

GRAIN DIVISION PREPARES FOR HARVEST

ALLIED
COOPERATIVE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fall Soil Sampling

Fertilizer Report

Energy on the Rise...Again!

Grain Market's Wild Ride

Preparing for the Next Crop

Winter Vehicle
Maintenance Tips

10 Steps to
Prepare for Winter

In farming everything comes down to the fall harvest. The report card for a year's worth of decisions is ultimately determined when the combine stops running in the fall and crop yields are calculated. Allied Cooperative strives to be there at every juncture along the way—from seed selection, to fertilizer application, to taking in the harvest and marketing our customers' grain.

Allied Cooperative has grain facilities in Adams, Blair, Mauston, Tomah, West Salem and Wisconsin Rapids. Together these facilities have enough grain storage for 12.3 million bushels, with additional capacity available through our grain bagging system.

As the harvest season approaches Allied Cooperative begins ramping up its staff in order to meet the additional labor requirements. The seasonality of our business allows us to share employees with other departments, such as agronomy, for our grain operations. Additional staffing requirements, that cannot be fulfilled internally, are met by hiring seasonal help.

The transportation division also works closely with the grain

division in order to help ensure there are drivers in place for each of our trucks. During peak seasons when the seasonal staff is at work, they have as many as 30 trucks on the road designated for hauling grain from the farmers' fields to the grain plant, and from the grain plants to market.

"We've been busy shipping grain all year," said Randy Olson, Blair Location Manager. "This year we will end up more empty than usual, but there is always some farmer-owned corn on hand. We're moving a lot more this year though, and hope to be finished up by mid-September."

When they're not busy loading and shipping grain, our staff is also busy making sure the plants are in tip-top shape for

Continued on page 3...

ALLIED COOPERATIVE LOCATIONS

ADAMS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE / LP GAS / FUEL

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

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

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

CENEX PUMP 24

451 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.3626

NAPA AUTO PARTS

540 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.6412

ARCADIA

OFFICE / LP / FUEL / OIL

N28281 State Rd 93 Arcadia, WI 54612
608.323.3311

AGRONOMY / FEED

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

BLAIR

EAST GRAIN PLANT

1015 E Broadway St Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2298

WEST GRAIN PLANT

420 N Park Rd Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2335

GALESVILLE

AGRONOMY

W19801 Winnebago Rd
Galesville, WI 54630
608.582.4711

MAUSTON

AGRONOMY / FEED / GRAIN / TRANSPORTATION

N3709 Townline LL Rd
Mauston, WI 53948
608.847.6006 (Agronomy)
608.847.6896 (Feed)
608.847.5212 (Grain)
608.847.1642 (Transportation)

MAUSTON TIRE SHOP / NAPA AUTO PARTS / SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

310 Prairie St Mauston, WI 53948
608.847.1640 (Tire Shop)
608.847.7501 (NAPA)
608.339.3394 Ext 320 (Safety)

MINDORO

MINDORO COUNTRY STORE

N8319 Cty Rd C Mindoro, WI 54644
608.857.3414

PLAINFIELD

PEST PROS

10086 1st St Plainfield, WI 54966
715.335.4046

PLOVER

AGRONOMY

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

TOMAH

DOWNTOWN OFFICE / LP

TOMAH COUNTRY STORE & FEED

711 Fair St Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2458

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

10533 Estate Rd Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2090

WEST SALEM

OFFICE LP GAS / FUEL / ACE HARDWARE

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

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

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

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

GRAIN PLANT

3990 Commerce Dr
Wis Rapids, WI 54494
715.423.3000

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, or you have received duplicate copies of this newsletter, please call the Administration Office listed above, or email info@allied.coop.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



In October, Allied Cooperative will join with more than 29,000 other cooperatives nationwide to commemorate National Co-op Month. We'll celebrate the advantages of cooperative membership and recognize the benefits and values co-ops bring to their members and communities.

I have spent my career working in the cooperative system and could not be more proud of the industry in which I serve. Being part of a cooperative means working together to solve challenges, improve livelihoods and make a difference in the communities we serve.

Rural communities are the lifeblood of American agriculture—and they are the places our patrons and our employees call home. In communities like ours, every dollar that remains in the local economy has a major impact on the overall strength of the local economy and community well-being. When you utilize the products and services of your cooperative you not only help strengthen our economy, but you also enable us to give back to the communities in which we serve through charitable contributions, fundraisers, community outreach events and more.

This summer our team was out in full force, donating our time at dairy breakfasts, county fairs and other local events. We supported our area youth by bidding on and purchasing animals at 13 county fair/livestock auctions and made donations to those moving on to the Wisconsin State Fair. We donated to local 4-H clubs, FFA and youth organizations, and wrote grant applications to receive matching funds for several charitable causes.

Hunger relief is near and dear to our hearts. And each year we make substantial donations to area food pantries.

We have a solid commitment to safety—not just for our employees, but for our community. Each year we make donations to our volunteer fire departments and provide vital instruction in areas like grain bin rescue training.

We continue to invest in the next generation of agricultural leaders by offering our expertise to agriculture classes, maintaining a healthy internship program and providing over \$13,000 in scholarships each year. We consider it an honor and privilege to play a part in growing opportunities for these young people to further their educations and agricultural aspirations.

Kathy Calvin, CEO & President of the United Nations Foundation said, "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." Allied Cooperative thanks you for your continued patronage that allows us to make a difference in our communities.

Sincerely,

Timothy Clemens, CEO



Illustration by Cicely Combs/
Cooperative Network Coloring Book

Fall Fertility Soil Sampling

Fall is right around the corner and that means soil sampling season is upon us! When is the last time you had your ground soil sampled? If it has been four years or more it is time to start thinking about resampling. Grid sampling is a great way to get a good picture of your soil variability and to help better manage putting fertilizer where it is needed. While commodity prices are good we are able to maximize growers return on investments to help them capitalize on this. Here at Allied Cooperative, we have the technology and expertise to make variable rate fertilizer and lime recommendations based on multiple layers of data. This informed approach will enable you to put the right amount of product in the right place, which maximizes the impact of every dollar you spend.



by Matt Selenske,
Pest Pros Manager

GPS-referenced soil sampling ("grid sampling") is a great base layer for helping to managing fertility. We recommend sampling on a 5 acre or smaller grid. 5 acre grid means one GPS referenced point per every 5 acres. The number of acres encompassed in each GPS-referenced soil sample can vary from 5 acres to less than 1 acre. With this data, we can deliver variable-rate recommendations for lime, potash, or DAP.

For example, a field that calls for an average of 200 lbs. per acre of potash might have areas that need as much as 275 lbs/a or as little as 125 lbs/a for the same crop and yield. If 200 lbs/a was applied on every acre of this field, some acres would receive excess potassium while other acres would be deficient. In this way, you can see how putting the right amount of product down in each area of the field makes sense not just from an environmental standpoint but from an economic sense as well.

While we are out soil sampling for fertility, we also have the capability to pull your four free Soybean Cyst Nematode samples if you are a soybean grower in the state of Wisconsin! Finally, if someone else soil samples your farm we can import that information into our software and get you rolling towards an optimal fertility regime. Contact your Allied Agronomy Advisor today for fall soil sampling and variable-rate recommendations! ■



Grain *Continued from page 1...*

harvest. As the bins are cleaned out they check them over thoroughly, and fix any potential problems before they refill them. They go through all the drags and grease the bearings, and replace any pipes as needed. They check out the dryers and make sure they are working properly. They make sure the grain moisture testing equipment is working properly and they recertify the scales so that everything is accurate and meets the state of Wisconsin requirements.

"We also make sure that we have replacement motor, belts and parts on hand so that if something breaks down you don't have to wait for parts," said Ray Demaskie, Mauston Grain Location Manager. "We hope for the best, but plan for the worst. Replacement parts are key. It's a busy time of year and farmers don't like to wait."

Finally, they conduct safety training with their staff. The grain industry has many potential hazards including: fires and explosions from grain dust accumulation, suffocation from engulfment and entrapment in grain bins, falls from heights and more. Our goal is that every person goes home safe every day. To help facilitate that we ensure that training is up-to-date and safety procedures are well understood and followed.

The hours can be long during harvest, but our team works hard to be service-oriented, adjusting our schedule to meet the needs of our growers. Our emphasis is on efficiency and getting our patrons' products to market quickly and profitably.

info@allied.coop

"Last year Allied's grain division moved around 12.5 million bushels of grain, utilizing our transportation fleet and the railroad at our Wisconsin Rapids facilities," said David Rappa, Director of Grain. "Our corn is sold to several different industries, with the most common being ethanol. At the ethanol plants corn oil is extracted, the starch is converted to ethanol and the DDGs that are leftover are sold back into feed markets. It is also sold to local feed mills to be used for dairy and poultry feeds; dog food plants; river terminals for exports; and corn processing facilities where it is refined for flour based products."

"Our soybeans are shipped to soybean crush facilities where they are processed into soybean meal and oil or they go to river terminals where they are exported," he added. "Our wheat is usually sold into feed markets and is commonly used in dog food products. All the rye we take in gets used as cover crop seed."

Our grain division not only manages the flow of grain, but the futures markets as well. They work hard to provide fair prices to customers while protecting the co-op's risk at the same time. While grain futures' trading has been around for about 150 years, it has grown and evolved from a domestic weather and supply driven market to one driven by global macroeconomics and production.

Competing in a world market is complex and requires intense management. Utilizing some new crop contracting options and innovative grain marketing programs, Allied has many tools in place that can help create a distinct advantage for our growers. We encourage you to contact us to discuss your marketing needs and look forward to serving you during the upcoming harvest season. ■



FERTILIZER MARKET REPORT

by Joe Spinler,
COO

Higher and Higher... That was the name of the game when it came to fertilizer over the last 8 to 10 months. As we started our prepay season in December of 2020 we had some very level and very good pricing; corn and soybeans had only recently began their trend higher and the fertilizer industry had not figured it out yet.

Now fast forward into 2021 and it seemed prices were changing every day, which certainly can happen with fertilizer as we are playing in a world market. Allied did its best to utilize our storage to control these increases, but looking back we had around 22 different price sheets that went to our sellers, which probably was about 75% more than normal.

Is this the new normal? As we look ahead most products are certainly higher than they were, but have started to taper off and some have been staying flat. The question is what will fall and spring 2022 bring? The answer is and will be in the price of corn and soybeans. Remember that those prices are

driven around the world and it certainly sounds at least stable or bullish in my opinion, but we won't really know until the combines hit the fields.

Will \$5 corn support 60 cent nitrogen? I believe it will need to and the P and K markets will be there right along with it. Domestic and world supplies of all fertilizers remain relatively low and the industry is playing catch up due to high demand the last two years, along with COVID supply issues. So when you look at grain prices and fertilizer supply, it looks as though we will at least stay at these levels heading into planting of 2022, the question is will they continue to go higher?

Although we are not able to offer spring pricing at this time, we are able to offer you pricing for fall fertilizer. Please contact your local agronomy advisor and have them put together a plan for you. Fall fertilizer generally is cheaper than spring and it also allows you and Allied to get some work done. It will also make planting that much faster for you next spring. ■



Energy on the rise...again



by Jeff Bunker,
Director of Bulk Fuels

As most are already aware, the general trend of prices of energy products, and most everything else for that matter, is on the rise. Low inventories and increasing worldwide demand along with uncertainty of the current administration's stance on fossil fuels, has energy traders in a bullish position.

New developments in the world of COVID will more than likely play a role in future pricing.

Two options that Allied customers have to combat these volatile prices are forward contracting and the use of Cenex® Premium Diesel products.

Contact any of the energy staff to see where current contract prices are for the spring through fall of 2022. Contracting sure did work for those who locked in prices for 2021. Some customers are saving close to \$1.00 per gallon!!! Allied will have several options available later this fall into the spring to lock in your prices for next year.

I have stressed for years the advantages of using Cenex® premium diesel and continue to do so. As prices continue to increase, the value of Roadmaster® and Fieldmaster® only increases also. The 5% increase in fuel economy alone can currently amount to over a 12 cent per gallon savings!! If prices continue to increase, you could see savings in the 15-20 cents per gallon range. Then you also have the best product on the market for keeping those diesel engines clean and running smoothly. Contact me or any of our Energy staff with questions. Have a safe and bountiful harvest. ■



Russ Bortz
608.780.8614



Rich Karpinski
608.403.1178

Please contact Allied Cooperative's Energy Division for more information.
Jeff Bunker
Director of Refined Fuels
608.786.1100

THE GRAIN MARKET'S WILD RIDE



As of August 2nd the USDA crop condition report ratings for Wisconsin had corn crop at 75% good to excellent and soybeans at 72% good to excellent, above national averages. Analyzing the crop condition report further you can see the crop is maturing about one week ahead of the five year average, which is exactly what we will need locally to meet demand.



by David Rappa,
Director of Grain

This year we have experienced inverted futures markets where the nearby futures contract is paying more than future delivery months. This happens when the market is wanting physical supply to move to the market versus incentivizing it to store physical supply for future delivery months. The main driver behind the robust demand has been the increased exports to China and ethanol's recovery from COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

How does this affect our local markets? Our locations will be the tightest on supply heading into new crop since the 2013 harvest, which was the last time we have had severely inverted futures markets. Right now we are seeing basis spreads of nearly \$1.00 a bushel from September to October at processing facilities. This means it has been very difficult for processors to source old crop corn and soybeans, until new crop comes on line. Commercial elevator inventories will be very tight due to the financial penalty of owning grain. Once all the demand is met for old crop corn you will see basis values plummet and so will the cash price due to basis.

With the crop being ahead of schedule this might make for some unique opportunities to harvest corn earlier and at higher moistures than you typically would. Everyone's situation is different, so it might be worth a look to see if it makes financial sense for your operation to go after some corn in September, or

early October to capitalize on strong local basis values.

If we look at more of a big picture for where commodities markets are headed going into 2022, all you have to do is look at the USDA July supply and demand report. Our old crop ending stocks number on corn is currently forecasted at 1.082 billion bushels and 135 million bushels for soybeans. To put those numbers

in perspective that is only 27 days worth of corn demand and 11 days for soybeans at current usage rates. Looking out to ending stocks for 2022 the USDA has corn forecasted at a 1.432 billion bushels carryout and 155 million bushels on soybeans with trend line yields for both commodities.

Many industry analysts speculate the USDA will reduce yield estimates in future reports due to the drought in the Western United States. If that is the case, it is likely we may see similarities to the 2021 marketing year with small carries in the futures markets eroding into inverted markets again during harvest. The key numbers to watch on future USDA supply and demand reports will be yield and harvested acres. Right now every bushel of yield represents 84.5 million bushels of corn and 86.7 million bushels of soybeans on ending stocks.

Overall I think commodity prices will remain high for much of 2022, unless we start to see large scale COVID-19 lockdowns like we experienced before limiting demand. If markets start to invert, the best marketing strategy might be to store your crop and have targeted cash offers for sales on rallies in the futures market. We have seen a wild year of volatility in commodity markets and I expect 2022 will be more of the same.

Feel free to contact anyone of our grain locations for up to date market information and help with working on your marketing plan for next year. ■

info@allied.coop

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Worried about the cost of heating your home this winter? Households with low to moderate income may be eligible for assistance from the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). WHEAP provides assistance for heating costs and energy crisis situations.

Funds are limited, so apply early while money is available. The amount of assistance you receive depends on the size of your household, income level, and heating costs. We receive the check directly from the state, credit your account and send you a statement.

WHEAP also offers counseling for energy conservation and budgeting for energy costs, community resource referrals, and emergency furnace repair/replacement.

Apply for energy assistance online at www.energybenefitwi.gov or call 800-506-5596 for assistance.



Harvesting This Year's Crop— Preparing for the Next



by Izaak Rathke,
Director of Sales

Season Wrap-up

I say this every year! It is hard to believe we are talking about harvest and next season again already, unfortunately the years go by faster and faster as you can all relate. 2021 has brought us a little different growing season. We started out fast and furious with way above normal temperatures and you all pounded in corn and beans in record speeds. We then experienced a month of well below average and freezing temperatures with some devastating effects, followed by extreme heat and dry weather, followed by rains. So what is my yield going to be? Well we'll see!

To say all of that didn't impact our yields would be an understatement. Stands are a little thinner than what we would like, but for the most part the crop looks great. Corn will flex out and give us decent yields, beans will branch out and do the same for the most part. I am a little more concerned with the beans than the corn though. The plant early and plant beans first craze may have some negative yield impacts. There are a lot of beans out there under the 80-100k final stand population. As far as disease goes, we have spotted tar spot already in a few areas, also some anthracnose. These diseases should be monitored and a harvest plan made in late August.

Seed

It is time to look at seed selection for 2022. We have all the new seed guides and programs in place for next year. There are a lot of great money saving programs and financing options available to you, but they do have deadlines. October and November are the best times to purchase seed to take advantage of these programs. Allied Cooperative carries some of the top brands in the industry such as: Croplan, Dekalb, Asgrow, NK and Brevant (formerly called Mycogen). Between these companies we have you covered for all of your seed needs.

Yield Contest

We will be holding our Yield Contest again this year, so be sure to call your Agronomy Advisors and ask them to come out and do your yield checks and get you entered in the contest. We are hopeful that the pandemic will not keep us from holding our Yield Banquet this year. We are looking forward to holding them on the following dates:

**The Lodge, Mauston
January 25, 2022**

**Drugan's Castle Mound & Supper Club, Holmen
January 26, 2022**

We have booked nationally recognized agricultural speaker, Kim Bremmer, for the event. Kim is a dynamic, knowledgeable, enthusiastic speaker who compels audiences to reconsider what they think they already know. Because she is a farm girl, a mother, a dairy enthusiast and a "science junkie", she brings a refreshing and realistic perspective to the realities of farming and food production. Kim is a highly relatable speaker who is as entertaining and sharp-witted as she is well-informed. I have heard Kim speak at other events and I promise she does not disappoint.

We look forward to working with you as you harvest your 2021 crop and look ahead to 2022.

Have a SAFE, high-yielding harvest! ■



10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR WINTER

None of us wants to think about this, but winter is just around the corner. And in Wisconsin, that means freezing rain, ice storms, heavy snow and near-blinding blizzards are very likely ahead. And if you've weathered a Wisconsin winter before, you know—going into winter unprepared is not a good idea. Winter storms can cause extended power outages and hazardous travel conditions. Access to fuel, and emergency and medical services may be limited once a severe storm hits a region. Implementing a winter safety plan now is essential to help reduce your risk.

If your home uses propane to generate heat or run appliances, there are a few simple steps you can take to keep your family safe and avoid potential dangers. These steps can also help you conserve fuel costs — maximizing the value of your energy dollar.

To contact one of our propane service representatives, keep this info handy:

Adams: Dawn Hanson
608-339-3394

Arcadia: Angela Kotlarz
608-323-3311

Tomah: Lisa Powell
608-372-2458

West Salem: Janita Lee
608-786-1100

- 01 Make sure you have an adequate propane supply.** Enroll in our Scheduled Delivery Program or check your tank weekly. This will avoid running empty in times of heavy snowfall when roads may be inaccessible for delivery.
- 02 Clear your tank off with a broom and shovel a path to the tank** to keep it accessible for deliveries.
- 03 Make sure your heating system and appliances are running efficiently.** Before the start of each heating season, have a qualified service technician inspect and service your appliances and propane system. This will ensure that your appliances are running as efficiently as possible, conserving fuel and saving dollars.
- 04 Create an emergency preparedness plan and review it with everyone in your family.** Post a list with contact information for your propane supplier and emergency services (fire department, etc.) along with instructions for turning off propane, electricity, and water. If you do need to turn off your propane, contact a service technician to inspect your propane system prior to turning it back on.
- 05 Prepare a family disaster supply kit with several days' worth of water** and canned foods along with a can opener, extra clothes and blankets, flashlights, and batteries. Include a battery-powered NOAA weather radio so you can stay informed as conditions change. Make sure to keep rock salt, firewood, and snow-removal equipment accessible from inside.
- 06 Check your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and propane tank** for damage, blockage, or debris caused by snow and ice. Use a broom rather than a shovel, and clear these areas frequently. This will help reduce the possibility of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning due to blocked or damaged chimneys, flues, and vents.
- 07 Consider installing UL-listed propane gas detectors and CO detectors.** These detectors provide you with an additional measure of security. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding installation, location, and maintenance.
- 08 After the storm passes and it is safe to do so,** check the entire area for downed power lines, damaged gas lines, or damage to your propane tank. Immediately call your local utility company or propane supplier if any of these hazards exist. Do not attempt repairs yourself.
- 09 Never use a stove for space heating** and never use outdoor propane appliances indoors or in enclosed areas, particularly in the event of a power outage. Proper ventilation is necessary for their safe operation, and CO fumes emitted can be lethal. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for indoor use. Never store, place, or use a propane cylinder indoors or in enclosed areas.
- 10 Exercise sound judgment.** As with any challenging situation, your composure during winter storms will ensure you don't take unnecessary risks or pose any additional dangers to your family and home. Stay calm; use radios, television, and telephones to stay informed and connected. Remember, winter storms can last several days and roads may be inaccessible for fuel delivery. Conserve fuel by keeping thermostats down to 65° during the day and 55° at night, and close off any rooms that don't need to be heated. If any questions arise, contact Allied Cooperative or your local fire department.

Taking these 10 simple steps can help promote safety all season long. With a little advance planning, you and your family can be prepared for severe weather events such as winter storms. For additional information contact any of our locations.





SAFETY CORNER

By Dawn McCluskey
Director of Safety
& Compliance



Power Watch

As harvest season begins, it's a good time to review safety precautions. The following apply year-round but are especially important this time of the year.

- **Look up, look out and look around. Be aware of overhead power lines at all times.**
- **Machinery does not have to touch electrical lines for contact with electricity to occur, keep at least 10 feet of space in all directions—above, below, and to the sides.**
- **Don't stack hay or round bales near electrical lines to avoid electrical contact with hay loader or other moving equipment.**
- **Always lower grain augers when moving from bin to bin or field to field.**
- **Be aware of the location of down guywires and anchors on overhead power lines.**
- **When moving farm equipment, know the loaded height of trucks and equipment so contact isn't made with overhead power lines on the roads.**
- **Make sure loading areas are clear of overhead power lines.**

Remind others to check clearances for equipment, especially new operators or if there is a recently purchased piece of machinery. Many get accustomed to the size of the old equipment as they enter and exit fields, so they may not realize a new piece of equipment is a higher height.

Regardless of the time on year, never approach a downed power line. If a line does come down while you are in a piece of machinery, DO NOT leave the cab. Immediately call 911 to have the utility company notified. The only reason to exit equipment is if the equipment catches on fire, which is very rare. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. It is always best to stay on the equipment if at all possible and wait until the utility gives the all clear that it's safe to get down. ■

Ag Loan Manager Ready to Serve

Allied Cooperative is pleased to introduce our new Ag Loan Manager – Ray Murphy.



Ray is no stranger to our co-op, he has been a member for many years farming alongside Carl Miller. He is a graduate of UW-River Falls with a degree in Agricultural Business. After graduation, he returned home and continued farming until hearing of Gerry Fanta's plans to retire.

"I am excited for this opportunity, because I have a real passion for working with numbers and of course farming," said Ray. "I have been a customer of Allied Cooperative since 2012 and am thrilled to be working for the organization. My agriculture background is complemented by my wife Katie Murphy, who has been a Dairy Nutritionist for 5 years in Allied's Feed Department, now Provision."

"The co-op has a diverse financial toolbox of loan companies to help its customers increase their agronomic abilities," added Ray. "These include agronomy products the co-op offers as well as fuel, tires and LP gas. There are many incentives to prepaying for all agronomy inputs, especially in the fall or winter which is usually the most cost-effective time to do so. Furthermore, the companies also provide in-season financing for all your additional agriculture needs to help you adapt to today's ever-changing growing cycles. I would be happy to go over all of these available options with you, feel free to contact me at 608-547-8308. I look forward to working with you in the future!" ■

Winter Vehicle Maintenance Tips

The summer family trips are done, the kids are on the bus back to school, and this is the best time for winter vehicle maintenance. Before the cold winter winds blow, check out our tips for continuous safe driving.



First, check and maintain proper pressure in your tires. Be sure you have enough tread on them too. This information is available from the tire manufacturer and also under the retail tab on our website at www.allied.coop. Think about your \$1,000 insurance deductible and your car being out of service vs. \$600 and cruising with new treads!

Second, check your fluids. You should change to a winter rated windshield washer fluid. Nothing is worse than trying to clean your windshield and having it freeze on your windshield. This is dangerous!

Your antifreeze should be checked to make sure its protecting you to at least -35 degrees. Antifreeze needs to be mixed with water to work, so be sure to mix it if it's not already pre-diluted.

If you have an older vehicle and are using 10w40 oil you will want to switch to a lighter weight like 10w30. It doesn't hurt to add a bottle of Isopropyl (Heet) to your gas tank. If you have a diesel engine, and aren't using Cenex® Winterized Premium Diesel Fuel, consider adding an antigel additive to your fuel.

Using a plug-in heater can help with cold starts. Many newer vehicles and diesels come with them, if not have one installed by your professional technician.

Third, check your battery. Your battery can die suddenly and leave you stranded. Have your battery checked with a battery tester. Don't rely on the green light that is available on some brands. If your battery needs to be replaced this is not the time to be cheap. Your owner's manual can clue you in on how many cold cranking amps your vehicle needs.

Fourth, replace your wiper blades. Nobody likes scraping an icy windshield, but you need to make sure your blades are not frozen to your windshield before you turn them on or you could ruin your blades, wiper transmission or motor. Winter wiper blades need to be replaced at the beginning of the season. If you have them on your vehicle from last winter they will be worn and sun damaged. Winter blades are usually less expensive than regular blades, so it's a good investment.

There are other things you can do such as having your heating system checked and your antifreeze flushed. Keep your oil changed and your filters clean.

Check your exhaust for leaks and tighten or replace leaking gaskets. The winter weather can make gaskets leak more due to the cold temperatures shrinking the seals and gaskets. Sit in your vehicle and have someone walk around and check your bulbs as you activate the turn signals, brakes etc. Replace any bulbs that don't illuminate or are not as bright as their counterpart.

We also recommend putting some items in your trunk in case of an emergency. A blanket, small shovel, road flares, a lighter and a candle, and a few granola bars can go a long way in making your wait more comfortable.

Finally, program phone numbers you need into your cell phone ahead of time so you have easy access to them. 9-1-1 can usually route your call to a local emergency tow or repair service. Take some time to have your vehicle checked out now and possibly save yourself some time and money later!

Stop by the Adams or Mauston NAPA Auto Parts store to pick-up all those necessary winter vehicle maintenance items. ■



How Necessary is Raking Leaves?

Raking or using a blower is a must for your lawn. For many, the fall season brings lots of leaves and a lot of work removing them. It's a job that can be difficult, but it does serve a purpose besides aesthetics.

- Removing the leaves from your yard will ensure the grass does not get matted down and die off which can happen over the winter which means even more work for you. Also a fungus can develop in your lawn that will require chemicals to fix.
- If you mulch those leaves after raking, they can be used as fertilizer in your planting beds and even as winter bedding to protect flowers and shrubs from the colder temperatures.
- After the last fallen leaves, try running the mower over the lawn to mulch up the last remaining leaves and those will act as a bit of natural fertilizer along with your winter application of a 4-step plan.

How you accomplish this task is up to you. Traditional rakes give you the best workout, but electric, gas or cordless blowers can speed things up and are less taxing on your body.

Just make sure you size the unit based on the amount of leaves you need to tackle. Many times, people buy small units that just disappoint. Your store associate at Ace Hardware in West Salem can help you get the right tools for the job. ■



Deer Blocks—Treat Your Herd

You're a hunter. You're an outdoorsman. You care about your animals, and you want them to be healthy. You also want to have the right habits and movements in place when it comes time to harvest that big buck. The Tomah Country Store is fully stocked with a variety of deer blocks that are sure to draw deer to your area and provide needed nutritional supplements for your herd. Deer blocks can provide added nutrition for better rack growth and an overall healthier herd.

Stop in for great discounts on the always popular Antler King, Big Tine and Domain Outdoor Stockpile blocks. Plus we have a punch card promotion on Quick Draw 20# blocks—buy 9, get 1 free. And we have a drawing for a free Trophy Rock. For every Trophy Rock you purchased, your name is entered to win a free Trophy Rock. (Drawing on 11/15/21). Stop by the Tomah Country Store and treat the deer in your area. (Quick Draw blocks are also available at the Mindoro Country Store). ■

Wood Fuel Pellets Available

Allied Cooperative carries wood pellets for your winter heating needs. These fuel pellets contain no additives, burn clean, exceed 8,000 BTU's and are very energy efficient. If you'd like to heat your home with wood, but you don't want to deal with the hassles of firewood, wood pellets are a great alternative. The pellets are made by compressing wood particles. The result is a cost-effective, renewable way to heat your home that's also environmentally smart.

Wood pellet pricing is available by the bag or the pallet. Stop by our Ace Hardware Store in West Salem, the Mindoro Country Store or the Tomah Country Store and stay warm this winter! ■



Dejno's, Inc.
Quality wood products since 1976



Fall Bird Seed Sale

Allied Cooperative is gearing up for its annual Fall Birdseed Sale! Watch our website for more information and plan to stock up on the seeds your birds need to weather the cooler months. You'll find great deals at all of our retail locations, including big discounts on Black Oil Sunflower Seed and 15% off of bird feeders and houses.

And if you're an early shopper, it makes a perfect Christmas gift for that hard to buy for person on your list!



Visit one of Allied Cooperative's retail locations for all your bird feeding needs today!

Ace Hardware **West Salem**
Mindoro Country Store **Mindoro**
NAPA **Adams & Mauston**
Tomah Country Store **Tomah**

Fun Fact: Birds require foods with high nutritional content, especially protein and fat. A bird's diet must fuel a metabolism that can require up to a whopping 10,000 calories a day (equivalent to a human consuming ~155,000 calories—or 500 McDonald's cheeseburgers).



Ridding Your Home of those Pesky Beetles

Asian Beetles (AKA Lady Beetles) are looking for warm shelter right now—and infesting houses across the state of Wisconsin and beyond. You'll find the tiny bugs mostly on sunny, light-colored homes and structures as they look for cracks and crevices as potential entry points.

Allied Cooperative has some excellent products that can help you get rid of the pesky beetles.

Demon® WP is a residual insecticide concentrate that is diluted with water and applied with a gallon pump sprayer. After it dries, Demon WP continues to work for up to three months. It comes in a small envelope with four powder mix packets, is very affordable and is available at our Tomah Country Store.

Tempo® SC Ultra insecticide delivers the power of a powder formulation in a liquid. It's easier to use, less messy to handle, needs less agitation and is more evenly dispersed during application. Tempo SC Ultra is available at our retail and agronomy locations.

Spray the exterior walls from the ground up as high as you can go.

Once Asian Beetles have become established in the home, the treatment options are limited. The easiest way to remove them, once they are indoors, is with a vacuum cleaner. Sucking up the bugs avoids potential stains (and smells). ■



EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Allied Cooperative will hold an online auction of equipment and vehicles. The auction will take place on September 28, 2021 at www.delpeterson.com. Members are encouraged to visit the online site ahead of time to view items that will be sold. A link may also be found on our website at www.allied.coop. ■



TAKE \$5⁰⁰ OFF
YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25⁰⁰ OR MORE!



Coupon expires 11/30/2021

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





allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



Cover: Lance Morgan. (Top l to r): Joseph Baca, Shirley Gates, Haley Nevin, Debra Schotten, Melissa Kotlowski, and Adam Pillard. (Bottom): Debra Schotten, Katie Dvorak, Tricia Groskrautz, Joseph Baca, Barb Ott, and Haley Nevin.

Allied Cooperative invites you to enter our next 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 August 4, 2022. ■

BOARD REPORT



Mark Helming,
Board Member

Hello patrons of Allied Cooperative!

I read a quote from Emerson the other day; "Every sunset brings the promise of a new dawn." I am sure there are many meanings this can have. At Allied each day can and will be a new venture as we try to keep up with new technologies and the problems that need to be dealt with. Thank you to the Allied staff for handling those issues.

I know everyone has heard it said "What a difference a year makes." A few things that come to mind are commodity prices and the county fair. Last year corn was about \$3.00/bu and is now about \$6.00/bu this year. \$13.00/bu for soybeans compared to the \$8.00/bu I sold some for last year. This year parts of the country are dealing with wildfires and severe

drought conditions. Also, fires in Canada. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the farmers and ranchers in those areas. County fairs are back with record attendance. With the fairs come livestock auctions. They seem to be going extra well this year and Allied has been well represented in our trade territory. Thank you to our staff for the extra time this takes.

I would like to wish everyone a safe harvest season as it is just around the corner. It looks like it should be successful, as crops look good in this area. A few spots have gotten more water than needed lately, but it averages out the June dry spell. Talk of harvest reminds me of the saying, "Haste makes waste." Many accidents occur when we get in too big of a hurry. Take your time so you can enjoy more sunsets and sunrises.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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