



## THE NEXT CHAPTER

### Local family takes over ownership of the Sully locker

By Sara Clausen, Director of Communications, [Sara.Clausen@keycoop.com](mailto:Sara.Clausen@keycoop.com)

**EVERY TOWN HAS A BUSINESS** or two that everyone sees as the backbone of the community. The business may not look the same as when it opened its doors years ago, but it wears the changes well. In Sully, the local meat locker is one of those businesses.

The Sully Community Locker was founded in 1946 when three families came together and identified the need for a locker in town. The original building located on the town's square was devastated by a fire in 2017. The locker then relocated to its current home:

*Pictured above: This year, Gideon and Emily Boender took over ownership of the Sully Locker & Market. Their daughter, Oakley, is a year old.*

*continued on page 3*

## GRAIN FEATURE

Recently, we invited a photographer to capture some images that tell the story of how the Key Cooperative team loads a train in Nevada.

See page 2 for the full story.

## County Fair Meals

Key is proud to support 4-H and FFA families. Our team will be serving meals at several local fairs this summer. We hope to see you there!

### CENTRAL IOWA FAIR

Wednesday, July 9, 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

### SOUTHERN IOWA FAIR

Monday, July 14, 5:00 P.M.

### POLK COUNTY FAIR

Tuesday, July 15, 11:30 A.M.

### STORY COUNTY FAIR

Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

### POWESHIEK COUNTY FAIR

Friday, July 18, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

### TAMA COUNTY FAIR

Sunday, July 20, 8:00 A.M.

### JASPER COUNTY FAIR

Tuesday, July 22, 6:00 P.M.

Sign up to receive Key's e-newsletter every other month. Just scan the QR code and enter your email address!





# Rail Loading 101

By Jarod Lemper, Grain Division Manager,  
[Jarod.Lemper@keycoop.com](mailto:Jarod.Lemper@keycoop.com)

**RECENTLY, WE INVITED** a photographer to capture some images that tell the story of how the Key Cooperative team loads a train in Nevada. The photos turned out amazing! I thought I would take the opportunity to share some of them with you, as well as a quick overview of our rail loadout process.

Our Nevada facility sits on the Union Pacific Railroad between Ames and Nevada. We have the capacity to load 110-car shuttles. These shuttles are required to be loaded in 15 hours or less, regardless of when they arrive. That means literally any time of the day or night, any day of the week (note the night photos)! The 110-car shuttles contain 430,000 bushels of corn or 400,000 bushels of soybeans.

We share ownership of 10 cars with Lincolnway Energy to move corn from our elevator to their facility. This is a convenient way to get grain from Key to LWE without adding extra trucks to the receiving line. We can operate the locomotive remotely, but we do not utilize this ability for the shuttles.

On average, Key Cooperative loads approximately 25 shuttles per year out of Nevada. Of those 25, roughly 5 are loaded with soybeans and 20 are loaded with corn. Most of the soybeans we put on cars ends up in Mexico, and about a third of the corn does as well. The remaining corn trains are destined for the feed markets in either Arizona or California.

The Nevada facility loads at a rate of 60,000–70,000 bushels per hour, but it can load at up to 90,000 bushels per hour. A 110-car train can be loaded in about 10 hours. Eight of those hours are spent actually loading, while the other two are for switching cars. Surprisingly, a normal loading crew at Nevada consists of just six people: two people in the loading shed, one engineer, one person in the elevator and two people to open and close lids.

Key Cooperative also has a rail facility in Newton. This location sits on the Iowa Interstate Railroad and has the capacity to load up to 50 cars. In Newton, we typically sell in 25-car quantities to both our corn and soybean destinations. These 25 cars typically hold about 95,000 bushels of corn or 90,000 bushels of soybeans. The Newton facility has been consistently loading 250–300 cars per month. Most of this corn goes to ADM in Cedar Rapids, but we have moved corn to several



*Once a shuttle arrives in Nevada, it's required to be loaded in 15 hours or less. The task falls to a team of six Key employees.*

*Key Cooperative's Nevada facility is situated on the Union Pacific Railroad. The 110-car shuttles coming out of this facility can carry 430,000 bushels of corn or 400,000 bushels of soybeans.*



ethanol plants in other parts of the state. Soybeans loaded in Newton are bound for a crush facility in either Council Bluffs, IA, or Gilman, IL. ADM in Des Moines has also been a soybean destination for us in the past.

Both rail facilities are an asset to Key Cooperative and our member-owners. They give us the ability to ship large amounts of grain with less labor than trucking. Though the grain is still moved by truck from our other locations to the rail terminals, there is usually less wait time to get the grain unloaded than at the local processors, which makes the truck transport much more efficient and effective. ●



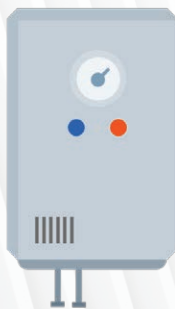
# RECEIVE PROPANE REBATES *for New Appliances*



This is an educational piece on propane rebates available through the IPGA that has been sent to all Key customers. We understand that you may not be a candidate to receive propane service from us.

## \$300 REBATE AVAILABLE

When you install a new propane tankless water heater\*



## \$250 REBATE AVAILABLE

When you install a new propane furnace or boiler\*



## \$200 REBATE AVAILABLE

When you install a new propane water heater (tank type)\*



*\* Restrictions apply. Water heater must have a Uniformed Energy Factor of 0.64 percent or higher. Furnace must have an AFUE rating of 95 percent or higher. Boilers must have an AFUE rating of 85 percent or higher.*

## Local family takes over ownership of the Sully locker

*continued from page 1*

a former funeral home on the main thoroughfare of Sully. Now known as the Sully Locker & Market, the business celebrated new ownership this year. The young family who has taken the reins is eager to make their mark on the business.

"I knew I wanted to own a locker one day," said Gideon Boender. "I had the opportunity to work for the Nikkels, who previously owned this locker. When they were ready to step aside, I made it known I was interested."

Gideon and his wife, Emily, have purchased a home in Sully. They have a one-year-old daughter named Oakley. "This is a family-oriented business," reflected Emily. "It's what I like most about being the new owners."

In recent years, lockers all over the state have become harder to get into and are in much higher demand. "We process 15-17 cows and 4-6 hogs per week," said Gideon. "At this point in 2025, we're taking new orders on a cancellation-only basis. We have 80 animals on this cancellation list!"

The locker already has approximately 10 weeks filled in 2026, a lineup that includes many loyal customers who have used the locker for decades.



A unique feature of the locker is its market, which offers grocery and home décor items. "Since the nearest grocery store is easily 20 minutes away, our grocery business is strong," said Emily. "We also have a retail store in Ankeny where we sell our meat products, quality cheeses and homemade pies." Seasonal items help round out the Sully market, which at times includes light lunch options and freezer meals.

With 15 employees, the Boenders are dedicated to keeping the business running like it has in the past; they also continue to look for niche opportunities. "We supply meat products to some food trucks," said Gideon. "We also process meat for a farmer who supplies the beef for 801 Chophouse!"

The next time you're in the area, stop by the Sully Locker & Market for a visit. You can also learn more on their website: [sullylockerandmarket.com](https://sullylockerandmarket.com). ●





# Put Your Planter Away, But Be Ready to Go for Plant 2026

CENTROL Precision Ag helps farmers maximize  
next season before this one ends

By Jared Tokle, CENTROL Precision Ag Manager, [Jared.Tokle@centrolofiowa.com](mailto:Jared.Tokle@centrolofiowa.com)

## AS ANOTHER PLANTING SEASON

wraps up, now is the time to think ahead—not just to harvest, but all the way to spring 2026. CENTROL believes success in the field starts long before the planter hits the soil. That's why our planter maintenance programs are designed to ensure your equipment is ready to perform at its best ... before it ever hits the shed!

## Proactive, not reactive

Post-season is the perfect window to evaluate and repair your planter. Rather than waiting until next March or April, when parts are backordered and technicians' schedules are full, the CENTROL team offers comprehensive inspections and proactive maintenance services right after you finish planting. We diagnose wear, replace critical components and make precision upgrades so your planter is dialed in and ready to roll.

## The value of maintenance

Skipping planter maintenance can cost more than just time—it can directly impact stand quality, seed spacing and, ultimately, yield. Precision planting requires precise equipment; even small issues like worn bushings or inconsistent downforce can turn into costly mistakes in the field.

CENTROL's maintenance program ensures everything is functioning exactly as it should, from row units to electronics. That kind of peace of mind is priceless when spring arrives and every hour counts.

## What's included?

Our planter maintenance programs are tailored to your needs, but they often include:

- Full planter evaluations
- Meter testing and calibration
- Parallel arm bushing and bolt upgrades
- Replacement of worn discs, chains, bearings and more
- Precision technology checks (monitoring systems, downforce, seed delivery)

## Why now?

CENTROL's mindset is, "Put your planter away, but be ready to go for Plant 2026." Don't wait until it's crunch time. Let us help you finish this season strong by setting next season up for success.

Whether you're running a high-speed planter or a trusted classic, keeping it maintained ensures optimal performance. Reach out to a member of the CENTROL team today to schedule your off-season planter service. Let's plan for plant 2026 with confidence—starting now! ■

MAKE THE  
**PRECISION  
✓DECISION**

Save big on Precision Planting® planter products from cleaning to closing.

NOW - 9/30/25

Combine row cleaners **SAVE \$150 per row\*** and closing system.

row cleaners **SAVE \$50 per row\***

automated downforce **SAVE \$50 per row\***

row-by-row liquid **SAVE \$50 per row\***

high-speed **SAVE \$50 per row\***

electric drives **SAVE \$50 per row\***

soil moisture sensors **SAVE \$50 per row\***

closing system **SAVE \$50 per row\***

automated depth **SAVE \$50 per row\***

DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS  
**CENTROL  
PRECISION AG**

Contact CENTROL Precision Ag to get started!

Jared Tokle | Precision Ag Manager | 641-990-4554  
Chris Gathman | Operations Leader | 641-891-1720







## Essential Services, Essential Team

By Scott Richardson, Energy Division  
Manager, [Scott.Richardson@keycoop.com](mailto:Scott.Richardson@keycoop.com)

**PROPANE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART** of the energy division at Key Cooperative. In fact, we've been delivering propane to our customers for over 50 years!

Propane is also essential for our customers' farms, homes and businesses. We know our customers must have access to propane for hot water, cooking, heating their homes and drying grain. These important functions couldn't happen without the tireless service our propane drivers provide to our customers.

Key Cooperative currently employs eight full-time propane drivers who provide delivery services to over 5,000 customer tanks. These drivers work all summer long to fill and inspect gas systems, ensuring that our customers are safe and ready for the coming grain harvest and that they are going into winter with a full tank to heat their homes. Our drivers will run all hours of the day, plus nights and weekends—anything harvest demands. Then they continue through the long, cold days of winter.

On average, our eight delivery drivers will work **over 6,000 hours** this next winter, make **over 12,000 stops** and drive **over 86,000 miles** to take care of our customers. Some days, they must face challenging subzero temperatures, road conditions and the limits of their equipment as they make sure everyone has the propane they need for their families. To say our drivers are committed to being your essential business partner is an understatement. They have over 100 years of combined experience in delivery, training, certification and industry knowledge. We couldn't do it without them!

Key Cooperative prides itself on our ability to provide quality propane services to our customers. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to highlight these efforts in this month's newsletter. As I previously mentioned, our drivers have already started summer-filling propane tanks and will continue through August. Key offers fixed price contracts with no deposit required, full prepay contracts and a budget billing program with level monthly payments to help propane customers manage their heating needs. If you're not currently a Key propane customer, please reach out to one of our Energy Customer Service Representatives at 800-469-1040 to find out which service best aligns with your needs. ●



Lynnville Fire & EMS

*Pictured (left to right): Ellie Horn, Mark Van Wyk, Matt Lanser, Gabe Hoksbergen, Jake McElroy and Gina McElroy.*



Camp Invention

*Sara Clausen presents the grant to Ryan Brown and a group of camp students.*

## Land O'Lakes Matching Grants

**LYNNVILLE FIRE & EMS:** Digital Communications Specialist Ellie Horn presented a matching grant from Key Cooperative and the Land O'Lakes Foundation to Lynnville Fire & EMS volunteers. The \$2,000 grant will assist the organization with purchasing a washing machine for fire gear and several department tools that are needed when the team is on calls.

**CAMP INVENTION:** Communications Director Sara Clausen presented a matching grant from Key Cooperative and the Land O'Lakes Foundation to Ryan Brown, a Nevada teacher and Camp Invention coordinator. The \$2,500 grant will be used to help reduce the registration cost for up to 70 elementary-age students who wish to enroll in a weeklong, STEM-based summer enrichment camp in Nevada.

Your project may be the perfect match for our program! Grants are classified into two categories: community and hunger-related projects. Contact Sara Clausen at [Sara.Clausen@keycoop.com](mailto:Sara.Clausen@keycoop.com) with questions or to get a copy of the grant application. The application can also be found at [keycoop.com/community-involvement](https://keycoop.com/community-involvement). ●

# Livestock Fly Control With ClariFly Is a Wise Investment

By Joel Edge, Purina® Sales Specialist, [jnedge@landolakes.com](mailto:jnedge@landolakes.com)

**THIS SPRING, FLIES** have been a major issue on farms thanks to the abundance of warm, wet weather, which serves as a popular breeding environment for all types of flies.

A variety of problems can emerge from flies, including the spread of viral diseases like BVD, BHV-1 and parainfluenza. Bacterial diseases like mastitis, bacterial scours, typhoid, anthrax, vibriosis and several clostridial diseases can also be spread through a fly population. The stable fly alone can lower milk production by as much as 30 percent in cows, sows, ewes, does and lactating mares.

With the current upswing in production, livestock fly control is a wise investment! Thankfully, we have a solution with ClariFly®, a Central Life Sciences product that is available in many of the Purina Animal Nutrition products for every livestock species.

ClariFly is a very effective feed-through fly control product that helps prevent the emergence of adult house, stable, horn and face flies. ClariFly is a broad-spectrum treatment, killing the fly larvae in manure piles and standing water in feeding areas. Treating and eliminating flies has a very common rule of 30/30 vision for the producer. Feeding 30 days before fly emergence and 30 days after the first frost in the fall is an ideal timeline.

Key Cooperative offers a full line of Purina products containing ClariFly. Reach out to any member of the Key Feed team for more information to help your bottom line. ■

## YOUR KEY COOPERATIVE FEED TEAM

**Jim Hawkins** – Lifestyle Feeds Sales, 641-990-8964

**Kelcie Carpenter** – Gilbert Feed Sales, 515-520-1962

**Justin Crocheck** – Senior Cattle Consultant, 515-291-0763

**Dan Harmsen** – Swine Specialist, 641-203-8477

**Joel Edge** – Purina Sales Specialist, 319-331-3667

## Key Connect is your new digital farming resource

*continued from page 8*

for harvest and fall applications for the 2026 crop. We will retain all historical information and have access to it during the transition. If you need this historical information, please work through your location, agronomist, originator or any member of the sales team.

With this launch, we're excited to introduce Key Connect, a powerful digital resource that will connect you to the new accounting and operating system. Key Connect has been designed to give you instant, secure, around-the-clock access to essential information, allowing you and your operation to connect with Key in any season.

### Why use Key Connect?

This user-friendly resource will place valuable insights at your fingertips, helping you manage your operation more efficiently. With Key Connect, you'll be able to:

- Access real-time account details, including invoices, statements and purchase history.
- View your grain contracts, scale tickets and settlements for better financial tracking.
- Check field data to make informed agronomic decisions.
- Receive notifications on activity like deliveries, field applications or when a contract is available to sign.

### How to connect

This fall, we will provide you with the steps to get started with Key Connect. Beginning with a simple connection to your email address, you will have access through a mobile app or online (see the app icon on page 7). Watch for specific details from your agronomist, on our website or at your location.

We are committed to providing innovative solutions to support your success. Key Connect is just one of the many ways we can help you monitor and manage your farming activities anytime, anywhere. Thank you for being a valued member of Key Cooperative; we look forward to serving you as your essential business partner! ■



# KEY CONNECT

## Your Digital Farming Resource

Key Cooperative is excited to introduce Key Connect, a powerful digital farming resource. Key Connect is designed to give you instant, secure, around-the-clock access to essential information, allowing you and your operation to connect with Key in any season.

This new resource allows you to stay connected to the data that is important to your operation's success, all in one place!

### Available this fall!



Access real-time account information around the clock



User-friendly access either online or via an app



Connect growers to field and farm data



Interact with grain offers and contracts



Receive notifications on account activity



# KEY PERSPECTIVES

## Key Connect is your new digital farming resource

By Boyd Brodie, General Manager,  
Boyd.Brodie@keycoop.com



**FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS**, Key Cooperative has been looking for ways to serve you

better and enhance your farming experience. This September, we will go live with a new accounting and operating system that's two years in the making. We introduced you to the new system (known as Agvance) in our January newsletter and provided more information in March. Now as we're getting even closer to launch, we have some additional details to share with you!

Our focus during the last week of August will be shutting down our current operating system, then migrating current agronomy data, grain contract data and financial information into Agvance to prepare

*continued on page 6*

*About the winning photo: On June 17, Key Cooperative hosted day two of the WHO Tractor Ride at our Sully location. Over 380 tractors paraded through the community on their 67-mile route.*

### Would you like to see one of your photos featured on this page?

The *Connections* photo contest is open to any member or customer who receives our newsletter. One winning photo will be selected and placed in the newsletter. Photos must feature agriculture, ag events or rural settings; Iowa-based scenes are preferred. Photos must be submitted by the tenth of each month in order to qualify for the following month's newsletter. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address with your submitted photo(s).

Submissions may be emailed to  
Sara.Clausen@keycoop.com.

*Key Connections* is sent to you courtesy of Key Cooperative. Please send comments or suggestions to  
Sara.Clausen@keycoop.com or  
call 515-388-8030.



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## PHOTO CONTEST WINNER LET'S RIDE

By Ellie Horn, Key Cooperative

