

ALLIED Connections

FALL 2024

A PUBLICATION OF ALLIED COOPERATIVE®



June 28: The ground is staked.



August 9:
Constructing the Receiving Conveyor Pit.



July 15: Breaking ground.

PLOVER TO GET NEW FERTILIZER PLANT



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Construction of a new dry fertilizer plant has begun at Allied Cooperative's Plover location. The new plant is being constructed on our current site and will be able to store 14,000 ton of dry fertilizer.

The current fertilizer plant was built in 1974 and has a 2200 ton capacity. With limited storage, inadequate automation and antiquated equipment the location struggled with maintenance costs and has found it increasingly difficult to keep up with our growing business.

The new plant will feature state-of-the-art mixing and high-speed blending. This will allow for faster receiving, blending and shipping of product to our fleet, as well as for customers that come in to pick up their own products. The building will also have more bins and a larger capacity to allow us to carry more products.

Allied Cooperative's Plover agronomy plant is situated in the heart of Wisconsin's Central Sands potato and vegetable market. This area is recognized as one of the premier vegetable growing regions in the nation with potatoes, sweet corn, green beans, peas, carrots and cucumbers all ranked near the top of U.S. production. Traditional row crop growers also depend on the services provided by our Plover location.

Construction of the new facility is expected to be complete by June 2025. Be sure to watch our Facebook page for updated project photos in the months to come.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

We are closing in on our first full year together as a merged cooperative. I am proud of the progress we have made and am more confident than ever that the decision to bring our co-ops together was the right one. Our merger, with its larger geography and increased sales revenue, has created a lot of benefits for our cooperative. Our size affords us savings, efficiencies and the opportunity for expansion.

When we did our feasibility study before the merger, we identified a lot of areas that we could save by combining the co-ops. We feel that we are meeting the goals we set forth. We came together at a good time with inflationary distribution and insurance costs. This merger has really helped us overcome some of these high costs of doing business. And despite these rising costs, we have been able to move forward with capital expenditures such as rolling stock and equipment purchases etc., as well as projects like the new fertilizer plant in Plover; the completion of our feed mill in Hixton; the construction of our new convenience store in Augusta; the Unity expansion project; and we continue to look at an expansion in the Arcadia/Galesville area where we are looking for available land.

Agriculture tends to be cyclical in nature – there are ups and downs in the market influenced greatly by factors outside of our control, like weather. Having a business that reaches into different market segments and geographies helps to even this cycle out and allows us to better maintain profitability during challenging times.

We saw this come into play this spring as we coped with a very challenging agronomy season. We went into the season short-handed and then faced wet weather patterns that wouldn't let up. This was especially difficult in the northern part of our trade territory where only 60 to 70% of row crops were planted due to weather.

We endured the sixth wettest June in state history, based on records dating back to 1895. Our agronomy team did the best that they could with the number of days they could work with spraying, application etc., and they did a great job. We were able to shift people, products and equipment around to create efficiencies and meet our customers' needs.

We anticipate facing similar challenges in the grain division this year with the prevented plant in the Auburndale, Stratford and Marshfield areas. Because of our multiple locations we will be able to shift grain around to ensure that we can meet our customers' needs and the livestock are fed.

Our balance sheet remains very strong with good sales performance throughout the company. Despite a challenging, warm winter in propane and a difficult spring in agronomy we are very close to meeting or exceeding our budget projections in both financial performance and sales units. This performance will result in positive cash patronage and equity retirements programs.

Without great people, none of this would be possible. I would like to thank our hard-working employees for the effort they put forth each and every day. Without their valuable contributions, we would not be the company we are today. I would also like to thank our vendor partners for their dedication and commitment to our shared success. Finally, I would like to thank you, our customers, for your ongoing support. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you, and look forward to continuing to earn your trust.

The rewards of growth certainly aren't without risks, challenges, and stress. We appreciate your patience as we have worked through changes in invoicing, software and other key elements of our business. One year in, we are seeing the results of our hard work and remain confident that we are on the right track.



Rob Larson,
CEO/General Manager



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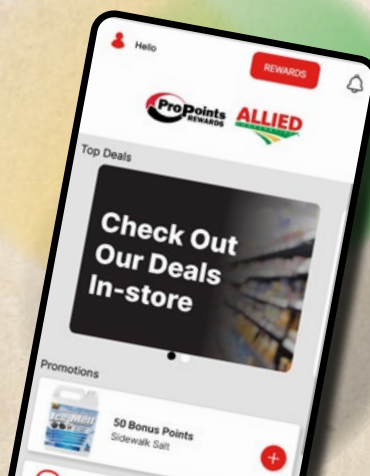
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Earn Rewards with ProPoints

If you haven't already joined Allied Cooperative's ProPoints Rewards Club, we encourage you to do so. With ProPoints you'll be eligible for some great deals and earn reward points every time you make a purchase at one of our Cenex® convenience stores. These rewards points provide excellent savings at the register.



And now tracking your rewards is easier than ever with our ProPoints app. Go to the app store on your cell phone, search 'ProPoints app', then download. Once downloaded, select 'Sign In' if you already have a card. Enter your card ID or the phone number associated with your rewards card and enter your last name as the password.

If you do not currently have a rewards card, you can choose to 'Register.' Enter the requested information and join the club!

Weathering Mother Nature



by Joe Spinler,
Executive VP
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What a whirlwind the past few months have been as it relates to the agronomy department. It has been a very busy growing season – one that was not without its challenges, which you all know all too well. Every year is different, and this year was no exception. We had planting dates all over the board across our territory. We pretty much sprayed and spread corn and soybeans at the same time all year long. This might have been the first time, other than a few small acres, that we were applying fungicide on tasseling corn all while making top dress and post application for weeds on other corn acres.

I want to thank you, our customers, for working with our staff and understanding that Mother Nature isn't always cooperative. There were many times that we needed to be multiple places at once and we thank you for your patience and understanding. I also want to thank our Allied Cooperative staff for putting in the long hours to make sure that your products and services were brought to you in a timely manner.

Fertilizer Report

Fertilizer markets are sort of like the grain markets, simply not exciting. However, one stark difference this year is that unlike grain prices, fertilizer prices have maintained and have not moved much at all over the past few months. Lower grain prices does put pressure on fertilizer markets, but we really don't see a close comparison like we used to. Many of the products we use here are at a discount to world values, thus not leading to decreased pricing and not attracting many imports. So, the markets simply wait and attempt to find a pattern, which to date has been the status quo.

As we head into fall, please remember to work with your agronomy advisor and get some fall fertilizer planning done. It's a good idea agronomically and also lessens the workload for all of us in the spring. Remember, though there is no guarantee, most years fall fertilizer tends to be more economical than spring tons from a phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) standpoint. Thank you for your past and future patronage!



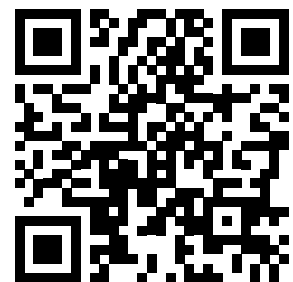
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JOIN OUR TEAM

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

Allied Cooperative's employees play an important role in our success as a cooperative. We'd love to talk to you about career opportunities with our cooperative. Come see what Allied can do for you!

For a list of current openings, visit www.allied.coop/careers. For more information on any of these openings, call Michelle Gubser, Director of Talent Management at 715.687.4443 extension 1017 or email careers@allied.coop.



Like

Importance of Nitrogen Stabilizers



Ginny Yahnke,
Agronomy Advisor
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Nitrogen is the number one most important nutrient to corn yield. N is needed in the highest quantity and is typically the highest investment cost of all nutrients. Yet nitrogen is mobile in the soil making it the most vulnerable to loss. Knowing this, why would a grower risk crop yield by putting any source of unstabilized nitrogen out in the fall? We can't control the weather, but there are tools available to protect that valuable nitrogen investment.

Many know about using Anvol™ on urea for above ground protection from volatilization, but many don't know about our below ground protection options.

There are two main sources of fall applied nitrogen in Wisconsin: manure and anhydrous. The best known and proven active ingredient in the industry is nitrapyrin. Corteva's Instinct NXTGEN® and N-Serve® are the only two products on the market to contain nitrapyrin.

These products protect the nitrogen from leaching and denitrification. The market is flooded with cheaper options

which claim to protect nitrogen loss with gibberish. Always look at the active ingredient and make an educated choice. Each grower's farm plan is different and choosing a stabilizer that makes sense to that plan is important.

Manure Applications

Many growers don't think of their manure applications as something they need to protect. Even though it may be "free" fertilizer, it is still something that should be insured. Instinct® is the only EPA labeled nitrogen stabilizer on the market which also has a label for manure. Like dry fertilizer it acts in the same way on manure, reducing leaching and keeping the nitrogen in



the ammonium form so it's available for plant uptake. Instinct is fairly easy to use as it can be dumped directly into the pit and agitated before pumping. Speak with an Allied agronomy advisor to learn more about use rates and how Instinct NXTGEN can ensure your nitrogen is managed smartly.



Instinct NXTGEN

"Proven, Reliable, Reutrn"



Anhydrous Applications

Nserve has been around for more than 40 years and has become a common addition to anhydrous applications. N-Serve is the same active ingredient as Instinct in a different formulation approved for anhydrous. Acting in the same fashion as Instinct we are able to protect the nitrogen from leaching and denitrification, keeping plant available nitrogen within the root zone.

“Short Corn” Coming to a Field Near You



by Pat Cauley,
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The “look” of corn is changing and you will soon be seeing more fields that make you wonder, “why is that corn so short”? It is an exciting time because “short corn” is coming to the market. Currently, Bayer has Preceon® Smart Corn and will have some supply readily available this coming fall. You’re probably wondering, “Why would I want to plant “short” corn? I thought the same thing myself until I understood what the end goal was. The acronym that goes with Preceon Smart corn is: PAY.

- **Protection:** One benefit is being able to protect yield losses from high winds and green snap. The reduced stature increases overall standability.

- **Access:** Another benefit is being able to access the crop all season with standard ground equipment. Late season nitrogen applications, wider application windows, and ground rig fungicide passes are just a few ways this will be beneficial.

- **Yield Potential:** Yield Potential is going to be a benefit because there will be increased opportunity to maximize crop inputs that as a result, drive yield.

Preceon Smart corn is going to be roughly seven feet or less in overall height and will allow for higher planting populations where warranted. The target ear height will be 24 inches or more which will allow for standard harvest equipment to still get the job done.

One interesting area of emphasis that is being explored is silage. The plants will still have the same number of leaves as conventional corn, but it will not have as much stalk which will decrease the amount of lignin, and it will be more digestible. From a tonnage standpoint so far, the yields have been comparable to conventional silage hybrids. There is still a lot more to learn about “short corn”, but the results so far continue to show that this will be a big part of improving yields and growing corn in the future. Ask your Allied Agronomy Advisor to find out if Preceon Corn could be a fit on your farm for 2025!



Time to Think about Seed for 2025!



by Tom Hoffman,
Sales Lead
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As the curtain begins to close on the 2024 crop growing season, it is time to think about the 2025 crop growing season. For many of us, this begins with deciding what to plant for the next year and securing seeds for success.

The farmer's options for selection of various seed varieties and traits have never been so good and they just keep getting better. As great as it is, it can also be confusing. Who better than your Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor to assist you with seed positioning and placement decisions. Our staff is well trained and has more options to fit your needs than ANY other seed supplier. They can help you to select the best performing genetics; proper trait packages; and end use-value added seed varieties to maximize your yield potential, quality,

and potential profitability. No one else can offer the genetic diversity that the Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor has to offer.

Reserving your seed early helps to secure the specific varieties that you desire. Now-a-days, seed companies do not plan to have endless supplies of some of their leading and popular seed varieties. Also, with continued genetic improvement and replacement of varieties faster than ever, new leading varieties can sell out quickly. Because of these fast genetic enhancements and fast turnover of hybrids, it becomes even more important to reserve your seed early so you can capitalize on these genetic improvements to enhance yield and profitability.

It is also important to try new hybrids. Many of our partners are phasing out some of their older seed lines in favor of

new varieties. Trying different varieties will help you be prepared should your favorite be replaced. It's a great way to see what works best in your soil, plus it makes for an exciting growing season.

The largest discounts for early commitment, along with cash discounts, will be given to orders placed by October 31st. We will also offer aggressive financing options on early seed commitments for those that would like to have this flexibility and maximize discounts. We can put together a plan that best fits your needs with the best genetics.

Talk to your Allied Cooperative agronomy advisor to determine which varieties and early order offer best fits your needs and situation.



Creating Value from Your Yield Data



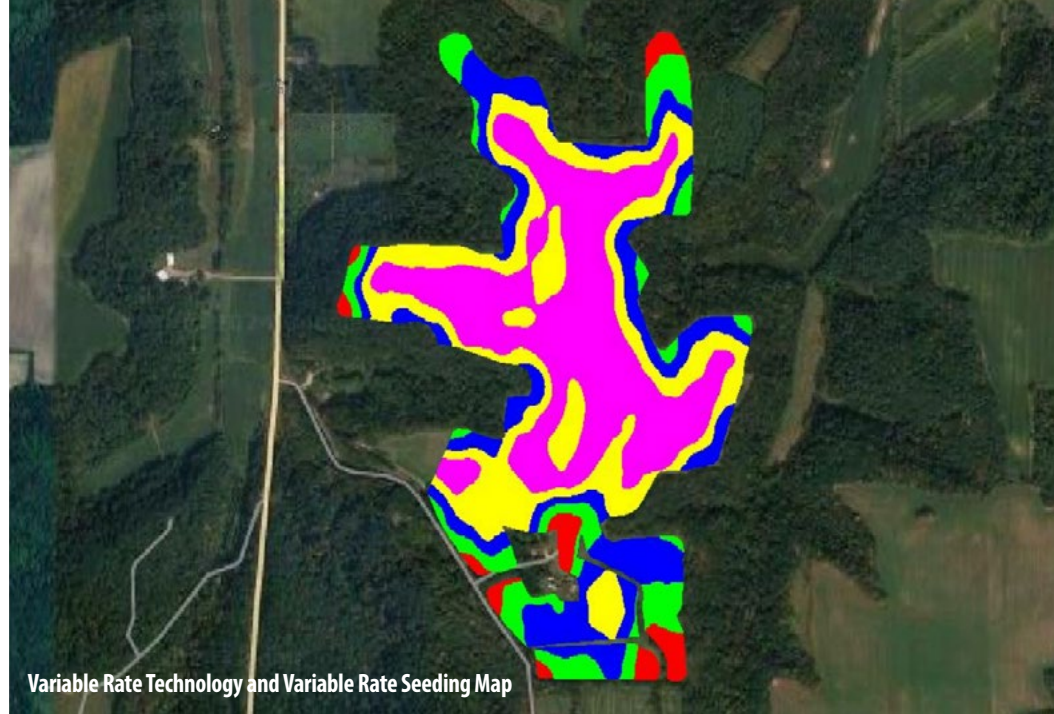
by Austin Bohm,
Ag Technology Specialist
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*Yield data...man,
is it fun to look at.*

Yield data is the culmination of the year's effort and all the hard work put in through spring and summer. Farmers collect the data every fall, print it in a book, and reference it for bragging rights to the neighbors. Once we've had our jollies looking through how each field performed, we put that binder up on the shelf, next to the binder covered in dust from last year.

Working with growers in the past, I've always tried to help them grow the best crop they can, within their economic ability. Over the last decade, I've watched cropping inputs and land prices go up, while budgets often get tighter. My passion grew for not only helping growers grow the best crop, but the best crop as efficiently as possible. In my experience, yield data can be a key resource to maximizing each field's return on investment (ROI).

Yield data can tell you where to invest your money and where to be smart with it. The wet areas are usually going to drown out. The dry areas are usually going to burn up. The shaded areas are always shaded out or have routine wildlife damage. The story of why certain areas in the field have the lowest yields doesn't change unless there is a significant alteration to a field, such as tree removal, tile line, or irrigation.

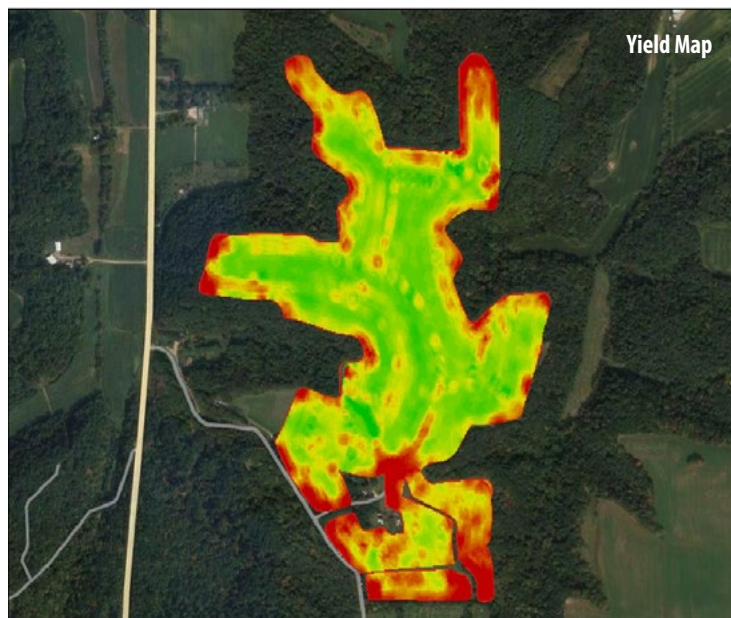


By utilizing yield data, investment in fertilizer and seed can be positioned to maximize economic efficiency. There are a lot of areas within fields that are being under/over fertilized or being under/over seeded for the capability of the ground below. Even though many planters are capable of variable rate planting, not all growers adopt this practice.

While soil samples are important to help build and maintain the fertility in our fields, utilizing yield base variable rate technology (VRT) and variable rate seeding (VRS) can be used to help grow the crop as efficiently as possible, often without spending extra money. Instead of having a flat seeding rate and flat fertilizer rate across a field, we can increase fertilizer and seeding rates in the highest yielding areas of the field and

decrease fertilizer/seeding rates in the lowest yielding areas of the field. Input dollars spent per field often stay the same, but positioning those inputs for maximum ROI can significantly impact economic efficiencies.

I look forward to working with growers and your Allied agronomy advisors. Let Allied help you utilize your on-farm yield data to make the smartest investment decisions possible going into the 2025 cropping year. Push your yield capabilities and increase your investment efficiency.



Preparing for Harvest



by David Rappa,
Director of Grain
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Fall is nearly upon us. In Allied Cooperative's grain division that means gearing up and preparing for the upcoming harvest. We spend a fair amount of time ensuring our grain locations are ready for harvest by doing preventative maintenance. This helps to ensure we don't have any unnecessary breakdowns that will affect the service during harvest.

We also spend a fair amount of time trying to predict the size of the crop coming in. This helps to ensure we have a plan in place to service the volume of grain at all our grain locations during harvest. Every year we have old crop grain bank bushels we strategically try to position in order to utilize our storage capacity as efficiently as possible, while also having a plan in place for locations that are going to exceed the storage capacities.

With this year's wet spring and summer, the crop is a bit of a challenge to predict. As I drove around our trade territory this summer, it appeared certain that we will see a large variability of yields depending on where in the trade territory you are. The general theme is that any ground that drains well looks very good and should be close to, or above trend line yields. The heavier lower lying ground that is typically wet and doesn't drain well will likely be below trend line and have high variability in the same field that makes it harder to predict. Overall, I think we are looking at an average crop across our whole trade territory.

In the Auburndale and Seymour areas we are seeing a high amount of prevent plant acres. In the fields that are standing, it is hard to predict what will get chopped for silage and what will make grain. At the end of May, we already knew we were going to see reduced yields in those areas, so we made the plan to carry over most of our old crop inventory in those locations. This was done not only to utilize storage capacity more efficiently for other grain locations, but to ensure quality corn for our feed division for the year ahead. The 2023 crop

was extremely high quality, but we are uncertain what the 2024 grain quality will be in those locations.

As we prepare for harvest, our producers can also help us prepare. We receive a lot of calls during harvest about loads coming in that are easily accessible via our website (www.allied.coop). By logging into your customer account on our website you can see many commonly asked questions about contract balances, load information, settlement information, and proof of yields. We will be live applying at the scale this fall, so account balances will be updated as soon as the ticket is printed at the scale.

When we receive grain, we need to know the following information to properly apply your grain.

- Who does the grain belong to?
- Are there any splits?
- How should the grain be applied (grain bank, spot, contract)?
- Do you need any special field information on the ticket for your records?

Any grain that isn't designated for sale at the scale will be put into grain bank at the end of the day. It will help us speed up the process at the scale if all new customers fill out a credit application prior to harvest, so we have your information on file.

For those customers who utilize us for hauling out of the field in the fall, we will operate the same as we did last year. It is beneficial if you call us a few days before you need hauling, so we can have a plan to have resources in place to improve logistics and service.

We look forward to seeing you all this fall. Have a safe and successful harvest.

Harvest Nears... and the Crop Gets Larger



by Rich Dahlke,
Adams Grain Location
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Well, the USDA warned us. They hinted that they would be adjusting the corn and bean acreage on the Aug 12th report and they did not disappoint. Corn harvested acreage went down 700,000 acres and beans up 1 million acres. Historically, these are fairly large changes for the August report. Yield was also adjusted. If the yields that the USDA printed, 183.1 bu/ac for corn and 53.2 bu/ac for beans, are realized, they will be record yields for both here in the United States. This is not good news for commodity prices going forward.

The yield adjustment comes as no big surprise to me. Many who have traveled through the corn belt will agree that it is really hard to see a production problem. The rains came to the eastern corn belt just in time and the weather cooled during grain fill in many areas. However, the acreage change in beans was somewhat of a surprise. Many expected no change to a slightly lower acreage, but instead we added 1 million acres to beans. This paints a very bearish picture for beans going forward. They did, however, increase the new crop exports by

25 million. I guess they feel that low prices will be good for demand and warrants an increase. Let's hope so because the new crop carryout for this coming year is at 560 million bu. That means 560 million bu does not have a home. The last time we had carryouts this large was 2019/20 and the average farm price was well under \$9/bu. We need China to start buying American beans again. China represents 20% of our total demand base for beans and for this marketing year new crop sales to China are down 90%. This is one case where the USDA may be helping out the American soy producer by overstating demand preventing a further fall in prices. I think we are in the midst of a full-blown ag recession.

Enough bad news. Remember, the cure for low prices is low prices. There is little to no black ink in corn at sub \$4.50, so my prediction is that fall applied fertilizer will be down significantly. Maybe the lowest we have seen in years. So, what will the acreage be for next year? If it drops to 87 million acres, corn has a bullish story going into 2025.

Grain Drying

The leaves on the trees are changing colors and with that grain dryer gas season will be starting. Our dedicated staff and drivers are ready for the busy season ahead. If you have not already filled your LP tanks for the upcoming season now is the time. Please contact your local Allied Cooperative office in advance of starting your dryer systems. Calling in advance will help improve scheduling and ensure that we provide timely deliveries to your dryer tanks.



Fall Feed Reminders



by Ed Sabey,
Director of Feed
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Is it just me or did summer just fly by?

Your co-op stayed busy almost every weekend this summer supporting our area youth at the county fair livestock shows. We attended 21 different fairs this summer and were so impressed with our area youth. They worked diligently on their projects and their hard work showed. Many of these youth trusted us to assist with nutritional products for their livestock. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of these projects and congratulate each and every young person on their success!

Preserving Your Feed

Once you turn the calendar to September it's easy to start thinking about cooler weather – but it's important that you don't go into full “fall mode” quite yet. We will still have some hot weather between now and October. If you want your feed to last a month or more, it's important to keep preservatives in your feed during this time.

This time of year there is a lot of transition between using up your haylage from last year and moving on to this year's crop. Typically, any time you change from say first crop to second crop or bunker to bunker you may see changes in your milk production output. Whenever you make a change, contact your Allied feed representative and we can sample your feeds. This will help you get ahead of any issues that may otherwise cost you down the road.

Please keep in mind that we have inoculants to help ensure your silage is preserved.

Fly Control

I would also encourage you to keep your fly control measures in place through the first killing frost sometime in September/October. Once it starts to get cooler outside many people think they can remove the fly control safeguard from your feed. But keeping your fly control products in place



controls the growth and development of the specific fly larvae in the manure of the animal to which it is fed. This will give you a head start on controlling next year's fly populations. Horn flies overwinter (hibernate) in the pupal stage, which can jump-start adult populations in the spring.

Feed Contracting

This is a good time to look at contracting feed and commodities before the new crops come in. Price-wise this will be an advantage to you. If you find your crops are shy this year and you think you will need corn, canola or other products, now is the time of year to contract. Contact the Auburndale Feed Mill for more information.

Fall Mineral Booking

Finally, we have traditionally done our mineral booking in the spring. Booking cattle feed and mineral is all about risk management. It allows you to lock in the price of the minerals and tubs you need for your herd. Having control of that input cost removes a layer of variability and provides an opportunity to lock in potential profits for your operation. This year we are adding some fall booking specials. I encourage you to take advantage of this! More information will be coming on that soon. Watch our website for more details.

We are committed to providing the very best nutrition programs for all of the animals on your farm. Thank you for your continued business!

Wet Weather and Forage Concerns

By Steve Heckel,
Livestock Production Specialist



Last year's drought had everyone praying for rain. It's clear those prayers were answered...but maybe a little too well. This year, especially in central Wisconsin, we have had rain on top of rain on top of rain. With one of the wettest summers on record, forage quantity and quality is on the mind of most Wisconsin livestock producers.

Rain can have a variety of impacts on forage quality and yield. The stage of maturity at harvest is one of the most important factors influencing forage quality. Leaf-to-stem ratios decline as forage matures, which leads to increased concentrations of fiber components and reduced protein and energy content.

Above-normal precipitation during the growing season can lead to harvest delays, which means that many forages are overmature by the time they are harvested. Rainfall that occurs between cutting and baling can also have a variety of impacts on forage quality.

Leaching of plant sugars or carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals out of the plant is a major concern. If hay is baled too wet much of the protein can be lost and the high moisture content can also cause continued respiration, which

further contributes to carbohydrate losses. In addition, the potential for increased microbial activity can reduce forage quality and increase the risk of mold and mycotoxins.

Most of our customers, under normal or even sub-standard circumstances, do an excellent job at making high quality haylage and corn silage, this year is just beyond what anyone has been able to deal with. Your cooperative has dealt with low quality forage in the past and we are well equipped to handle scenarios like the one we are seeing now. We want you to know we are here to help!

When the end of the harvest season comes it is important to do a forage inventory. We can help you with that if needed. We will take a look at what you have in any silos, bags, bunkers or piles and estimate the overall forage on your farm. Then it's just doing the math – you have this much feed, this many cows and this is how far your feed will go.

It's much better to start stretching that feed now than waiting until March when you have very little left. If you do find yourself coming up short, there are a number of commodity type ingredients that can be added to your livestock's diet to stretch things along until you get to

next spring when you're making first crop again.

Common key ingredients are corn gluten feed which brings some protein, starch, sugar and fiber. We routinely use wheat middlings which bring some protein, starch and fiber, as well as bakery meal which brings in a little bit of protein, quite a bit of sugar, some starch and fiber. We also handle soy hulls which are a very digestible fiber. Other ingredients on the market include cotton seed, cotton seed hulls and citrus pulp – and while we don't handle these commodities in-house, we can get them brokered in as needed.

The software we use to balance rations has a "true least cost" feature, so we can plug in different ingredients to determine the best overall value for your specific situation. Of course, quality is key to any feeding program. All of our programs are based on forage inventories and forage quality, so we do a lot of forage testing to make sure we have the best balance for your specific needs.

Allied Cooperative has a rigorous Quality Assurance program in place which addresses all phases of production from ingredient receiving to loadout,

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Preparing your Fuel Tanks for Winter



by **Troy Thompson**,
Director of Refined Fuels
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It's time to start planning for winter fuels with tank maintenance.

TANK MAINTENANCE

Proper tank maintenance helps ensure your fuel supply stays clean and free of harmful contaminants in your storage tank — and remains that way until it reaches your fuel system. Removing water, sediment and other impurities from the storage tank prevents them from entering your fuel system where they can lead to corrosion, filter plugging, and ice formation that severely hampers engine performance.

WATER

Water gets into diesel fuel storage and vehicle tanks in several ways — by condensation of humid air, during transportation, by leakage through faulty fill pipes or vents and by careless handling. During fuel withdrawals, tanks can breathe in large volumes of humid air.

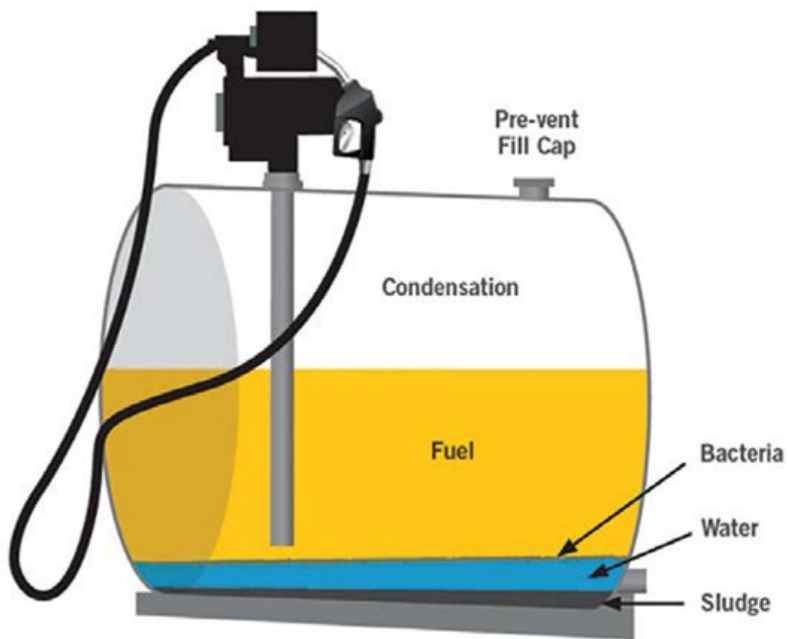
Water in the fuel can cause injector nozzle and pump corrosion, biological growth and fuel filter plugging with materials resulting from the corrosion or biological growth. In cold northern winters, ice formation in fuels containing water creates severe fuel line and filter plugging problems.

Managing the impact of water in your storage tanks is the foundation of proper tank maintenance. A significant amount of water in the tank will likely

cause problems including oxidative degradation (rust, scale), particulates and microbiological growth.

Follow these guidelines:

- Tilt tanks to direct water and debris away from outlet.
- Pressurize tanks to keep vapor and air inside.
- Drain and remove all contaminants every three months (or as often as needed).
- Install proper filtration systems on bulk tanks (contact CHS Energy Equipment at 800-852-8186).
- Filters: All engine manufacturers equip their engines with fuel filters to protect the fuel system. You should replace these filters according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Some manufacturers also provide filters with drain valves and recommend periodic draining of any water that may accumulate from condensation and careless handling in storage or vehicle tanks.
- Clean pump screens regularly and tanks annually.
- Sample fuel for quality assurance purposes quarterly.



MAINTENANCE DIAGRAM

Phase separation can happen when water is introduced to fuel. The biological growth live in the water and feed on the hydrocarbons (diesel fuel). The water and biological growth will eventually plug filters.

AST (ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS)

- Drain and remove all water and contaminants.
- Change filters and clean pump screens.
- Pre-blend #1 with existing fuel (blended above cloud point) as needed for your climate.
- Consider use of Winter Aid IV additive in existing fuels (packaged Winter Aid IV additive available from our Energy Division).

Bob Boberg to Retire after 47 Years in Co-op System



Bob Boberg was just a junior in high school when he started his cooperative career bagging fertilizer for AG Cooperative in Arcadia in 1977. After high school he went to work full-time for the co-op, working his way up to agronomy manager in 1990.

Bob continued to serve as agronomy manager when Arcadia Co-op took over operations in 1992. Then in 2002 Bob expanded his responsibilities, taking on the general manager position. In 2015, Bob was instrumental in bringing together Arcadia Co-op and Allied Cooperative and worked to ensure a successful transition. Then in 2018, he went to work for Federation Co-op and was a key part of Federation's successful transition during the merger with ProVision Partners Cooperative in 2019.

"I met Bob after the merger with Federation," said Rob Larson, CEO/General Manager. "At that time we appointed him as regional manager for the legacy Federation area. Everyone knew Federation was struggling, but with Bob's leadership and the hard work of the entire staff we were able to turn this area around. I appreciate his dedication, performance and commitment to establishing a positive culture to help in the successful merger of ProVision Partners and Federation Cooperative."

"Bob was instrumental for the financial performance of the legacy Federation region along with our entire staff," added Rob. Bob's commitment and dedication have continued throughout the merger between ProVision Partners Cooperative and Allied Cooperative. In fact, he has been thinking about retirement for a couple of years, but he was a key contributor to projects like the feed mill, car wash and Augusta c-store and he wanted to see them get finished.

Bob is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Carrie, his two children and his three

grandchildren. He has a small farm in Arcadia that he has not had much time for, and he looks forward to spending more time on his land. "I plan to get things done that I haven't gotten done for the past 40 years," says Bob. "That and a little more fishing, a little more golfing ..."

We wish Bob nothing but the best in his well-deserved retirement. Thank you for your many years of service!



Allied Internships



by Delaney Salm,
Agronomy Intern

For those of you who visited Allied Cooperative during the summer, you might have noticed some new, younger faces among the staff—these were our interns! This was my second summer as an agronomy sales intern at Allied Cooperative. My role involved learning the ins and outs of what agronomy advisors do and helping them in various jobs.

In early spring, the pace is intense, and my role as an intern was to be an extra set of hands. This meant everything from delivering seed to farms to helping in the warehouse. Once planting was complete, the focus shifted to scouting. Initially, scouting involved checking the evenness of crop emergence and taking stand counts to compare with the population targeted during planting. At times it also meant getting data for a replant.

As spring planting winded down, we faced a new challenge of herbicide applications. It was super cool to see how different chemicals targeted weeds in



Pest Pros interns gather each day for morning meetings before heading to the field.

various ways. By scouting fields ahead of time, we were able to apply the right chemicals at the right time. This summer there were frequent showers, so in addition to scouting crops and weeds, I also had to see if the ground was dry enough to operate sprayers and spreaders without getting stuck.

Given the abundance of dairy farms in the area, alfalfa is a common crop, which can attract various insects and larva. It was our job to identify and address any pest issues associated with it and to determine if it needed to be controlled.

As my summer at Allied Cooperative came to an end, there were a few key takeaways: Plant under the right conditions to avoid many potential issues, remember that weather is beyond our control, and always do your best with good intentions—someone will notice.

If you or someone you know is interested in an internship with Allied Cooperative, please contact Michelle Gubser at mgubser@allied.coop.



Agronomy interns learning stand counts, staging the crop, weed ID and calculating standard deviation of plant spacing.



Forage Concerns

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delivery and all the production phases in between. Not only can we run tests on forages and feeds on your farm, we have stringent practices in place at our mills to ensure that all our feeds are top quality and exactly what they claim to be.

Our in-house program and equipment includes:

- Near-Infrared Spectrum (NIR) machine that can determine the nutritional composition of feeds
- Micotoxins analysis equipment
- Rumensin detection machine
- Pellet quality and durability machine
- Routine sampling of all inbound bulk ingredients
- Ingredient checks multiple times a month
- Monthly quality checks on floor stock bagged feeds
- Random checks of custom mixes for nutrient quality

Finally, with all of the extra moisture we have seen this year can cause feed and pastures to become moldy. Storage units, bales, and land have all been flooded for months and it doesn't take much for that water to ruin your livestock's feed.

Molds and mycotoxins grow in stored feed. It is difficult to visually analyze a feed sample. Feed can have no visible mold and have mycotoxins. Conversely, you can see mold and not have any mycotoxins. We have feed additives to help combat any issues. Testing is less expensive than dealing with multiple animal health problems.

Our feed team is well versed with what we can do to help you on your farm. Call us if you have any questions and we can help you make sound, economic decisions for your business.

SAFETY CORNER



by Jerrod Buchholtz,
Director of Safety & Compliance
jbuchholtz@allied.coop

Staying Safe at Harvest

“Be safe” are words our loved ones often utter as you are heading out the door at harvest. These are great words and ones we all intend to live by, but when we are in the heat of harvest, stress levels can be high, rest is at a minimum, and accidents happen.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, farming is the most dangerous job in the United States, with a rate of 23 work-related deaths per 100,000 workers, which is seven times higher than the national average. Transportation incidents are the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Safety on the roadways is imperative. To put in perspective how quickly drivers come onto farm equipment, if a vehicle is traveling 65 mph, and a combine is half of a mile ahead and traveling at 15 mph in the same direction, it would take 36 seconds for your vehicle to meet the combine. When we cut that distance to a fourth of a mile, it only takes 18 seconds. A look down at a cell phone, a glance in the back seat...with all the potential distractions drivers face on the road, it is easy to see how an accident can occur.

Safety on the Road

As a farm equipment operator, pay attention to the following details:

- Verify that all lights and flashers on your farm equipment are working properly.
- Use warning flashers, flags, lights and slow-moving vehicle emblems on all equipment.
- Apply reflective tape to machines to improve visibility to motorists at dusk.
- Avoid traveling after sunset and times when more traffic is expected, such as the start and end of school days.
- Check your towed equipment. All loads should be balanced and securely mounted.
- Use turn signals and hand signals whenever possible to communicate with fellow drivers.
- Check traffic before turning to assure fellow drivers are not passing you.

Safe Grain Handling

Practice vigilance when handling and storing grain. In 2023, the number of reported injuries and fatalities in agricultural confined spaces increased, with 42 grain-related entrapments, a 44.8% increase from 2021. This is the highest number of reported grain entrapments in over a decade. Here are some important things to keep in mind:

- Always wear lockout and tagout unloading equipment before entering a bin.
- Always wear a harness or lifeline.
- Never enter a bin while an auger is running.
- Keep hands, feet, hair and clothing away from moving parts of the auger.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing, jewelry and hair.
- Shutdown the equipment prior to doing any type of maintenance.
- Turn augers off when there is a person physically pushing grain out of a truck, wagon, etc. when emptying. If the individual accidentally slipped and fell through the unload gate, they would land directly into the auger hopper.
- Block tires and lock raised beds. Lock hydraulics and mechanisms.
- Improve bin ladders by adding cages and raise the bottom of the ladder so children cannot reach the bottom rail.

Continue to keep up these practices as you go through the harvest season. By using these tips and maintaining awareness of your surroundings, you can protect yourself, your investment, and others on the road and in the field.

Have a safe harvest season!



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ENTER YOUR GREAT SHOTS IN OUR CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Allied Cooperative invites you to enter our 2025 Calendar Photo Contest! We are looking for striking digital images of local scenery, agriculture and nature, throughout all four seasons, to be used in our next calendar. Winners will receive a \$30.00 gift certificate and plenty of bragging rights. Please submit your high-quality digital photos, as well as your name and contact information, via email to info@allied.coop. Contest deadline is September 20, 2024.

Board Report



John Vehrenkamp,
Board Chairman

That old saying that time waits for nobody is absolutely true.

It seems like we were just fighting to get everything planted and get the first crop of hay off. Now, just like that, we're nearing the end of the growing season and getting ready to harvest. Time has been going fast at Allied as well. It seems like we just got started as a merged cooperative and now we are already nearing our first fiscal year end.

Like this growing season, there have been many challenges, but we keep moving forward. Part of moving forward is holding elections. Your Board of Directors feels it is important to have representation from all areas of our co-op. So, we have divided our co-op into four divisions – northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest.

Fortunately, our 12-member Board is already quite diversified. We currently have three board members in each division. With our first election coming up, there will be four Board positions up for election – one from each division. It is extremely important that we have these elections and that everyone is heard through their vote.

Just like our government elections, it is important that you not only have the right to vote, but the responsibility to do so as well. We're so fortunate to live in a country where we are given the right to choose. Please take time to vote, not only in November, but always.

Thank you for your continued business. Have a safe harvest!



Board of Director Elections

Interested in running for Allied Cooperative's Board of Directors? We have four positions up for election. If you would be interested in serving on our Board, please let us know by November 30, 2024. For more information, contact Karmen Bernacchi at 608-339-3394, ext. 2225 or email info@allied.coop.

