

ALLIED Connections

FALL 2026

A PUBLICATION OF ALLIED COOPERATIVE®



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Building on a Strong Tradition: *Clintonville Elevator Company Joins Allied Cooperative*

Allied Cooperative is pleased to announce the acquisition of Clintonville Elevator Company, bringing together two organizations with a shared commitment to serving agriculture and supporting the communities we call home. This investment strengthens Allied's feed and grain operations while preserving the trusted relationships and dependable service Clintonville customers have relied on for generations.

For some time, Allied had been planning significant improvements to its Seymour feed mill. When the opportunity arose to purchase the modern Clintonville facility, our Board of Directors determined it would provide even greater long-term value for our members and customers.

Built in 2007, the Clintonville feed mill offers expanded manufacturing capacity,

Clintonville Elevator, *continued on page 4*



Rob Larson,
General Manager/CEO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Energy Solution Partners Continues to Deliver Strong Results

Energy Solution Partners (ESP)—a fuel marketing and supply company in which Allied Cooperative holds a 60% ownership stake, with Synergy Cooperative holding 30% and two Minnesota cooperatives each holding 5%—continues to be an important contributor to our cooperative's success. Through June, ESP generated \$327 million in sales, an increase of \$72 million compared to the same period last year. The growth was driven by higher commodity prices and nearly 10 million gallons of additional fuel volume.

The success of ESP demonstrates the value of strategic partnerships. The additional earnings it generates strengthen Allied's financial position and allow us to continue investing in the products, services and facilities that benefit our members and customers.

Welcoming Clintonville Elevator Company

On August 1, Clintonville Elevator Company became part of Allied Cooperative. When this opportunity became available earlier this year, it aligned with Allied's long-term plans. Rather than making major improvements to our aging Seymour feed mill, our Board determined that investing in the modern Clintonville facility would provide greater long-term value and position Allied for future growth.

Seymour will remain an important part of our operation. We'll continue serving Seymour area customers through our grain operations, retail feed business and bagged-feed route. Together, these locations will complement one another and strengthen our ability to serve customers throughout the eastern portion of our trade territory.

I am excited about what this investment means for our cooperative, our employees and the members we serve.

Representing Agriculture in Washington

In June, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., as part of the Land O'Lakes Policy and Resolutions Committee. Along with other cooperative leaders, I met with legislators to discuss issues that are critically important to agriculture.

Our conversations included the need for a full five-year Farm Bill reauthorization, year-round access to E15, workable agricultural labor solutions, and expanded market access through strong trade agreements while preserving the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

These conversations matter because the decisions made in Washington affect farmers, agricultural businesses and rural communities every day. It was an honor to represent Allied and advocate for the issues that are important to our members and the future of agriculture.

Investing in Our Communities—and the Next Generation

Supporting the communities we serve remains one of the core values of Allied Cooperative. Each year, your cooperative provides financial support to local food pantries, volunteer fire departments, schools, agricultural organizations, and many other local initiatives that strengthen the rural communities we call home.

Our partnerships with organizations like Land O'Lakes and CHS help every dollar go even further. Thanks to a matching grant from Land O'Lakes, we'll once again provide more than \$27,000 to area food pantries this year. We will also help numerous local volunteer fire departments purchase much-needed

Allied Cooperative is quickly approaching the end of our fiscal year. This time of year gives us an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, evaluate our financial position and look ahead to the opportunities before us.

During the first ten months of our fiscal year, we generated \$452.3 million in sales—up over \$36 million from last year. This was driven by both business growth and higher commodity prices. Although it will be some time before our year-end financial results are finalized, I am pleased with where Allied stands today. We continue to maintain a strong balance sheet. Local net earnings also remain strong and are meeting budget expectations. These results are encouraging as they allow us to continue investing in our facilities, services and communities while positioning the cooperative for long-term success.

CEO Letter, continued on page 3

equipment and supplies. By working together, we're able to expand the reach of our community investments and make an even greater impact across the communities we serve.

Another area where our commitment continues to grow is our investment in youth. This year, Allied expanded that commitment in several meaningful ways:

- **Show & Grow Rewards**

Program We introduced our new Show & Grow Rewards Program, replacing our long-standing county fair livestock purchase program. While purchasing livestock served our members well for many years, the requests for bids grew to over 325 requests received across 22 county fairs each year. We recognized the need to create a more fair and equitable program that could benefit even more youth across our trade territory. While maintaining the same overall budget, the new program allows us to recognize and reward significantly more young exhibitors. Eligible participants can earn up to \$200 based on their livestock projects and achievements.

We also continue to support our county fairs in many other ways. If your organization has a request or need, we're happy to consider it. Just let us know how we can best help our youth succeed.

- **4-H and County Fairs** Allied continues to support county fairs by helping provide bedding, shavings, ribbons, trophies, and numerous other sponsorships that help make these important community events possible.
- **FFA Support** Working with Land O'Lakes once again, Allied is helping to provide funding to FFA chapters throughout our trade territory, supporting agricultural education and leadership opportunities for students.
- **Scholarships** We've expanded our scholarship program and now award 30 \$1,000 scholarships each year. We continuously look at enhancing the program to help the children of our members pursue their education and prepare for the future.

We believe these investments strengthen not only the young people who receive them, but also the future of our cooperative and the rural communities we proudly serve.

Looking Ahead

We continue to make strategic investments across our cooperative to ensure our facilities, equipment, and people are well positioned to serve our members for years to come. From new equipment and rolling stock to technology

upgrades, these investments strengthen our operations and help us better meet the needs of our customers every day.

Construction of our new fertilizer facility in Galesville continues to move forward, and we're looking forward to the additional capacity and operational efficiencies it will provide.

We will also be making significant improvements at our Hixton grain facility, where construction is planned to begin this spring on a new 400,000-bushel soybean bin and a dedicated soybean receiving system for the Fall 2027 harvest. By separating soybean and corn receiving,

we'll improve truck traffic flow, increase efficiency during harvest, and add much-needed soybean storage capacity.

At our Auburndale Feed location, we'll be installing new concrete and a customer loading overhang to improve safety and convenience.

In our Retail division, we're making ongoing improvements to our convenience stores through bathroom renovations, pavement and parking lot maintenance, and store refresh projects that enhance the customer experience. We're also remodeling the bathrooms at our Mauston NAPA store.

These investments, both large and small, reflect our commitment to maintaining modern, efficient facilities while providing the level of service our members and customers have come to expect.

Thank you

As we close out another successful fiscal year, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for your continued business and for the trust you place in Allied Cooperative. The progress we have made this year would not be possible without the loyalty of our members and the dedication of our employees.

We will continue looking for opportunities to improve our operations, strengthen the services we provide and invest in the communities we call home. I am excited about where Allied is headed, and I am grateful that you are part of that journey.

We believe today's young people are
the future of agriculture, our cooperative,
and the communities we serve.

Auburndale Feed



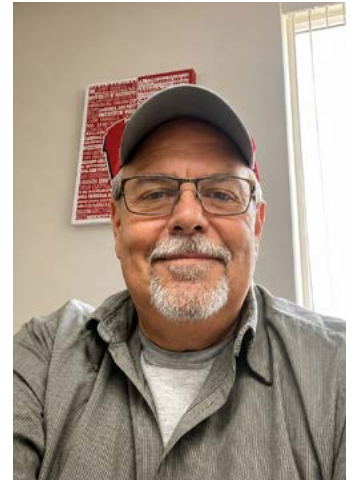
Clintonville Elevator, *continued from front cover*

advanced batching and mixing technology, and a state-of-the-art grain facility with 2.4 million bushels of storage. These capabilities position Allied to better serve customers today while supporting future growth.

Just as important as the facility are the people. Clintonville Elevator has built a strong reputation since 1929 by putting customers first, and that tradition will continue. Customers will continue working with the same experienced local team they know and trust, led by Location Manager Dan Schwartz.

“Allied’s reputation, the positive comments I heard from vendors, and meeting the staff made it clear we’re all working toward the same goals.”

Dan Schwartz
Clintonville Location Manager



"Our customers have been very receptive because they understand we're planning not just for today, but for the future," said Schwartz. "This partnership allows us to continue growing alongside our customers while providing the products and services they'll need for years to come."

Customers can also be assured that Allied's Seymour location will remain an important part of our operations. Grain receiving, retail services, bagged feed deliveries, and office functions will continue to serve the Seymour area while working closely with the Clintonville facility.

Together, we're combining the strengths of two respected organizations to better serve our customers for generations to come.



Harvest Data Is Only Valuable If You Use It



by Austin Bohm,
Ag Technology Specialist
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For many growers, harvest marks the finish line. The crop is in the bin, the yield monitor recorded another year's worth of data, and before long those maps are filed away until next fall. But your yield monitor isn't just measuring this year's crop. It may be collecting the most valuable information you'll use to make decisions for next season.

A yield map is more than a picture of where the combine traveled. It's a record of how every part of your field responded to weather, soil conditions, fertility, drainage, hybrid selection, planting population, disease pressure, and dozens of management decisions made throughout the year. The question isn't whether the data is valuable. The question is whether we're going to use it.

The most valuable conversations don't start with, "What did this field average?" They start with questions like, "Why did this part of the field outperform the rest?" "Why does this area consistently struggle?" or "What changed?" Those are the questions that lead to better management decisions.

Sometimes the answer is fertility. Sometimes it's drainage, soil type, compaction, hybrid placement, planting population, disease pressure, or another yield limiting factor. Yield data helps us identify where to investigate, instead of treating every acre the same. When we combine multiple years of cleaned yield data with soil samples, aerial imagery, elevation, and your own knowledge of the farm, patterns begin to emerge that simply aren't visible by driving through the field.

That's where precision agriculture starts to pay dividends. Technology isn't making decisions for us. It's helping us make better ones.

As you're harvesting this fall, take a few extra minutes

to make sure your yield monitor is calibrated, your hybrid and variety information is accurate, and your data is backed up. A small investment of time during harvest can make your data significantly more valuable for years to come.

Then don't let it sit.

Schedule time with your Allied agronomy advisor after harvest while the season is still fresh in your mind. Review the maps. Ask questions. Look for patterns. Challenge assumptions.

Nathan's article explains how soil sampling helps build next year's fertility plan. Jake discusses replacing the nutrients removed with this year's crop. Marilyn shares why seed decisions should begin before harvest is over. Ginny reflects on lessons from the 2026 growing season. Together, those management decisions become even more powerful when they're supported by quality harvest data.

Every field has a story to tell. The growers who consistently improve year after year aren't just collecting yield data. They're learning from it.

You're already investing time and money to collect this information. Don't let it spend another year sitting on a monitor or hard drive. Let's put it to work and use this year's harvest to make even better decisions for the 2027 crop.

Beyond the Hype: *What We're Seeing with Biologicals and Nutrient Efficiency*



by **Tyler Prudlick**,
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Biologicals and nutrient efficiency products seem to be everywhere right now. Every company has products that promise bigger roots, better nutrient uptake, healthier plants, and more yield. The question is—which ones actually work on our farms?

Rather than relying on marketing claims, we're putting several of these products to the test in our local Allied Cooperative plots this year. We want to see how they perform under the same conditions our growers deal with every season.

As we've walked plots throughout the summer, we've seen some encouraging results. Several of the products have shown stronger early growth, larger root systems, better plant color, and more uniform stands.

Those things don't always guarantee more bushels, but they're exactly what you like to see as the crop heads toward harvest.

One product that has stood out is Mosaic PowerCoat®, a nutrient efficiency technology designed to improve nutrient availability early in the season.



.....
A comparison done in our test plot showed early vigor, larger root systems, and darker green plants with the PowerCoat® corn on the left as opposed to the untreated corn on the right. Those differences have stayed noticeable throughout the season.
.....

We've also been evaluating Dash®, WinField United's planter box treatment. Dash is designed to encourage early root growth, improve nutrient

uptake, and support beneficial microbes around the developing root system. So far, the treated strips have shown excellent emergence, healthy root development, and strong plant uniformity. Based on current ear counts and yield estimates, the treated corn is projecting about a 12-bushel-per-acre advantage.

Local plots like these are an important part of how we evaluate new products. They allow us to see how products perform under our own growing conditions and give us confidence in the recommendations we make. Harvest will help determine which products consistently provide a return on investment and deserve a place in future crop management programs.

If you'd like to learn more about our plot work or discuss whether any of these products might fit your operation, stop in or give your local Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor a call. We'd be happy to talk about what we're seeing and, after harvest, what the yield monitor had to say.



Seed Planning Starts Before Harvest



by Marilyn Whalen,
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Before you get busy with harvest, I want to "plant the seed" about starting your seed plan for next year. I know what you're thinking... "Marilyn, you're crazy. Talk to me after harvest!" But let me try to convince you why getting the ball rolling now has some real advantages.

Assess This Year's Hybrids

If you haven't had the chance yet, take a walk through your fields. A pre-harvest evaluation often reveals surprises before the combine ever rolls. If a hybrid looks impressive now, there's a good chance it deserves a spot in next year's lineup. On the other hand, identifying a variety that isn't meeting your expectations gives you and your Agronomy Advisor more time to research better options.

Consider Different Trait Options

Are you looking for the newest genetics to push yields even higher? Thinking about changing your herbicide program by selecting different trait packages?

PowerCore®, Enlist®, LibertyLink®, Roundup Ready®, VT4®, Trecepta®, Duracade®, SmartStax® Pro... there are a lot of choices. Many of the newest products have limited availability, so the sooner your Agronomy Advisor knows what you're looking for, the better your chances of securing the seed you want.

Enjoy a Little Peace of Mind

Cross one more thing off your to-do list before harvest gets into full swing by submitting a pre-harvest seed order.

For many of our producers, crop rotations and acres don't change dramatically from year to year, making last year's order a great place to start. Do you have a favorite old variety like CROPLAN® 3899VT2? Ordering early can improve your chances of getting it. Need a specific seed size? Early planning helps there, too.

And don't worry—if plans change after harvest, we'll work with you to update your order.

Early Seed Order Incentives: Lock in the Best Savings in Fall

Soon your Agronomy Advisor will be contacting you to share this year's early seed offerings.

Take advantage of early incentives, plus attractive cash discounts. There are also great financing options that can help you lock in low interest rates.

At Allied, our Agronomy Advisors are ready to build you a customized seed plan—not just sell you a variety. Your Advisor will utilize knowledge gained by already working with you on fertility and crop protection plans to build a seed plan just for you.

We are here for you all year long. During the winter, we share information on new products and provide honest recommendations about whether they fit your farm. We host grower meetings focused on topics that matter to you. In the spring, our team hustles to get seed delivered and adapts when in-season changes are needed. Throughout the summer, we scout fields and keep you informed on crop progress. Then in the fall, we are available to help collect yield data and measure the success of the plan.

Our goal is to be more than your seed supplier—we hope you see us as a trusted partner in the success of your farming operation.

Have a safe harvest season. We look forward to helping you with your seed needs for the coming year.

CORN FUNGICIDE: What Did We Learn?



by Pat Cauley,
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It's hard to believe the summer has flown by and now we're getting ready for harvest. It was certainly an interesting summer weather-wise. Some areas received an abundance of moisture, while other areas hardly caught any rain at all.

It's been a while since the last fungicide applications were made, and many are now wondering, "Was it worth it?" I think spraying fungicide on corn is almost like making a herbicide application—it needs to be done.

In my area, conditions turned hot and dry shortly after fungicide was applied. Corn fields that received a fungicide application appeared to be less stressed and handled the heat and drought better until we finally received some moisture. This makes sense, as strobilurin fungicides can trigger the plant to regulate the opening and closing of the stomates, improving respiration and limiting water loss through evaporation. Essentially, the plants were more efficient with the limited water they had.

On the flip side, we're seeing disease pressure in other parts of the trade area that were fortunate enough to receive consistent moisture throughout the summer. Fields that received a fungicide application have remained more intact and healthier, and disease pressure appears to be low.

One thing that helps ensure a fungicide application goes smoothly is making the decision and developing a plan early. Lining up an aerial fungicide application is much more challenging than scheduling a ground rig. Most helicopter and airplane applicators travel across multiple states in the Corn Belt, so it takes considerably more planning and communication to make everything come together.

Many aerial application companies want field maps and acreage well in advance so they can plan routes and schedules. In many cases, they also require a minimum number of acres within a given area before committing to fly them. Having these conversations during the winter and getting a plan in place is one of the best ways to help ensure your fields are scheduled. Winter is also a great time to have field maps prepared and acres committed. Doing so allows us to communicate anticipated acreage to the pilots so they can reserve time in what is typically a very busy schedule. While it's not impossible to make arrangements later, a little planning and communication can go a long way.

Fungicide is a valuable tool for protecting corn from diseases and reducing the impact of certain environmental stresses. While coordinating an application can sometimes be logistically challenging, proper planning and communication can make the process go smoothly and help protect the bushels already growing in the field.

Although scheduling an aerial fungicide application can be challenging, planning well in advance and communicating with your Allied agronomist can lead to success.

Next Year's Crop Starts This Fall

Building a Strong Foundation with Soil Sampling and Fertility Planning



by **Nate Aussen**,
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A successful growing season doesn't begin when the planter hits the field. It starts months earlier with the decisions made after harvest. Fall provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate your soil, address nutrient needs and develop a fertility plan that positions your operation for success next spring.

At Allied Cooperative, we believe every high-performing crop starts with understanding what is happening beneath the surface. Soil sampling and proper nutrient management provide the information needed to make sound decisions and get the most value from every fertilizer dollar.

Soil sampling is the first step in creating an effective fertility program. While traditional composite samples provide a general overview of field fertility, grid sampling offers a more detailed picture of nutrient variability. By dividing fields into smaller sampling areas, grid sampling identifies locations with higher or lower nutrient levels—differences that may be missed when an entire field is managed the same way.

The value of detailed soil information increases when it is paired with Variable Rate Technology (VRT). Using soil test results and prescription maps, fertilizer can be applied where it is needed and at the rate each area requires. Areas with lower nutrient levels can receive the nutrients needed to support yield potential, while areas with adequate fertility can avoid unnecessary applications.

This precision approach offers several benefits:

- Improves fertilizer efficiency and return on investment.
- Reduces overapplication and minimizes nutrient waste.
- Promotes more consistent crop growth across the field.
- Builds long-term soil fertility while supporting responsible nutrient management.
- Provides valuable data to guide future decisions.

Fall is also an ideal time to evaluate soil pH and plan lime applications. Soil pH can decline over time due to crop nutrient removal, leaching and the acidity created by some nitrogen fertilizers. Maintaining the proper pH helps maximize nutrient availability, improve fertilizer efficiency and support healthy crop development.

Because lime often takes several months to react in the soil, fall can be an excellent application window. Applying lime after harvest gives it time to begin neutralizing soil acidity before the next growing season. Soil test results, including buffer pH, help determine the appropriate amount of lime needed to reach the desired pH level.

When soil and field conditions allow, fall can also be a good time to apply phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). These nutrients are essential for root development, plant health and yield potential. Applying P and K according to soil test recommendations helps replace nutrients removed by the previous crop and maintain long-term soil fertility.

Applications may be reduced or delayed when soil nutrient levels are above critical thresholds. Fields testing below recommended levels, however, may benefit from timely fertilizer applications to maintain productivity and reduce the risk of nutrient deficiencies.

A sound fertility program focuses on applying the right nutrient at the right rate, in the right place and at the right time.

Fall fertilizer applications can also provide important operational advantages. Completing fertility work after harvest reduces the workload during the busy spring season, leaving more time for planting and other field activities. Early planning also gives you time to review recommendations, evaluate options and make informed decisions before spring arrives.

With fertilizer representing a significant portion of crop input costs, informed nutrient management is more important than ever. Investing in soil sampling and a customized fertility plan can help improve efficiency, protect yield potential and support long-term profitability.

The Allied Cooperative Agronomy team is ready to help you make the most of every acre. Whether you are interested in composite or grid soil sampling, fertility recommendations or variable-rate nutrient applications, we have the tools and expertise to support your operation.

Contact your local Allied Cooperative agronomist to schedule fall soil sampling and begin developing a fertility plan for the 2027 growing season. Together, we'll help you make every acre count.

Evaluating Corn Stalks and Varieties Before Harvest



by **Eli Strebig**,
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Pre-harvest field evaluations are an important step in maximizing harvest efficiency and making better hybrid decisions for future seasons. Taking time to walk fields before harvest can help identify weak stalks, compare hybrid performance, and determine which fields should be harvested first.

Evaluate Stalk Strength

Check stalk quality using the push test. Plants that bend, break, or have soft lower stalks are more likely to lodge before harvest. If more than 10–15% of plants show weak stalks, consider harvesting that field earlier.



Look for Stalk and Ear Diseases

Inspect plants for signs of stalk rots and ear molds. Splitting stalks can reveal internal decay that may not be visible from the outside. Disease pressure can reduce standability and grain quality.

Compare Hybrid Performance

Use this opportunity to evaluate how each hybrid performed under this year's growing conditions.

Pay attention to:

- Standability
- Stalk strength
- Disease tolerance
- Ear retention
- Stay-green characteristics
- Ear size and kernel fill

These observations help identify hybrids that perform well under your local growing conditions.

Set Harvest Priorities

Fields with weak stalks, lodging, significant disease, or ear drop should be harvested first to reduce yield losses. Fields with strong stalks and healthy plants can often remain in the field longer, allowing additional grain dry-down and potentially lowering costs.

Keep Good Records

Document hybrid performance, disease levels, stalk quality, grain moisture, and yield. Comparing these observations over multiple seasons provides valuable insight for future hybrid selection and crop management decisions.

Taking a little time to scout fields before harvest can pay significant dividends. These evaluations help protect yield, improve harvest efficiency, and provide valuable information for making informed management decisions in the seasons ahead.

Could Your Farm Be Missing Valuable R&D Tax Credits?

Many agricultural businesses are focused on day-to-day operations and may not realize that activities they perform every year could qualify for valuable R&D tax credits. From improving crop yields and irrigation methods to testing new processes, equipment, or production techniques, innovation in agriculture often extends far beyond the laboratory.

Understanding what qualifies can help farms, growers, and agribusinesses uncover opportunities to find tax savings opportunities and reinvest in their operations. With increased IRS scrutiny and evolving tax regulations, it is important to know where the opportunities exist and how to properly document qualifying activities.

CLA works with organizations to evaluate how experimentation shows up in real-world operations, how activities and costs are documented, and how current records align with IRS expectations.

For more information on R&D tax credits, contact CLA at CLAconnect.com/contact-us.



Scan the QR code to learn which agricultural activities may qualify, common misconceptions about R&D tax credits, and practical steps to find potential tax savings opportunities.



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Big Take Aways From 2026



by Ginny Block,
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The season got off to a wet start, with frequent rains making it difficult to get into the fields. Fortunately, conditions changed almost like the flip of a switch. We were able to take advantage of an excellent stretch of weather that allowed planting to progress quickly and efficiently. With good field conditions, fertilizer and herbicide applications were made in a timely manner, setting crops up for a strong start. Unfortunately the dry weather remained around for longer than wanted. Many areas went through extended periods of dry, leading to drought conditions which impacted crop development.

Soybean preemergence residuals remain to be a hot topic as we continue to see heavy pressure from waterhemp. This season, however, prolonged dry conditions in many areas delayed herbicide activation, which led to reduced residual performance in some fields. In many cases, the challenge was not the product itself, but the lack of timely rainfall needed to move the herbicide into the soil where it can control germinating weeds. That's why we encourage using proven, branded herbicide programs backed by reputable manufacturers. As no one can control the weather or how the season will play out, this is why we recommend adding a residual on a timely second pass application. Options are limited post emergent to mainly group 15 herbicides (acetochlor, metolachor, pyroxasulfone), which is why running a pre-emergent herbicide is important. The goal with any herbicide program is to start clean, stay clean. We can not be waiting to see weeds to spray.

As weather wasn't extremely favorable early on this season for a heavy disease year, it was still beneficial to run a fungicide option. Why? Group 11 fungicides, the Strobilurins, help plants tolerate drier conditions through a physiological phenomenon often called the "greening effect". Even when fungal diseases are absent, these chemicals temporarily alter plant biochemistry to mitigate environmental stresses like heat and drought. They help mitigate drought stress by improving stomatal efficiency and reducing ethylene production in the plants. Even though tarspot and southern rust didn't look likely due to weather, there was still North Corn Leaf Blight and grey leaf spot found, although they may not cause significant damage they do weaken the plant for other/future diseases. However, shortly after fungicide application, tarspot did start popping up in fields as conditions changed. When it comes to fungicide, something is better than nothing. We have many options when it comes to fungicide, lower to high tier products that have proven results.

As we look ahead, continuing to invest in strong agronomic programs, including effective preemergence residuals, layered weed control, and fungicide applications that protect both plant health and yield potential will remain key. While we can't predict what the next growing season will bring, we can be ready with management practice that position every acre for success.

Replacing Nutrients

Every crop removes nutrients from the field when grain, silage, hay, or crop residue is harvested and leaves the farm. Crops such as alfalfa, corn, and soybeans take up essential plant nutrients—including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, and micronutrients—throughout the growing season. Some of those nutrients remain in the stalks, leaves, and roots and are recycled back into the soil. However, the nutrients contained in the harvested portion are physically removed from the field and should be accounted for in the next fertility plan.

The first step in building an effective fertility program is understanding where your soil stands, and that begins with soil sampling. Grid sampling is one method that takes much of the guesswork out of the process by providing a detailed picture of nutrient levels across the field. Soil test results indicate whether nutrient levels are low, adequate, or high. If soil tests are in the optimum range, replacing the nutrients removed by the crop helps maintain fertility. If soil tests are low, the plan should replace crop removal while adding additional fertilizer or manure to gradually build soil fertility. If soil tests are high, a producer may be able to apply less than crop removal for a period while continuing to monitor soil test levels. Soil sampling is generally recommended every four to five years, although more frequent sampling can help fine-tune a fertility program.

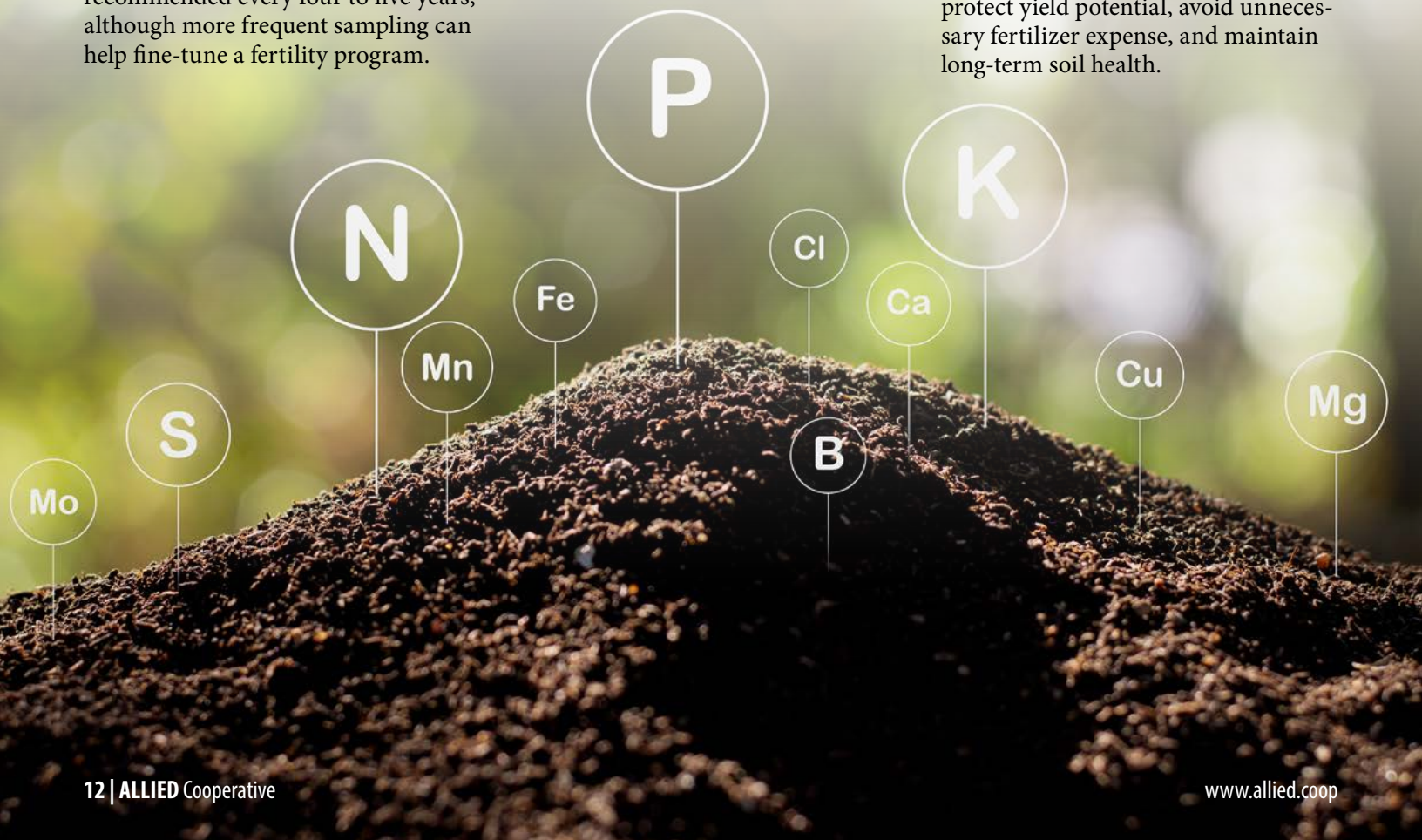
To bridge the gap between years of soil sampling results, monitoring nutrient removal based on crop yield is another valuable management tool. By multiplying harvested yield by established crop removal values, we can estimate the nutrients needed for the next season. For example, if a corn field yields 200 bushels per acre and removes approximately 0.35 pounds of phosphate and 0.25 pounds of potash per bushel, that crop removes roughly 150 pounds of DAP and 85 pounds of potash per acre in the grain alone. If stalks, straw, or silage are also removed, a different calculation that accounts for whole-plant nutrient removal should be used. Understanding what was removed allows us to replace those nutrients and maintain soil fertility from year to year.



by Jake Rueth,
Agronomy Advisor
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Harvest data from yield maps can also be an important tool. Combined with today's variable-rate application equipment, yield maps allow fertilizer to be applied where it is needed most. Since yields naturally vary across a field, applying a uniform fertilizer rate can quickly lead to areas with either nutrient deficiencies or excesses. Variable-rate application places nutrients where they provide the greatest return, helping optimize a producer's fertilizer investment.

Think of nutrient replacement as a balance sheet. The crop withdraws nutrients during the season, harvest removes a portion of them, and the next fertility plan should replace what is needed to keep the soil productive. By combining yield records with current soil test results, producers can protect yield potential, avoid unnecessary fertilizer expense, and maintain long-term soil health.



Free Soybean Cyst and Soil Nematode Testing



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

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

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

Talk to Pest Pros about our sampling services! To get your testing kits, including the postage paid packaging to ship the samples, email freescntest@mailplus.wisc.edu. For more information about the testing program contact Megan Nigh at the Pest Pros Lab at mnigh@allied.coop or 715-335-2026.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE



Soybean cyst nematode eggs and nematodes shown next to a cyst.

Manage Your Account with Our Digital Tools!

As Allied Cooperative approaches the close of our fiscal year on **September 30, 2026**, we'd appreciate your assistance in getting your account as current as possible. We understand that timing isn't always ideal, but maintaining healthy account balances helps ensure the continued financial strength of your cooperative.

If paying your balance in full by September 30 isn't possible, we encourage you to explore financing options such as producer financing programs, your local lender, John Deere Financial, or another credit provider. These alternatives may provide a cost-effective way to meet your business needs while keeping your account current.

Manage Your Account Anytime with POCKT

Keeping track of your Allied account has never been easier. Through the AgVantage POCKT customer portal, you can securely access your account information whenever it's convenient for you.

With POCKT, you can:

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

Getting started is easy. Visit allied.coop and select **Customer Login**.

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

info@allied.coop



by **Brad Lieders**,
Director of Credit
blieders@allied.coop

Go Paperless with e-Statements

Receive your statements faster by switching to e-Statements. Instead of waiting for the mail, your monthly statement is delivered directly to your inbox, making it easier to stay on top of your account.

Signing up is simple. Visit allied.coop/credit to complete the enrollment form, or email credit@allied.coop with your account name and account number to request e-Statements.

BONUS!

Sign up for e-Statements
by September 30 and you'll
be entered into a drawing for a
\$50 Allied Cooperative
Gift Certificate

CONVENIENCE STORES: Keeping Our Communities Moving This Fall

When most people think of fall at Allied Cooperative, they picture combines rolling through the fields, grain trucks lining up at our elevators, propane deliveries, and feed for local farms. While our Grain, Agronomy, Feed, and Energy teams are hard at work during one of the busiest times of the year, our convenience store teams are working just as hard to support our communities.

Our convenience stores serve thousands of customers each week, from farmers starting before sunrise to hunters heading into the woods, families traveling to weekend activities, and neighbors simply stopping in for their morning coffee. Whether it's fresh coffee, grab-and-go lunches, chicken feed, diesel fuel, propane, or everyday essentials, our stores are here to help keep your day moving.

As colder weather approaches, our locations also become a convenient stop for winter preparedness. We stock seasonal necessities like windshield washer fluid, motor oil, antifreeze, ice scrapers, gloves, snacks for emergency

kits, and many other items that help you stay safe on the road. And don't forget our stores offer much more than fuel, including fresh food, lottery, hunting and fishing licenses, propane services, and automotive supplies all with friendly local service.

Thank you for choosing Allied Cooperative. Every visit supports a locally owned cooperative proud to serve our communities year-round. Whether you're harvesting crops, commuting to work, or simply stopping in for a cup of coffee, we're honored to be part of your day.



by Erica Techlin,
Black Creek Cenex Manager

GRAIN

USDA: More Acres Offset by Lower Yields

The results are in. No, not the results from the Wisconsin Governor primary. I'm talking about the USDA August Supply and Demand report results. Much of what the USDA prints for estimating the size of the upcoming crop has been derived from statistical probabilities and history. It's for good reason because the crop is still out there actively growing and reacting to all the effects of the environment.

In August we can usually start to see the real outcome of our labor. Also, the FSA offices have submitted their records about the crop. Folks like to give the USDA a hard time about what they print (I'm in that group from time to time), but it is the most comprehensive set of facts and statistics we have. I guess that's why it's a market mover. Report days can be a crazy day in the markets.

Let's do a quick analysis of the report:

- Corn yield was cut 2.5 bu per acre from a trendline of 183 to 180.5 bu/ac.
- Soybeans were trimmed .03 bu/ac from 53 to 52.7 bu/ac.

Both crops saw acreage increases to produce a record combined planted area of 183.1 million acres: corn at 96.3 (up 1.5) and soybeans at 86.8 (up 1.4).

The higher acreage largely offset the cut in yield but the addition of 75 billion in export demand pushed corn ending stocks lower to 1.63 billion bu. Down from 1.79 from last month and down significantly from last year. The increased acreage for soybeans increased bean ending stocks a modest 10 million bushel. Soybean crush was increased 30 million bushel to a record 2.78 billion bu.

The bottom line is the amount of corn that doesn't have a home will be significantly less next year if these numbers are true. My feeling is that the USDA is fairly close. Yield may be a bit low in my opinion, but demand numbers look believable. Using history, we can deduct that a 10.1% stocks-to-use ratio equates to roughly \$4.60+ cash price going into 2027. So, I'm still cautiously bullish on corn.



by Rich Dahlke,
Adams Grain Location Manager/
Grain Merchandiser
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Harvest Nears, Winter Preparation Begins



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

As harvest approaches, we know your thoughts are on getting the crop out of the field—not worrying about whether your fuel is ready for cold weather. But the best time to prepare for winter isn't after the temperatures drop. It's while you're still thinking about harvest.

Cold weather creates several challenges for diesel-powered equipment. Engine oil thickens, batteries lose cranking power, and diesel fuel becomes more susceptible to problems such as fuel gelling or ice crystals caused by moisture in the fuel system. Any one of these issues can lead to difficult starts, plugged fuel filters, unexpected downtime, and lost productivity when you need your equipment the most.

Planning ahead with Cenex® Wintemaster® premium diesel helps reduce those risks. Specially blended for cold-weather performance, it helps protect against fuel gelling, improves cold starts, and provides dependable performance throughout the winter months.

One of the biggest mistakes we see each year is waiting too long to make the switch. As temperatures begin to fall, fuel already in storage can become difficult—or even impossible—to blend properly. Winterized fuel should be blended before temperatures reach the fuel's cloud point to ensure the #1 and #2 diesel mix correctly and deliver the cold-weather protection they're designed to provide.

Getting your tanks blended early helps protect your fuel before winter arrives and avoids last-minute headaches when cold weather hits.

Another simple step that can improve winter reliability is replacing your fuel filters before the season begins. Fresh filters help remove contaminants that can contribute to filter plugging, giving your equipment an added layer of protection when temperatures drop.

Fall is also the ideal time to review your fuel needs for the months ahead. Whether you need fuel for your farm, home, or business, Allied Cooperative offers fuel contract options designed to help you secure your supply and plan with confidence.

As you prepare for harvest, make winter fuel planning part of your checklist. Contact your local Allied Cooperative energy team to schedule your Cenex® winterized diesel blend, discuss your fuel contract options, and make sure your operation is ready before winter arrives.

Grain Drying Season is Here

As harvest approaches and the leaves begin to change, grain drying season is just around the corner. Our team is preparing for another busy fall and is ready to help keep your operation running smoothly.

If you haven't filled your LP tanks yet, now is a great time to do so. Before starting your grain dryer, please contact your local Allied Cooperative office to let us know your anticipated needs. Providing advance notice helps our staff coordinate deliveries efficiently and ensures your dryer tanks are supplied when you need them most.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to supporting you throughout a safe and successful harvest season.



Get Ready for Winter Before the Weather Arrives



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

It's hard to believe, but colder temperatures and winter weather will be here before we know it. Wisconsin winters can bring heavy snow, ice, strong winds, and extended periods of freezing temperatures. Those conditions can lead to power outages, difficult travel, and delayed fuel deliveries, making it important to prepare before the first storm arrives.

If your home relies on propane for heat, hot water, or other appliances, plan now for the winter months ahead.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO PREPARE:

- **Keep your propane supply ahead of winter.** Enroll in Allied Cooperative's Scheduled Delivery Program or monitor your tank level regularly. Avoid letting your tank run low, especially when severe weather could make deliveries more difficult.
- **Keep your tank accessible.** After each snowfall, clear snow and ice from around your propane tank and shovel a path for your delivery driver. A broom works best for removing snow from the tank itself.
- **Schedule annual maintenance.** Have your propane system, furnace, and appliances inspected by a qualified service technician before the heating season begins. Proper maintenance helps your equipment operate safely and efficiently while reducing fuel costs.
- **Create an emergency plan.** Make sure everyone in your household knows what to do if severe weather or a power outage occurs. Keep important phone numbers, including Allied Cooperative and emergency services, in an easily accessible location.
- **Stock an emergency supply kit.** Keep several days' worth of water, nonperishable food, flashlights, batteries, blankets, extra clothing, and a battery-powered NOAA weather radio on hand. It's also a good idea to have rock salt, snow removal equipment, and other winter essentials readily available.
- **Inspect vents and propane equipment.** Throughout the winter, regularly check chimneys, flue pipes, vent openings, regulators, and your propane tank for snow, ice, or debris. Keeping these areas clear helps prevent carbon monoxide hazards and ensures your propane system operates safely.
- **Install propane and carbon monoxide detectors.** Properly installed propane gas detectors and carbon monoxide detectors provide an added layer of protection for your family. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for installation and maintenance.
- **Check for damage after severe storms.** Once conditions are safe, inspect your property for downed power lines, damaged propane equipment, or gas leaks. If you notice any problems, contact Allied Cooperative or your local utility immediately. Never attempt repairs yourself.
- **Use propane appliances safely.** Never use a gas range or outdoor propane appliance to heat your home. Outdoor appliances should never be operated indoors or in enclosed spaces because they can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.
- **Use energy wisely.** During extended cold weather or power outages, conserve propane by lowering your thermostat when possible and closing off unused rooms. These simple steps can help stretch your fuel supply until normal conditions return.

Preparing today can help prevent problems tomorrow. A little planning before winter arrives will help keep your family safe, comfortable, and ready for whatever the season brings.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about your propane supply or would like to enroll in our Scheduled Delivery Program, contact your nearest Allied Cooperative location.

Adams	608-339-3394
Arcadia	608-323-3311
Hixton	715-963-3211
Marshfield	715-687-4443
Tomah	608-372-2458





Fall Updates for Your Operation

As we move through another busy season, I wanted to share a few updates and opportunities that can help our customers get the most value from their operations.

One important reminder is that there's still time to participate in our Tub Recycling Program, but the deadline is September 12. Customers can bring their cleaned, used feed tubs to any Allied feed location for proper recycling and receive a discount on future tub purchases. It's a simple way to clean up around the farm, support responsible recycling efforts, and save money on future feed products. If you've been meaning to gather those tubs, now is the time.

We're also excited about a major development for Wisconsin's equine industry. Purina is opening a new Equine Center in River Falls, expanding the capabilities of the Purina Research Farm. This new facility represents a significant investment in equine nutrition, education, and research. In addition to its research capabilities, the center will include meeting and educational spaces that will allow us to host valuable customer events and training opportunities. We're looking forward to utilizing this outstanding resource to bring even more educa-

tional programming to our equine customers.

The excitement doesn't stop there. Purina is also preparing to introduce new value-added equine products this fall. These innovative products are designed to provide additional nutritional support and performance benefits for horses at every stage of life. We'll be sharing more details as the launch approaches, so stay tuned for upcoming announcements.

There is also good news on the dairy side. Recent revisions to our milk replacer pricing have created more favorable pricing for many of our customers. If you're raising calves, I encourage you to visit with your Allied nutritionist to learn how these changes may benefit your operation and to discuss the best options for your calf-feeding program.

Speaking of calves, we're already planning our regional calf meetings this November. These educational meetings will be held at three locations across the state and will feature timely



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

information and practical management strategies to help improve calf health and performance. Watch your mailbox for registration details. These meetings are always packed with useful information, and I encourage everyone involved in calf production to attend.

Harvest season is also bringing increased interest in high oleic soybeans. Demand for these specialty beans continues to grow because they produce healthier, more stable oil for food applications while offering attractive market opportunities for producers. Allied has the ability to receive high oleic soybeans from area growers. If you're planning to market high oleic beans this fall or would like more information about delivery opportunities, please contact our Auburndale Feed Mill.

Thank you for your continued trust in Allied. We appreciate the opportunity to serve your operation and look forward to helping you achieve success this season and beyond.

Next Year's Silage Success Starts Today



by Pete Koss,
Livestock Production Consultant
pkoss@allied.coop

As you read this article, your corn silage may already be chopped and ensiled, or you may still be waiting for the ideal harvest moisture. Either way, now is the time to start thinking about corn silage hybrid selections for next year. New hybrids entering the market may offer potential for high-quality silage. With brown midrib (BMR) corn—known for higher fiber digestibility because of its lower lignin levels—being phased out, here are a few points worth considering.

Higher digestibility can improve feed quality and may increase dry matter intake (DMI). Because BMR corn has lower lignin, it breaks down and passes through the rumen more quickly, creating room for additional intake that could support higher milk production. As BMR is phased out, selecting silage hybrids with above-average neutral detergent fiber digestibility at 30 hours (NDFD30) is a good starting point. In addition to the natural differences among hybrids, short-stature corn is being evaluated as a possible tool for producing high-quality silage. Its shorter, lower-lignin stalks may possibly provide higher grain content and higher NDFD than taller hybrids. While digestibility may not match BMR, short-stature corn could help producers transition away from BMR.

Another option is to combine an above-average NDFD corn hybrid

with a lower-lignin alfalfa, such as CROPLAN®'s HarvXtra®. When harvested at the same maturity, HarvXtra can provide 14% to 20% more NDFD than conventional alfalfa. Its reduced and modified lignin allows it to break down and move through the rumen more quickly, which may support greater intake and digestibility. This pairing could help offset some of the NDFD losses that may occur when switching from BMR to a conventional silage hybrid.

Disease and insect pressure can also affect corn silage quality. Work with an agronomist who can scout your fields, identify potential threats, and recommend tools such as fungicides or biological products to help manage disease. Taking these steps can help protect the crop and support its nutritional value and yield.

In summary, when you meet with your seed sales representative to discuss next year's corn silage hybrids, look for options with above-average NDFD and starch digestibility, along with starch levels that fit your ration. You may also want to evaluate HarvXtra alfalfas that reduce lignin content and increase digestibility. Ask your seed sales representative to determine whether they fit your nutrition program. Choosing the right inputs for your forage program could help reduce purchased feed costs and improve dairy profitability. A strong cropping plan takes time to develop, but its benefits can carry through to the next harvest season.



Fine-Tuning the Feed Bunk: Why a TMR Audit Matters



by Josh Butler,
Dairy Sales Specialist
jbutler@landolakes.com

A Total Mixed Ration audit is an on-farm review of how feed is stored, loaded, mixed, delivered, and consumed. While a ration may look balanced on paper, the true test is whether cows receive that same balanced ration in every bite, every day. A TMR audit helps connect the nutrition plan to what is actually happening at the bunk, giving farms a practical look at where consistency can be improved.

The purpose of a TMR audit is to identify variation in the feeding system and improve ration consistency. Small differences in ingredient loading, mixing time, feed delivery, or bunk management can change the ration cows actually consume. By reviewing daily feeding practices, the audit helps reduce sorting, support rumen health, improve dry matter intake, and ensure the delivered ration matches what was formulated.

The audit process typically includes observing the feed center, ingredient handling, loading order, scale accuracy, mixing time, and feed delivery. It may also include reviewing feed storage, silage face management, and the condition of mixer components such as knives, augers, and kicker plates. To add another level of accuracy, drone footage can be used to review the mixing process inside the mixer and evaluate how consistently ingredients are being blended. Trail cameras may also be placed near bunks to monitor feed pushups and better understand how feeding routines line up with cow behavior throughout the day. Looking at each step of the process helps identify whether the ration is being mixed, delivered, and managed as consistently as possible.

The payoff is a more consistent, efficient, and profitable feeding program. A TMR audit can help improve cow performance, reduce feed waste, limit unnecessary mixing time, and protect one of the dairy's largest investments: feed. When cows receive a more consistent ration, farms have a better opportunity to support stable milk production, improve feed efficiency, and reduce costly variation. Just as importantly, the audit gives the feeder, producer, and nutritionist a shared understanding of where small adjustments can create meaningful results over time and contribute to the farm's bottom line.

Contact your Allied Cooperative feed representative to set up your TMR audit today.

★ ENTER OUR ★
2027
Calendar
PHOTO CONTEST!

ENTER BY EMAILING
YOUR DIGITAL PHOTOS
of local scenery,
agriculture and nature,
throughout all
four seasons

EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS TO:
info@allied.coop

Spring Summer Fall Winter

SHOWCASE THE BEAUTY
of Our Community!

DEADLINE TO ENTER:
SEPTEMBER 15,
2026

★ WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS! ★

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, email
careers@allied.coop.

Scan this QR code with
your smart phone





allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

Board Report

As we head into another harvest season, it's hard to believe how quickly summer has flown by. It's been a busy few months on the farm, and it's been just as busy here at Allied Cooperative.

This year has certainly had its share of challenges, especially with the continued ups and downs in fertilizer and energy markets. Through it all, Allied has worked hard to keep prices as competitive as possible while maintaining the financial strength needed to serve our members for the long haul. Thanks to careful planning and well-timed fertilizer purchases, we were fortunate to be on the right side of the market at key times. That allowed us to help keep costs in check despite global events and the uncertainty we've all experienced.

We've also continued investing in the future of your cooperative. Construction is wrapping up at our West Salem fertilizer facility, work is getting underway at our Galesville location, and we're excited to welcome Clintonville Elevator Company into the Allied family. These investments are all about making sure we're well positioned to serve our customers for years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for the trust and confidence you continue to place in Allied Cooperative. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work alongside you and be a part of your operation. As harvest gets underway, we hope all the hard work you've put in throughout the growing season pays off. We wish you a safe, productive harvest and encourage everyone to slow down when needed and make safety a priority during this busy time of year.



John Vehrenkamp,
Board Chairman

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.

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Adams, WI 53910

West Region

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PO Box 20
Hixton, WI 54635

Central Region

2327 W Veterans Pkwy
PO Box 988
Marshfield, WI 54449

East Region

354 Morrow St
Seymour, WI 54165

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