ALLIED Connections

FALL 2025

A PUBLICATION OF ALLIED COOPERATIVE®

ALLIED COOPERATIVE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEW PLOVER FACILITY BOOSTS SERVICE FOR CENTRAL WISCONSIN GROWERS

Allied Cooperative is proud to announce the opening of its newly constructed dry fertilizer plant at its agronomy location in Plover. Built on the existing site at 4809 Monroe Ave., the new facility marks a major investment in supporting the productivity and growth of area farmers.

With a storage capacity of 14,000 tons, the plant is equipped with state-of-the-art mixing and high-speed blending systems, allowing for faster receiving, custom blending, and efficient distribution to meet the needs of Allied's customers. The upgraded system also includes expanded bin space and enhanced storage capacity, enabling Allied to offer a wider range of fertilizer products.

A key feature of the new facility is trackside railcar unloading, which allows railcars to be offloaded directly indoors. This minimizes weather-related delays and helps ensure a steady, efficient flow of fertilizer to meet seasonal demand.

The plant also includes a new office space and small conference room to better support daily operations and provide a comfortable meeting space for customer consultations and agronomic planning.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Rob Larson,
CEO/General Manager

Building on Success and Investing in the Future

As we approach the end of another fiscal year, I'm proud to share that your cooperative is in a strong position—both financially and operationally. While year-end naturally draws our attention to the balance sheet, our number one focus is the performance of our customers. We thrive on helping you and your operations succeed.

Through the end of July, Allied Cooperative's financial performance has remained solid. Sales across the company have been strong, with year-to-date results (through July) showing just over $414 million in total sales. Our local net earnings are right on track with our budgeted expectations, and we've seen steady unit growth across all business segments.

This year also marks a significant milestone—our second full year since the merger, and we're seeing the vision of that merger come to life. The plan we set out with is working. We are achieving organic growth, retaining business, and producing results that reflect our long-term strategy. We are doing what we said we would do.

We're not only seeing strong financial results—we're investing in the future, delivering strong returns to our members, and building for what comes next. Your return on investment is solid, and we remain focused on balancing our financial goals with the core mission that sets co-ops apart: serving our members and creating lasting value.

Investing in Our Infrastructure

One of the most exciting benefits of the merger has been our increased capacity to invest in facilities, equipment, and technologies that help our patrons succeed. These expansion projects are visible proof of our commitment to serving your needs.

- Plover Fertilizer Plant – We are excited to announce that the new plant is now complete and operational. This modern facility will bring increased service and value to our customers in the Central Sands region. If you're in the area, we invite you to stop by and see it for yourself.
- West Salem Fertilizer Plant – Construction has officially begun, and we're eager to see this project take shape.
- Auburndale Grain Expansion – We had a major expansion project at our Auburndale grain location. We added a new dryer, boosting our drying capacity, and upgraded the receiving system so we are now able to unload two trucks at once—getting you back to the field faster.
- Looking at future expansion projects at Galesville agronomy and Seymour feed sites.
- Continued improvements at a number of locations, including site and building improvements at various locations
- Equipment and rolling stock upgrades

These are just a few examples of how we're reinvesting in our business to support yours.

Strong Performance, Strong Future

We're on target with expense control, and we're meeting or exceeding expectations with local earnings. On top of that, we continue to deliver cash patronage, retire member equity, and focus on organic growth—each one an important indicator of our strength as a cooperative. Remarkable to me is the fact that over the past ten years, our co-op has paid nearly $100 million in patronage and equity revolvement back to our members.

At the heart of everything we do is our people—both the dedicated employees who carry out our mission day in and day out, and you, our valued members and customers. Your trust, your partnership, and your continued support are what make this possible.

As we close out another fiscal year and look ahead to the next, we are excited about the direction we're heading. We are investing in our company, in our patrons, and in our communities—for you, and because of you.

Thank you for being part of Allied Cooperative!

WHAT'S IN YOUR SOIL?

Let's Get Samplin'

by Matt Selenske,
Pest Pros Location Manager
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Soil sampling is the only way to know what's in your soil empirically. Sampling every field at least once in a rotation is a great way to help you manage the land in an optimal manner. The results that you receive will contain information regarding nutrient levels as well as underlying soil characteristics such as buffering capacity and current pH levels. This information is critical for making nutrient and liming recommendations in a way that boosts profit margins and protects our bodies of water.

So what's the best way to go about it? Just give your Allied Agronomy Advisor a call and provide us with a few pieces of information. Obviously, we'll need to know the name of the fields as well as their locations. We'll need to know if this sample is being taken for a nutrient management plan. Additionally, tell the Agronomy Advisor if you'd like to have these fields conventional or grid sampled. If you'd like them to be grid sampled, tell us what size you would like the grids to be (2.5 and 5 acres/sample are common). Let us know what the upcoming crops are as well as your yield goals. Finally, let us know if you would like a complete or routine test. That's all we need to get the ball rolling towards providing you with nutrient and liming recommendations based on empirical information.

Lastly, consider having us take a soybean cyst nematode sample while we're in the field. Our nematode diagnostic lab can determine the level of soybean cyst nematode eggs in your soil, which will provide you with a risk assessment for fields that will be planted with soybeans next year. We also have an experienced staff that can advise you with regard to managing the risk based on what we see in your samples.

So talk to your Agronomy Advisor about soil sampling and let us do the dirty work for you.

AGRONOMY

Corn Silage Harvest is Right Around the Corner

by Ron Schuh,
Agronomy Advisor
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The timing of corn silage harvest is the first—and most important—step in proper corn silage management. Start evaluating whole-plant moisture levels about 40–45 days after pollination, when the kernel milk line has reached the ½ mark. Begin collecting representative plant samples, chop them, and test for whole-plant moisture. This can be done by sending samples to a lab for analysis (the most accurate method) or by "cooking off" the moisture yourself.

Target moisture levels according to your storage structure:

Horizontal structures (silo bags, bunkers): Aim for 63–68% moisture.

Upright stave silos: Target 60–63% moisture.

For optimal starch utilization, aim for a kernel processing score of 60 or higher—the higher, the better. We don't want to see starch passing through the cows! Set your chop length between 3/4" and 7/8", and use a shaker box to confirm the right length for rumen health.

You can't overpack corn silage! Strive for a minimum of 18 pounds of dry matter per cubic foot—even better is 20–22 lbs/cubic foot. Better packing improves fermentation and helps preserve nutrients.

Inoculant or preservative—what's best?

Inoculants, like SiloSolve® FC, are popular for their ability to create fast, controlled fermentation, reduce spoilage, preserve nutrients, and extend bunk life. In contrast, I believe preservatives are more effective in stress environments, such as when plants are overly dry due to field conditions or affected by ear, stalk, or leaf diseases. Preservatives help inhibit early mold and toxin development and allow fermentation to take its course.

Finally, don't overlook covering your bunkers or silos. Keeping air and water out is key to preserving feed quality. Use high-quality plastic and keep it tightly sealed until feeding begins. Be sure the seal is secure right up to the edge where the corn silage meets the structure.

Taking the time to manage corn silage harvest properly pays off all year long. From moisture levels to packing density to proper sealing, every step plays a role in feed quality and animal performance. If you have questions or need help getting started, don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to support a successful harvest.

Alfalfa Fall Management

by Jake Rueth,
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As we evaluate our success in harvesting high-quality, high-tonnage alfalfa forage, it's easy to feel confident and simply hope for similar results next year.

But rather than relying on luck, there are three key fall management practices that can help set your alfalfa stand up for continued success:

- **Timing of the last cutting**
- **Fertilizer application**
- **Weed management**

Timing of the last cutting is critical for stand survival. In northern Wisconsin, the ideal window for the final cutting is around September 1st; for southern Wisconsin, aim for around September 5th. This timing allows the plant to accumulate approximately 500 growing degree days before a killing frost, giving it time to replenish root carbohydrate reserves—essential energy for overwintering and regrowth next spring.

Soil fertility is another major factor in alfalfa health. After the final cutting, pulling soil samples is a great way to evaluate nutrient levels. Based on those results, you can adjust your fertility program to ensure the stand has what it needs for the coming season. Potassium and phosphorus are both critical for high-yielding alfalfa. Adding sulfur and boron can further enhance protein development and improve root nodulation for nitrogen production.

Weed control is also most effective after the last cutting, once regrowth begins. This is an ideal time to target fall-germinating weeds like seedling dandelion, chickweed, shepherd's purse, and yellow rocket. These weeds can be easily managed with timely applications in September and October.

Taking these steps now will help protect the investment you've already made in your alfalfa crop—and position your stand for an even more productive season next year.

"Think Spring Starts in April? *It Really Starts this Fall.*"

by Nathan Ausen,
Agronomy Advisor
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Planning for a successful planting season doesn't begin when the snow melts—it starts now. Fall is the ideal time to assess your soil, make fertility decisions, and stay one step ahead of spring's unpredictable weather. From pH correction to phosphorus and potassium applications, taking action in the fall sets you up for smoother, more efficient spring operations.

It all starts with soil sampling, which should be done every three to five years—ideally after harvest, either in the fall or early spring. However, collecting soil samples in the spring can be difficult due to wet conditions. Fall offers more predictable weather and ensures results are available in time for a fall fertilizer application. To make this manageable, consider dividing your fields into zones and sampling a portion each year. This rotational approach keeps the workload balanced while maintaining timely and accurate soil data.

One of the most important soil metrics is pH, which should ideally be around 6.5 for most crops. Soil pH gradually decreases due to crop nutrient uptake, leaching, and the residual acidity left by nitrogen fertilizers. Low pH can lead to reduced availability of calcium and manganese, limit nitrogen fixation, and increase the risk of herbicide carryover or herbicide failure.

Lime is often used to correct soil acidity and provides calcium, an essential plant nutrient. There are two types of pH to consider: soil pH, which tells you how acidic or alkaline the soil is, and buffer pH, which helps determine how much lime is needed. Lime takes time—usually 3 to 6 months—to fully react in the soil, making fall the ideal time for application. This allows ample time for the lime to neutralize acidity before spring planting. Keep in mind that not all lime products are the same. Their neutralizing value (based on calcium carbonate equivalence and particle size) affects how much you'll need to apply.

Fall is also a great time to apply phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). These nutrients are best applied in the fall due to drier soils, better field access, and lower risk of runoff. From an environmental standpoint, fall conditions often reduce the risk of P loss, especially in no-till systems where nutrients have time to break down and become available by spring. Follow soil test recommendations closely to maintain P and K levels above their critical thresholds, ensuring healthy plant growth and protecting yield potential.

If your soil test results show nutrient levels above those critical thresholds, you may be able to skip a season. However, for soils testing below these levels, annual applications of P and K are recommended—both to replace crop removal and to build long-term soil fertility. In a corn-soybean rotation, all of your potassium can be applied after soybean harvest to support the upcoming corn crop.

Finally, fall fertilization offers important economic and logistical advantages. It frees up time during the spring rush, allowing you to plant sooner and more efficiently. Fall fertilizer prices have also historically been more cost-effective compared to spring, offering potential savings.

Fertilizer Market Update

by Joe Spinler,
Executive VP
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I'll keep this brief so as not to sound like a broken record. Here goes...

All fertilizer prices remain elevated compared to this time last year. While some products have seen modest pullbacks from their spring highs, prices haven't dropped as much as many of us would have expected. Others, like phosphates, continue to climb—leading the charge—with potash trying to hang on.

The reasons for these elevated prices haven't changed: larger-than-normal corn acres and ongoing delays in the import and supply chain. We continue to rely heavily on imports, and uncertainty around tariffs and trade has slowed that flow. Russia remains a significant supplier of UAN and potash to North America—if new sanctions are imposed, we could see further price bumps on those products.

In the short term, I expect prices to remain firm to flat at best. We'll know more as the fall application season unfolds and demand becomes clearer. It's worth noting that throughout the corn belt even when commodity prices are lower, history shows that if farmers harvest large yields, they are more likely to fertilize regardless of price – thus, leading to continued demand which more than likely will keep prices higher.

Please stay in close contact with your agronomy advisor for soil sampling and fertilizer planning. Thank you for your past and future patronage.

Thank You to Our Summer Interns!

by Michelle Gubser,
Director of Talent Management
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As summer comes to an end, we want to give a heartfelt thank-you to our incredible interns. They have brought fresh perspectives, a willingness to learn, and a lot of positive energy to our team. They've been an integral part of our team, and we're so proud of what they've accomplished. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Interested in an Internship?
We're already looking forward to next year and will soon begin our search for next summer's interns. If you or someone you know is a student eager to gain hands-on experience and contribute in a meaningful way, keep an eye on our careers page for upcoming opportunities. We'll be posting internship roles in September.

Agronomy Sales & Operation interns (left to right): Rachel Boehlke, Jonathon Lauritzen, Sadie Jefferson, MaKayla Ueeck, Jaden Hammes, Erica Schaefer, Tyler Ross, Devan Brossman, Paige Nygaard. Not pictured: Connor Hanson

Pest Pros Interns (left to right) Back row: Seth Delikowski, Cole McPherson, Theo Kelly, Ian Ollhoff, Ricardo Moran, Gage Anderson, Cody Sullivan. Front row (left to right): Cade Larson, Paige Erickson, Grant Leiterman, Samantha Salmi, Sadie Jefferson. Not pictured: Nina Skeres and Matthew Selenske Jr.

Plan Ahead with Agronomy Financing for 2026

by Brad Lieders,
Director of Credit
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It's not too early to start thinking about the 2026 agronomy season—especially when it comes to financing. Allied Cooperative offers a variety of convenient agronomy finance options subject to credit approval, including extended terms and low interest rates with deferred payments for approved accounts.

Participating suppliers include Syngenta®/NK®/Enogen™, BASF, Bayer Crop Protection, DEKALB®/Asgrow®/Alloy®, CROPLAN® Seed & Signature Crop Protection (WinField® United), FMC, Corteva™ TruChoice®, Brevant®, and Mustang Seeds.

The application process is simple, and our team is here to help you choose the option that best fits your operation. Visit allied.coop/credit for full program details and links to apply online with Cooperative Credit Company, John Deere Financial, and Rabo AgriFinance.

Now is a great time to explore your options and be ready when the season gets closer. Let us help you get a head start.

Help Us Close the Books: Fiscal Year-End is **September 30**

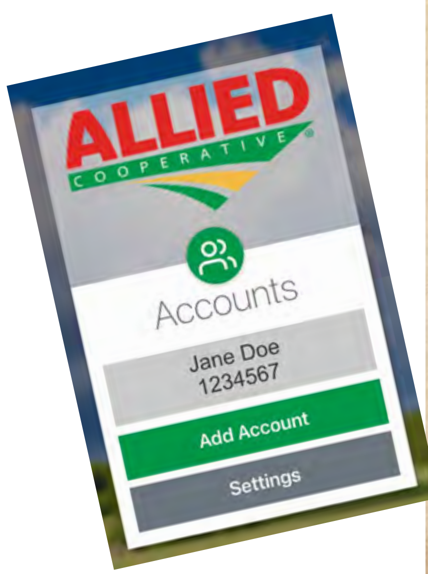
As Allied Cooperative approaches the close of our fiscal year on September 30, we want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and patronage. Your partnership is the foundation of our success.

To help us wrap up the year smoothly, we kindly ask that any outstanding payments be made before September 30. Keeping accounts current is an important part of maintaining a strong and efficient cooperative.

If you have a past due balance, now is a great time to bring your account up to date. Statements were mailed earlier this month for your reference.

Please note: payments must be received at one of our locations by September 30 in order to be applied within this fiscal year.

Thank you for your attention to this important request—and for being a valued member of Allied Cooperative.



Sign up for email statements by 9/30/25 and be entered in a drawing for a $50 Allied Cooperative Gift Certificate!

Go Paperless and Stay Connected with Allied's Digital Tools

Managing your account with Allied Cooperative has never been easier! With e-Statements and the AgVantage POCKT portal, you can access your information faster, stay more organized, and take care of business on your schedule.

Why wait for the mail? Get your statement delivered instantly.
Switch to e-Statements and start planning your monthly budget sooner. E-Statements are:

- **FASTER** No waiting on the postal service.
- **MORE SECURE** Delivered directly to your inbox.
- **ECO-FRIENDLY** Help us reduce paper waste.
- **COST-EFFECTIVE** Saves the cooperative money, which benefits all members.

Getting started is simple! Visit allied.coop/credit and fill out the short sign-up form, or email your request to credit@allied.coop. Be sure to include your account name and number, and mention you'd like to switch to emailed statements.

Take it a step further with the AgVantage POCKT portal!
POCKT (Portal of Communication, Knowledge & Technology) puts powerful tools at your fingertips. Once you're logged in, you can:

- **Check your account balance anytime.**
- **Download monthly statements.**
- **View prepaid and booking contract details.**
- **Pay your bill online via ACH or credit card.***
- **Search and download invoices with detailed information.**

**Credit card payments processed through PayPal; fees may apply.*

Signing up is easy—just visit allied.coop and click Customer Login, or scan the QR code above.

Go digital today and make managing your Allied Cooperative account faster, simpler, and smarter!

Turning Yield Data into Action: Smarter Fertility with Precision Prescriptions

by Austin Bohm,
Ag Technology Specialist
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Each season's yield data isn't just a report card; it's a springboard for better decisions in the next cropping cycle. When we combine that data with recent soil sample results, we gain a clear picture of where nutrients are needed most and where they're not. That insight lets us build variable rate fertilizer prescriptions for both fall and spring, maximizing return on every acre.

We've reached a point where farming by average is no longer enough. Applying a flat rate of fertilizer across a field may feel simple, but it often leads to underfeeding high-performing areas and wasting nutrients in lower-performing zones. By layering yield maps with updated soil tests, we can fine-tune where those fertilizer dollars go. The result isn't just savings … it's smarter reinvestment.

Variable rate technology (VRT) allows us to put that plan into action. With Allied's precision applicators, equipped with pan-tested spread patterns and GPS-guided rate control, we're able to apply exactly what's needed, where it's needed. These aren't just bells and whistles. The equipment we use in our custom application fleet is built for precision and efficiency, ensuring every pass across the field contributes to a more profitable outcome.

Compare that to the old pull-behind spreaders many growers still rely on, either owned or rented. These spreaders lack rate control, real-time adjustments, and pan-tested patterns. They do the job, but not with the accuracy today's farming demands. It's no different than planting with six bags of 9-23-30 tossed over the hood of a Farmall M or John Deere B. That might've gotten you across the field in your grandpa's day, but today's crop prices, input costs, and yield expectations demand more. Precision ag isn't about chasing trends, it's about making the most of what you already have.

Soil sampling remains a key piece of the puzzle. It tells us where nutrient levels are lacking, where pH needs attention, and where fertility is already in balance. But the real power comes when we combine that with your yield history to build a complete picture. With that full view, we can create prescriptions tailored for fall dry fertilizer or spring starter applications that help you reach your crop's full potential.

You're already collecting the data. Let's make it work for you. Don't let your best-performing acres get shorted, or your lower-potential acres eat up more inputs than they'll return. Together with your Allied agronomist, we can turn that data into a targeted plan that builds yield, efficiency, and profit potential.

Let us help you move past "how it's always been done." The tools and data are in your hands; now is the time to use them to their fullest.

Quality Assurance in Allied Cooperative's Feed Division

By Steve Heckel,
Livestock Production Specialist
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Quality Assurance (QA) is a relatively new—but increasingly important—part of Allied Cooperative's feed business. The QA program is designed to ensure that the nutrient levels stated on feed formulas are accurately delivered to the farm and animal, free from contamination and unexpected variation.

Ingredient Sampling & Testing

All incoming feed ingredients are sampled, with retained samples kept on file. Select samples are tested for basic nutrient values to verify consistency. Corn, our highest-volume ingredient, receives special attention. During intake at the mill or storage, corn is evaluated for moisture, bushel weight (density), appearance, and odor. These details are documented on receiving records.

Corn may be sold whole or processed. Processing methods include grinding, rolling (fine, medium, coarse), and flaking (thin or thick). The quality of these processes is monitored by measuring particle size, moisture, and density. For example:

- Fine ground corn targets a particle size of 400 microns and ≤14% moisture.
- Thin flake corn targets ≤14% moisture and 28 lb/bushel density.

These quality parameters are checked routinely throughout the week.

Grain-based ingredients—including corn, oats, corn protein feed, wheat middlings, and distillers' grains—are also screened for mycotoxins. This testing is performed on a regular schedule, some weekly and others monthly.

Finished Feed & Lot Tracking

Finished feed is produced in batches, each assigned a unique lot number. A sample of each lot is retained, and some are randomly selected for nutrient analysis. If an analysis reveals an outlier (a nutrient value that does not match the formula tag), corrective actions are taken. This may include notifying customers and replacing the product, ensuring feed quality and integrity are maintained.

Pelleting & Crumbling

Our mills also produce feed in pellet and crumble form. This involves conditioning the feed with steam, pressing it through a die, then cooling and drying it. If needed, the pellets are crumbled into smaller sizes. Pellet integrity is evaluated using in-house testing and periodic analysis by Dairyland Laboratories.

Contaminant Monitoring

Beyond nutrient testing, QA also includes screening for unwanted contaminants. One such example is Rumensin—a common additive for ruminants that can be harmful to non-ruminants. In-house testing methods are used to detect the presence of Rumensin, and samples are periodically sent to outside labs to confirm its presence in tagged feeds and ensure its absence in feeds where it doesn't belong.

Multi-Site Implementation

These QA processes are implemented across all three Allied Cooperative milling locations: Auburndale, Hixton, and Seymour. Our ultimate goal is to ensure customers receive the high-quality feed they expect—formulated, produced, and delivered to meet performance expectations and safety standards.

Feed Update: Inventory, Storage Tips, and Fall Planning

by Ed Sabey,
Director of Feed
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Feed inventories are looking strong this summer, and as we move into September with continued warm weather, it's a good time to think about feed preservation and storage.

If you're using liquid feeds or molasses-based fats, consider adding preservatives—especially if the product will sit for more than 30 days. (We do not encourage more than 30 days of feed storage.) Warmer temperatures can accelerate spoilage, so a little prevention now can go a long way in protecting your investment.

We also have bunker covers and silage shields in stock. These protective layers are designed to go over your bunker underneath the tarp, and we've seen great results from customers using them for added spoilage protection.

A few more feed storage tips to keep in mind:

- Store feed in a shaded, cool, and dry location. This cannot be emphasized enough.
- If feed is delivered on pallets with plastic wrap, remove the wrap to prevent sweating and allow the feed to breathe.

Looking ahead, we have inoculants available for corn silage and hay crops—reach out to your Allied feed representative for product recommendations and availability.

And don't forget: fall is a great time to price and contract commodities. As harvest approaches, prices can be favorable. Whether you're looking to lock in feed or milk contracts, our team is here to help guide you through the process.

Have questions or need a quote? Give us a call—we're happy to help. We appreciate and are thankful for your continued business. Your ongoing support makes our success possible — and we're proud to be your cooperative partner.

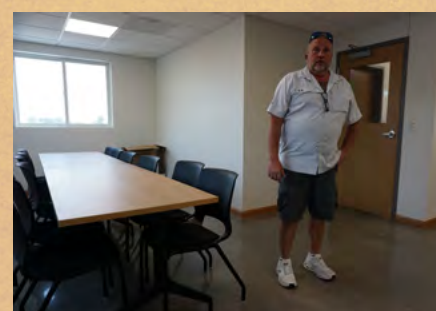
Plover Facility

Continued from page 1...

Located in the heart of Wisconsin's Central Sands region, the Plover location plays a critical role in serving one of the nation's premier vegetable-growing areas. Local growers rely on Allied Cooperative for timely, high-quality service to support the production of potatoes, sweet corn, green beans, peas, carrots, cucumbers, and a variety of row crops.

"This new facility reflects our long-term commitment to the growers of Central Wisconsin," said Rob Larson, CEO of Allied Cooperative. "By investing in modern infrastructure and technology, we're ensuring our ability to deliver fast, reliable service while helping producers stay competitive and productive in today's ag economy."

The new fertilizer plant is now fully operational and prepared to meet the needs of growers across the region.



GRAIN DIVISION

Preparing for Harvest

by David Rappa,
Director of Grain
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Harvest is one of the most exciting times of the year for all of us in the grain division. After months of speculation, anticipation, and preparation, we finally get to see the results of the growing season. Throughout the summer, we've driven across our trade territory, field by field, wondering what October and November will bring.

For some growers, this season looks to have record yield potential. For others, especially in areas hit by heavy localized rains in June, it may be a struggle to reach average yields. Some regions received as much as 15 inches of rain in a single week, with isolated events exceeding 5 inches in a single day. Still, as of this writing, we anticipate trend line yields overall, with more excellent-looking crops than poor across our region.

In the grain division, we spend ten months each year preparing for harvest. Over the winter, spring, and summer, we've been busy contracting bushels, buying and selling grain, loading trucks, performing maintenance, and making key upgrades to better serve you during harvest.

This year, we've made several improvements to keep up with your growing needs. At our main Auburndale location, we've increased drying capacity and improved unloading speed. We added a 3,000 bushel-per-hour dryer alongside our existing 4,700 bushel-per-hour dryer, increasing total drying capacity to 7,700 bushels per hour. A new full truck dump pit and enhanced receiving system will now allow us to unload two trucks simultaneously at a rate of 16,000 bushels per hour—getting you back to the field faster.

As in previous years, we will receive wet corn and soybeans at the main Auburndale site, with soybeans and dry corn being accepted at the West location.

These upgrades at Auburndale should also help reduce wait times at our Wisconsin Rapids, Tomah, and Stratford locations. In the past, long lines in Auburndale often resulted in heavier traffic at these sites.

We're also preparing for an estimated 10% increase in corn acres over last year. To accommodate the additional volume, we have plans to bag extra bushels at our Auburndale and Adams locations and have sales lined up to keep space available.

We're also introducing ACH payments for grain checks this year. To receive faster payments and avoid postal delays, please visit our website and enroll. You'll find the signup under the Grain tab, then click on Grain Settlement ACH Payments.

Finally, good communication at the scale will help keep things running smoothly. Please make sure your carrier knows the account name, any splits, and how the grain should be applied. Grain not designated for sale will automatically be placed into grain bank after seven days of delivery.

From all of us in the grain division, we wish you a safe and successful harvest. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

Auburndale East

Corn Ratings, Record Yields and My Chemistry Grades

by Rich Dahlke,
Adams Grain Location Manager/Grain Merchandiser
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I believe it was the last article I wrote where I mentioned that if I could give myself a letter grade on my ability to "out guess" the grain market I would give myself a grade much like college chemistry. A solid C+. After the second quarter of this marketing year, I may have been giving myself too much credit.

Those of you who talk to me on a regular basis know that I like to use a lot of history to form an opinion on where the markets could be heading. Look at any seasonal corn chart and you'll see that the early summer months will usually give you an opportunity to make some old and new crop sales. Surely, someone somewhere is having trouble getting the crop in the ground or yields are being trimmed because of less than ideal weather conditions. This year is turning out to be a bit different.

Today we are looking at crop conditions throughout the corn belt at 73% good to excellent. This is well above the 5-year average of 64% and is the second best of the last 10 years. Soybean ratings are also very good at 70% good to excellent with the 5-year average at 62%. Iowa, which is our top corn growing state, is the garden spot with a corn rating of a whopping 87% good to excellent. Each week throughout the corn belt in this growing season we saw rain fall totals at 95 to 110% of normal and the drought map is showing very little if any major corn growing area experiencing dryness. This is what the trade is looking at. This is why the spec funds don't want to own corn. Regardless of what we are seeing in our fields, the market seems to be convinced we are going to experience record yields.

In college, my grades were much better in statistics so let's use them. Based on the crop ratings we are now seeing and using some history, the math tells us we will probably see corn yields at 3 to 5% above trendline yield. Trendline yields this year are at 181 bu per acre. A 3% increase would give us 186 bu per acre and 5% would give us a whopping 190 bushel per acre. Soybeans are an August crop and soon, if the crop rating stays the 3rd best of the last 10 years, the same thing will happen, and yield predictions will start to increase. Again, the trade has done the math also and is actively trading these numbers. Even though we are seeing the best corn export year on record and trade negotiations one by one are proving somewhat successful the prospects of a huge U.S crop are hanging over the futures market like a dark cloud.

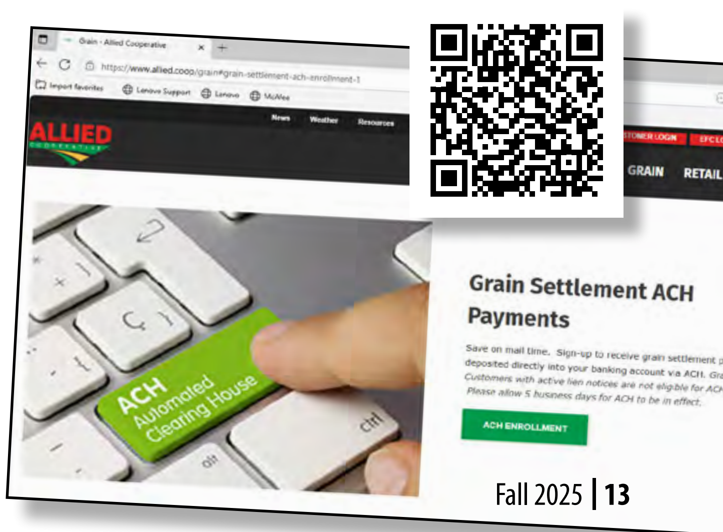
Until the trade shifts away from the U.S. production side, this price trend will probably continue. Although the Chinese have been nonexistent with new crop purchases, I do believe we will see them as buyers of new crop in September and October. Hopefully trade deals will continue to be made and the record corn export year continues, and these factors help prop up the grain markets. Watch my grade on this prediction.

Get Your Grain Settlement Payments—Faster!

Skip the wait for the mail—have your grain settlement payments deposited directly into your bank account via ACH. ***It's fast, secure, and convenient.***

Sign up today at www.allied.coop/grain#grain-settlement-ach-enrollment-1
or scan the QR code on the right. For a paper form, contact any of our grain locations.

Please note: Grain customers with active lien notices are not eligible for ACH payments. Allow up to 5 business days for processing after enrollment.



Propane
Gearing Up for Winter

by Jeff Bunker
Director of Propane
jbunker@allied.coop

Last fall, Mother Nature cooperated with us to dry most corn to acceptable levels in the field resulting in a very low amount of propane used for corn drying. Currently, the way that most corn looks across our area, I would predict that there will be a major increase in dryer gas consumption this fall.

In the Midwest we currently have about 15.1 million barrels of LP in inventory. While this is an adequate amount for this time of year, it is down from the 18.5 million barrels that we had a year ago at this time. We should continue to build this inventory going into fall, but if there is a strong dryer gas demand, propane pricing and supply could be interesting again.

The long-term supply picture for propane is positive. In fact, the U.S. actually produces more propane than it uses. But in times of extremely high demand, infrastructure can limit how quickly we can get large quantities of propane from the areas of the country where it's produced to the areas where it's needed. That's why we're encouraging our customers to plan ahead and fill your tanks early to help ensure you have the fuel you need when you need it.

Please reach out to me or any of our energy offices or sales staff to ensure that you have a plan in place to keep you supplied with LP for corn drying and heating demand.

Whether you're on "scheduled delivery" or "will call" we do ask that you periodically check the fuel gauge and call us when the gauge is between 20 and 30%.

For more information or to order LP, contact the LP office closest to your home.

Adams:	**608.339.3394**
Arcadia:	**608.323.3311**
Hixton:	**715.963.3211**
Marshfield:	**715.687.4443**
Tomah:	**608.372.2458**
West Salem:	**608-786-1100**

Energy Market Outlook:
Fall and Winter 2025

by Troy Thompson,
Director of Refined Fuels
tthompson@allied.coop

With increasing attention on tariffs and the potential for expanded sanctions on Russian oil, many are wondering how these developments might impact supply and pricing as we head into fall and winter.

At this point, most analysts remain doubtful that the proposed tariffs will cause any significant disruptions to supply. In fact, oil prices dipped on August 5th following OPEC+'s announcement of a planned production increase for September. The move is aimed at stabilizing the market and gradually restoring output to pre-pandemic levels.

Despite the increase, traders have responded cautiously, concerned about the possibility of oversupply in the face of ongoing weak demand. Even so, the markets remain relatively stable and well-supplied as we approach the colder months.

Looking ahead, much of the market's focus will turn to the Trump administration's decision on further sanctions involving Russian oil—an announcement that could shape pricing dynamics as the season progresses.

Our People Make the Difference

Meet our Energy Sales Team

RUSS BORTZ

Certified Energy Specialist

608.780.8614 • russell.bortz@chsinc.com

I have served as a Certified Energy Specialist with Allied Cooperative for more than 13 years, working with customers across our Western Region—from eastern Minnesota and La Crosse to Tomah, and as far north as Alma and Arcadia.

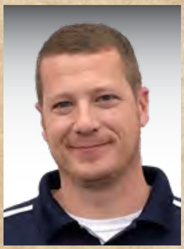
My focus is simple: quality in everything I do. I stand behind my knowledge, our cooperative, and the exceptional Cenex® products we offer—products that consistently rise above the competition. I'm passionate about helping customers get the most from their operations, and I take pride in being a trusted partner in their success.

I welcome your call and look forward to putting my experience and passion to work for you.

MICHAEL KAMPSTRA

Certified Energy Relationship Manager

715.218.3792 • michael.kampstra@chsinc.com



I am the Sales Team Lead with Allied Cooperative. I work out of our Stratford office and cover the North Region, which includes Marshfield, Antigo, Merrill, Stevens Point, Wausau, and stretches all the way over to Seymour.

I've been in energy sales for 15 years, and for the last four years I've had the opportunity to be part of the Allied team. I'm committed to helping customers find the best solutions for their operations and pride myself on being accessible, responsive, and easy to work with. I look forward to getting to know you and supporting your needs throughout the year.

JOEL KOUBA

Certified Energy Specialist

608.279.1483 • joel.kouba@chsinc.com

I cover the western part of our territory for Allied Coop in energy sales. Typically, I office out of Hixton, but you may find me in Arcadia or West Salem as well.

I've been in energy sales for over 10 years as part of CHS, Provision Partners and now Allied Cooperative. I'm excited to help in any way I can so please reach out to me with any questions or concerns with any energy related needs.

I live in Onalaska with my wife Rachel, 5-year-old daughter Sydney and our dog, Gordon. I'm really looking forward to helping our customers continue the strong tradition of excellence and representing Allied Cooperative along the way.

KRIS MALPHY

Certified Energy Specialist

608.547.7357 • kris.malphy@chsinc.com

I have been working as a Certified Energy Specialist (CES) since April. I have five plus years of experience as a CES in the cooperative system. I most recently left a management position at a lumber company before coming to Allied Cooperative. I was also in law enforcement for 17 years retiring from that role in 2012.

My coverage area is the southern region of Allied's territory. I work out of the Tomah and Adams offices, but spend the majority of my time on the road meeting with customers.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family which includes my wife Jennifer and our two teenage sons Brock and Jake. We enjoy pontoon time and fishing along with family vacations up north.

If you have any questions on the energy products we specialize in, please feel free to reach out to me by email or phone. I look forward to assisting you with your energy needs.

JUSTIN SMITH

Energy Sales/Operations

608.547.9922 • jsmith@allied.coop

I serve in a hybrid role within Allied Cooperative's Energy Division, working out of our Adams office and bridging both sales and operations. My position allows me to work closely with customers while also managing behind-the-scenes processes, including our back-office systems and truck tracking software. I collaborate with our drivers and service team, providing training and support to help them deepen their knowledge of propane.

I have been with Allied Cooperative for 17 years, gaining experience across multiple departments, with the last 11 years focused on the energy field. My priority is ensuring the success of both our customers and our team through dedication, collaboration, and a commitment to excellence.

SPECIAL

No minimum oil delivery for the month of September 2025. Contact your energy rep for more info!

allied.coop
P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI

JOIN OUR TEAM

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

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

Board of Directors Election

Are you interested in helping shape the future of Allied Cooperative? Three seats on our Board of Directors are up for election, and we're looking for dedicated members to serve. If you'd like to be considered as a candidate, please let us know by December 15, 2025.

For more details, contact Karmen Bernacchi at (608) 339-3394, ext. 1162 or email info@allied.coop

Board Report

Greetings, fellow co-op members!

For this issue's board report, I'd like to share some recent opportunities I've had to represent our cooperative and its producers.

I was recently honored to serve on the Policy and Resolutions Committee for Land O'Lakes, representing Ag Region 1—which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. While Land O'Lakes is widely recognized for its dairy division, it also owns WinField United (seed and crop protection), Purina (livestock feed), and Truterra (sustainability initiatives).

The P&R Committee recently met in Washington, D.C., where we engaged with several members of Congress, Senators, and their staff to discuss key issues affecting farmers and cooperatives. We expressed our appreciation for the permanent adoption of the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (Section 199A), which significantly benefits co-ops like ours. We also discussed the urgent need for a new Farm Bill, the effects of immigration policy on farm labor, the Make America Healthy Again movement, agricultural trade, and other important topics.

It was a meaningful experience, and one I hope to have again. I encourage producers to share their stories whenever possible—firsthand accounts of life in agriculture carry more weight and impact than we often realize.

Wishing everyone a safe and successful harvest season.

Paul Zastoupil
Allied Cooperative Board Member