granules, allowing nitrogen to be lost to the atmosphere. As a urease inhibitor, Anvol helps reduce this reaction, minimizing urea volatilization and protecting applied nitrogen.

The Window That Matters

In addition to protecting nitrogen with stabilizers, a great way to mitigate nitrogen loss is to split nitrogen applications. Splitting applications allows nitrogen to be applied during peak crop uptake, reducing the potential for loss. Corn's nitrogen demand spikes between the V6 and VT growth stages, making sidedress applications a critical tool for maintaining yield potential. Applications are generally recommended between V3 and V8, when the crop can still respond strongly. Applications made after V10 show diminishing returns, and by V12 the crop's ability to benefit from additional nitrogen drops sharply.

How to Tell if Your Corn Needs More Nitrogen

As we approach topdress season, some growers may be wondering if their corn crop needs more nitrogen, since deciding whether to make a second pass is a critical decision. We are able to run some tests to help diagnose plant nitrogen levels. Tissue sampling is a great tool to determine what is currently available within the plant. Pulling tissue samples can also address more than just nitrogen needs, giving insight into other nutrients and potential deficiencies. In addition, a Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT) can provide insight into what is still available in the soil profile. Samples taken at V4–V6 can reveal whether the soil has enough nitrate to support the crop through its rapid growth phase. Visual symptoms such as yellowing leaves and uneven growth can also signal deficiency; however, by that point, some yield may already be sacrificed.

The New Era of Nitrogen Management

The days of applying all nitrogen up front and hoping for the best are quickly fading. Today's nitrogen market does not allow growers to "lose" nitrogen. The best thing a grower can do is understand their operation and identify where potential losses can occur. From there, the right tools can be used to protect nitrogen investments. If you are questioning nitrogen loss in your fields this year, let's use the tools available to determine whether a topdress application is needed.

How's the crop?

by Allison Hunter,
Agronomy Advisor
ahunter@allied.coop

June has arrived, and we've made it through the spring planting rush. Long days, a few frustrations, but the crop is in the ground and—hopefully—"growing like weeds."

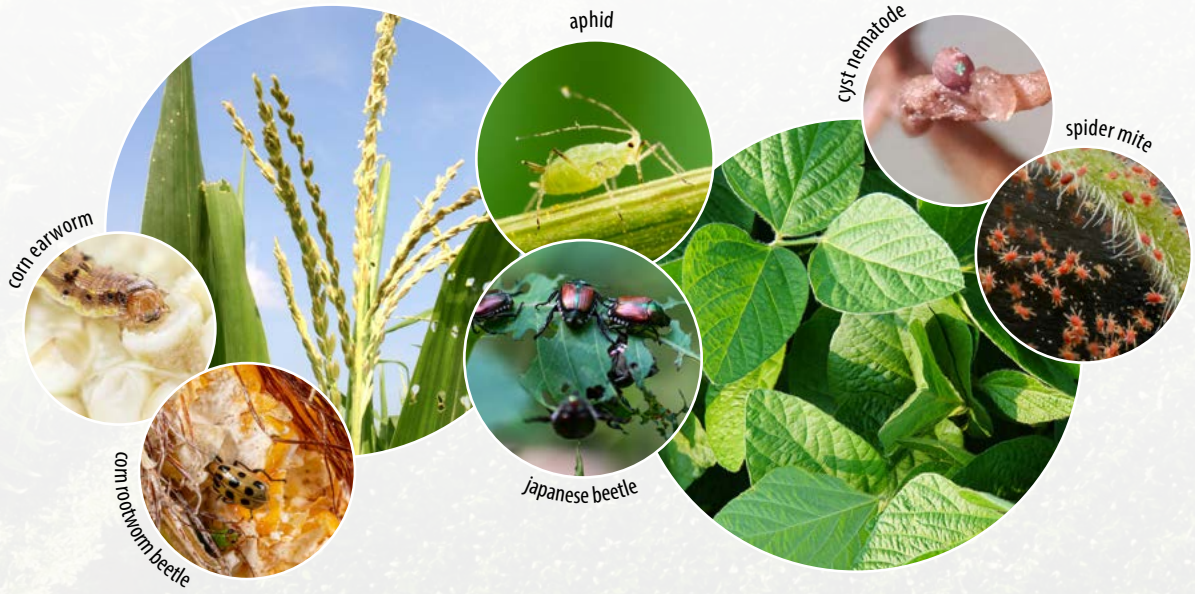
Speaking of weeds, now is the ideal time to stay on top of late-season escapes. Be mindful of crop stage and plant height restrictions when planning post-emerge applications. If you're considering a cleanup pass, it may be a good opportunity to include a foliar application of micronutrients or even a fungicide, depending on field conditions.

This time of year, success often comes down to managing the small details. Nutrient deficiencies are still correctable, and timely action can protect yield potential. Corn is entering a rapid growth phase during June, where nitrogen and potassium demands are high. If side-dress applications are still planned, consider incorporating micronutrients such as boron and sulfur to support plant health and development.

Soybeans are beginning to transition into reproductive stages. With June 21 marking the longest day of the year, decreasing daylight will trigger flowering. Maintaining healthy flowering nodes is critical for yield, and alongside macronutrients, micronutrient applications can play a key role. Products such as Max-In® Boron or Max-In® ZMB® are worth considering to support reproductive development.

Now is also the time to begin scouting more aggressively for insect pressure. Aphids and Japanese beetles are common in both corn and soybeans and can significantly impact yield if left unmanaged. As we move closer to tasseling in corn, watch for earworms, fall armyworms, corn rootworm, and western bean cutworm. In soybeans, continue monitoring for spider mites and areas that may indicate soybean cyst nematode (SCN) presence. In-season is an ideal time to sample for SCN, so consider working with your agronomy advisor to target symptomatic areas.

As the season progresses, disease pressure will begin to build. Regular field scouting and planning for fungicide applications can help preserve yield. In corn, fungicide timing may range from V4–V5 or as early as V10 and into tasseling, depending on the product and conditions. For soybeans, target an R3 application timing for optimal disease control and plant health, always following label recommendations.



Tissue Testing
A Small Investment To Protect Yield

by Eli Strebig,
Agronomy Advisor
estrebig@allied.coop

Tissue testing is one of the most useful and inexpensive agronomy tools available to growers. While soil tests show what nutrients are available in the soil, tissue tests reveal what the plant is actually taking up. That distinction makes tissue testing especially valuable for identifying hidden nutrient deficiencies early enough to correct them before yield potential is lost. At roughly $45 per sample, tissue testing can provide valuable insight into whether a fertility program is truly working under current field conditions.

Is Tissue Testing Worth It?

In many situations, tissue testing can deliver a strong return on investment, particularly in:

- High-yield systems with greater nutrient demand
- Fields with variability or a history of fertility issues
- Situations where in-season applications, such as sidedress or foliar feeding, are practical

The real value comes from making timely nutrient corrections that help protect yield.

Why Timing Matters

Early vegetative stages are typically the best time to tissue sample because there is still time to respond to deficiencies. Mid-season sampling can help fine-tune nutrient management, while late-season samples are generally more informational and useful for future planning.

Consistency is also important. Samples should be taken from the same plant part and at the same growth stage to ensure reliable results.

Why Early Sampling Drives ROI

Early tissue sampling helps:

- Prevent irreversible yield loss
- Identify deficiencies while corrective action is still effective
- Improve the efficiency of fertilizer investments
- Support more accurate, data-driven in-season decisions

Without tissue testing, growers are often left guessing whether their fertility program performed as expected. In some cases, underapplication or nutrient loss may go unnoticed until yield has already been affected.

Common Early-Season Deficiencies and Corrections

Several nutrient deficiencies commonly appear early in the growing season:

Nitrogen (N): Yellowing on older leaves
Fix: Sidedress UAN, urea, or anhydrous ammonia

Sulfur (S): Yellowing on newer leaves
Fix: Apply AMS or ATS early

Phosphorus (P): Purpling or slow growth
Fix: Symptoms often improve as soils warm, though phosphorus sources such as DAP may help

Potassium (K): Leaf edge burn or firing
Fix: Potash applications or foliar feeding can provide short-term relief

Micronutrients: Striping or stunting
Fix: Early-season foliar applications are often effective

Best Uses for Tissue Testing

Tissue testing is particularly effective for:

- Adjusting sidedress nitrogen rates mid-season
- Confirming sulfur deficiencies, which are becoming increasingly common
- Identifying potassium shortages during periods of rapid crop growth
- Evaluating nutrient uptake after significant weather events

Split nitrogen programs especially benefit from tissue testing, as heavy rainfall can increase the risk of nutrient loss.

Weather Plays a Major Role

Environmental conditions greatly influence nutrient availability and uptake:

- Heavy rainfall can lead to nitrogen loss and sulfur leaching
- Dry conditions can limit nutrient uptake
- Cool soils can restrict phosphorus availability

Tissue testing helps determine whether a fertility plan is still performing under current conditions, not just according to what was planned in the spring.

Final Thoughts

Tissue testing works best as part of a complete in-season management strategy. Regular scouting, timely sampling, and quick corrective action can help identify problems early and protect yield potential. For a relatively small investment, tissue testing can provide valuable information that supports more efficient nutrient management throughout the growing season.

Setting the Stage for Season-Long Weed Control

by Pat Cauley,
Agronomy Advisor
pcauley@allied.coop

Much of the corn is up and growing, and a lot of it has had a herbicide application recently. Now is not the time to park the sprayer and avoid checking fields until harvest. As many people know, we had record-setting temperatures in March, along with above-average rainfall and temperatures in April. I'm not great at math, but moisture + heat = optimum conditions for weeds to germinate. Much of the no-till ground this year started to green up earlier than normal, which warranted an early burndown to start clean at planting. If you were unable to, or did not, complete a burndown or tillage pass, there is a good chance the fields were pretty green at planting. This makes it tough for residual chemistries to penetrate emerged weeds and get good soil contact, which is required for proper activation.

Scouting and knowing which vegetative growth stage your crop is at is critical when making post-emerge herbicide applications. Many labels have a "cutoff" that restricts certain chemicals from being applied during different crop growth stages. For example, atrazine should not be applied to corn after the 11-inch stage, and soybean pre's containing sulfentrazone or flumioxazin cannot be applied after the beans have started to crack through the ground. If you need assistance identifying weeds or determining crop growth stage before making herbicide applications, please call your agronomy advisor for assistance.

One of the biggest and most overlooked components of herbicide efficacy and weed control is having the correct adjuvant in the tank. Adjuvants help increase absorption, canopy penetration, and coverage. They can be the difference between a herbicide working or not working. With increasingly complex tank mixes being used to control weeds like waterhemp, an adjuvant is absolutely necessary. There are many different adjuvants on the market, but not all are created equal. Doing your homework and understanding what you are buying is critical for effective weed control. Some of the most common adjuvants are non-ionic surfactants, crop oils, and methylated seed oils.

- Non-ionic surfactants work by reducing the surface tension of the water droplet, allowing it to spread across the leaf surface and remain in place longer to increase uptake.
- Crop Oil Concentrates (COC) and Methylated Seed Oils (MSO) work well with contact herbicides. They are very effective at penetrating waxy leaf cuticles to help move the herbicide into the plant. Reading the label is important to determine which adjuvant the herbicide requires. Crop response is typically less with a COC than with an MSO, but sometimes a small amount of crop response is sacrificed to achieve effective weed control.
- Ammonium sulfate is critical for conditioning water to prevent antagonism from hard water cations when mixing weak acid herbicides such as glyphosate. There are also adjuvant pre-mixes available that contain both a water conditioner and a non-ionic surfactant, such as Class Act.

Weed control is constantly changing and becoming more complex as conditions and weed pressures evolve. Starting with a clean field always "sets the stage" for a better chance of maintaining a clean field through harvest. For post-emerge herbicide applications, knowing the crop stage can prevent many potential issues. Lastly, make sure you have the right adjuvant in the tank. Sometimes you only get one chance, so make sure it counts. Have a good and safe rest of the summer.

June Means It's Time to Ask:
What's Your Fungicide Plan?

by Tyler Prudlick,
Agronomy Advisor
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June is here, and crop protection priorities have shifted. Corn is sprayed, soybeans should have their first pass down, second-pass planning is beginning, and sidedress season is underway. While nitrogen is top of mind this time of year, fungicide planning should be right there with it. For many growers, fungicide becomes a conversation later in the season—but strong ROI often starts with planning ahead.

Not all fungicides are created equal, and this is where product selection matters. A fungicide program shouldn't just be about making an application—it should be about protecting your crop from the diseases that matter most on your farm.

In Wisconsin, that starts with understanding the biggest threats.

For corn growers, tar spot has quickly become the headline disease concern, with gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight still playing major roles depending on geography, rotation, and residue levels. For soybean growers, white mold remains one of the biggest fungicide conversations, especially in tighter canopies and higher-yield environments.

Knowing what disease you're trying to stop is critical because product choice matters. A lower-cost fungicide may look appealing upfront, but if it lacks the disease spectrum, residual, or multiple modes of action needed to truly protect yield, those savings can disappear quickly.

For corn acres where tar spot is a major focus, premium products like Miravis® Neo, Delaro® Complete, and Veltyma® continue to lead the conversation because of their broad-spectrum control and stronger residual activity.

On soybeans, broad foliar products like Delaro Complete, Miravis Top, and Revytek® remain strong options, while true white mold programs should focus on products like Aproach® or Endura® when white mold is the primary target.

With lower commodity prices and increased input costs, it's natural to question every dollar spent. But tighter margins do not automatically mean fungicide should be cut. In many cases, fungicide becomes even more important when every bushel counts. By the time June rolls around, most growers already have significant dollars invested in seed, fertility, herbicide, and crop establishment. Protecting that investment from diseases like tar spot or white mold is often more about defending yield potential than adding cost.

The goal isn't simply to spend less—it's to protect ROI.

Choosing the right fungicide and matching it to your field's disease pressure can help preserve bushels that are already being paid for elsewhere in the program.

Just as important as product selection is having the right application plan in place. Speak with your local Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor about the different application options available—including high-clearance sprayers, helicopter, and drone application—to build a fungicide program and application strategy that best fits your operation.

At the end of the day, fungicide is more than a product—it's a crop protection strategy.

In Wisconsin, that means knowing what diseases matter most on your farm, choosing the right product for those threats, and making sure the application gets done when timing matters.

As the season moves forward, it's time to ask: What's your fungicide plan?

Alfalfa Management

Jake Rueth,
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Successful alfalfa production begins with sound management decisions made throughout the life of the stand. Fertility, harvest timing, insect monitoring, and knowing when to terminate a stand all play major roles in maintaining forage quality and yield.

Fertility

Proper fertility is the foundation of a productive alfalfa stand. Alfalfa has a high demand for potassium (K) and phosphorus (P), and soil testing should guide nutrient applications before seeding and throughout the stand's life. Soil pH should be maintained between 6.8 and 7.2 to maximize nutrient availability and nitrogen fixation by rhizobia bacteria. Unlike grasses, alfalfa does not require nitrogen fertilizer. It does, however, need adequate sulfur and boron, which enhance protein levels and the stand's longevity. Potassium is especially important for winter survival, disease resistance, and regrowth after cutting, so regular replacement of removed nutrients is critical.

Timing the First Cutting

The first cutting sets the tone for the entire season. For the best balance of forage quality and tonnage, first cutting should generally occur at the late bud stage. Cutting earlier improves forage quality but reduces yield and may weaken stands over time. Delaying harvest increases tonnage but lowers protein and digestibility. In general, many producers target 28 inches of growth in spring. When making the final decision of when to cut, weather can be a major factor.

Scouting and Managing Alfalfa Weevils

Alfalfa weevils are one of the most economically damaging insects in alfalfa, especially during early growth. Scouting should begin when alfalfa reaches 6 inches tall in spring. Look for small larvae and feeding damage, which typically begins as small pinholes in the leaves and, within a few days, can become skeletonized. Management decisions should be made at this time and are based on both larval feeding and plant height. If populations exceed economic thresholds, the following options should be considered: an early harvest if harvest was planned within the next seven days, or scheduling an insecticide application.

Terminating Alfalfa Stands

An alfalfa stand should be terminated when productivity and stand health decline to the point that it is no longer economically profitable. The most common indicator is yields falling below 3 to 4 tons per acre per year. Stand age is also a factor, as many stands tend to decline after 4 years. Older stands with fewer than 5 healthy plants per square foot have a greater increase in weed pressure, which hinders yield and quality.

The preferred timing to terminate alfalfa is in the fall. Alfalfa should have at least 6 inches of regrowth and be roughly 4 weeks from a killing frost. This method helps ensure a good start in the spring without delaying planting for the next crop. Spring termination can also be a good option ahead of a corn crop to maximize the nitrogen credit available from the alfalfa. However, challenging wet springs can make timely termination difficult.

Good alfalfa management is a season-long process. Attention to fertility, harvest timing, insect pressure, and stand condition helps ensure high yields, excellent forage quality, and long-term profitability.

Investing in the Future with Facility Improvements

Across Allied Cooperative's agronomy division, progress is taking shape through several major construction projects designed to strengthen service, improve efficiency, and better support our customers for years to come. From new facilities to expanded storage and upgraded technology, these investments reflect Allied's ongoing commitment to delivering dependable agronomy solutions when and where they are needed most.

AUBURNDALE WAREHOUSE ALREADY DELIVERING BENEFITS

Construction of Allied Cooperative's new chemical warehouse in Auburndale is now complete, and the facility is already proving to be a valuable addition for the agronomy team this spring.

The expanded warehouse space is helping improve product organization, inventory management, and operational efficiency during one of the busiest times of the year. Customers can also look forward to seeing the new facility firsthand, as plans are underway for a customer open house later this summer.

BREAKING GROUND IN GALESVILLE

Construction is officially underway on Allied Cooperative's new agronomy facility in Galesville. This exciting project represents a significant investment in the future of our agronomy operations and our ability to serve growers throughout the region.

The new facility will encompass approximately 35,000 square feet, including nearly 13,600 square feet of storage space along with modern office facilities. Designed with the latest automation and technology, the site will help streamline operations, improve blending and loadout accuracy, and reduce customer wait times during the busy planting and harvest seasons.

By increasing storage capacity and improving logistics, the new location will allow Allied to position products more effectively and respond faster during peak demand periods. The overall goal is simple — provide customers with faster service, improved reliability, and the support they need to keep their operations moving efficiently.

Construction is expected to be completed in December 2026, with the facility fully operational and ready to support the 2027 planting season.

IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE IN WEST SALEM

This spring marks the first busy season operating from the newly upgraded West Salem agronomy facility, and the improvements are already making a positive impact.

The new plant has more than doubled fertilizer storage capacity, increasing from 3,000 tons at the previous location to nearly 7,800 tons today. The added storage allows Allied to maintain stronger inventory levels during critical times of the year and position products closer to customers when timing matters most.

Additional improvements are also underway at the site. Crews are currently wrapping up construction on a new agronomy office building, with plans to begin work on a chemical storage facility in the near future.

As these projects continue to move forward, Allied Cooperative remains focused on investing in the infrastructure, technology, and resources needed to support customer success both today and into the future.

Setting Calves Up for Lifetime Success:
Heat Stress, Fetal Programming & Colostrum Management

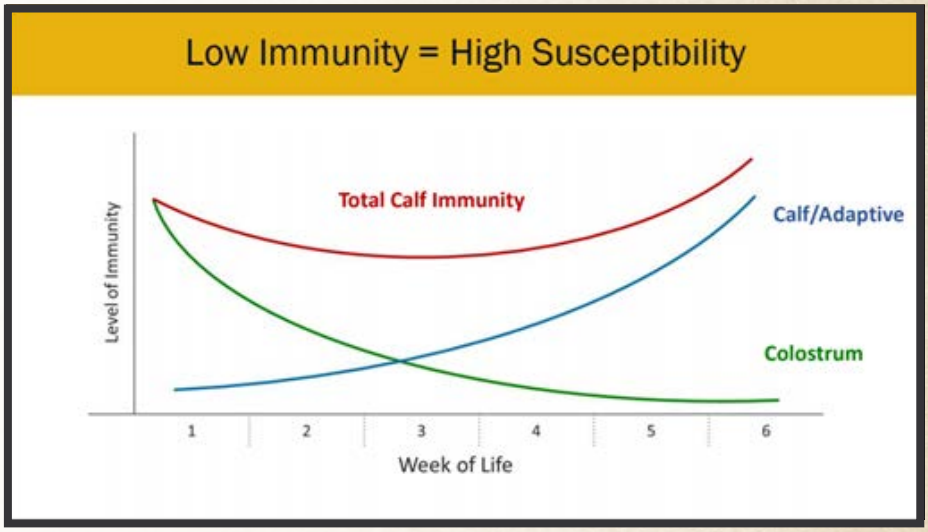
by Ben Stone,
Nutritionist
bstone@landolakes.com

When it comes to raising successful dairy replacements, what happens before birth matters just as much as what happens after. Today's research continues to show that calf health, growth, and future milk production are heavily influenced by both fetal development and early-life management.

The Impact of Heat Stress & Fetal Programming

A calf's future productivity is influenced long before she ever hits the ground. In fact, you could say a calf's success starts nearly four years before she is even born. This concept, known as fetal programming, highlights how the environment and management of the dam affect not only her calf, but future generations as well.

Heat stress during gestation plays a significant role. Calves born to heat-stressed dams have been shown to produce up to 19% less milk and experience lower average daily gain. The effects don't stop there—heat stress can also impact the developing eggs within a heifer calf, meaning the next generation may face poorer immunity and reduced performance. These challenges can continue to carry forward if not addressed.



Colostrum: The First Line of Defense

Because calves are born without a fully developed immune system, colostrum plays a vital role in protecting them during the first weeks of life. This process—known as transfer of immunity—provides essential antibodies until the calf's own immune system becomes fully functional.

Proper colostrum management comes down to three key factors: Quality, Quantity, and Quickness. *See details on the facing page!*

Bringing It All Together

Managing heat stress in dry cows and heifers, combined with strong colostrum protocols, creates a powerful foundation for calf health and future productivity. By focusing on these critical areas, you're not just improving today's calves—you're strengthening the performance of your herd for generations to come.

If you'd like to review your calf program or colostrum management practices, the Allied Cooperative Feed Team is here to help.

THE 3 Q'S OF COLOSTRUM

QUALITY

High-quality colostrum is critical for effective immunity transfer.

Use a Brix refractometer to test colostrum. A reading above 22% indicates good quality.

Colostrum testing below this threshold can still be frozen and utilized for later feedings or supplemented with products like Land O'Lakes colostrum replacer to improve antibody levels.

Remember, higher Brix readings mean higher antibody content.

Clean, sanitary collection equipment is essential to prevent contamination.

Don't overlook first-calf heifers—they can produce high-quality colostrum too.

QUANTITY

Calves need enough colostrum to receive adequate antibodies (IgG).

The goal is at least 300 grams of IgG within the first 12 hours of life for maximum transfer or immunity.

As a guideline, 1 liter of 22% Brix colostrum provides about 50 grams of IgG.

Example feeding program:

First feeding: *4 liters of 22% colostrum=200g IgG*

Second feeding: *3 liters of 15% colostrum=100g IgG*

Total: *300g IgG within 12 hours*

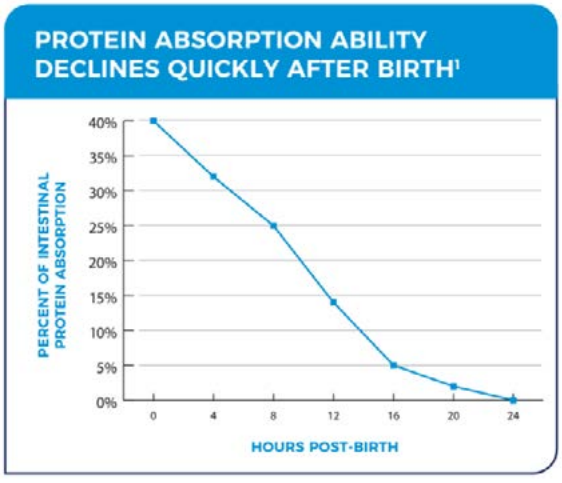
QUICKNESS

Timing is everything when it comes to absorption.

A calf's ability to absorb antibodies declines rapidly after birth.

Provide the first feeding within 4 hours of life, with a second feeding within 12 hours.

Maximizing the first feeding is key to achieving the highest level of immunity transfer.



The Push for Protein

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

Everywhere you look today, there's a big push for protein. From grocery store shelves to advertising campaigns, protein continues to be a major focus for consumers and food manufacturers alike. That demand starts at the farm level, and it's more important than ever to make sure your feeding program is delivering the nutrients your animals need to perform efficiently.

One of the best ways to build a strong feeding program is by knowing the quality of the forage going into the ration. As first crop hay comes off the field, now is the perfect time to work with your nutritionist to pull forage samples. Hay testing provides valuable information about protein, fiber, moisture, and overall feed value, allowing us to better balance rations, improve consistency, and help maximize animal performance while managing feed costs.

At Allied Cooperative, we are continually researching and evaluating new products, technologies, and feeding strategies designed to help animals perform at their peak — efficiently and effectively. Our focus is not only on improving production today, but also on helping build long-term profitability and sustainability for your operation. By combining quality feed ingredients, sound nutrition programs, and proven feed technologies, we strive to help position your farm for success well into the future.

The good news is that ingredient availability remains strong right now. While some feed ingredients can occasionally end up on allocation, we are currently in a very good position and remain highly competitive on commodities and feed ingredients.

With forage season well underway, don't forget we offer inoculants, bunker covers, and other feed storage products to help preserve feed quality and protect your investment.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with your operation and thank you for your continued business and trust in our feed team.

The Critical Role of Transition Cow Management in Dairy Success

John Schneider,
Livestock Production Consultant
jschneider@allied.coop

If you ask a group of dairy producers what the most important stage of lactation is, you're going to get a variety of answers. If you ask a group of nutritionists the same question, most will say the transition period is the most important part of the upcoming lactation. Long gone are the days when dry cows were simply put on pasture in the back 40 and brought back to the barn when they calved. More and more research shows that proper nutrition and management are critical to kickstarting the next lactation.

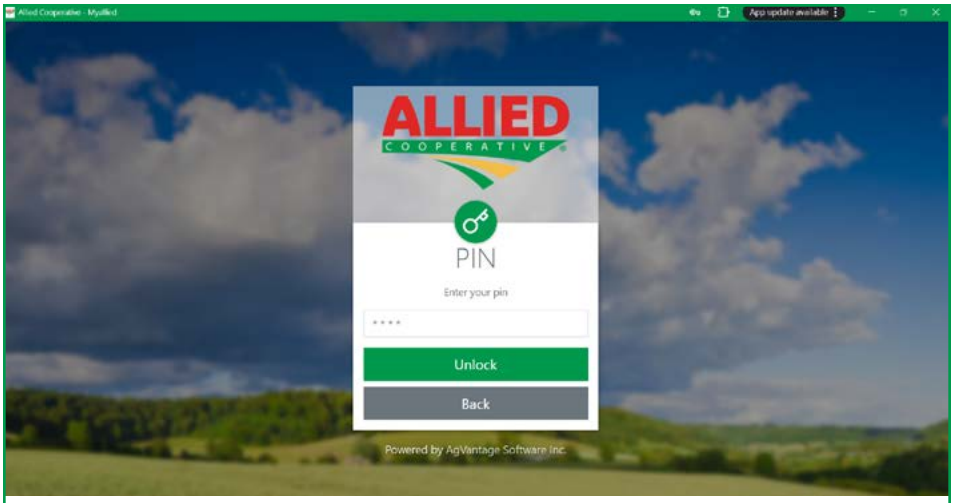
On the nutrition side of the equation, most successful diets are centered around corn silage and straw. These diets allow better manipulation of DCAD (Dietary Cation-Anion Difference) levels in the ration. When balancing a pre-fresh diet, a negative DCAD level helps prevent clinical and subclinical milk fever. Accurate mineral levels are a must when formulating these diets. That is why, when we sample forages used in pre-fresh diets, wet chemistry mineral analysis is vital. Acidity levels should also be monitored through urine pH when feeding these types of diets. Energy requirements are low to moderate, while still keeping a close eye on starch levels. Too much starch in the pre-fresh diet can lead to ketosis issues post-calving. On the other hand, too little energy in the pre-fresh diet can increase the number of metritis cases in a herd. Metabolizable protein (MP) and rumen-protected amino acids are also critical components of the pre-fresh diet. A minimum target for MP is 1,200 g/head/day. These nutrients help set the foundation for increased production post-calving and allow the cow to get off to the best possible start.

Another piece of this puzzle is the overall management of transition cows. Timely feed delivery, frequent feed push-ups, lower stocking densities, minimal pen moves, clean dry pens for calving, and heat abatement are all strategic practices that have a strong effect on transition cow performance. Producers need to provide adequate bunk and stall space. For close-up pre-fresh cows, I like to see a stocking density of around 80%. This provides optimal space for increased dry matter intake (DMI) for all cows, including the more timid ones. Higher DMI can help offset shortcomings in other areas, but it is not a cure-all for mismanagement.

> The transition period is known as the "close-up" (pre-calving) and "fresh" (post-calving) period, typically 21 days before to 21 days after calving.

It is also important not to overlook practices that are sometimes taken for granted. Heat abatement is a commonly missed component of transition cow management. Tools such as soakers, fans, and feed additives can help reduce the impact of lower DMI. Research is also showing negative effects in calves born to cows that experience heat stress during the transition period. This is known as fetal programming, and management during the transition period can influence it both positively and negatively.

As you evaluate your farm's transition cow program, keep these factors in mind. If you have any concerns or would like an outside opinion, please reach out to us at Allied Cooperative. We have multiple experienced nutritionists on staff who can help you reach your performance goals.



Stay Connected and Go Paperless with Allied's Digital Tools

Managing your Allied Cooperative account is simpler than ever with our digital options. With e-Statements and the AgVantage POCKT portal, you can access important account information anytime, stay organized, and manage your business when it works best for you.

Skip the Mailbox—Get Your Statements Instantly

Switching to e-Statements means you no longer have to wait for the mail to arrive. Your statements are delivered straight to your inbox, helping you stay on top of your finances without delay.

BENEFITS OF E-STATEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Faster access – no waiting on postal delivery
- Improved security – direct delivery to your email
- Environmentally friendly – reduces paper usage
- Cost savings – helps lower cooperative expenses, benefiting all members

Getting started is quick and easy. Visit allied.coop/credit to complete the short enrollment form, or email credit@allied.coop with your account name and number and request to switch to email statements.

Take Control with the AgVantage POCKT Portal

For even more convenience, explore the AgVantage POCKT (Portal of Communication, Knowledge & Technology). This online tool puts account management at your fingertips.

WITH AGVANTAGE POCKT YOU CAN:

- View your current account balance anytime
- Download monthly statements
- Access prepaid and booking contract details
- Pay bills online via ACH or credit card*
- Search and download detailed invoices

Getting started is easy. Simply visit allied.coop, select Customer Login, or scan the QR code.

**Credit card payments are processed through PayPal and may include processing fees.*

2027 Calendar Photo Contest

Allied Cooperative is 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 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 Sept. 15.

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. Come see what Allied can do for you!

For a list of current openings, visit our website at: **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.**

Scan this QR code with your smart phone

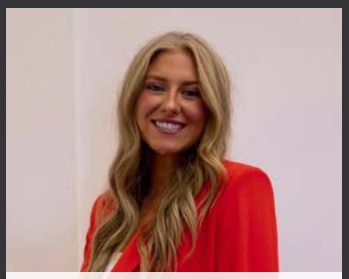
2026 Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2026 Allied Cooperative scholarships. This year our co-op awarded $1,000 scholarships to thirty area students. Recipients were selected based on their academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and an essay.

We congratulate all of this year's winners!

Kacy Anderson
Mindoro, WI

Addison Bailey
Onalaska, WI



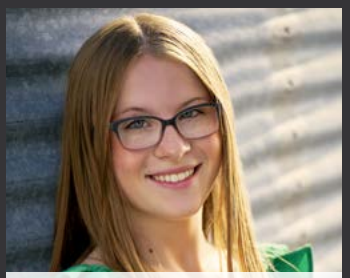
Breeze Bunker
Sparta, WI

Emily Dahlke
Adams, WI

Kayden Hockerman
Westfield, WI

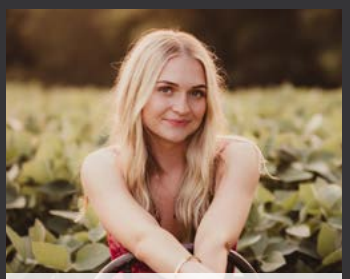
Benjamin Kidd
Blair, WI

Dawson Luther
Pittsville, WI



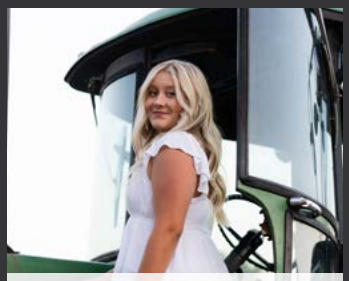
Ava Medo
Birnamwood, WI

Bailey Pronschinske
Mondovi, WI

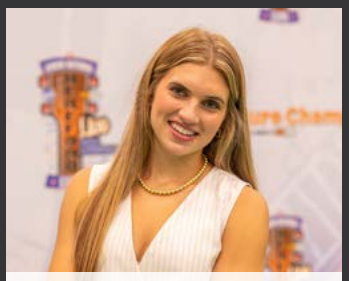


Justine Sonsalla
Arcadia, WI

Callie Behling
Athens, WI

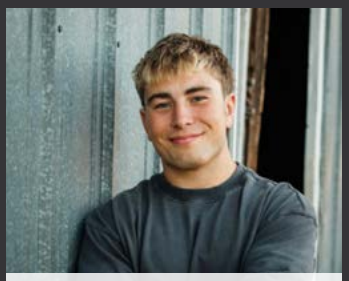


Samantha Berg
Arcadia, WI



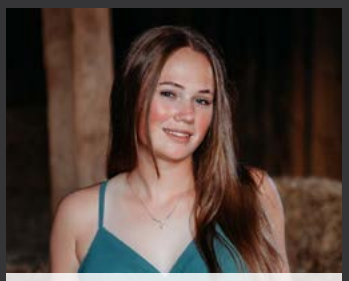
Blake Brancel
Endeavor, WI

Amanda Budtke
Stratford, WI

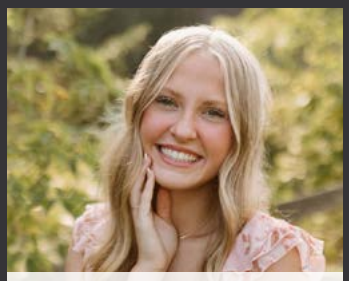


Lucas Forrest
Stratford, WI

Kylie Garner
Almond, WI



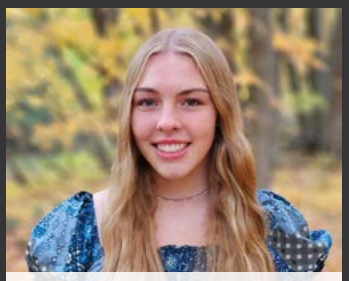
Adeline Gerke
Tomah, WI



Addison Herman
Whitehall, WI

Carson Klumb
Marshfield, WI

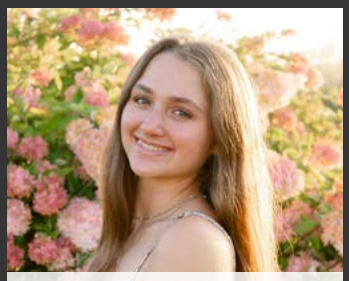
Max Klussendorf
Medford, WI



Allison Knoespel
New London, WI

Jake Luchterhand
Granton, WI

Madison Meyer
Unity, WI



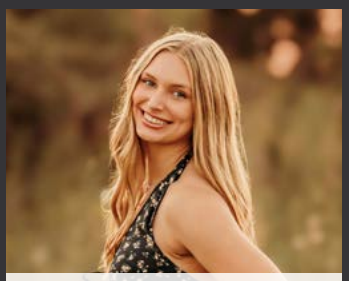
Rachel Meyer
Spencer, WI

Eli Olson
Friendship, WI

Faith Posbrig
Green Valley, WI

Danica Stello
Mindoro, WI

Connor Sturtz
Holmen, WI



Andrea Waldera
Taylor, WI

Michael Zastoupil
Tomah, WI

allied.coop
P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

Board Report

John Vehrenkamp,
Board Chairman

Spring has arrived once again, and across the countryside you can see the busy pace of another growing season underway. Equipment is rolling, planters are moving, and long days are the norm as everyone works towards a successful growing season.

There's no question this season comes with its share of challenges. High fuel prices, fertilizer costs, and continued economic pressures are weighing heavily on farms and businesses alike. We understand those concerns because we face many of the same challenges as a cooperative. But agriculture has always been built on perseverance, hard work, and the determination to keep moving forward — and that's exactly what we intend to do together.

At Allied Cooperative, our employees continue working hard every day to stay ahead on supply and service needs. Whether it's feed, fertilizer, seed, or fuel, we are doing everything we can to ensure products are available when our customers need them. We also know how important affordability is right now, and we are making every effort possible to manage costs and keep prices as competitive as we can.

Spring is one of the busiest and most demanding times of the year, and with that busy pace comes the importance of staying focused on safety. Long hours, tight schedules, and fatigue can make it easy to overlook small things that matter. Please take the time to slow down when needed, watch out for one another, and make safety a priority both in the field and on the road.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued trust and support of Allied Cooperative. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and wish everyone a safe and successful planting season.

ALLIED COOPERATIVE OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS:

AGRONOMY
Our powerful combination of expert agronomists, modern technology, and one-on-one service and consultation make our cooperative the go-to team for agronomic challenges both large and small.

ENERGY
From the diesel in the farmers tractor to propane to heat your home to the high tech lubricants to keep equipment running right–it's all available at our cooperative.

FEED
Backed by a highly skilled team of nutritionists and experienced staff, our feed division has the know-how and manufacturing capabilities to help livestock perform at their peak.

GRAIN
We have the capacity and flexibility to serve grain producers large and small. Understanding the grain markets and recognizing opportunity is our job.

RETAIL
From auto parts and tires to gas and convenience to hardware and country stores, we offer our rural communities a wealth of products, services and solutions close to home.

LAWN CARE
To promote a healthy lawn, our cooperative offers lawn care in the Marshfield area.

ALLIED COOPERATIVE OFFICES

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Adams, WI 53910

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70 South State S
PO Box 20
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PO Box 988
Marshfield, WI 54449

East Region
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