

CENTRAL COUNTIES COOPERATIVE

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

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THRIVING AMIDST CHANGE AND ACHIEVING CONTINUED SUCCESS

JUSTIN SCHROEDER, GENERAL MANAGER



Central Counties Cooperative is making strides through 2025, facing new challenges head-on after a successful 2024. The recent shift in Congress has brought about significant legislative changes, particularly concerning tariffs, which could impact key sectors such as energy, fertilizer, chemical, and grain exports. Despite these complexities, our cooperative's staff remains vigilant, ensuring patrons receive the best information to make informed decisions.

Fiscal 2024 was a landmark year for Central Counties Cooperative, with total earnings surpassing \$7 million. Highlights from the Annual Meeting in January included nearly \$5 million paid out in cash to patrons. The cooperative achieved \$87 million in sales and currently holds \$57 million in total assets, showcasing our robust financial health. Of the \$7 million in earnings, \$3 million was received from cash patronage via Land O'Lakes and CHS, underscoring the cooperative's strong partnerships.

As we reach the mid-year point of fiscal 2025, the outlook remains positive. The cooperative is poised to continue its strong performance, leveraging its experienced management team to navigate the evolving landscape. Staying on top of tariff changes, rate adjustments, and other regulatory developments will be crucial in maintaining momentum and supporting patrons effectively.

We are excited to announce several upcoming projects aimed at enhancing services and infrastructure. Starting in April, the cooperative will begin work on new fuel dispensers and underground storage tanks at the C-Store in Litchfield. This will allow for E-15 and DEF to be sold at the pumps. Additionally, new warehouse and shop space in Atwater is set to commence mid-summer, further expanding our capabilities and support for patrons.

Central Counties Cooperative extends its deepest gratitude to all its patrons for their unwavering support and trust. Your continued commitment and engagement are the driving forces behind our success. We are honored to serve you and look forward to achieving even greater milestones together in the future. Our commitment to providing top-notch information and support is evident in our proactive approach to legislative changes and our impressive financial results. With a solid foundation and a dedicated team, we are well-positioned to tackle the challenges of 2025 and beyond.

DIESEL FUEL BASICS

DENNIS JUST, ENERGY MANAGER



Diesel fuel is the main energy source used in agriculture to plant, maintain, and harvest all of the crops produced. Therefore, having a basic understanding of where diesel fuel comes from and how to best store and maintain it is important.

Diesel fuel, as well as gasoline and many other byproducts, is produced during the refining process of crude oil. After it is refined the refinery sends the product to storage terminals for distribution through a system of pipelines throughout the United States. Typically, the refining process takes around 15 days. Depending on the distance of the refinery and the terminal, it can take an additional 5 to 30 days for the diesel to reach the terminals for distribution. At the terminals diesel fuel is stored in large storage tanks to be distributed by truck to retail storage tanks. One common misconception is that a specific brand of diesel fuel (Cenex, Shell, BP, etc.) has their own separate storage tanks at the terminal for its specific diesel fuel. While there may be some exceptions, most base diesel fuel that is delivered to stations, bulk plants, and ultimately to the end user comes from the same storage tanks at the terminal.

Premium diesels are where the difference comes. Each company that offers a premium diesel has their own package of additives that are added to the base fuel to create a "premium" diesel fuel. Sadly, there is no industry standard that dictates what needs to be added to the fuel to make it a "premium" diesel fuel. This makes for a wide variety of so called "premium" fuels. Some of these additive packages are even splash blended into either the retail storage tanks or into the end user storage tanks to create a "premium" diesel fuel.

Cenex premium diesel additive is a specific blend of seven additives that is precisely injected into the fuel stream at the terminal as it is being loaded onto the truck for transportation to the station, bulk plant, or end user storage tanks. This method provides a sure blend of the additive and base fuel and eliminates the guess work of how much additive to add to an individual bulk storage or end user tank.

Diesel fuel also has a shelf life and therefore should not be stored and unused for an extended period of time. The general recommendation is that diesel fuel should be used within 6 months. Premium diesel fuels with storage stabilizers, which are included in Cenex Premium diesel fuels, will extend that time by 3 to 6 months. That being said, we have tested Cenex Premium diesel fuel that is more than 2 years old that is still in good condition. Diesel fuel will also store longer in cold weather vs hot weather. All diesel fuels whether premium or not will degrade over time, eventually breaking down and causing a whole assortment of problems in storage tanks and equipment.

There are best practices that can slow down this degrading process. The first is to avoid excessive heat by storing the fuel in a light colored, preferably white, storage tank. Moisture in the storage tank also contributes to the degradation process. It is recommended to have a pressurized fill cap on the tank which helps control the breathing process of the tank thereby helping to control the amount of condensation inside the tank. This also helps control algae growth in the storage tank. Finally, it is recommended to annually remove any moisture that may have accumulated in the tank by either pumping it off the bottom or draining it out through the bung on the bottom end of the storage tank. By following these best practices you can extend the life of the diesel fuel and help prevent degradation issues.

SPRING AGRONOMY UPDATE

PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL GROWING SEASON

DYLAN ROSSELL, ATWATER AGRONOMY MANAGER

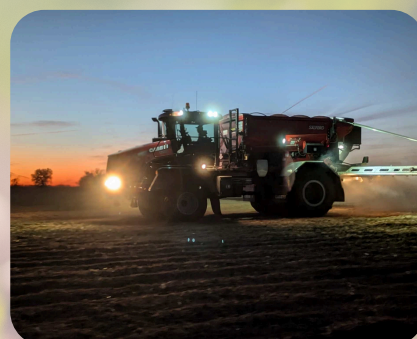


With spring rapidly approaching our dedicated agronomy team here at Central Counties Cooperative is fully equipped and ready to service all your needs this upcoming crop year. Our shops have been busy inspecting and performing maintenance on every truck, machine, and piece of equipment, ensuring everything is ready to roll. In the offices, our sales staff has been hard at work preparing farm plans to ensure all your seed, chemical and crop nutrient needs are covered. If you haven't done so already, it's not too late to stop by the office or give us a call to get everything lined up for a successful growing season.

I would like to highlight a new seed treatment product from Winfield United that we will be offering this spring. Ascend ST3 is an auxin-dominant three-way PGR mixture, which helps accelerate early-season development, improve germination, and enhance root growth. Ascend ST3 will help increase soybean yield, which will help combat the unfortunately lower commodity prices.

There will be some exciting developments at our Atwater fertilizer plant this summer. We are expanding both our shop and our seed/chemical warehouse. We are set to break ground on both projects in July. The warehouse expansion will add much-needed heated storage space and an increased work area for assembling orders. With this added heated storage we will be able to take in more chemicals during the off-season. This will put us in a better position to ensure we have an adequate supply and improve our ability to offer competitive pricing to all our patrons.

Thank you from all of us at Central Counties Cooperative for your support over the years. We look forward to providing the best service and information we can in the future. We hope everyone has a safe and successful spring planting season!



SPRING PLANTING READINESS

YOUR PRECISION TEAM IS HERE TO HELP

BRAD KARL, PRECISION AG LEAD



Greetings from our Precision Team!

It's been a busy winter, and as we gear up for spring planting, we want to assure you that we are equipped and ready to service all your needs. The shop has been busy with new installations of Precision Planting equipment, inspecting planters and ensuring it is all prepared for spring. When your ready to go to the fields, we'll be right there with you.

At our Precision department, your customer service is our top priority. We like to think that your operation is our operation, therefore take pride in keeping your downtime to a minimum. Our staff is here to help you make informed decisions about your planter, to maximize your profitability, and to make your planting season stress-free. Feel free to either visit us in person or give us a call to answer any questions or needs. Our annual Precision Planting 2020 Spring Refresher is just around the corner on April 2nd. We will go over 2020 updates, Panorama & Fieldview updates, and new Sprayer Symphony Technology. Invites have been sent out, and if you have a 2020 and would like to attend, please call the office.

“Let's make the 2025 planting season a safe and successful one together!”



CCC BULLETIN BOARD

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE CO-OP

FUELING THE FUTURE: EXCITING UPGRADES TO LITCHFIELD CENEX



Big changes are on the horizon for the Litchfield Cenex C-Store! Starting in April, the station will undergo a major upgrade, replacing all underground tanks and dispensers under the canopy.

One of the most exciting additions will be new dispensers offering E-15 (88oxy), expanding ethanol fuel options for our local community. Two DEF dispensers will also be installed, improving convenience for diesel vehicle owners. E-85 will remain available, along with blender pumps for E-20, E-30, and E-50.

While these updates are underway, the station will remain open with a temporary fueling station in place. We appreciate your patience and look forward to bringing you an improved fueling experience!

RECEIVE YOUR DIVIDEND CHECK VIA ACH!

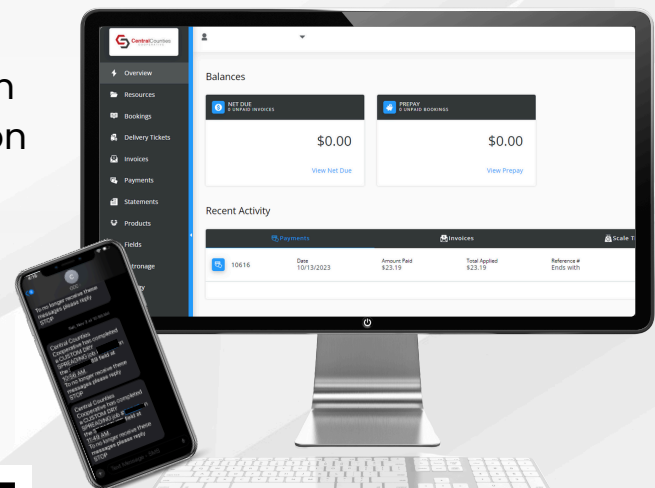
Central Counties Cooperative is excited to offer a new and convenient option for receiving your dividend payments. We are now able to pay out age and estate equity, as well as dividends, through ACH deposit. This new feature allows for a seamless transfer of funds directly into your bank account.

To take advantage of this option, simply call our office and provide your bank routing number and account number. We look forward to making this process easier for you!

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR CUSTOMER PORTAL?

Grower 360 gives you secure, instant access to your account anytime, anywhere. Manage bookings, pay bills, and get notifications—all from your device. With strong security, your information stays protected while you stay connected.

Sign up today to access your account by scanning the QR code below or visiting our website. >>> www.centralcountiescoop.com



WISHING OUR RETIREES A HAPPY AND FULFILLING RETIREMENT!



KEVIN TRAPP

After 43 years of dedicated service, Kevin is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, knowledge, and unwavering support for area farmers. Throughout his career, Kevin has been a trusted resource, from hauling propane to residents to assisting growers with all aspects of agronomy, including seed, chemical, and fertilizer needs while sharing his vast expertise.

Beyond his agricultural knowledge, Kevin's friendly personality, sense of humor, and willingness to help others have made a lasting impact on both coworkers and customers. Kevin will be greatly missed by everyone at the co-op, as well as the many growers he has worked with over the years. We thank him for his incredible dedication and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement!



STEVE UNDERLAND

After 37 years of commitment, Steve is retiring! A dedicated and hardworking employee, Steve has always gone above and beyond. During the winter months, he could be found in the propane truck, ensuring that residents had the fuel they needed. In the spring through fall, he took great pride in spreading fertilizer and spraying fields, always striving to ensure the success of the growers.

Beyond his work ethic, his humor and smile have brought energy and positivity to the co-op every day. Steve has been a valued part of our team, and his coworkers and customers will certainly miss him. We are grateful for his years of dedication and hard work. We wish him a joyful and fulfilling retirement!



LORI RATIKE

After 35 incredible years, Lori is retiring, leaving behind a lasting impact on everyone at CCC. She began her career in the fertilizer plant before transitioning to the lawn & garden office, where she took on many roles, including office manager. Her expertise in bookkeeping, along with her exceptional customer service, has made her an invaluable part of the team. Lori's positive attitude and warm personality have brightened the workplace and built strong relationships with customers and coworkers alike.

While she will be greatly missed, we are grateful for her years of hard work and dedication. We sincerely thank Lori for her many contributions over the years and wish her all the best in this new chapter of life!



CENTRAL COUNTIES COOPERATIVE

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WISHING YOU A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SPRING SEASON!

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Questions or comments?
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locations or visit us online at
www.centralcountiescoop.com

