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Ace Hardware Earns Pinnacle Award

Allied Cooperative's Ace Hardware store in West Salem has been named a "Pinnacle Performance Retailing" store committed to delivering Ace Hardware's helpful brand promise.

Ace Hardware Corporation developed the "Pinnacle Performance Retailing" designation as part of its long-term retail growth strategy for its more than 5,300 stores in approximately 70 countries. Ace retailers achieve the prestigious Pinnacle status by having store-based teams complete key performance drivers that provide a better overall shopping experience in their local community.

"Achieving Pinnacle Performance Retailing is a tremendous accomplishment for an Ace store," said Adam Judy, Allied's Ace Hardware Manager. "We're pretty proud of it here. There are only five Pinnacle stores in the upper Midwest, so this designation speaks to the caliber of store our Ace Hardware is." Some of the areas the store is evaluated on includes how up-to-date the store is, stock

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Above: Ace Hardware Manager Adam Judy on the right with Noah Jurgensen and Susan Schwartz Volenec.

ALLIED COOPERATIVE LOCATIONS

ADAMS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE / LP GAS / FUEL

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

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

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

CENEX PUMP 24

451 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.3626

NAPA AUTO PARTS

540 S Main St Adams, WI 53910
608.339.6412

ARCADIA

OFFICE / LP / FUEL / OIL

N28281 State Rd 93 Arcadia, WI 54612
608.323.3311

AGRONOMY / FEED

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

BLAIR

EAST GRAIN PLANT

1015 E Broadway St Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2298

WEST GRAIN PLANT

420 N Park Rd Blair, WI 54661
608.989.2335

GALESVILLE

AGRONOMY

W19801 Winnebago Rd
Galesville, WI 54630
608.582.4711

MAUSTON

AGRONOMY / FEED / GRAIN / TRANSPORTATION

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

MAUSTON TIRE SHOP / NAPA AUTO PARTS

310 Prairie St Mauston, WI 53948
608.847.1640 (Tire Shop)
608.847.7501 (NAPA)

MINDORO

MINDORO COUNTRY STORE

N8319 Cty Rd C Mindoro, WI 54644
608.857.3414

PLAINFIELD

PEST PROS

10086 1st St Plainfield, WI 54966
715.335.4046

PLOVER

AGRONOMY

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

TOMAH

DOWNTOWN OFFICE / LP

TOMAH COUNTRY STORE & FEED
711 Fair St Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2458

AGRONOMY / GRAIN

10533 Estate Rd Tomah, WI 54660
608.372.2090

WEST SALEM

OFFICE / LP GAS / FUEL /

TRANSPORTATION /

ACE HARDWARE

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

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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



As the world slowly recovers from the long battle against COVID-19, we are encountering new challenges that we have not faced before.

The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in the supply chain that has led to severe bottlenecks and surges in prices. Experts tell us that systemic problems in the supply chains have been building for years, but the pandemic has really highlighted how fragile that chain really is.

According to a recent article in the New York Times, over the last three months, container ships unloading goods have remained at American ports for seven days on average, 21 percent higher than it was at the start of the pandemic. As ports work through the backlog, they are contending with issues like a shortage of chassis used to haul containers with trucks and not enough drivers. Supply chains are complex and even just one issue going wrong can impact the rest of the process.

Now we are faced with additional challenges resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Given the interconnectedness of the world marketplace, even supply chains without direct ties to the region will be impacted.

The most problematic areas for the ag industry include transportation costs, labor availability, rising energy costs and challenges with obtaining inputs and products for the ag sector. These are complex challenges and are likely to be around for a while. It is clear there is no silver-bullet solution.

At Allied, we are in close contact with all of our suppliers and are working hard to mitigate the impact of any delay in the supply chain. We are being creative and proactive. And yet we cannot bury our heads in the sand and think that supply disruption cannot happen to us. It can and likely will – so we are trying to be proactive and be prepared with solutions that will work for our customers and our cooperative.

We encourage you to be proactive as well. Whether you're buying seed and fertilizer, fuel or propane, auto parts, hardware or tires ... the best way to ensure you have what you need when you need it is to plan ahead. If you wait until the last minute, we cannot promise that supply will be there.

It's fair to say that we don't have much experience coming out of a pandemic, so exactly how this will all play out is hard to say. But I am confident that together we can weather this storm. Throughout this pandemic we have heard mantras like "We're in this together" and "Stronger together." Cooperatives were born out of this very concept. We thank you for your continued patronage and look forward to working together with you for your success through whatever lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Tim Clemens, CEO

Allied Cooperative Recognizes Achievements in Crop Yields

The Agronomy division held Yield Banquets for the 2021 crop season on March 8th in Mauston and March 9th in Holmen. This year's banquet featured nationally recognized agricultural speaker Kim Bremmer, who inspired and encouraged her audience to find their voice and share their ag story.

The annual events served to recognize yield achievements for growers that purchase seed through Allied Cooperative. Winners were presented awards recognizing their achievements. Those honored included:

Irrigated Corn – East:

1st place – Jeff & Barb Laskowski, 339.01 bu/acre
2nd place – Bacon Farms Inc., 320.72 bu/acre
3rd place – WPF, Inc., 308.09 bu/acre

Irrigated Corn – West:

1st place – Klein Brothers, 244.35 bu/acre
2nd place – Chad Backler, 243.92 bu/acre
3rd place – Grains & Manes, 243.75 bu/acre

Non-Irrigated Corn – East:

1st place – Falkers Grain Farms, 310.4 bu/acre
2nd place – Clover View Farms, 285.7 bu/acre
3rd place – Kevin Miller, 261.2 bu/acre

Non-Irrigated Corn – West:

1st place – Leon Pfaff, 308.29 bu/acre
2nd place – Clint & Al Sampson, 295.2 bu/acre
3rd place – Sandy Everson, 268.74 bu/acre

Irrigated Soybeans – East:

1st place – WPF, Inc., 94.63 bu/acre
2nd place – Cedar Row Farm, 78.7 bu/acre
3rd place – Nate Bula, 74.8 bu/acre

Irrigated Soybeans – West:

1st place – Klein Brothers, 69.66 bu/acre



Agronomy Advisor Mickey Gumney presented Jeff Laskowski with the award for 2021 top yield in corn with 339.01 bu/acre. This is Jeff's 5th year in a row earning the top prize for irrigated corn.

Non-Irrigated Soybeans – East:

1st place – Golden Bluff Farm, 91.3 bu/acre
2nd place – WalkEra Farms, 84.3 bu/acre
3rd place – Kevin Miller, 84.1 bu/acre

Non-Irrigated Soybeans – West:

1st place – Dan Filla, 91.89 bu/acre
2nd place – Schlessers Farms, 90.51 bu/acre
3rd place – Wendell Everson, 83.62 bu/acre

Corn Silage:

1st place – Wagner Farms, 34.2 tons
2nd place – Gary Bula Farms Inc., 34.14 tons
3rd place – Thad Barnes, 31.4 tons

Prizes were also awarded to 91 - 220 Bushel Club winners, 65 - 60 Bushel Bean Club Winners, and 6 - 30 ton Corn Silage Club winners. ■



Accepting awards at the East Yield Contest were (L to R): Front – Andrew Miller, Tami Bula, Dravan Robinson and Becky Grabarski. Back – Andrew Pribramsky, Mark Kuester, Thad Barnes, Colton Horn, Gary Barton, and Tom Walker.



West Yield Contest Winners include (L to R): Brian Pierzina, Leon Pfaff, Bruce Brenengen, Sandy Everson, Annie Klein, Wendell Klein and Dan Filla.



FERTILIZER MARKET REPORT

by Joe Spinler.
COO

Spring/Early Summer Outlook Last fall I wrote about where I expected fertilizer pricing to go and said that it depended on the price of corn and soybeans. Well fast forward a few months and we have not had many products soften, while some have gained strength. Much like the grain markets, correct? Now interject the conflict in the Ukraine with Russia and here you go ... is it grain price driven, supply driven or all the above? The answer is all the above.

I would tell you that most of the product that comes out of that region would need to be, for the most part, on the water already in order to get here for us this spring, so this will have little impact on supply. However, the conflict is impacting demand around the world and some of our fertilizer that would come from other areas yet this spring, such as the Middle East, could possibly be impacted. We have supply questions, government tariffs

and sanctions for products that are having an impact across many types of fertilizer from a pricing standpoint.

Before Russia invaded the Ukraine I think many felt we were pretty stable to bearish, now most feel we are stable to bullish on most all fertilizer products going into summer. With that said if you are concerned about prices going higher, we are still allowing you to lock your input price in for spring. By prepaying, you are going to have a better chance of getting your product than those that have not prepaid, in the event there are supply constraints. This will also be the case for your pesticide purchases. Please reach out to your agronomy advisor and get a plan in place.

Also make sure your maps are up-to-date if you are planning to have us do any custom work for you this spring. Please remember that Allied will not custom apply products to your field without a current aerial map to go by. ■

THE NEW NORMAL

ENERGY MARKET'S WILD RIDE

by Dianne Dallmann, Director of Propane and Jeff Bunker, Director of Bulk Fuels

"The new normal" – if you check Thesaurus.com for synonyms for new and normal, you come up with: strange routine, unusual standard, and unfamiliar order, this certainly describes the current Energy Market we are in. Headlines and world events have always had a large effect on commodities and this year is no different. Uncertainty regarding supply has brought NYMEX WTI futures back over \$100 a barrel (bbl).

Crude is racing higher as it appears Russia is gaining a stronger grip on Ukraine. Western governments and business are putting significant economic pressure on Russia. There are reports of it becoming harder to find ships to move Russian crude. Oil giants BP and Shell have walked away from major investments in Russia and will write off major losses as result. The moves will stop further investment in energy projects in Russia. ExxonMobil has started removing U.S. employees from its Russian oil and gas operations.

All eyes were on the OPEC+ meeting on March 2nd and any future ceasefire talks between Russia and Ukraine. Russian exports of all commodities from oil and metals to grains will be severely disrupted by fresh Western sanctions, dealing a blow to Russia's economy, and hurting the West with a spike in prices and inflation, traders and analysts said.

OPEC+ is expected to stick to plans to add 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of supply in April. Ahead of the meeting, OPEC+ revised down its forecast for

the oil market surplus for 2022 by about 200,000 bpd to 1.1 million bpd, underscoring market tightness. Propane is caught up in the vortex of sharply rising crude prices. Propane's value relative to crude is dropping as winter influences on propane are nearer their end. Still the rapid advance in crude price still means higher propane prices despite propane lagging the gains.

Although no one can predict the future there are indicators to show which way markets are going. In today's world, markets can swing up or down in a moment. Our Energy team works with analysts to give you the most up to date information to help make your contracting decisions easier. For more information contact:



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WHERE IS THE TOP?



by David Rappa,
Director of Grain

As I am writing this article, Russia is currently invading the Ukraine and is trying to close in on the capital city of Kiev. In the last week we have seen all Black Sea grain operations close indefinitely due to the war and futures markets up \$0.50 in corn, \$0.40 in soybeans, and \$1.00 in wheat. The question I get all day is, where is the top?

Usually writing these articles we try to provide insight of which way we think the market is headed based on supply and demand fundamentals, but what we have seen in commodity markets over the last three months has been speculation on how bad the drought in South America is, speculative buying of commodities as a hedge against inflation, and now how much the war in Ukraine will affect global grain supplies and logistics.

The biggest market factors we are trading right now is how much the war in Ukraine will affect crop production and disrupt global physical supply. Although the Ukraine geographically is a rather small country it is a major player in global supply of grains.

Of the principal row crops, Ukraine is the fourth largest exporter of corn in the world and eighth largest exporter of wheat. They also are the largest producer of sunflowers and sunflower

UNITED STATES

UKRAINE

oil, second largest exporter of barley, fourth largest producer of potatoes, and fifth largest producer of rye.

Looking at the timing of the war it is very likely to have major impacts on the upcoming growing season with planting on the horizon. It's hard to imagine how war would not affect the ability to get crop inputs, or labor necessary to get the crop in the ground. The biggest question for us halfway across the globe is what does this mean for us in terms of price?

Below is a continuous weekly corn chart for the last 15 years. You can see by the chart we are approaching the futures levels we set in 2008, 2011, 2012, and 2021. The last times we have seen futures prices this high it was due to tight physical supplies. This rally is different. Physical

supply is not nearly as tight and there is a high premium being placed in the market based on uncertainty of what is to come.

The uncertainty we are trading is how much production was lost in South America due to drought, how bad is inflation, and now how much the war in Ukraine will affect their crop production. If we see an adverse growing season in the United States I would not be surprised if we hit all time high in futures markets.

The one key take away you can see by looking at the chart below is that high futures prices typically don't last long. Talk to your Allied grain representative about what contracting option might be best for your operation to take advantage of the elevated prices. ■



NITROGEN STABILIZER



By Wrangler Jones,
Agronomy Advisor

With the uncertainty of what this year is going to bring, farmers and growers are going to be looking for ways they can maximize their input efficiency in the return of maximizing their yield. A topic of conversation that most farmers are having with their agronomist is the substantial increase of fertilizer prices and the volatility of where that market is going to go. With most crops in Wisconsin relying heavily on nitrogen fertilizer, it brings the conversation around to what products should I be investing in to help make my nitrogen more efficient. More and more farmers every year are looking for ways to improve N use and increase yield whether it be split applications, slow-release nitrogen, and the use of Nitrogen Stabilizers.

Nitrogen stabilizers are products intended for preventing or hindering certain areas of the nitrogen cycle such as denitrification, volatilization, nitrification, and urease production. Allied Cooperative carries a variety of different nitrogen stabilizers in order to fit farmers fertilizer programs such as Anvol®, Instinct NXTGEN®, and N-Serve®.

Anvol is an above-ground protection nitrogen stabilizer that helps reduce ammonia volatilization. Urea fertilizer is coated with Anvol which helps inhibit urease enzymes that are found in the soil. These enzymes are responsible for turning urea into



ammonia gas which results in N loss through volatilization into the atmosphere. This is a product that can help to combat those weather environments that support faster volatilization allowing for nitrogen to be available to plants for a longer period of time.

Instinct NXT Gen and N-Serve are below-ground nitrogen stabilizers that aids in reducing

the amount of N loss through denitrification and leaching. Instinct is usually treated on liquid fertilizers such as 28% and 32% while N-Serve gets used with anhydrous ammonia. When these products are applied, they are in the ammonium for (NH₄) with a positive charge and with clay particles in the soil having a negative charge it allows for the ammonium to stay closer to your root zone. What these products do is slow down Nitrosomonas bacteria which are responsible for turning positively charged ammonium into negatively charged Nitrate (NO₃) which results in N loss through leaching.

Nitrogen Stabilizers are a great investment in a farm fertilizer program not only to protect and more efficiently use nitrogen, but to also help maximize on farm yield. With the variety of different types of stabilizers out there, it makes it easy to fit any farm plan. If you have any other questions or want information on nitrogen stabilizers don't be afraid to reach out to your local Agronomy Advisor. ■



DON'T GUESS, SOIL TEST

The headline to this article may seem like an overused cliché, but the wisdom in that phrase cannot be overemphasized – especially in a year where commodity and fertilizer prices have fluctuated wildly. Testing the soil nutrients and other values in your field is critical for making the right decisions on fertilizer application. Soil test results help you fine-tune your nutrient management practices based on real data, and ultimately protect your bottom line.

Taking GPS-referenced soil samples ("grid sampling") is a great base layer for managing fertility. Areas to be sampled can vary by field size from 5 acres to sub-acre grids. The number of acres encompassed in each GPS-referenced soil sample can vary from 5 acres to less than 1 acre, but smaller fields should have at least five sample points to draw information from. With this data, we can deliver variable-rate recommendations for lime, potash, or DAP.

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

Finally, if someone else soil samples your farm we can import that information into our software and get you rolling towards an optimal fertility regime. Contact your Allied Cooperative Agronomy Advisor today for spring soil sampling and variable-rate recommendations! ■

TAR SPOT PREVENTION

The tar spot devastation from last year is still fresh in many growers' minds. If it isn't, it probably should be. We saw yield dips of up to 100 bushel per acre in places. Tar spot was not the only factor that played into this, there were also stalk diseases that weakened the plant allowing tar spot to take over.

We know now that tar spot can and will overwinter in our fields, that alone doesn't mean we are going to get wiped out again. Weather patterns and weather conditions will play a part as well, we could have minimal tar spot, or we could see similar conditions to last year. The good news is we can do some prevention tactics – the faster we can get the seed germinated and growing healthy the better.

Things to avoid: extreme early cold weather planting. Let the ground warm up a little. While everyone wants to be first in the field, this can play a hand in the root, crown, and stalk diseases we had last year. The later planted fields had better stands, better early-season vigor, and caught right up, if not passed, the very early planted corn. And the tar spot was less severe. That doesn't mean we should wait to plant until June 1st, but be careful not to plant in extremely cold soils with cold temperatures in the near future.

PREVENTING TAR SPOT Xyway™:

Xyway™ LFR® fungicide is a unique at-plant treatment for season-long systemic disease protection from the inside out – from root to tassel and stalk to leaf.

Xyway in-furrow fungicide proved to be a yield gainer and helped the plants stay healthier later into the season, so they were able to fight off the tar spot long enough to fill the ear. While Xyway is not labeled for "tar spot" it is labeled for the early-season stalk diseases that we encountered last year that weakened the corn plants. Even in areas with less severe tar spot, we saw yield increases of 5-7 bushel which more than covers the cost of the product and is good insurance. It is all about protecting that seedling and allowing for fast, healthy early growth.

You can run Xyway in-furrow, 2x2, or you can install a 3RIVE 3D® application system to your planter. With this there is a program you can qualify for to help cover the cost of the



equipment and installation. Talk to your local Allied Agronomy Advisor for more information on this program. With this system you can also run Ethos® 3D on your soybeans. Ethos 3D is a combination of bifenthrin insecticide and broad-spectrum bio-fungicide that creates a barrier around plant roots to protect seedlings during critical early growth and continues to grow with the plant. This promotes uniform emergence with increased early season plant vigor.

Ascend® Pro:

Ascend® Pro plant growth regulator can help improve root growth and improve plant vigor early in the growing season with a unique combination of three plant growth regulators. It can help support cell division, leaf expansion and root formation. Ascend Pro also contains a proprietary amino acid derivative to help optimize performance in all environmental conditions, including cold, wet, warm and dry weather. This is another tool you can use to help your seedling get off to a good healthy start and fight off disease pressures.

These are just a few early treatments you can do to help your seedlings thrive. We know doing nothing gets us just that – nothing. Or it may give you a severe yield reduction. Help your plant early on and it will pay you dividends in the end.

We will also be doing fungicide spraying again this year with helicopters and airplanes. While they can't get every field, we would definitely recommend using them where you can. If you are in a smaller area and the helicopter or plane can't do your fields, we recommend a V-5 to V-10 fungicide application. This will still give you some protection and help your plants fight off disease. Talk with your Allied Cooperative Agronomy Advisor to get more information on any of the products or services mentioned in this article. Have a safe spring and planting season. ■

SPRING PLANTING CHECKLIST

While we are living in some crazy, unprecedented times... America's farmers are getting ready to do what they do... growing the foods that America and the world rely on! Allied Cooperative's Agronomy Division has put together a spring checklist to help ensure you don't miss a step in your spring planting. Every step is important for your success.

Equipment

- ☐ Test seed meters
- ☐ Adjust row cleaners
- ☐ Calibrate insecticide
- ☐ Inspect and calibrate fertilizer system
- ☐ Adjust closing wheel pressure
- ☐ Ensure Climate is set up correctly on the planting monitor and updated to the latest version
- ☐ Update planter monitor information
- ☐ Enter hybrids into planter monitor or climate
- ☐ Upload Variable Rate Seeding scripts or perform population adjustments

Fertilizer/ Crop Protection Plan

- ☐ Fertilizer plan
- ☐ In-furrow insecticide/in-furrow micros/plant nutrition products
- ☐ Crop protection plan
- ☐ Pre? Post? Waterhemp?
- ☐ Nitrogen stabilizer/Anvol/N-Serve/Agrotain/Instinct
- ☐ Add an addition of zinc and micros into your dry and liquid starter programs
- ☐ Maps made and turned in for application

Planting

- ☐ Add in Talc or Graphite
- ☐ Adjust row cleaners in the field
- ☐ Ensure proper planting depth
- ☐ Corn 2 inch depth
- ☐ Soybeans 1.5 inch depth
- ☐ Adjust closing wheel pressure
- ☐ Check for hair pinning
- ☐ Check for side wall compaction

Soybean Treatments

- ☐ Treat with Acceleron FI/ Acceleron F
- ☐ Inoculate with Optimize XC inoculant, micros
- ☐ Ileva, ½ rate for soybean cyst nematodes/ full rate for SDS



SAFETY CORNER

By Dawn McCluskey
Director of Safety & Compliance



Sharing the Road with Agricultural Equipment

Changes in the season also bring changes on the road. Driving or living anywhere rural you'll start seeing a lot more equipment sharing the roadways in the upcoming weeks. Sharing the road means practicing extra caution. Tractors and other implements of husbandry (IOH) are allowed to operate on Wisconsin roadways but are often large and slow-moving which can cause confusion for drivers sharing the roads.

Three scenarios drivers and farmers should know how to handle: Passing, left-hand turns and braking distance needed to controlled intersections.

It's easy to get impatient when you find yourself traveling slow behind an agricultural vehicle.

Passing: In 2014, it became illegal to pass an Implement of husbandry (IOH) in a no-passing zone. This includes farm tractors and farm machinery, or an Ag-Commercial Motor Vehicle, trucks that are specially designed for agricultural work. Motorists should wait until they enter a passing zone when considering going around a slow-moving vehicle. Farmers should not pull over in a no-passing zone to let vehicles pass unless the road shoulder condition and width can allow for the farm machinery to completely move onto the shoulder. Farmers should also not wave a driver forward to pass them. Although these actions may seem courteous, they send mixed signals and are not encouraged. In a passing zone, or if shoulder width permits, farmers are obligated to yield the roadway to the overtaking vehicle, so they do not impede the normal movement of traffic.

Left-hand turn: It can turn into a dangerous situation when the equipment operator is attempting to make a left-hand turn. Farm equipment, especially tractors, will likely have two flashing amber or yellow lights on the cab or tire fenders of the tractor when in operation on the roadway. When the equipment signals to turn, the light will continue to flash in the direction the farmer is turning. The other light will go solid. For motorists, this is an important distinction to recognize. For farm tractors or farm machinery without turn signals, hand signals should be used to indicate the operator's intention to turn.

A controlled intersection: When a motorist legally passes large farm equipment within a very short distance of a controlled intersection (stop sign or stop lights), this action can dramatically impact the reaction time and braking distance for the farm equipment operator. Farm equipment is much heavier than a normal passenger vehicle which requires a larger braking distance than the average vehicle. Having adequate braking distance is critical for the farm equipment operator. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recommends drivers slow down immediately when they see a slow-moving vehicle emblem (orange and red triangle) on the rear of a tractor or other piece of equipment. This emblem indicates that the farm machine usually travels slower than 25 mph. Stay alert, focused and patient when passing a slow-moving agricultural vehicle in an area where passing is legal. ■



Propane Safety Tips to Prepare for Barbecue Season

Grilling season is upon us and that means a lot of time spent with family and friends for the backyard cookout. While you decide between ribs or chicken or burgers and hot dogs (or all of them!), this is also a good time to brush up on propane safety best practices. Nothing ruins a cookout like a trip to the emergency room. Here are some important things to know.

Transport and Store Propane Cylinders Safely

When you need more propane for your grill, Allied Cooperative is here for you! You can get your propane cylinder safely and expertly refilled during regular business hours at the following locations: Ace Hardware – West Salem, Adams or Mauston NAPA stores, Galesville Agronomy and the Tomah Country Store.

There are some things you need to know about how to get cylinders to and from your home, as well as storing them. Here are some safety tips.

- Whether your propane cylinder is empty or full, always keep it upright when transporting. When a cylinder is on its side, there is a risk of a liquid propane leak.
- Always close the cylinder valve – even if the cylinder is empty.
- Always place the cylinder inside a well-ventilated area of the vehicle.
- Always proceed directly to your destination and immediately remove the cylinder from your vehicle.

Never store or place your propane cylinder indoors in an enclosed area such as a basement, garage, shed or tent. And never store it in an area of excessive heat. Never store or place a spare cylinder under or near a barbecue grill. Do not smoke or have any ignition sources in the area while handling or transporting cylinders.

Get Your Grill Ready

While giving a spring cleaning to your grill, don't



forget to thoroughly inspect it and make sure it's safe to operate.

The first thing to do is to run a leak test. Coat the hoses, valves, and regulator with soapy water, then turn on the propane cylinder. Any bubbles are a sign of a propane leak. Tighten connections and run the test again. Replace the hoses or tank if bubbles still appear.

During winter, spiders enjoy the warm refuge of your grill's venturi tubes, which provide the gas to the burners. The spiders' homes there can cause blockages in the tubes. Use a bottle brush to clean out the tubes. Reconnect everything, but leave the grates off, and turn on the grill and look for uneven flames or spots where there is no flame. Let the grill cool and use a paper clip to remove blockages in those areas.

Play It Safe When Grilling

Once you're ready to grill, don't leave propane safety best practices behind! We have some tips to help keep your cookout from ending in disaster.

- Clean your propane grill, not just the grates, regularly. One in five grill fires are caused by leftover grease.
- Light the grill with the lid open, and make sure it is fully lit before closing the lid.
- Never use your propane BBQ grill indoors or in an enclosed or covered area like a garage or carport. Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, a potentially lethal odorless and colorless gas, can build up.
- Keep the grill on a flat, level surface with

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NAPA STORE UPDATES



By Ron DeMars, Director of Credit and Auto Parts

Over the past couple of years, Allied Cooperative's NAPA Auto Parts stores have been going through some updates and changes to make the stores profitable and shopper friendly as well as more employee friendly.

The Mauston store was finished about one year ago, after several months of changes to inventory and a complete turning of the retail shopping area. The goal with this store was to make the items available to the customer more presentable and easier to find on the shelves. The pet supplies were moved to the south side of the store where larger displays of fast moving items could be built. The aisles that display the NAPA items were turned facing north and south. Existing product lines were updated and new product lines were added.

A large Milwaukee and Craftsman® tool display was added to this store and has been a big hit with customers. Oil, grease and batteries were moved to the front aisle so customers don't have to carry these heavy items quite so far. The back room area of this store was organized to make it easier and faster for employees to find product and bring it to the floor or make it available to customers.

On the NAPA side of things, a great deal of time and effort was put into removing product that no longer sold or was outdated and bringing in product relevant to today's vehicles. Both stores are now better able to pay attention to the daily, weekly and monthly chores of price updates, product warranties and core returns to the distribution center. These are all keys to the financial success of the stores.

The Adams store changes were recently completed and included a complete reset of the retail area and the "back of the counter" area. The counters were moved to the center of the store and the retail area now takes over the front half of the store's total floor space. NAPA items make up the north two thirds of the retail area. Pet foods, supplies and large animal feeds make up the south one third of the area.

Moving the animal feed to the front of the store has made it much easier and convenient for our customers and our employees. More product is stored in the resale area meaning less time is spent hauling product from our warehouse.

The Milwaukee and Craftsman tool lines were added to the Adams store as well, and the oil and grease

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A Lesson in Grub Control

by Adam Judy, Ace Hardware Manager

It is probably not surprising to anyone that Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa have been added to the list of states that are now plagued with Japanese beetles. Every year, here at Ace Hardware, we continually sell out of beetle control products. Over the last two years, beetle traps have doubled in sales and there is no sign of it decreasing. I wanted to take moment to discuss the Japanese Beetle, some of the options for grub control and when to put it down.

Japanese beetle eggs hatch about 10 days after they are laid. The grubs feed from the beginning of August until late October. By the end of October, they are fully grown. They spend the winter as large grubs (0.75 inches long) some 2-6 inches below the soil surface. When the ground warms up in spring, they resume feeding and can cause damage from the time the grass turns green until they pupate in mid-May. Grub damage may appear in home lawns from mid-September to November or from March to early May. However, for low-maintenance lawns, even if the turf is not killed from grub feeding, the thinned and weakened turf may be prone to weeds and drought stress.

It is important to realize that healthy turf, supported by frequent rain or irrigation, can support a grub population of five or more grubs per square foot with no visible turf damage. In fact, most well-maintained lawns do not have visible damage from grubs. A lawn should be mowed at 3 to 4 inches in height and properly fertilized for maximum root growth. However, if the grub population is high or if there is a history of damage in an area, it may be necessary to consider using an insecticide for grub control. Finding one or two grubs does not indicate you need to apply a grub control product.

When choosing a grub control product it is very important that you look at the active ingredient. This will determine if you are going to be applying the product in early spring or in June or July. It is also important that as soon as you apply the grub control of your choice that you water your lawn. A good ½ inch of water will be sufficient. Research tests over the last 25 years have clearly shown that watering immediately after application helps to obtain good results.

One of my personal favorites for grub control is a product called Milky Spores. This is an organic product that is pet safe. Milky Spores comes in 20

lb. bags that cover 7,000 sq ft. Their cost is roughly around \$43.99 a bag. You apply in the summer and fall for two years and in most cases will not have to apply again for another eight years.

Some other products and their application times to consider are:

- Scotts Grub-Ex - Granular chlorantraniliprole 0.08%

Apply between April 1 and May 30 (no later than July 15) for best results.

- Bayer Advanced Season-Long Grub Control (or Bayer Advanced Merit) - Granular imidacloprid 0.25%

Apply between June 1 and July 15 for best results.

- Bayer Advanced Season-Long Grub Control and Turf Revitalizer - Granular imidacloprid 0.25% and a low fertilizer rate (6-0-1)

Apply between June 1 and July 15 for best results.

- Bayer Advanced Complete Insect Killer Liquid attach-to-hose-bottle cyfluthrin 0.36% and imidacloprid 0.72%

Apply between June 1 and July 15 for best results.

- Bayer Advanced Complete Insect Killer Granules - Granular cyfluthrin 0.05% and imidacloprid 0.15%

Apply between June 1 and July 15 for best results. ■



On a side note. We have seen an increased amount of mole issues in the West Salem area in the last couple of years. This is in part due to the explosion of Japanese Beetles. With that said, in many cases, taking care of your lawn in regards to grubs can also be a remedy for any mole issues or help to prevent any in the future. Hopefully, this might answer any questions that you have concerning grub control. If you have any questions, feel free to call Ace and we will try our best to answer them.

Ace Continued from page 1...

levels, customer satisfaction reviews, employee engagement programs, business to business sales, online orders/pick-up, and Ace Rewards participation.

In addition to their Pinnacle status from Ace Hardware, the store has also been named a "Gold Dealer" by Traeger Grills. This is another major achievement. "When you're dealing with Traeger grills you have your basics like the Pros and the Ironwoods, but there is the top of the line "cherry on top" kind of grill called the Timberline series, and you can't carry or sell that line unless you're a gold dealer," said Adam.

Allied Cooperative congratulates the West Salem Ace Hardware team on all of their accomplishments. ■



Pictured here are Ace Hardware employees Nancy Eckelberg, Terese Turnbull and Laurie Marquardt.

Propane Safety

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at least five feet clearance from the house, outdoor furniture, trees, bushes, and anything else that is combustible.

- Keep kids and pets away from the grill.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended. Make sure you have everything you need on hand like tongs, mitts, brushes, sauces, food, and platters before you start the grill.
- Don't use your grill if the igniter is broken. Look into buying a grill with an automatic igniter. We have an outstanding selection of top-quality propane grills at our Ace Hardware store in West Salem!

Come to any of our locations for a safe propane cylinder refill! ■

NAPA *Continued from page 9...*

was moved closer to the entrance for customer convenience. As in the Mauston store, NAPA inventory was updated and new products were added to comply with today's vehicles and equipment. Both stores stock an array of farm equipment parts and supplies. The Adams store carries a large amount of some parts and supplies that are unique to the large vegetable growers in the Adams area.

A big change in the Adams store is now having all NAPA parts on the floor behind the counter and better accessible for the employees. Employees no longer have to run to the warehouse for parts. This allows customers to get what they need and get back to the shop. Having these parts located on the floor also allows for better inventory control and less shrink.

With the cost of transportation today we are now better able to use our warehouse for more feed storage and spend less time traveling to other locations to pick up inventory – saving time and money.

We are very proud of how both stores have turned out and receive many compliments on the new layout and product availability in both stores. If you haven't had a chance to check out either of our NAPA stores, please stop in and check them out. We think you will like what you see! ■

Spring Tune-up Time

Lawn and garden equipment are their most productive when they are well maintained. Keeping these small engine powered machines going strong is easy thanks to our NAPA stores. We have access to everything you need to keep your equipment running smoothly ... from mower blades and belts to air and oil filters, spark plugs and weed eater line. In addition, we have tires and tubes available at our tire shop.

For repairs beyond routine maintenance, NAPA carries a wide selection of replacement parts like shear pins, throttle cables, chain sprockets and more. Stop by the Adams or Mauston NAPA store for everything you need to get your lawn and garden equipment running in tip-top shape this spring. ■

info@allied.coop

Calling all Gardeners!



by Darla Gardner, Tomah Country Store

Gardening season is just around the corner and the Tomah Country Store is busy preparing the store for our local gardeners. We hope you'll consider us as your "go to" for all of your gardening needs. We will once again carry onion sets (yellow, red and white bulbs) and potato sets (Kennebecs, Norlands, Pontiacs, Russet Burbanks and Yukon Gold.)

We will have a variety of produce seed packets available. We will also have a variety of bulk seed products, including sweet corn (Bodacious, Incredible, Kandy Corn and Peaches & Cream), peas (Sugar Ann, Green Arrow, and NEW this year Sienna – an easy to shell pea, excellent for freezing and canning), and green beans (Blue Lake).

Lawn seed and fertilizers will also be available for the planting season, whether for the garden, lawn or food plots. Stop by the Tomah Country Store and let us help you get the most from your garden this summer! ■



Get Ready for Grilling Season

While many of us fire up our grill all year long, you're probably cooking on it a lot more often when you don't need to wear your parka to flip the burgers. We want to be your grilling partner – no matter how you choose to fire up your grill.

Gas Grills – Allied Cooperative has LP filling stations at the Ace Hardware in West Salem, Adams and Mauston NAPA stores and the Tomah Country Store. We also have LP exchange services at Cenex Pump 24 and Mindoro Country Store. Watch our website for our annual LP Bottle Fill sale coming this April!

Grilling Equipment – Ace Hardware is your "go to" store for all things grilling. Whether you're looking for gas grills, charcoal grills, pellet grills, electric grills or smokers ... Ace has the area's finest selection of grills. They are also a Traeger Gold Dealer -- which means they have the best selection of Traeger grills available.

Grill Accessories – Stop by Ace Hardware for all of your grilling accessories, including charcoal, covers, utensils, rubs, sauces and more. You'll also find grilling pellets from Traeger and Weber in an assortment of flavors, including cherry, pecan, bold blend, brisket blend and more. Or stop by the Tomah Country Store for America's Choice Premium Barbecue Grilling Pellets in natural hardwood flavors like pro-blend, apple, hickory and mesquite.

Check out our website and Facebook page for grilling tips and recipes. No matter how you grill things up, we want to help you enjoy every bite this summer! ■





TAKE \$5⁰⁰ OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25⁰⁰ OR MORE!

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



Coupon expires 5/31/2022

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



allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910



ONLINE BILL PAY COMING SOON!

Allied Cooperative is pleased to announce that customers will soon be able to order propane and pay your Allied Cooperative bills online. Watch our website and your mail box for more information!

2022 ALLIED SCHOLARSHIPS

Allied Cooperative is currently accepting applications for its 2022 college scholarship program. Allied Cooperative members and their children may apply for one of twelve \$1,000 college scholarships to be presented in spring 2022.

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, 2022. Winners will be notified by the end of May. To request a scholarship application, please contact Karmen Bernacchi at kbernacchi@allied.coop. You may also download an application on-line at www.allied.coop. ■

BOARD REPORT



David Rundahl,
Board Member

by David Rundahl

As a board member I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding through this pandemic. We are all essential workers going through difficult times, pushing ahead and being there for each other.

As a producer it is easy to take for granted what Allied Cooperative's employees have done for us. Together they have managed to keep moving forward, pushing through adversity, to get the job done. Let's remember to praise, respect, appreciate and applaud their hard work.

In our board room, along with our cooperative's mission and vision statements we have a list of our cooperative's core values. They are: teamwork, integrity, dependability, efficiency and service to others. These are the heart of what our co-op and its employees strive for. They are our highest priority. I truly believe the Allied team has displayed these values well at a time when just showing up took courage.

To our employees: Thank you for being there when we needed all of you to get the job done and delivering another successful year. We appreciate you and thank you for all of your hard work!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD?

Allied Cooperative will hold its annual Board of Directors election in June 2022. If you are a class A stockholder and interested in serving on the Board, email info@allied.coop.

