



BROADCASTER



CONTACT US!

DIRECTORY

BELGRADE AGRONOMY

320-254-8231 Ext 2

MELROSE AGRONOMY

320-254-8231 Ext 3

FUEL & OIL, PROPANE

BELGRADE

320-254-8231 Ext 1

COOP'S CORNER C-STORE

320-254-3108

RESTAURANT

320-254-3204

www.belgradecoop.com



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Eric Paulson

This past winter, Belgrade Co-operative celebrated its 97th anniversary as a business – originally established on September 11, 1928. Our annual meeting was held once again, at the Padua Pub

where 300+ customers attended the event to gain financial insights and learn about upcoming future projects within Belgrade Co-op while celebrating another successful year. We finished out the evening with the famous ribs and chicken dinner as an appreciation for those that make our Co-operative what it is today! As we look at the recent past, but more importantly, the future, we are in complete construction mode!

The remainder of 2026 will be nothing short of challenging involving numerous factors including the construction project, the economy, and world affairs ongoing. You can be certain that your team at Belgrade Co-op is committed to ensuring another successful year on your farm, business, and residential homes. If you've traveled through Belgrade recently, you may have noticed significant dirt work underway at our brand-new fertilizer plant, along with a complete remodel of our main office, which is expected to be finished shortly after you receive this newsletter. I invite all our members to stop by the Co-operative throughout the course of 2026 to visit and check out the progress! Most importantly, I am excited to share that this entire project will be done through local contractors and patronizing our local businesses throughout our trade territory. A few highlights of the overall outcome once the project is finished are included on the next page in more detail.

Continued on next page



Main Office: What was previously the propane and fuel shop on the east end of the building is being converted to office space.



MAIN OFFICE REMODEL

- Our existing main office is getting taken down to bare bones and re-built out to accommodate the current and long-term growth of our administrative, sales, and management team under one roof across all departments. This project started in late January and is anticipated to be complete mid-May to allow our team to transition following the busy Spring season. This office will span approximately 6,000 square feet and include the ability to have up to twenty-three offices within the finished building. The front entrance will move to the SOUTH end of the building to allow better visibility and access off Hwy 55 and Borgerding Avenue.



FERTILIZER PLANT

- Our board of directors and leadership team came together on March 12th to kick off a groundbreaking ceremony for the start of our 6,000-ton fertilizer plant that is to be constructed adjacent to our existing plant. Included with this project is a brand new, state-of-the-art 250-ton HIM Fertilizer Blending tower built by Sackett Waconia. This project, from the start of dirt work to completion of the building, is anticipated to take twelve months with a deadline of March 2027, ensuring operation for our '27 Spring season. Once complete, our total fertilizer plant (including existing) will include 15,000 tons of fertilizer storage and 340-ton per hour of blending capability with a twin-tower system on site. We believe several immediate efficiencies will be experienced through the speed and space of this new facility which will strengthen our ability to serve customers today. Furthermore, it has the capacity to support ongoing growth as it was thoughtfully designed to allow for additional expansion over the next decade and beyond.

As I highlight the above two projects, our mechanics have also been busy transitioning into a new shop (known as “The Barn”) adjacent to Belgrade Co-op’s existing properties that we purchased in December. That acquisition is what started this expansion and gave us the land and infrastructure we need to accommodate future growth without limitations as we move forward.



Belgrade agronomy campus. The arrows indicate where the agronomy office and mechanic’s shop used to sit.



Our mechanic’s shop building was moved to the west side of the main office and is the future home of the Energy Shop.

Lastly, switching focus to an upcoming busy spring, your Co-op has the personnel and equipment in place ready to service your needs. Our board of directors approved field equipment purchases through our capital expenditure budget in preparation of navigating a busy season ahead and your team at Belgrade Co-op has finalized our “roster” of full-time and seasonal, part-time staff ready to continue the mission of exceeding your customer service expectations in 2026. With that, I would like to say “Thank You” to our members and customers for the business through the first half of 2026 and we look forward to servicing your needs through a successful 98th year as a Cooperative.



The NH₃ site just west of Belgrade saw some changes with the installation of a new rinse pad area for agronomy equipment.



<https://www.belgradcoop.com/about/construction>



COMFORT THAT PAYS OFF: PROPANE APPLIANCE INCENTIVES

Andy Borgerding

Homeowners planning new construction, upgrading appliances, or switching heat sources in 2026 may be eligible for valuable incentives through

the Minnesota Propane Association (MPA). These incentives are designed to help offset the cost of installing high-efficiency propane appliances while supporting safe and reliable energy solutions.

2026 AVAILABLE INCENTIVES

Incentive amounts and eligible appliances are updated annually. Currently, the following incentives are available for residential properties:

- **\$600** – Propane Combi-Units
(Provides both heating and domestic hot water from a single unit)
- **\$400** – Propane Water Heater
- **\$200** – Propane Furnace or Boiler
- **\$100** – Propane Clothes Dryer

* Incentive dollars are available on a first come first serve basis.



HOW THE INCENTIVE PROCESS WORKS

The incentive process is simple!

1. Purchase and install an eligible propane appliance.
2. Call or email our office and we'll send you the MPA incentive form.
3. Sign and send back the incentive form, along with a copy of your paid invoice from the installer.
4. Once we receive the signed form with a copy of the invoice, we will schedule a visit to perform a propane system leak check and confirm the installation.
5. Once the system passes inspection, we will submit the incentive form to the MPA on your behalf.
6. The MPA processes applications once a month and will send you a check once completed.

Belgrade Co-op must submit the incentive form along with the paid invoice with 90 days of date of purchase and installation.

WHY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAM?

These incentives not only reduce upfront costs, but they also encourage the use of efficient propane appliances that deliver dependable comfort, energy efficiency, and long-term value for Minnesota homeowners.

If you are considering an upgrade or have questions about eligibility, incentive details, or installation requirements, please contact Belgrade Co-op for assistance. Our service team is happy to help guide you through the process from start to finish.



FARMING IN A TOUGH ECONOMY: MAKING USE OF THE TOOLS IN YOUR TOOLBOX

Weston Wander

I'm sure you are all aware that the current farm economy is presenting many challenges.

Input costs continue to rise, and commodities are not keeping up. Keeping your cost of production down without giving up yield is critical.

How can we trim costs without trimming yield?

This is a question that may never be fully answered. Sometimes, it's not about trimming costs as much as it is about spending your dollars in the right place. There are a few tools that Belgrade Co-op can offer to help make more informed decisions about where to spend your money without sacrificing yield.

TOOL #1 – SOIL SAMPLING

Soil sampling, specifically grid sampling, is the best place to start. Sometimes (not always), grid sampling allows you to scale back on the amount of fertilizer applied to a field. This is achieved by identifying areas that have a surplus of nutrients, as well as those that are deficient or lower testing. From these sample results, an agronomist at Belgrade Co-op can make a variable rate fertilizer recommendation to reduce fertilizer in high-testing areas. This allows for increasing fertilizer in low-testing areas, improving yield without increasing overall spending.

TOOL #2 – VARIABLE RATE SEEDING

Variable rate seeding is a way to keep costs down by lowering the overall seed population without reducing yield. This can be done in both corn and soybeans. In corn, variable rate seeding allows you to increase population in the better areas of the field and decrease it in poorer areas. Soybeans are the opposite. In soybeans, population is decreased in the better parts of the field and increased in poorer areas. These "better" and "poorer" zones are most easily identified through combine monitor yield data as well as NDVI imagery (a measure of plant health from satellite imagery).

TOOL #3 – PSNT

PSNT, or Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test, is a 12-inch soil sample taken in a corn crop around V4-V6 to measure how much nitrate is currently in the soil. From this reading, a decision can be made about how much additional nitrogen is needed for sidedress. Some years this results in applying less nitrogen and other years you may apply more. However, nitrogen is the most critical nutrient when raising a corn crop and falling short can be costly. A PSNT builds confidence that your dollars are being spent exactly where they are needed.

TOOL #4 – ADVANCED ACRE RX

The fourth and final tool is Advanced Acre Rx. We are coming off a year where disease pressure was very high. Some diseases can overwinter in corn crop residue, making fungicides—especially in continuous corn—very important. Advanced Acre Rx is an Answer Plot-driven program that identifies which Croplan and Dekalb varieties are most likely to respond to a tassel fungicide. There is no cost to enroll in this program. If the fungicide does not perform, you will receive a portion of your investment back. Reach out to a Belgrade Co-op agronomist for more information.

In closing, there are ways to trim input costs without sacrificing yield. Soil sampling, variable rate seeding, PSNT, and Advanced Acre Rx are all resources that Belgrade Co-op offers. Using these tools strategically can help protect both your yield and your bottom line.

CALL OR EMAIL OUR OFFICE TO SAVE ON YOUR HOME UPGRADE



CO-OP COMMITTED DINNER

Lindsey Brower

December 2025 marked the second annual Co-op Committed Dinner—introduced in last spring’s newsletter—an event that acknowledges and thanks customers who support several product lines from Belgrade Co-op.

A total of 105 accounts qualified to receive an invitation to the Co-op Committed Event. Eligibility was based on purchasing four or more types of products within the specified product lines and meeting minimum purchase requirements.

After sharing a meal, names from those in attendance were drawn for prizes. Winners pictured on next page were Atkinson Acres, Anderson Farms, Braun Family Farm, Gregory Dairy, and Jeremy & Charisse Hoffenkamp. The grand prize winners pictured below were Marvin and Karen Rademacher.



Marv and Karen have been farming at their current location since 1990, which was originally Karen’s family farm. With help from their boys while they were growing up—and still pitching in when needed—it continues to be a true family operation.

They used to milk dairy cows but have since transitioned to beef cattle. Today, they farm 258 acres of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and oats.



SPRING PLANTING SAFETY: KEEP IT SIMPLE, STAY SAFE

Morgan Lewis

Spring planting is one of the busiest times on the farm. Long hours, tight schedules, and changing weather can increase the risk of accidents. Keeping safety top of mind helps ensure a smooth and successful season.

1. CHECK EQUIPMENT BEFORE YOU START

Before heading to the field, inspect all equipment. Make sure everything is working properly, especially brakes, lights, and hydraulics. Fix small problems early to avoid bigger issues later.

2. TAKE IT SLOW ON THE ROAD

Planting season means more equipment on rural roads. Use lights and reflectors and watch for other drivers. Stay alert and give yourself extra time to get where you're going.

3. USE PROTECTION WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS

Seed treatments, fertilizers, and herbicides are common this time of year. Wear gloves and other personal protective gear and follow label instructions to avoid exposure.

4. WATCH YOUR STEP

Getting on and off equipment can lead to slips and falls. Use handrails, keep steps clean, and don't rush—especially when you're tired.

5. DON'T IGNORE FATIGUE

Planting often means early mornings and late nights. Take breaks, drink water, and rest when you can. Being overtired can lead to mistakes.

6. BE READY FOR EMERGENCIES

Keep a phone nearby, have a first aid kit in your equipment, and make sure someone knows where you're working.

A few simple precautions can prevent serious injuries. Work smart, stay alert, and make safety part of your daily routine this planting season.

Stay Safe!

Photo Contest

SCAN QR CODE FOR CONTEST DETAILS

NOW THROUGH AUGUST 14TH!



PLAN AHEAD, SAVE NOW: PROPANE CONTRACTS COMING SOON

Paige Prentice

With the warmer weather coming fast, heating your home, shop, or barn goes to the back of the mind. However, spring is one of the best times to contract your propane for the next winter season. We typically see the best pricing in May versus July or August. At Belgrade Co-op, we offer our customers 3 different options for winter heating contracts.

BUDGET

The budget plan is a great option for customers who would like to lock in a price but prefer not to pay a large sum of money upfront. We estimate the total propane usage for a summer fill and during the winter and divide that out into equal monthly payments. One advantage of setting up a budget plan in May is your monthly payments will be less than if you were to set up a plan in July/August as you will have more months to spread the cost over. We also offer automatic payments via a bank account for your monthly payments on the 15th or 30th of each month. This contracting option has been steadily growing over the last few years due to the peace of mind it offers.

PREPAY

Prepay contracts are a very economical option for customers. The balance is paid in full when the contract is set up. Please note that residential and shop contracts must be set up separately. Sales tax applies to shop contracts only and must be included at time of payment.

DEPOSIT DOWN

With a deposit-down contract, customers are required to pay \$0.20 down per gallon to lock in their price. As deliveries are made, the \$0.20 per gallon is credited toward each delivery. The remaining balance is due on the 15th of the following month.

Planning ahead in the spring can lead to significant savings and fewer worries when winter arrives. Our contracting sessions are May 18–29 and July 20–31.

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

PROpane CONTRACTING

JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	01

PROpane CONTRACTING

IMPORTANT: NEW propane dates are May 18–29 and July 20–31



FERTILIZER MARKET UPDATE

Jackson Gregory

As if keeping up to date on the fertilizer markets in general in this volatile age isn't tough enough, now throw a war in a very influential part of the world on top of it. Luckily, Belgrade Co-op and our customers are about 95% bought in for spring preplant fertilizer needs and have been since about January 15th. The industry as a whole however is likely only bought in at between 60-70%, meaning the remaining 30-40% of those who have not bought preplant fertilizer needs are going to be hit with a pretty substantial bill or look at adjusting their crop strategy.

Before getting into the details of how this war may impact the market, I want to reassure you that, as of this writing (March 11), I have not heard any indications of widespread fertilizer shortages for the year. In addition, Belgrade Co-op is in good position on the fertilizer I have bought vs booked, and none of our contracts have been disrupted or declared unfulfillable at this point. This of course could change quickly, but will do my best to stay in front of any concerns. If concerns do pop up – I assume it will be related to sidedress tons or a temporary short squeeze if the whole market is applying at the same time. If the war continues, supply of sidedress tons will likely be the most impacted due to most of the preplant product already being on its way prior to the war.

The 2026 Iran War has significant impact on the fertilizer market for several reasons. The main one being impact involves the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical export route for three of the world's top ten urea exporters, three of the top ten ammonia (NH₃) exporters, and one of the top five phosphate exporters. With risks associated with moving product through that narrow waterway, ships have not been moving through. Obviously, the stoppage in shipments is a big problem if left unchecked for too long. Having gone on long enough now at the time of this writing (March 11th), production has been curbed in many of these gulf countries.

But it hasn't just had an impact there, it has also caused other issues outside of the Middle East as it relates to fertilizer production. Most fertilizer start with natural gas as the energy source to create fertilizer. Therefore, as the natural gas price goes up, so do the costs of production for fertilizer. Europe has been hit particularly hard. The region had been preparing to restart facilities that had been operating at reduced capacity—or shut down entirely—since the Russia/Ukraine war, due to previously high natural gas prices. However, this new conflict has caused natural gas prices in Europe to spike again, effectively halting those restart plans. India too has now moved their urea production to 70% of its full capability, citing natural gas flows and prices as the reason why. As the world's largest producer and consumer of urea, prolonged reduced output from India could have severe consequences for global urea supply and pricing.

Historically, wars and conflicts used to be considered “black swan” events, but I have started calling them Canada Goose events because they are happening so frequently lately. Fertilizer market volatility has reached unprecedented levels, making it increasingly challenging to stay ahead. I spend most of my day closely following fertilizer markets knowing how important it is to position our customers for success. If you'd like to discuss your situation further, you're welcome to stop by my office for a conversation about fertilizer.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: “PARTNERS IN AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION”

Lindsey Brower

The Ridgewater College (Willmar Campus) Agriculture Department offers a partnership with local agriculture-related businesses aimed at enhancing student learning and career readiness through its Industry Sponsor program. Throughout the year, the department hosts a variety of events where partners like Belgrade Co-op can participate and engage directly with students. These opportunities may include hosting a booth at the Career Fair or providing tours of our facilities to demonstrate what Belgrade Co-op does for its customer base—giving students meaningful, hands-on exposure to careers in agriculture.

Recently, two of our agronomists, Weston W. and Isaac, participated in Ridgewater College's Lunch and Learn event (not to be confused with our “Lunch n Learn” held in September!). They visited the campus to connect with first- and second-year agriculture students, sharing insights into their roles as agronomists at Belgrade Co-op and answering questions about their responsibilities.

Additionally, they discussed what a full calendar year looks like for an agronomist at Belgrade Co-op, highlighting how each season brings a distinct set of responsibilities and a changing schedule. For example, spring involves a lot of service-related tasks such as helping blend fertilizer, treat beans, and put in test plots, whereas summer is a lot of scouting and making decisions on what and when to spray. Further down the line, fall is look at and taking out plots, calibrating combines, and the start of selling season.

Students were particularly engaged in the precision agriculture aspects of the discussion, asking thoughtful questions about how variable rate maps are created and the tools used to develop management zones.

The event concluded with a meal from Domino's, which the students thoroughly enjoyed!

TANKS

Fuel tanks 500-2000 gallons are readily available for purchase or lease, with other sizes available to order.

Tank accessories such as pumps, hoses, and filters are on-hand.

CENEX® LUBRICANTS AVAILABLE

We carry a full line of base to full-synthetic lubricants, packaged at office locations.

TMS 15-40 and Quicklift Universal can be delivered to you in bulk.



CONTACT REFINED FUELS MANAGER FOR DETAILS

Todd Trustheim

(320) 979-1669

toddtdt@belgradecoop.com

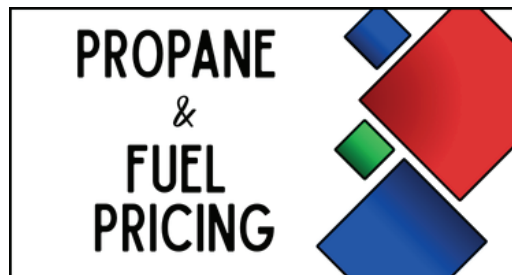


604 Parkway Drive
Belgrade, MN 56312

DID YOU KNOW?

New features are continually added for Co-op Connect users! The latest enhancement provides 24/7 access to propane, gas, and fuel prices.

After logging into your account or opening the Belgrade Co-op app, you will see the image shown below. Then, click on the link titled “Click Here for Details.”



After clicking the link, a new page will open with the current pricing of propane, fuel, and gas, along with the date it was last updated. You can check prices at any time and, in addition, scroll down the page to see available contract options. Please note that propane and fuel contract periods occur in different seasons; however, when contract pricing is available, it will be displayed in this area.



Don't have a Co-op Connect account? Setting up your online account is simple! Call or use the “Contact Us” QR code on the cover page to let us know – all we need is your email address to get you started!

WWW.BELGRADECOOP.COM