



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Energy Solution Partners
2020 Yield Contest Winners
Navigating Propane Market
Bull Grain Markets
Feed Your Crops all Year Long
Interpreting Soil
Sample Results
SCN Populations Report
Prepare Your Yard for Spring

With the 2021 growing season just around the corner, Allied Cooperative's agronomy division is working hard to prepare for a busy spring planting season. Throughout the fall and winter months our staff has been updating facilities and equipment so we are prepared to meet our customers' needs. Making sure everything is running smoothly before the season hits helps to ensure things also run smoothly during the rush of the season.

Our facilities have undergone maintenance to help ensure that our equipment is ready to handle the many tons of product that will go through the plant in the months ahead. "We pressure washed the tower, and took a good look at it to see if anything needed attention," said Keith Ronning, Location Manager of the Galesville location. "We greased everything and tightened the belts and will do another check soon."

The Galesville location will be getting a new loader in time for spring, as will our Arcadia and Tomah locations. "This is all about dependability," said Roy Gervais, Director of Fixed Assets. "If those machines don't run nothing leaves the plant, and some of those plants only have one loader." The

new loaders will increase efficiency and help eliminate any plant downtime.

With an equipment fleet the size of Allied's, making sure everything is in tip-top shape is a priority each year. Though shop employees are busy maintaining our transportation and propane fleets during their busy season, they are also working hard to prepare our equipment for spring.

"Replacing our equipment as it ages helps to keep breakdowns to a minimum," said Gervais. "It helps keep our dependability where we expect it to be." The agronomy division traded in four spreaders and one sprayer for newer John Deere models. "The

Continued on page 7...

ALLIED COOPERATIVE LOCATIONS

ADAMS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE / LP GAS / FUEL

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

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

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

CENEX PUMP 24

451 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.3626

NAPA AUTO PARTS

540 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.6412

ARCADIA

OFFICE / LP / FUEL / OIL AUTO SERVICE CENTER

N28281 State Rd 93 Arcadia, WI 54612
608.323.3311

AGRONOMY / FEED

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

BLAIR

EAST GRAIN PLANT

1015 E Broadway St Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2298

WEST GRAIN PLANT

420 N Park Rd Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2335

GALESVILLE

AGRONOMY

W19801 Winnebago Rd
Galesville, WI 54630
608.582.4711

MAUSTON

AGRONOMY / FEED / GRAIN / TRANSPORTATION

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

MAUSTON TIRE SHOP / NAPA AUTO PARTS / SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

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

MINDORO

MINDORO COUNTRY STORE

N8319 Cty Rd C Mindoro, WI 54644
608.857.3414

PLAINFIELD

PEST PROS

10086 1st St Plainfield, WI 54966
715.335.4046

PLOVER

AGRONOMY

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

TOMAH

DOWNTOWN OFFICE / LP

TOMAH COUNTRY STORE & FEED

711 Fair St Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2458 / 800.338.6624

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

10533 Estate Rd Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2090

WEST SALEM

OFFICE LP GAS / FUEL / ACE HARDWARE

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

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

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

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

GRAIN PLANT

3990 Commerce Dr
Wis Rapids, WI 54494
715.423.3000

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

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



We live and work amid historic challenges. Many of us have experienced these challenges in a very personal way. When the pandemic hit, Allied had three top priorities—to continue to provide you with the excellent customer service you deserve; to protect our employees and our customers; and to take the steps necessary to ensure the continued success of our co-op. I'm pleased to share that we made strides on all fronts.

Allied's fiscal year ended on January 31, 2021, and while it is too soon to release final numbers, I can safely say that despite all the challenges we faced, we were able to deliver another successful year for our member owners. Not only on paper, but in accomplishments as well.

Despite 2020's challenges, we managed to give a facelift to our Mindoro Country Store, Mauston NAPA and Mauston Tire Shop facilities. We installed new pumps in Mindoro and a new grain dryer in Wisconsin Rapids. We added new equipment to our fleet and made operational adjustments in order to stay focused on our commitment to service. We kept our focus and worked hard to achieve our goals.

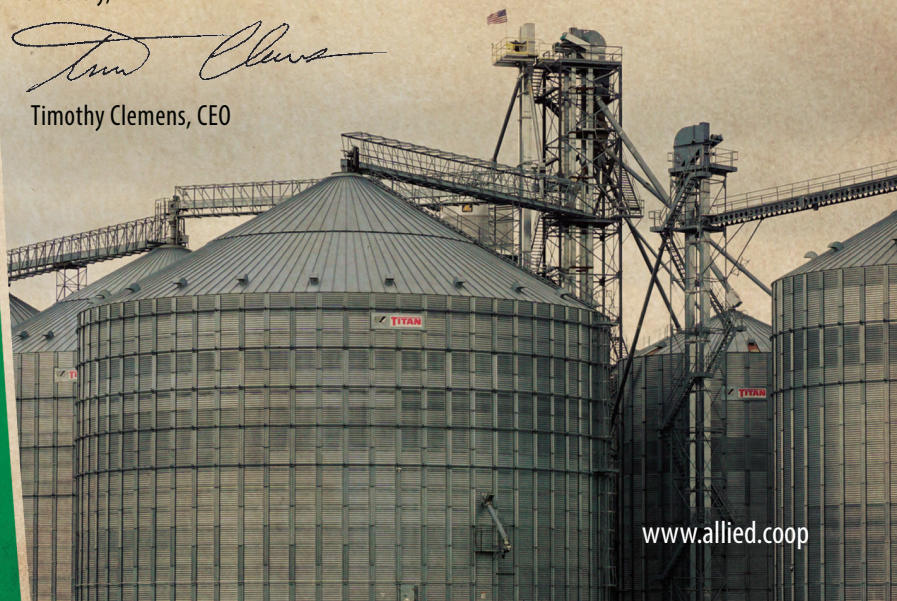
In a year when other companies were cutting back, we were able to pay out \$2.9 million in patronage refunds and equity revolvment to our patrons. We were able to give back to our communities through food pantry donations, fire and rescue training, and other charitable contributions. We awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to students.

Best selling author Elizabeth George said, "Perseverance is not a passive submission to circumstances—it is a strong and active response to the difficult events of life." 2020 showed us that we can't always control the future exactly the way we want, but with the right culture, we can rise to the challenge and persevere despite the odds.

I would like to say THANK YOU to the employees, customers, and suppliers that have gotten us through the past year, and allowed us to continue the mission of our cooperative. As we head into our busiest time of the year, the pandemic is still a very real threat. I have every confidence, however, in our team's steadfast determination towards safety and service. We wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous spring season!

Sincerely,

Timothy Clemens, CEO



www.allied.coop



Energy Solution Partners

In 2006, an idea was hatched that brought together three Wisconsin co-ops for a venture that would be more successful than any of the partners could envision. Farmer's Co-op Supply and Shipping in West Salem joined with Harmony Co-op in Colby and the Rice Lake Farmer's Co-op to form a company called Energy Solution Partners LLC (ESP). Their goal was to provide quality fuel products and services with an emphasis in assisting customers with the price risk associated with their fuel needs.



Pat Doyle, ESP CEO

"At the time we had no idea what we were expecting it to be," said Pat Doyle, ESP CEO. "We couldn't really envision the way that it would blossom. At that point we were focusing on serving some of the more metro type areas and we wanted to split the cost to do that."

Doyle came to Wisconsin in 1995 as the general manager of the Tomah Co-op, and transitioned in 1998 from the Tomah Co-op to be the petroleum manager at Farmer's Co-op Supply & Shipping in West Salem. It was there that the idea of ESP came into view. They were working more and more with commercial type customers, but found that there were barriers to working with some of the customers that simply didn't fit into the "traditional" co-op customer mold. By forming ESP they hoped to cover a greater footprint and get into some non-traditional areas and geographies as well.

The three co-ops made the commitment up front to fund ESP's sales presence in those areas. They anticipated an initial start-up cost of about \$300,000 to \$400,000, so each co-op's Board of Directors agreed to put up as much as \$150,000 each to get the new company off the ground.

"It didn't turn out that way," said Doyle. "We cash flowed basically from day one. Each co-op put seed money of \$10,000 in ESP and it has cash flowed ever since. It wasn't anything that any of us could see coming when we put it together, but we did our legwork in advance, and made a lot of contacts before the company was actually operating, so we definitely hit the ground running and away it went."

Doyle transitioned to the new company as its CEO, and worked to grow the business. Today, the business operates with 10 employees and one CHS certified energy specialist. "We are scattered around a little bit," said Doyle. "Our main office is in Tomah, but we have a sales person in the Milwaukee area, one in northeast Wisconsin, and one in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. The CHS employee is also in the Twin Cities area. So our sales presence is spread out."

The company has a presence in 15 states, reaching as far as New Mexico and Florida. While they don't have sales people situated in those areas, they service branch locations for companies that are headquartered in the Midwest.

ESP is an asset light company. They don't have any bulk plants or trucks. Instead they utilize common carriers for trucks and the CHS AFD system to fill bulk tanks. "CHS supplies 80% of our fuels, but we're using other suppliers in competitive and price sensitive situations," said Doyle.

"A big part of our sales presence is working with customers in risk management or price management of their fuels and that's really the backbone of our company," said Doyle. ESP delivers a market insight report each week to their customers and assists them with contracting and different type of hedging programs to help them manage those fuel costs.

Continued on page 8...



info@allied.coop

Spring 2021 | 03

2020 YIELD CONTEST

Each year we recognize grower achievements at our annual yield banquet. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's events. While we were not able to make award presentations in a public setting this year, participants were notified of their success and will receive their awards in a private, social distanced presentation. Achievements are also recognized in our annual yield book which highlights the success of the different seed varieties throughout our trade territory.

This year's winners were:

Corn - Non-Irrigated EAST

Greg Brandau	272.1 bu/acre	Croplan	4188SS
Golden Bluff Farms	270 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC47-55VT2P
Mike Luethe	264.6 bu/acre	Croplan	3899VT2P

Corn - Non-Irrigated WEST

Clint and Al Sampson	321.04 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC53-56SS
Foolish Pleasure	314.14 bu/acre	Croplan	3899VT2P
Klein Brothers	289.52 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC55-53SS

Corn - Irrigated EAST

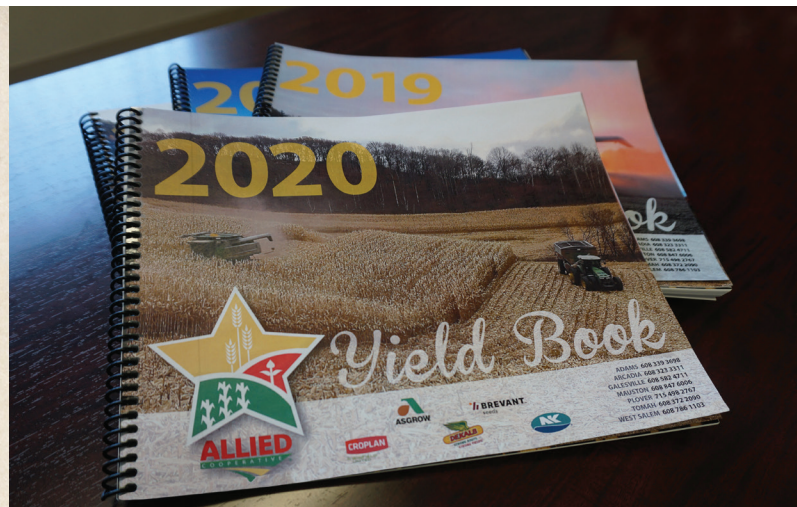
Laskowski Farms LLC	339.45 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC62-08SS
WPF Inc	317.62 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC47-48VT2P
RG Tess & Sons	249 bu/acre	Croplan	4199VT2P

Corn - Irrigated WEST

Brenengen Family Farms	290.77 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC54-40VT2P
Klein Brothers	278.16 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC54-38SS
Curt Carhart	266.94 bu/acre	Dekalb	DKC53-56SS

Soybeans - Non-Irrigated EAST

Zastoupil Farms LLP	81.7 bu/acre	NK	S20-J5X
Mike Luethe	79.50 bu/acre	Asgrow	AG20X9
Tiber Farms	78.2 bu/acre	Croplan	CP2124R



Soybeans Non-Irrigated WEST

Anneliese Rice	92.48 bu/acre	NK	S14-UX9
Brenengen Family Farms	82.97 bu/acre	Credenz	CZ2101LL
Kenneth Ziegler	81.60 bu/acre	Asgrow	AG20X9

Soybeans - Irrigated EAST

Cedar Row Farm	85.38 bu/acre	NK	S12-R3
WPF Inc	84.07 bu/acre	Asgrow	AG14X8
Bluff View Farms	80.80 bu/acre	Asgrow	AG20X9

Soybeans - Irrigated WEST

Keith Greshik	77.5 bu/acre	Croplan	CP2128X
Grains and Manes	76.52 bu/acre	Credenz	CZ2579LL/GT27
Brenengen Family Farms	67.86 bu/acre	Croplan	CP1960X

Corn Silage

Doug Brandau	34.6 tons	Brevant	B09T79SX
Wagner Farms of Adams Co Inc	32.5 tons	Croplan	5290VT2P
Gary Bula	32.3 tons	Croplan	5290VT2P

Prizes were also awarded to 98 - 200 Bushel Club winners, 58 - 60 Bushel Bean Club Winners, and 5 - 30 ton Corn Silage Club winners. We congratulate all of the winners and encourage our area growers to enter the 2021 yield contest. For more information contact your agronomy advisor.

Photo GLEN PRONSCHINSKE



Crop Life 100

Allied Cooperative was listed as #48 on the CropLife 100 list of the nation's largest ag retailers. The list was published in CropLife's December 2020 issue. Allied moved up on the list this year from a ranking of 55 in 2019.



Navigating the Propane Market



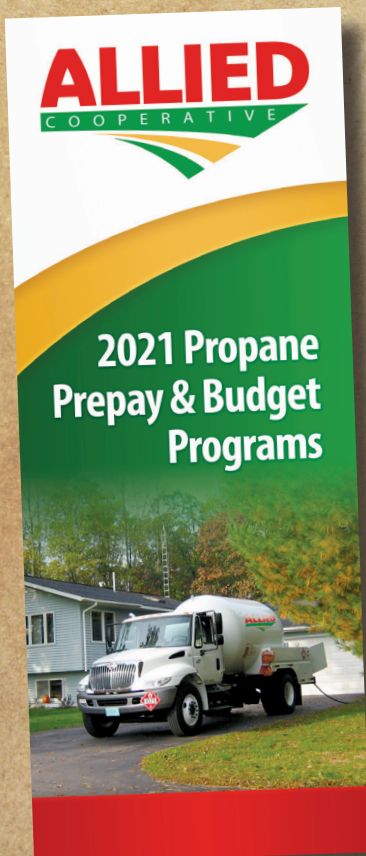
by **Dianne Dallmann**
Director of Propane

After spending many years working in the energy/propane industry, I thought I'd seen it all when it comes to the energy market. But there always seems to be something new and unexpected that arises. I think it is important to share the changes we have seen in the market

and what you can do to prevent yourself from being a victim of those unforeseen circumstances. To that end, here's a snapshot of what we are seeing happening in the propane marketplace:

As we start off 2021, the landscape for propane pricing looks much different than it did in 2020. Far east/Asian buying interest is very strong. Northeast Asia is seeing cold temperatures with Beijing experiencing their coldest winter in 55 years. Their usage of propane is up significantly. Meanwhile in the U.S., the Midwest inventories fell to a five year low along with an increase in cost of 105% over the last 12 months. While export demand remains strong, the pressure on inventories at home also remain causing support for pricing.

How does this effect Allied's patrons when purchasing propane for your home, farm, and business?



Dianne Dallmann 608.339.3394

info@allied.coop

This past December we saw a price increase of \$.51 in the market in a 30-day span. The good news is being a patron of Allied Cooperative you have the opportunity to lock-in your pricing through our budget program or prepay programs. Locking in pricing during the summer season can give you peace of mind that your price is protected against seasonal price fluctuations.

The budget/prepay program is mailed out mid-June. When you receive your budget/prepay mailing, contact any of our offices to speak to one of our customer service representatives. We look forward to helping you find the program that fits your situation the best. ■

Cenex Premium Diesel *Why it Pays*



by **Jeff Bunker**
Director of Refined Fuels

For businesses that run on diesel, you need a better running diesel. It's our priority to understand your challenges as an agricultural producer or commercial fleet operator. We take pride in anticipating and addressing your

changing needs. That's why we're so thrilled to carry Cenex® Premium Diesel Fuels. They're specially formulated to help your vehicles run more efficiently with less downtime.

Cenex Premium Diesel Fuel contains seven special additives to help prevent fouling issues—a problem experienced in modernized diesel engines (2007 models and newer) built to meet EPA emission standards. Newer engines operate under higher temperatures and pressures that can literally "cook" typical #2 diesel; this results in fouled fuel that recirculates in the fuel system, leading to injector/filter problems, reduced efficiency, power loss, poor starting, costly repairs and even engine failures.

There are real bottom-line benefits when you use fuels that have been enhanced to meet the needs of both existing and new engine technologies. Compared to typical #2 diesel fuel, Cenex Premium Diesel Fuels:

- Improves fuel economy by as much as 5 percent
- Improves power by up to 4.5 percent
- Increases fuel lubricity by 10-15 percent
- Extend life of injectors/injector pumps
- Reduces downtime and maintenance costs
- Have a high cetane level - typical 47-49

All Cenex Premium Diesel Fuels, including Roadmaster XL® and Ruby Fieldmaster®, are formulated with this special additive. We're confident that no other diesel fuel on the market contains a more complete, balanced and quality additive package.

Call us today to learn more, and agricultural users should be sure to ask us about the Total Protection Plan Warranty. ■

Please contact Allied Cooperative's Energy Division for more information.

Jeff Bunker 608.786.1100



Russ Bortz
608.780.8614



Rich Karpinski
608.403.1178



Agronomy Update

Feed Your Crop All Season Long with ESN

by Austin Bohm and Taylor Koss



Austin Bohm
Tomah Agronomy
Location Manager



Taylor Koss
Agronomy Advisor

ESN is a great addition to any fertilizer recipe for corn, but first what is it? ESN stands for Environmentally Smart Nitrogen. It is in its own classification of fertilizer stabilization. Though it is not technically a nitrogen stabilizer, but a controlled time release nitrogen product.

ESN is made from a urea granule that gets coated in a biodegradable polymer. This polymer is the key to the ESN success. The polymer allows water molecules to pass through the membrane and dissolve the urea granule inside. Walking fields after you spread ESN you will see the pustules filled with a dissolved urea solution. Once these pustules form, the ESN begins releasing nitrogen.

While most people think that the liquid “leaks” out of the pustule, this is incorrect. The nitrogen is released in reverse of how the water came into the granule. The dissolved urea solution passes back through the membrane of the granule. The control of this release is due to moisture and diffusion. When the area around the pustule calls for nitrogen, the nitrogen solution passes through the membrane, becoming available nitrogen to the crop.

Another cool thing about the membrane is that it is a physical barrier from common costly nitrogen losses such as volatilization, denitrification, or leeching. As long as those pustules have liquid in them, the ESN is protecting your nitrogen as well as releasing nitrogen for the crop.

ESN has a great fit in both heavy soils as well as sandy soils.

We like to look at growers CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity) values on soil samples. This number tells us the nutrient holding capabilities of the soil. Many growers, even with side dressing, are over applying nitrogen to their soil, at least at one time or another. The soil can only hold so much fertility at once. Think of your soil like a gas tank. Only so much gas fits in at one time before it spills out. After time and distance, room appears in the tank for more. CEC is the gas tank.

Once CEC sites are occupied, the nutrients keep percolating down the soil profile until they find an available exchange site. ESN, because it controls the release, is less likely to overload the soil. Then as the crop grows and “burns gas” ESN refills the tank. Any other nitrogen source like urea, ammonia, and UAN, dissolves into the soil and is open to the elements.

Nitrogen stabilizers do help with the nitrogen breakdown process, but they are not a golden ticket to overcome low CEC. Allied agronomists can look at grower’s CEC numbers and help determine the correct ratio for nitrogen sourced from ESN. Growers use anywhere from 50/50 to 90/10 mixes of any nitrogen sources to ESN ratios. Adding as little as 10% to your corn mix can help reduce the yellowing and greening effect we see on corn after heavy rainfalls. Afterall, every time we visually see deficiency symptoms, like yellowing, we are sacrificing yield.

ESN is advertised to be effective up to 50-80 days after application. This window allows for great flexibility for raising crops. Spring is busy for everyone. Growers have crops to fertilize, crops to plant, crops to spray, corn to side dress, and many have hay to harvest. They have all of these “To Do’s” plus tending to all other day to day chores. The great thing about ESN is it helps shorten that “To Do” list...crops to fertilize, CHECK, DONE.

We are also eliminating the worry and stress of weather forecasts in the short window allotted for a side dress application. No more nightmares of trying to side dress corn... staring at a sea of green, because the corn got too tall and you can’t see the rows. For growers that fight late season nitrogen losses and still would like to side dress, ESN is still a great fit. We can add ESN to any side dress mix, and this will extend our nitrogen release into corn’s reproductive stages and grain fill. In addition, late season nitrogen can help with crop standability by preventing stalk cannibalization.

ESN is a great tool that Allied has available to better help growers stay profitable and efficient. Let us help you get that “To Do” list shorter this spring! Contact your local Allied agronomist and ask about adding this unique fertilizer technology into your fertility program. ■



Taking Control of the Weeds in Your Field



by Allan Herritz, CPP Inventory Manager

For as long as we can remember, trying to fight weeds in our fields has been an ongoing challenge. It seems as if the fight against weeds gets more difficult year after year. We hear of catastrophic stories of resistance weeds, such as waterhemp or Palmer Amaranth. They show up one year with just a couple of plants per field and the following year the field just explodes with tens to hundreds of thousands of plants per field with no alternative control that year. Resistant weed species are found in all major field crops throughout the United States, and certain

resistant weeds are now becoming resistant to multiple sites of action. With the introduction of Roundup® (Glyphosate) in the 70's and what they call the Roundup Revolution which took place in 1996 is when seed genetics and the use of chemistry actually took off. This was the tool and the only tool we needed to combat weeds we had in our fields and it worked extremely well. Now when we look at our toolbox, that tool that has been so effective for us for so many years is starting to fail.

It seems as if the weed populations that we have been trying to control have evolved over time to combat single modes of action chemistries. Most resistant weeds that we have been tasked with trying to control in our trade area are waterhemp, giant ragweed, and marestail. We are starting to learn that single mode of action chemistries such as glyphosate applied multiple times in a row throughout the growing season is not an effective short or long-term goal in our weed control program. A well planned out herbicide control program should include multiple sites of action and multiple residual chemistries layered throughout the year. Over time as an industry we are learning that it is not only chemistry that we are relying on to control these weeds, but also other cultural practices such as tillage and crop rotation.

Residual herbicides are the future of weed control and how to overcome the tough battle against resistant weed species. The best way to combat weeds is to never let them out of the ground. Plan an effective proven pre-emerge herbicide program for your corn and soybean fields. We have been using pre-emerge herbicides for years and years in corn and I think most people have this down. Our toughest battles are starting to occur in our soybean fields. With soybeans, a pre-emerge program followed by layering residual herbicides is starting to become the norm to combat tough to control weeds. There are several options to pick from and now the seed companies that we have selected to work with are starting to come with new genetics that help us control resistant weeds in our soybean fields just like in the late 90's when roundup ready soybeans came to the market. It is not that there are new chemistries coming to market, but it is that a lot of chemistries that have worked so well for us over the years in corn are now becoming a useful tool for us to use in our soybeans. Some of the older chemistries such as dicamba and 2,4-D are now available to be used in soybeans as long as you make the right selection of seed traits for your farm and use the correctly labeled CPP products. Liberty® (Glufosinate), Xtendimax® (Dicamba) and Enlist® (2, 4-D) are the correctly labeled products for use for approved genetic soybeans.

The ideal plan in soybeans is to put down a pre-emerge product prior to or just shortly after planting, then mark on the calendar 30 days from application, and come back with another pass of a residual chemistry, glyphosate and one of the three knockdown chemistries for tough to control weeds—Liberty, Xtendimax or Enlist. One thing to make sure of is which seed traits you have purchased as well as where you have planted them. This is also a great time to piggyback a fungicide and micro-nutrient pack for optimum yields. There are certain rules to follow and adjuvants to use to help the effectiveness and safety of these products so be sure to read and follow labels.

The one thing we do know for sure is the days of planting then waiting a few weeks and coming back with multiple applications of Roundup are long gone. ■

For more information on herbicide recommendations and seed trait selections contact your Allied Cooperative Agronomy Advisor.

info@allied.coop

Agronomy Prepares

Continued from page 1...

reason we went with John Deere is the flexibility it provides for high crop situations and row crops. It provides us the flexibility to go in and side dress corn that is four feet tall."The division is also adding 11 new pull behind spreader replacements and a new tender truck that the Adams agronomy shop is building.

The agronomy shops are highly focused on ensuring that every piece of equipment gets a "once over". Every licensed vehicle gets an oil change and a bumper-to-bumper DOT inspection. "Our service and dependability is how we built this business," said Gervais. "Our patrons own this equipment. When our equipment comes to them, hopefully its in good repair, does the job they need it to do, and they are satisfied with our service."

"We start in July getting ready for April," said Gervais. "If we have free time we bring the equipment in and start going through it."This includes going through the spreaders and needle scaling and painting them to help keep them looking good and maintain their trade value.

The agronomy team takes the maintenance a step further by ensuring that the equipment is field tested and calibrated. Uniform and accurate application of bulk fertilizer, lime, pesticides and other soil amendments is essential. The applicators utilize a series of collection trays with a grid baffle in the bottom and test tubes to provide a visible evaluation of the spread pattern. If the spread pattern is uniform across the swath, and the proper swath width is used, the material will be deposited uniformly in the field. By calibrating our spreaders we are able to ensure we are getting a good pattern in the field.

Of course, having product is key to any agronomy division. Our fertilizer plants are full and ready for spring. Seed orders are being sorted and prepared for our customers. Our bulk beans are in and awaiting warmer weather for treatment. And we are busy bagging fertilizer for customers that prefer bags to bulk.

The agronomy team is working hard to deliver the best customer experience possible for our growers. We look forward to serving you throughout the growing season. ■

Soybean Seed Treatments



by Izaak Rathke,
Director of Sales

Why treat soybeans? There are several reasons why we treat soybean seed. The soybean seed treatment is a great way to carry products that will help your seedling survive and thrive in its early stages of growth and protect it from insects, and disease or even give it a boost of micro nutrients or root stimulation. There are treatments to help with SDS (Sudden death Syndrome) and white mold—two very yield robbing diseases. Soybean seed treatments have a very good track record of working and providing yield, or perhaps saving yield from the above mentioned yield robbers might be a better way to look at it.

There are a few questions to ask when deciding what seed treatment to choose:

1. **Field History:** Is there a history of seedling/emergence problems? Is the soil type cold and wet? Have I had issues with seedling born diseases in the past? Is there a large amount of trash for insects to over winter? Have I had early season insect chewing in the past? These are reasons for a fungicide/insecticide combo. Left untreated the above mentioned pests are avenues for diseases such as white mold, phytophthora, SDS, and many more to enter your soybean plant and cause yield loss.
2. **Sudden Death Syndrome:** In fields with a history of SDS, producers should consider using the soybean fungicide treatment Ileva®. This product has shown great results in controlling and reducing SDS. This product also helps with the control of cyst nematodes and is shown to be very effective.

Tripidity® with Heads Up® – Heads Up utilizes a Systemic Acquired Resistance (S.A.R.) mode of action that activates the plants own genetic resistance to diseases by stimulating the plants natural defense pathways before disease sets in. This mode of action offers systemic, full-season protection against yield robbing pathogens. Tripidity is a unique seed treatment that provides essential nutrients and biostimulant additives which can maximize early seedling vigor and crop development, for maximizing yield potential. If you have had a history of white mold, which almost everyone does, or want to boost your seedling vigor and yield potential this is an excellent product.

Contact your local Allied Agronomy advisor If you would like yield data or tech sheets on these products or more information on any of Allied's seed treatment products. ■



ESP

Continued from page 3...

As with any business, profits are important. In their last fiscal year ESP had profits of \$1.3 million local net and patronage income of \$8.6 million, for a total income of \$9.9 million. Not a bad return for our \$10,000 investment.

Their sales continue to grow and they have been recognized for their accomplishments. "For CHS's fiscal year ending Aug 2020, ESP was the top Cenex branded customer by volume for refined fuels," said Doyle. "This is a first-time accomplishment for ESP. We are proud of this achievement and received some nice recognition from CHS."

All three of ESP's founding co-ops have since merged into new co-ops. Of course, Farmer's Co-op Supply & Shipping is now part of Allied Cooperative. Harmony Co-op is now ProVision Partners Cooperative and Rice Lake is now Synergy Cooperative. In 2015, ESP merged with a group in Minnesota that was operating a similar business on a smaller scale. There were two co-ops involved with that merger; Central Counties Co-op out of Litchfield, MN and Co-op Plus out of Marshall, MN. The three Wisconsin co-ops, including Allied, own 30% each of ESP. The Minnesota co-ops own 5% each. ■

YOUR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT IS ON, NOW WHAT??

The check engine light can be an intimidating surprise. A number of questions immediately come to mind: What's wrong with your car? Will it be expensive to fix? Can you fix it yourself, or will you have to bring your car to a mechanic? With the right tools and resources, you can quickly get to the root of the issue.

WHY DID THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ILLUMINATE?

First, think back to when the light came on. Was it just after you refueled or hit a pothole? Then, consider any other potential clues. Is there steam coming

out from under the hood? Does the engine sound like a shaking box of hammers?

Generally speaking, the severity of the issue will dictate how promptly you must address the situation. Here's how the check engine light (CEL) can help you understand whether you should drive straight to the garage, or take your car in when you have free time in a few days:

- When you first start the engine, the check engine light (CEL) will illuminate for a few seconds during the system's normal self-check process.

BULL RIDING (GRAIN MARKETS 2021)



by Rich Dahlke,
Grain Merchandiser

Old crop corn is hovering around the \$5 mark and soybeans are tickling \$13. That's welcome news for the grain producer. In last quarter's article we analyzed what got us here, now we need to put our attention towards profiting from it and try to predict where this thing might go whether it be higher or lower. Rather than go on and on with paragraphs of opinions and market sentiment of others, let's just look at the numbers.

Here is the USDA corn balance sheet showing last years production and a scenario for this coming year. Remember, the "carryout or ending stock" number is very important. It tells the market how much grain

will be left over without a home. The lower the number the higher the price. For the predicted numbers we will assume trendline yields and raise usage slightly to pre-covid levels.

CORN	(Last year) 2020/21 Actual	Predicted 2021/22
Planted acres	90.8 million ac	93 million ac
Harvested Acres	82.5	91.5
Yield	172.0 bu/ac	178.0 bu/ac
Carry in	1.919	1.227
Production	14.183	15.147
Imports	25	30
Total supply	16.127 billion bu	16.404 billion bu
Total Usage	14.575 billion bu	14.930
(exports, seed, feed etc..)		
CARRYOUT	1.552 billion bu	1.474 billion bu

As you can see increasing the corn acres by 2+ million acres does little to increase ending stocks. If the acreage number is 94 million + (which is very possible- 2013 saw 95 million) ending stocks will grow and \$5 corn will be a memory. The last 3 years saw ending stocks at 2.2+ billion bu, which is considered a very comfortable number, and your corn price stayed in the \$3 range. Until we see the March 31 USDA planting intentions, we can only speculate. The battle for acres should be interesting this year because whatever is grown seems to be profitable. Feel free



to plug in your own acre and yield numbers. It's a good exercise and one that we do here at Allied constantly. Maybe Allied should host a contest amongst its customers to see who can predict what the carryout will be this time next year.

Let's do the same for soybeans. We'll assume trendline yields and lower demand slightly.

SOYBEANS	(Last year 2020/21 Actual)	Predicted 2021/22
Planted Acres	83.08 million ac	90 million ac
Harvested Acres	81.32	89.1
Yield	50.2 bu/ac	51.0 bu/ac
Carry in	525	120
Production	4.136	4.544
Imports	35	40
Total Supply	4.695	4.704
Total Usage	4.555	4.550
(exports, seed, feed etc..)		
CARRYOUT	140 million bu	154 million bu

It is a little scary. Increasing by almost 7 million acres does little to increase the carryout. The wild card is demand or total usage. I cut it slightly in this prediction but how much demand destruction will occur with these prices and how competitive will we be with Brazil throughout the year? Regardless, it's pretty safe to say at this point we will see a volatile soy complex in the months ahead.

The takeaway here is that no matter how you play with the acreage and yield, tight stocks still remain tight. Especially in beans. If we see 90 million or less acres of beans this year price should remain fairly strong. With corn, 93 million seems to be the magic number. Any more and ending stocks grow. Any less and corn should remain fairly strong. The March 31st report will provide some direction. ■

- If the engine is not running properly, the electronic control unit (ECU) logs the issue and sets a "pending" diagnostic trouble code (DTC). If the condition persists, the ECU sets a "hard" DTC and puts the vehicle in "limp home" or "open loop" mode. The system illuminates the CEL, which is also called a malfunction indicator lamp (MIL).

- If the CEL illuminates steadily, this means that there is a fault in the system, but it is still safe to drive. You may not notice a lack in performance, but the EPA estimates that some vehicles may suffer up to a 40

percent loss in fuel economy if the problem is serious.

- If the ECU determines that the engine is running so poorly that it can damage the catalytic converter, the CEL will blink continuously. In this case, you'll probably notice a serious decline in engine performance.

WHAT'S NEXT?

There are a few issues that will cause the CEL to illuminate that can be fixed in your own driveway. For example, if you just refueled, the problem could be something as simple as a loose or broken gas cap, a quick and safe fix. A faulty temperature sensor or

coolant leak could be causing your system to log engine temperature codes. Replacing an engine thermostat is within the realm of most DIYers.

On the other hand, if the check engine light comes up because of a heavy misfire or traction control system fault, or if the problem is under the vehicle or exceptionally deep in the engine, you might be better off letting the professionals have a look. ■





AUSTIN HEADLEE
Pest Pros Agronomist



KELSI MUELLER
Pest Pros Lab Manager/
Crop Consultant



ANDREA TOPPER
Pest Pros Agronomist



KELLY VERHAALAN
Pest Pros Crop
Management
Specialist

Interpreting Soil Sample Results

by Andrea Topper & Austin Headlee

Many growers avidly soil sample their ground for fertility. A lot of times you see numbers, but don't necessarily know what they all mean. Let's take some time to dive into soil sample results and make sure we are utilizing this data to the fullest.

Soil pH and Liming:

Soil pH is a great indicator of soil quality and is a big reason growers soil sample. We can increase soil quality of acidic soils by liming to adjust soil pH levels for specific crops. Did you know that each crop has a different target pH? Meaning that a pH level for one crop isn't always the right pH level for another crop. First of all, we need to take rotation into consideration.

The crop in your rotation that has the highest target pH is the pH you should lime to. For instance if your crop rotation is Corn-Soybeans-Alfalfa, your target pH would be 6.8 because Alfalfa has

Target pH		
Crop	Mineral	Organic
Alfalfa	6.8	
Corn	6	5.6
Soybean	6.3	5.6
Wheat	6	5.6
Potatoes	5.2/6.0	5.2/5.6
Snap Beans	6.8	5.6

TABLE 1

the highest target pH. Knowing when to lime is also important. If the soil pH is more than .2 units below the target pH, lime should be applied. Soil type needs to be taken into consideration as well when liming. It is easier to change the pH in a mineral soil (sand) than an organic soil, because mineral soil is not as well buffered against changes in soil pH as organic soil is. It is also a rule of thumb in mineral soil (sand) to not lime with more than 2 tons because the pH can only be changed so much. When grid sampling, growers are finding variable pH values throughout their fields. This is where variable rate lime recommendations come into play. Here at Allied Cooperative, we are able to make customizable variable rate lime recommendations that will suit your specific farm's needs.

Phosphorus:

Phosphorus is known to be the second most limiting nutrient in plants, next to nitrogen. What does phosphorus actually do for crops? Phosphorus' role is to store and transfer energy produced by photosynthesis. This energy is used for growth and reproductive processes in the plant. Sounds pretty important doesn't it? That means we want to make sure that our crops have access to all the phosphorus that they may need. Soil pH is a limiting factor for

phosphorus availability; pH values between 6 and 7.5 are ideal for phosphorus availability. If the pH is too high or too low it can affect the availability of phosphorus due to fixation with other elements.

Soil phosphorus levels can vary depending on previous practices. How do I know if my soil phosphorus levels are optimum for the crops that I grow? Depending on the crop you are growing demand levels for phosphorus vary.

As seen in Table 2, corn grain and soybeans are in demand level 1, having a lower need for phosphorus than silage or even potatoes. Knowing what demand level your crop falls into is the first step. Then we need to consider your soil type. Is your soil sandy? Or is your soil a bit heavier and loamy? Depending on your soil type use the chart to identify your optimum soil phosphorus level. For example, I am growing a corn grain crop in a sandy soil. The optimum soil phosphorus levels would be between 23-32ppm. When reviewing my soil test results I find that my soil phosphorus levels are around 15ppm, which is low for my conditions. I need to put out some phosphorus, but how do I know how much to put out? Table 3 walks us through how to calculate pounds of P2O5 to apply. My corn yield goal is 211-230 bu. My soil test phosphorus level was low, indicating that I need to apply 115 lbs. of P2O5.

Potassium:

Potassium is a crucial nutrient in the soil that is also an essential element in plants. Potassium is involved in moving water, nutrients, and carbohydrates throughout the plant and without it the plant will senesce. This nutrient also plays a large role with enzyme synthesis in plants including starch and protein production. Potassium is also referred to as its elemental designation, "K", and is most commonly applied to fields in the form of potash which is 60% potassium. As seen in Table 4 there are different demand levels for various crops based on how much each crop removes from the soil. Certain crops such as potatoes use potassium very intensively compared to other



crops like grain corn. In harvesting grain corn you leave all of the residue in the field to replenish some of the nutrients taken up by the plant, whereas when harvesting potatoes most of the potassium goes into the tubers which are all taken off of the field and hardly any nutrients are replenished. Since potassium is a positively charged ion in the soil it is considered a “cation”. When combined with a number of other cations in the soil it creates a measurement that we call the cation exchange capacity (CEC). The CEC is a large influence of a soil’s ability to hold onto essential nutrients and provides a buffer against soil acidification. Unlike nitrogen which is easily leached throughout various soil profiles, especially in low organic matter soils, potassium does not leach easily and often only occurs under low pH conditions with a low CEC. With the soil tests that you have taken you can compare them to the chart in Table 4 to figure out where your soil sits in relation to optimum levels.

VRT:

When we grid soil sample a field this provides us with our geo-referenced sample points. This is the most common method of sampling and provides points that are the same year after year to encompass changes in specific sites. Growers typically take geo referenced points on grid sizes anywhere from a 1-acre grid up to a 5-acre grid, depending on elevation changes, soil types, and other variables. With these we can make variable rate fertilizer recommendations to focus fertilizer money on the areas in a field where it can increase ROI and yield the most. For instance, if a grower has been spreading products such as DAP, MAP, or potash at flat rates across the field, the poor areas and the best areas of the field get the same amount. With VRT spreading we can put the proper amounts of fertilizer on respective areas of the field and make the dollars count. ■

Soil group ^a	Soil test category				
	Very low (VL)	Low (L)	Optimum (O)	High (H)	Excessively high (EH)
soil test P ppm ^b					
Demand level 1: corn grain, soybean, clover, small grains (but not wheat), grasses, oilseed crops, pasture					
Loamy	< 10	10–15	16–20	21–30	> 30
Sandy, Organic	< 12	12–22	23–32	33–42	> 42
Demand level 2: alfalfa, corn silage, wheat, beans, sweet corn, peas, fruits					
Loamy	< 12	12–17	18–25	26–35	> 35
Sandy, Organic	< 18	18–25	26–37	38–55	> 55
Demand level 3: tomato, pepper, brassicas, leafy greens, root, vine, and truck crops					
Loamy	< 15	15–30	31–45	46–75	> 75
Sandy, Organic	< 18	18–35	36–50	51–80	> 80
Demand level 4: potato					
Loamy	< 100	100–160	161–200	> 200	
Sandy, Organic	< 30	30–60	61–90	91–120	> 120

^a ppm (wt/vol; g/m³)

TABLE 2

Yield goal (per acre)		P ₂ O ₅ rate guidelines					K ₂ O rate guidelines					
		VL	L	O	H	EH	VL	L	O	H	VH	EH
Crop name		-----lb P ₂ O ₅ /a to apply ^a -----					-----lb K ₂ O/a to apply ^b -----					
Corn, grain ^f	71–90 bu	70	60	30	15	0	70	55	25	15	5	0
	91–110 bu	80	70	40	20	0	75	60	30	15	10	0
	111–130 bu	85	75	45	25	0	80	65	35	20	10	0
	131–150 bu	95	85	55	30	0	85	70	40	20	10	0
	151–170 bu	100	90	60	30	0	90	75	45	25	10	0
	171–190 bu	110	100	70	35	0	95	80	50	25	15	0
	191–210 bu	115	105	75	40	0	105	90	60	30	15	0
	211–230 bu	125	115	85	45	0	110	95	65	35	15	0
	231–250 bu	130	120	90	45	0	115	100	70	35	20	0
	251–270 bu	140	130	100	50	0	120	105	75	40	20	0

TABLE 3

Soil group ^a	Soil test category				
	Very low (VL)	Low (L)	Optimum (O)	High (H)	Very high (VH)
soil test K ppm ^b					
Demand level 1: corn grain, soybean, clover, small grains (but not wheat), grasses, oilseed crops, pasture					
Loamy	< 70	70–100	101–130	131–160	161–190
Sandy, Organic	< 45	45–65	66–90	91–130	—
Demand level 2: alfalfa, corn silage, wheat, beans, sweet corn, peas, fruits					
Loamy	< 90	90–110	111–140	141–170	171–240
Sandy, Organic	< 50	50–80	81–120	121–160	161–200
Demand level 3: tomato, pepper, brassicas, leafy greens, root, vine, and truck crops					
Loamy	< 80	80–140	141–200	201–220	221–240
Sandy, Organic	< 50	50–100	101–150	151–165	166–180
Demand level 4: potato					
Loamy	< 80	80–120	121–170	171–190	191–220
Sandy, Organic	< 70	70–100	101–130	131–160	161–190

^b ppm (wt/vol; g/m³)

TABLE 4

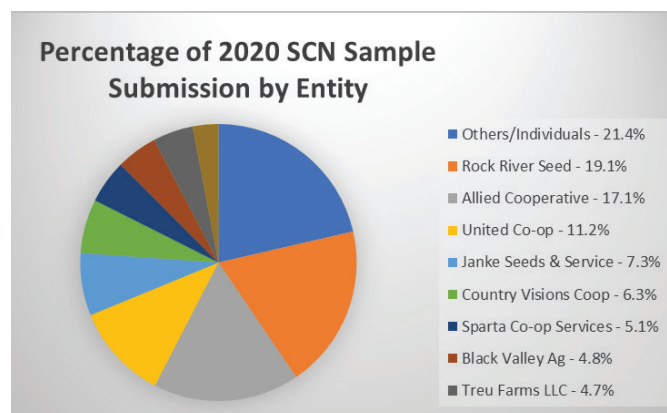
Table 2, 3 & 4 Source:

 Cooperative Extension

Soybean Cyst and Other Nematode Populations Across the State of Wisconsin in 2020.

by *Kelsi Mueller and Kelly Verhaalen*

While 2020 was a year of many challenges, the Pest Pros Lab continued to serve the state of Wisconsin by analyzing soil samples for soybean cyst and other plant parasitic nematodes. Our partnership with the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board (WSMB) and University Extension – Cool Beans program allows us to offer every farm in Wisconsin growing soybeans four free soil tests each year.



The results of these tests include a risk rating for SCN in the field as well as a general plant parasitic nematode risk rating. The SCN are reported as a count of the SCN eggs and juvenile cyst nematodes in the soil and both are considered when we assign a risk rating for SCN. The general nematode risk rating is a little more complex. We look at the populations of the different nematode species in the sample, the time of year the sample was taken, the soil type, and the crop rotation listed for that field. Combining all this information, we give a unique risk rating to each sample we look at.

Since our partnership with the WSMB began in 2017, we have strived to offer growers across the state accurate and quick results. Samples come in roughly from the months of March to December, basically whenever we can get a soil probe in the ground, and while Allied Cooperative sends in a large portion of the samples, we do not send in the majority. Samples come in from various other agricultural companies and individuals across the state.

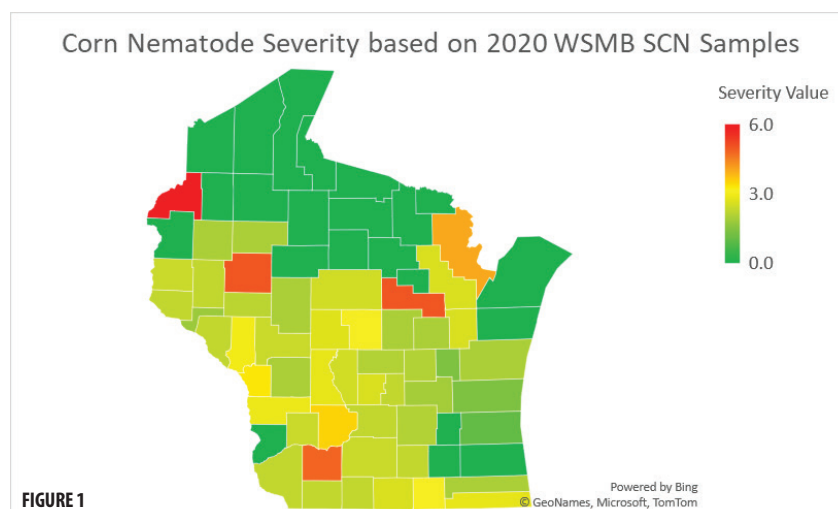
This was a record setting year for this program in our lab, receiving just shy of 1,400 samples. Samples were received from 50 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin, and the number of samples from each county varied greatly. We have a program in our lab that holds all the data from each sample submitted and allows us to analyze the data as a whole in a variety of ways. Normally, we put most of our focus on the SCN data obtained from the samples and use that to track the populations across the state. This year we also took the time to analyze the nematode populations that would be detrimental to the corn acres grown.

Figure 1 shows the risk severity by county to corn crops grown in Wisconsin. The county severity value was based on the risk rating of every sample submitted from that county throughout the year. Risk range is from low risk (0) to very high risk (6). The risk rating takes into account nematode populations, soil type and time of year the sample was taken. Please note that this data is heavily skewed based on the quantity of samples received from each county. For instance, we only received four samples from Burnett county, all from one farm, and all had high risk to corn so the entire county is showing high risk. Also, there are many counties that corn is grown in that we did not receive any samples from. That being said, the nematode populations across Wisconsin, especially root lesion nematode, are fairly universal in areas of high agriculture production.

Using the same data set from 2020, we constructed a similar map in Figure 2 of Wisconsin using the risk

assessment of SCN egg populations. SCN populations are not as widespread in Wisconsin, there is still variability within the state. We are also at the mercy of the grower choosing what ground to sample. Many of our growers are choosing to sample ground to assess the risk of planting soybeans on a piece of land that has been in corn for years. More than likely, the SCN population on ground like this will be very low, or nothing at all. SCN are not native to our soils in Wisconsin, but once they are in a field, they can survive in the soil for up to seven years even without a host. Soil movement between fields is the primary method of transfer.

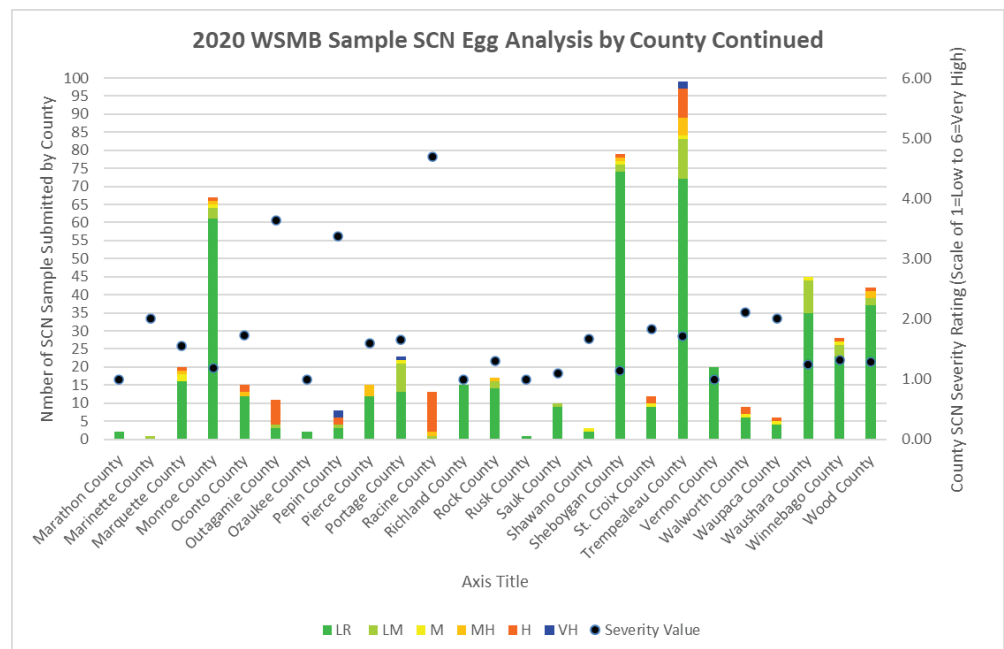
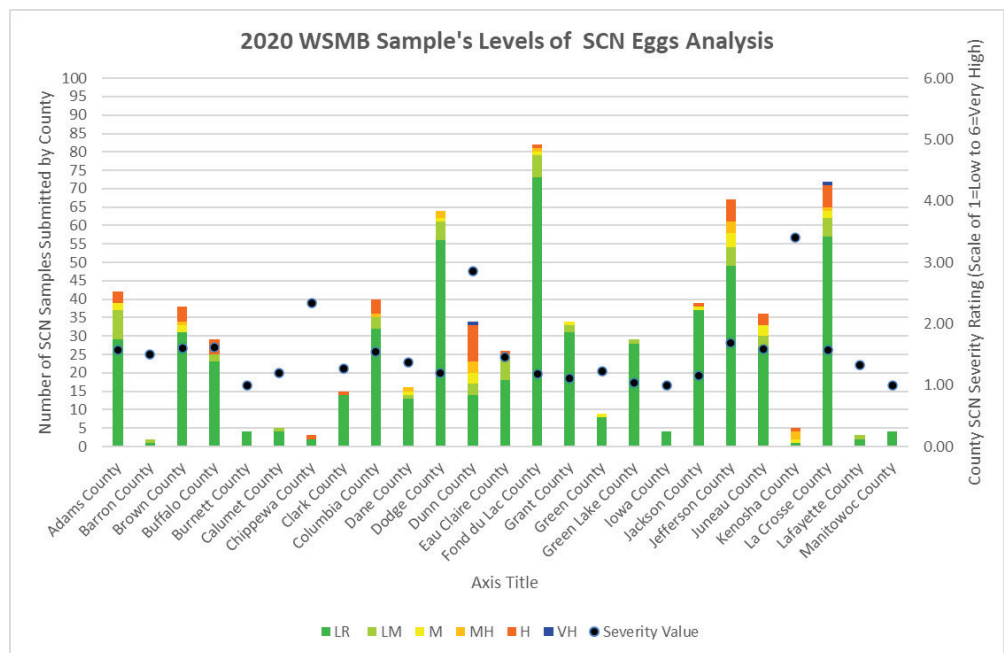
As we start to make decisions about spring planting these next couple months, it is important to consider the risk these microscopic organisms present. Growers will spend thousands on fertility and seed each season to ensure the highest yields their land can provide, but many operate without considering the possibility



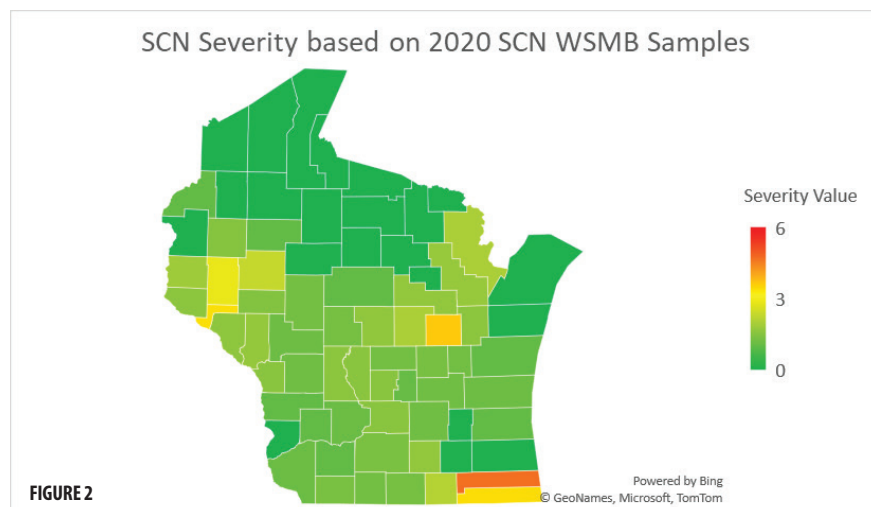


that nematodes are the culprit of yield loss. Spring soil sampling is the perfect time to have your free nematode samples pulled right alongside your fertility samples to make any changes in crop plans for 2021. These tests are also a great resource for trouble shooting problem areas in the field during the growing season as well. Allied Cooperative and Pest Pros offer extensive sampling and consulting services to analyze the potential problems on your farm. ■

Please contact your local Allied Cooperative agronomist for your soil sampling needs. Free SCN testing kits can also be obtained from freescntest@mailplus.wisc.edu



Above is the in-depth county by county breakdown of SCN egg populations per individual sample.





SAFETY CORNER

By Dawn
McCluskey
Director of
Safety &
Compliance

Every step matters: From step stools to extension ladders.

March | National Ladder Safety Month

As we begin to plan for the busy 2021 year of activities, now is a good time to raise awareness of ladder safety. According to the National Ladder Safety Month (link address below), every year over 100 people die in ladder-related accidents, and thousands suffer disabling injuries. Ladder accidents are preventable, with planning and continuous improvements.

America Ladder Institute: <https://www.laddersafetymonth.com/>

Ladders 101 Choosing the Right Ladder

There are several kinds of ladders manufactured for a variety of uses. Evaluating your work environment and knowledge of available ladders will allow you to choose the right ladder for the job. Ladders are built from one of three basic materials; wood, fiberglass, and metal (aluminum).

1. Your work environment is the first factor in choosing the correct ladder. Each of the following considerations address safety issue in your work environment:

- Will there be electrical sources in the work area(s)?
- Will the ladder be resting on an uneven surface?
- Is the work area crowded with people and/or materials?
- What obstructions are in the path of the climb?

2. Next, the proper ladder length and variety is important. Per the physical restrictions identified in the first part of the selection process, it is important to determine the variation (stepladder, extension ladder, articulated ladder, etc.) of ladder to use for a given job and its size. It is unsafe to use a ladder that is too long, prohibiting proper set-up, or too short, due to the ladder stability, if we climb too high on the ladder.

3. Finally, consider the duty rating of the ladder. This is the maximum weight capacity the ladder can safely carry. To figure out the total amount of weight your ladder will be supporting, add:

- Your weight; plus
- The weight of your clothing and protective equipment; plus
- The weight of the tools and supplies you are carrying; plus
- The weight the items you may store on the ladder

There are five categories of ladder duty ratings:

Type IAA (Extra Heavy Duty)	375 pounds
Type IA (Extra Heavy Duty)	300 pounds
Type I (Heavy Duty)	250 pounds
Type II (Medium Duty)	225 pounds
Type III (Light duty)	200 pounds

The duty rating of your ladder can be found on the specification label, found on the side of every ladder. Do not assume that a longer ladder has a higher weight capacity. There is no relationship between ladder length and weight capacity.



Take Your Safety Into Your Own Hands. Do You Know What to Check For?

Reminders about your ladder

- ☐ Determine what type of ladder is appropriate for your current work environment
- ☐ Confirm that the ladder is the appropriate length for the task
- ☐ Check that your ladder has the proper Duty Rating
- ☐ Thoroughly inspect the ladder to ensure it is in good working condition
- ☐ Clean the climbing and gripping surfaces
- ☐ Read the safety information label(s) on the ladder

Reminders about your surroundings

- ☐ Confirm that the ground where the ladder is set-up is firm and level
- ☐ Confirm that any surrounding doors are blocked open, locked or properly guarded
- ☐ Ensure that the weather is sufficiently safe for using a ladder

Reminders for YOU

- ☐ Clean the soles of your shoes to maximize traction and avoid slipping
- ☐ Ensure that you are not tired, dizzy or prone to losing your balance before using the ladder
- ☐ Use towlines, a tool belt or an assistant to convey materials so that your hands are free when climbing
- ☐ Maintain three points of contact with the ladder while climbing



Visit www.laddersafetytraining.org to learn more and earn your ladder safety certificate.

Inspection

Have you looked at your ladder(s) lately? It takes only a few minutes to do a quick ladder inspection to ensure your climb up will result in a safe descend.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) developed a mobile app to help prevent extension and step ladder-related fall injuries. This app provides ladder inspection and set-up tips as well as ladder fall statistics.

NIOSH Mobile Ladder Safety App link: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html>

When should you inspect ladders?

- Inspect ladders before each use
- Check the condition of ladders that have been dropped or have fallen, before using them again.

What should you look for?

- Missing or loose steps or rungs
- Damaged or worn non-slip feet
- Loose nails, screws, bolt, nuts
- Loose or faulty spreaders, locks or other metal parts in poor repair
- Rot, decay or warped rails - wooden ladders
- Cracks and exposed fiberglass - fiberglass ladders
- Cracked, split, work or broken rails, braces, straps or rungs
- Corrosion, rust, oxidization, and excessive wear, especially on trends
- Missing identification labels. ■

Grow Your Garden

Allied Cooperative will once again carry seeds for the items you wish to plant in your garden this spring. The seeds will be available starting in March. The potato and onion sets will be available starting in April.

Seed is available at Ace Hardware, Mauston NAPA and Tomah Country Store.

Potato and onion sets are available at Tomah Country Store, and can be ordered for next day pick-up at Mauston NAPA.

Tomah Country Store Expands Food Plot Product Lines

Allied Cooperative is excited to welcome Domain Outdoor and their line of premium food plot seed blends, mineral and attractants to their Tomah retail location. Allied Cooperative has always prided itself in providing the best quality products, as well as partnering with brands located in Wisconsin. Domain Outdoor is no exception to that.

"Partnerships like the one with Allied Cooperative don't happen every day. Allied is well known in the state and community and provides great service to the area. For those reasons and many more we're excited to partner with them in 2021 and into the future," said Riley Arnold, Domain Outdoor Sales.

Domain Outdoor's packaging is easy to read and answers the customer's questions on when, where and how to plant their food plots. They also have a super easy selection chart on their catalog and website to allow customers to pick the best blend for their property.

"They have made it so easy and spelled it out for our staff and customers. I love the packaging and the brand," said Darla Gardner of the Tomah Country Store.

Domain Outdoor and Allied Cooperative are extremely excited for this partnership. With a Wisconsin based company like Domain Outdoor it is sure to be a hometown favorite. Allied Cooperative will be carrying the majority of Domain Outdoor's products at the Tomah Country store. For more information be sure to check them out at the store. Like Domain Outdoor says, "This is your land, so get out and make it the way you want it." ■

info@allied.coop

Preparing Your Yard for Spring



by Adam Judy,
West Salem Ace
Hardware

Spring is just around the corner!

Last year, due to COVID, folks found themselves spending more and more

time enjoying their yard. During that time, you might have seen things that you didn't like. Bare patches, weeds and hard packed ground might have made it more difficult to enjoy the activities that you planned. Here are some tips for this year to help you get that green carpet lawn that you always wanted!

Split your spring activities into **Early Spring** and **Late Spring**. Doing spring yard work all at once can reduce the impact of some of the steps and leave you more work to do later on in the season.

Early Spring

- Make sure to tune up your mower. Checking all your fuels and cleanliness of the mower itself. Make sure your blade is sharpened or buy a new one, depending on wear of old one. You want to cut your lawn not rip it! The sharper the mower blade, the healthier the grass blade.
- Rake your lawn. Make sure to do this step before applying any fertilizer, seed or weed preventer. If the dead grass you rake has any weeds in it, do not use it for your compost or you will regret it later.
- Now is the time to buy a fertilizer + crabgrass preventer. Scotts Step One or Ace Step One are both carried in our store and come in 5,000 sq ft or 15,000 sq ft bags. Note: If you are reseeding bare patches

in the lawn, do not use the fertilizer or preventer on said area. The extra nitrogen can burn out the new seeds. Wait until seedlings are about 2 inches tall before applying to area or mowing the area.

- Set your mower high. In the northern Hemisphere, the optimal height for grass to have strong root growth is around 3 to 4 inches. This will help your grass crowd out any future weeds.

- Take the opportunity with the softer soil to edge your beds and lay your new mulch for the season.

Late Spring

- Time to overseed. This will help thicken your lawn and fill in any areas that have thinned out overtime. Good rule of thumb is to apply 7-8 pounds per 1000 sq ft. Make sure to buy the seed that would be best for the area. Shade and Sun, All Sun and High Traffic are some examples of the kind of seeds that you can buy for your lawn.

- Now is the time to take care of those dandelions. Scotts and Ace both have a step two that contains fertilizer and dandelion preventer. They come in the same sizes as step one. Note: make sure to put at least two weeks between overseeding and fertilizing.

- Take care of those grubs. Late spring is when grubs will start to climb to the surface to feast on your grass roots. After feasting on all your hard work they will become those pesky beetles that will overtake your garden or home in the summer. I would advise treating your lawn if you or your neighbor had a beetle problem the previous year. Beetles don't follow property lines!

Hopefully this helps get you going in the right direction towards an amazing lawn! ■





TAKE \$5⁰⁰ OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25⁰⁰ OR MORE!

COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. NO PHOTO COPIES ACCEPTABLE.



Coupon expires 5/31/2021

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

Spring 2021 | 15



allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

2021 ALLIED SCHOLARSHIPS

Allied Cooperative is currently accepting applications for its 2021 college scholarship program. Allied Cooperative members and their children may apply for one of twelve \$1,000 college scholarships to be presented in spring 2021.

Selection for the scholarship is based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities, community involvement and/or employment, and honors and awards. Applicants are also asked to submit a short essay. Preference will be given to students pursuing a degree in an agricultural related field. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2021. Winners will be notified by the end of May. To request a scholarship application, please contact info@allied.coop. You may also download an application on-line at www.allied.coop. ■



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Allied Cooperative's employees play an important role in our success as a

cooperative. As a cooperative, our core values are teamwork, integrity, dependability, efficiency and service to others. If your values match ours, we'd love to talk to you about career opportunities with our co-op. Come see what Allied can do for you! For a complete and up-to-date list of openings visit www.allied.coop. For more information on any of these openings call (608) 339-3394 or email humanresources@allied.coop. ■

BOARD REPORT



Paul Zastoupil,
Second Vice Chairman

2020 was a year full of challenges and adjustments like we have never seen and hopefully never do again. The last year has been full of lockdowns, quarantines, kids being homeschooled, and countless events canceled. The COVID pandemic has affected each community and each person in a different way. Your co-op was not immune to this either. Throughout the challenges, Allied's great team of employees shined through. As our fiscal year comes to an end it appears Allied is headed for another good year.

Looking forward to the coming year, there are reasons to be optimistic. The markets have given some opportunities for better returns for many farms, and hopefully the impact of COVID will decrease so we can all return to a more normal routine. Hopefully we can get back to having some producer meetings, and more face-to-face conversations and less virtual ones.

As the Board looks forward, we are always reminded of our biggest responsibilities of protecting our members equity, and positioning the co-op to provide our current and future member's needs. While balancing these demands may be challenging at times, I believe we are well positioned to do so and the future of Allied is bright. If you are interested in having the nominating committee consider you for serving on the Board, contact the Allied office.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD?

Allied Cooperative will hold its annual Board of Director's election in conjunction with its annual meeting to be held in June 2021. If you are a class A stockholder and are interested in serving on Allied Cooperative's Board of Directors please contact Karmen Bernacchi at (608) 339-3394 or email info@allied.coop. When you contact us, please give your name, contact information and why you would like to serve on the Allied Cooperative Board of Directors. Once eligibility is confirmed, a nominating committee member will contact you.

