

## SPOTLIGHT: Ag Partners PATRONS

By Terra Wierson, Communications Specialist

With our Customer Appreciation Days quickly approaching, this is the perfect opportunity for us at Ag Partners to recognize our amazing patrons. If you're reading this, THANK YOU for being a patron of Ag Partners.

Throughout the years working in my profession, I have never used the word "patron" so frequently as I have with Ag Partners. Why is that? And what makes this word so unique? My curiosity was piqued to look deeper.

So often we, in a business setting, use this noun interchangeably with "customer." In today's use of the English language it seems to make perfect sense, however, Merriam-Webster reminds us that "patron," rooted in the Latin word of patr, or father, first refers to a guardian and generous supporter. There is no coincidence these are listed *before* the definition of being a customer.

That being said, your patronage of Ag Partners does not stop at sensible dividends, or exceptional service and capabilities for your operation. Your patronage is so much bigger



than that! It yields good employment to folks who live in our local communities, events held for you like RoCrop and Big Bushel Club, educational meetings, livestock seminars, plot days, and even this extraordinary publication.

As a patron, you're also a "guardian and generous supporter" of the ways we're able to give back (*and pay it forward*) throughout the year:

- Ag Partners scholarships and internships
- Donations to 4-H, FFA & conservation clubs
- Youth sports, education, livestock shows & fairs
- Sponsorships for farm safety & community events
- Provide facilities & supplies for local emergency responder training

Your patronage is meaningful and touches farm communities across Southern

### patron (noun)

pa-tron 'pā-trən



1. a person chosen as a special guardian or supporter
2. one who gives generous support or approval
3. a person who buys the goods or uses the services offered (as by a business)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. *This is your cooperative.* Thank you for the trust you place in us to manage it.

Let's celebrate all we have accomplished together - for a #FarmerStrong tomorrow. Casually, you are customers, but take heart, you truly are patrons first!

This year, we're once again hosting three appreciation events to express our gratitude

to you, our valued patrons and customers. We invite you and your family to enjoy a meal and a night out on us.

It's an opportunity for us to gather as friends and neighbors. Whether you come out to Le Center, Elgin or Gopher Hills, we're excited to see you there!

[See details on the next page](#)

# Staying True to Who We Are

By Bill Ahlbrecht, CEO/General Manager

**A**griculture has seen more changes over the last years than most of the other industries around us. Those changes have brought us many positive and a few negative effects to our lifestyles. When I first became involved working with farmers it was led by my admiration of the family farm and how I wished I would have grown up on a farm. Most of my friends came from the farm so I provided a lot of free help throughout my teen years, but I also got to be at the family farm tables for many lunches and suppers. Being included in accomplishing the goal of getting the hay crop baled or cows milked gave me a feeling of inclusion with many wonderful farm families. With that it only seemed right that I would seek a career in agriculture, which in those days included bagging feed, shoveling

grain and spraying corn fields. Over many years I have constantly been rewarded by those of you that have fueled my desire to be part of your community.

Agriculture will continue to go through the changes needed for us to survive and be relevant, but we all need to evaluate those changes to assure our core beliefs and values are not compromised. Ag Partners is not the same company that we once were, but as Ag Partners evolves with the generations of farmers, I can assure you that our board of directors and management team are always evaluating how those changes are affecting our core beliefs and values. We appreciate all our patrons, and thank you for letting us be a part of your family business.

*-Bill*

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3 DAYS + 3 GREAT EVENTS



# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

The team at Ag Partners is grateful for your patronage and would be delighted to have you at our Customer Appreciation Days.

Tuesday, August 13

**Le Center Ag Partners**

1273 W Derrynane St  
Le Center, MN 56057

**Meal: 4 - 8 pm**

Wednesday, August 14

**Elgin Ag Partners**

27594 County Rd 25  
Elgin, MN 55932

**Meal: 4 - 8 pm**

Thursday, August 15

**Gopher Hills Golf Course**

26155 Nicolai Ave  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

**Golf: 6:30 am - 8 pm**  
**Meal: 1 - 8 pm**



Ag Partners Coop  
101 Broadway  
PO Box 218  
Goodhue, MN 55027





# Meet Our Summer Interns

This summer we have 16 agronomy interns you may have seen out scouting, and one feed intern working with one of our Dairy specialists. These young adults come from varying backgrounds and are working towards different future goals in agriculture. We appreciate all they do, and we hope they enjoy learning on the job with Ag Partners! This photo was taken during a plot training day in June near Wanamingo, MN.

## TREVOR ASHER

**Internship:** Operations  
**AGP Location:** Ellsworth  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Fun Fact:** "I play football at UW-River Falls."

## LOGAN BRAND

**Internship:** Operations  
**AGP Location:** Ellsworth  
**School:** Iowa State U  
**Year:** Freshman  
**Fun Fact:** "I don't know how to swim."

## HUNTER CONRAD

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Morristown  
**School:** South Central College  
**Year:** Second  
**Fun Fact:** "I love hunting."

## NATALIE DYKES

**Internship:** AYS Grid  
**AGP Location:** Goodhue  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Fun Fact:** "I worked at Ag Partner's in the chemical shed last summer"

## SAMANTHA FEINE

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Stewartville  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Junior  
**Fun Fact:** "My favorite show is Hawaii Five-O."

## DYLAN HEIDERSCHIEDT

**Internship:** Operations, Soil Sampling  
**AGP Location:** Morristown  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Fun Fact:** "I like trees."

## WYATT FOSS

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Kenyon  
**School:** NDSU  
**Year:** Senior  
**Fun Fact:** "Myself and a group of friends do autocross racing in the summer."

## KENNEDY JEWISON

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Le Sueur  
**School:** South Central College  
**Year:** Second  
**Fun Fact:** "I have a 1 yr-old Australian Shepherd named Stanley."

## MARLEE MUSTY

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Elgin  
**School:** Ridgewater College  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Fun Fact:** "I have a small business."

## AVERY O'NEIL

**Internship:** AYS  
**AGP Location:** Le Sueur  
**School:** Iowa State U  
**Year:** Senior  
**Fun Fact:** "My family farm is across the street from the Ag Partners Ellsworth location!"

## EVAN OEHLKE

**Internship:** Operations, Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Stewartville  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Senior  
**Fun Fact:** "In my free time I like to ride ATV and snowmobile"

## CARTER ROEMHIEDT

**Internship:** Operations  
**AGP Location:** Morristown  
**School:** South Central College  
**Year:** Second  
**Fun Fact:** "I like to fish."

## MABEL ROHL

**Internship:** Operations  
**AGP Location:** Ellsworth  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Fun Fact:** "I grew up on a dairy farm!"

## ISAAC ROTT

**Internship:** Dairy Feed  
**AGP Location:** Goodhue  
**School:** University of MN  
**Year:** Grad School  
**Fun Fact:** "I was a member of the judging, and dairy challenge teams at the U of M."

## ADAM RUEN

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Lewiston  
**School:** U of M  
**Year:** Junior  
**Fun Fact:** "I am a triplet."

## WILL TIPTON

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Goodhue  
**School:** University of MN  
**Year:** Senior  
**Fun Fact:** "I'm an active member of the agricultural fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho."

## DEREK WEBER

**Internship:** Crop Scout  
**AGP Location:** Ellsworth  
**School:** UW-River Falls  
**Year:** Junior  
**Fun Fact:** "In my free time I enjoy deer and waterfowl hunting, as well as working on my grandparents' farm."



*Feed Intern Isaac on Instagram*



*Agronomy Interns*

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# GOODHUE AGRONOMY & SALES STAFF HAVE MOVED

Ag Partners Goodhue Agronomy Center has a new office space for agronomists, sales and billing. The addition was built on the front side of the warehouse at Broadway and Viola in Goodhue. The same mailing address of P.O. Box 218 can still be used, but the phone number for the agronomy office is 651-923-6002. Stop by and check it out!

## OPINION: FOR AG, "NORMAL" IS A MOVING TARGET

*By Ryan Ness, Agronomy Department Manager*

What is normal? The phrase "defining the new normal" frequently occupies my thoughts throughout the year. We often joke which insect or disease will reach biblical proportions in 2025. We've certainly faced our share of challenges this year. During such times, I remind myself that most situations are rarely as good as they seem or as bad as they seem. I focus on the lessons we can learn from each obstacle we encounter.

Many of you might think, "I've reached a point in my farming career where I no longer need to practice," but I remain captivated by the nuances of each 'similar' year. Although we can recall similar times, numerous variables change annually. Starting with geography, the differences across our region are stark despite the relatively short drive from one end to the other. June's rainfall, for instance, posed distinct challenges in different areas.

Every challenge presents an opportunity. Limited





opportunities for herbicide applications allowed us to test new technologies in our spray equipment, leading to increased efficiencies. The varied rainfall patterns, both in single events and recurring precipitation, enabled us to measure soil nitrates under diverse conditions, considering factors like soil type, crop rotation, and manured acres. Additionally, we could observe how various hybrids reacted to limited nitrogen environments. All this information contributes to our collective knowledge.

As I mentioned earlier, it is often adverse conditions that provide the greatest opportunities to better prepare for similar challenges in the future. This year, many of you have had to make some very difficult decisions due to demanding growing conditions and challenging profit margins. I've seen how we've used past data and diagnostic tools to protect yield where possible and scale back in areas that may have reached their potential. Ultimately, we will have valuable insights to share throughout the winter.

## KEEPING FORAGES ON TRACK

By Luke Daninger, Agronomy Sales Manager

This year has been an interesting one to say the least when it comes to making good forage. Mother nature has thrown plenty of curveballs in our path. We were faced early on with spring black stem in much of the geography, with a historic alfalfa weevil infestation following that shortly. We were able to control both with an array of chemistries and as a byproduct, we learned valuable lessons through the experience. I believe all of us will take these lessons with us into the future, starting now. While this year is not yet complete, we are already using this experience to be proactive about plans for next year's control on both issues.

Future plans include bringing helicopters in prior to first crop to spray fungicide for disease control and Steward for the

weevils as they hatch (Steward has 3 weeks of residual). This year, fields that were sprayed with Steward prior to first crop, greened up quickly as they did not have onslaught of weevil pressure versus the fields with no treatment. It was much harder to induce green-up in heavy pressure than it was to manage the weevils once some green up was present.

One final note on alfalfa is to make sure we are fertilizing for the crop that we have removed

this season. In most areas of our geography, we have been pulling some awesome yields off and we need to make sure we replenish the soil of the nutrients the alfalfa is pulling off.

As we look ahead to corn silage, much of it is or has recently received an application of fungicide. This is a wise move to protect your feedstuffs as we move closer to harvest by ensuring quality, reducing toxin loads, elongating the harvest window, and protecting yields. Always keep in mind that we must hit the target harvest window for moisture of 65-68%. Nothing is more important in making quality feed than this. As you need samples burned down, make sure to be in touch with your nutritionist or agronomist, as most of our locations have chippers and Koster cookers to track moisture progression.



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See what a work day is like for an Ag Partners feed truck driver, from production to delivery. View here or visit our you tube page!



[youtube.com/channel/UC\\_aGU5TWpETePd6\\_SE\\_1IA](https://youtube.com/channel/UC_aGU5TWpETePd6_SE_1IA)

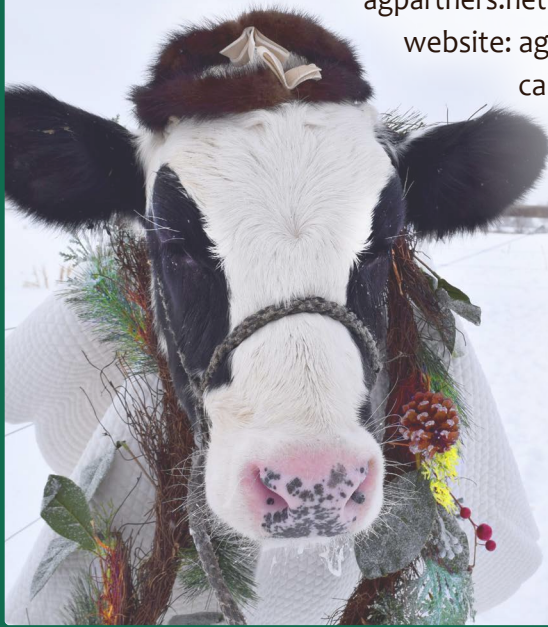
## Corn Silage Burn Down Days

**THIS YEAR'S SPRING WEATHER BRINGS UNPREDICTABILITY TO SCHEDULING OUT BURN DOWN DAYS. PLEASE WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND YOUR EMAIL FOR DATES IN SEPTEMBER.** Moisture testing will be offered at our usual locations. Results will be shared with you the day following your sample testing.



### WANTED:

Winter photos for our 2025 Calendar! Photo submissions are due at the end of August. Submit photos to [calendar@agpartners.net](mailto:calendar@agpartners.net) or go to our website: [agpartners.net/calendar-photo-submission](http://agpartners.net/calendar-photo-submission)



Include your name, city & state when sending photos.



# ARE YOUR TANKS SWEATING THIS SUMMER, TOO?

By Matt Hart, Energy Department Manager

Farmers have enough on their plates without having to deal with water in their diesel fuel. If you experience pollution, there are ways to remove water from diesel fuel tanks and methods to prevent water contamination from happening again.

## ISSUES CAUSED BY WATER CONTAMINATION

Water is enemy number one when it comes to diesel fuel – the two just don't mix. Unfortunately, once water gets into diesel there are a host of potential problems that farmers can encounter. One major issue is microbial growth. Microbes live in water and feed on diesel. After microbes die, they sink to the bottom of the fuel tank.

Another key concern stemming from water in fuel tanks is corrosion. Corrosion can't be detected right away – it's an issue that develops over time on metal parts when water contaminates diesel and accelerates oxidation and rust formation. If corrosion becomes extreme, it can affect how fuel is distributed, ruin the fueling lines and systems in equipment, and lead to fuel filter clogging.

## HOW TO SPOT WATER CONTAMINATION

If you think your diesel has been contaminated by water, here are the signs to watch for:

- A loss of RPM and power in your equipment
- Rough starting or erratic idling
- Trouble or a lag in acceleration when stepping on the pedal
- Abnormal exhaust such as white smoke

When one or more of these signs occurs, start by taking a sample from your fuel tank and letting your equipment sit overnight. If water is present in the sample, it will separate to the bottom. If the sample shows there's water in the fuel, work with Ag Partners to pump the tank out and ensure all the water is removed.

## PREVENT FUTURE WATER CONTAMINATION

The simplest way to protect your fuel tank and equipment from water contamination is by using a high-quality fuel. The newly enhanced formulation of CENEX® RUBY FIELDMASTER®

premium diesel fuel is terminally injected with a combination of enhanced additives and now includes a two-phase total water management system. This two-phase system preserves the integrity of your fuel by protecting filters and injectors and safeguarding the combustion system. This one-of-a-kind fuel technology separates the gross majority of free water in diesel fuel tanks, allowing gravity to pull it to the bottom of the tank for easy drainage. Then the advanced aggressive detergency encapsulates any remaining negligible water molecules and carries them safely through the combustion chamber.



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# BECOME A PRO AT NAVIGATING THE AG PARTNERS APP

<https://agpartners.net/ag-partners-mobile-app/>

Taylor: 651-923-4496 (Goodhue)

Shawn: 507-357-6868 (Le Sueur)

On our agpartners.net website, we have a page dedicated to tips and tricks on navigating our new app. We have developed documents and FAQs to answer common questions that arise from customers like you. If you get stuck give us a call. Taylor or Shawn can walk you through the issue you're having. Remember, the more you use it, the more familiar it will become - which means you'll be able to make the most of all its many features!

Find hot topic documents on:

- Downloading the app and logging in
- Paying bills
- Ordering fuel
- Contract and monitor propane
- Using the Invoices & Balances pages

## FAQs

### Q: Who is the app for?

**A:** The app has been developed specifically for Ag Partners' employees and customers, with the most functionality for grain, agronomy and energy.

### Q: I'm a feed-only customer, can I still use the app?

**A:** Absolutely! Feed-only customers can still view statements, make payments and see past orders. At this time, there is no built-in function for ordering feed through the app.

### Q: How do I get started?

**A:** Download the Ag Partners app on your mobile device or visit connect.agpartners.net on a computer. Request access. An invite will be sent to you by text or e-mail within a few hours (except evenings & weekends). Follow the instructions from there.

### Q: If I need help and use the contact button in the app, who answers?

**A:** You can speak to a trained Ag Partners employee by phone or e-mail.

### Q: Can I pay with a credit card?

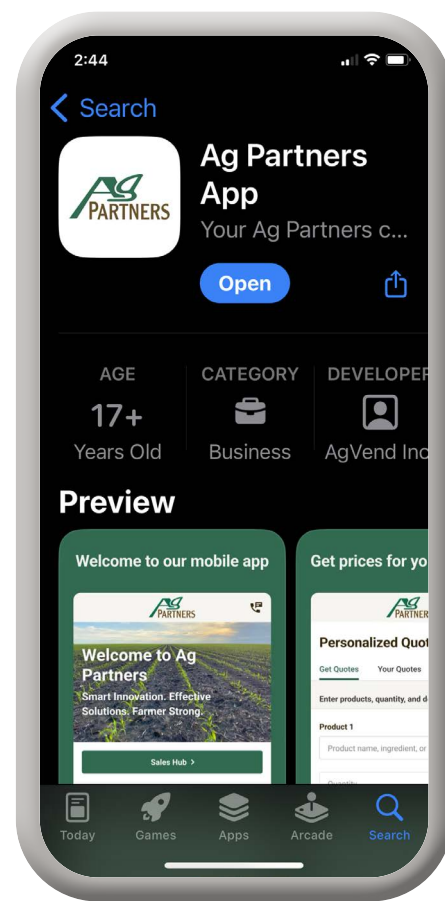
**A:** Yes. Payments can be made with a credit or debit card, or by ACH payment.

### Q: Is it possible to view multiple accounts under the same login?

**A:** Yes, please call us and we can arrange that for you.

### Q: Will Ag Partners get rid of the old online portal?

**A:** No, not at this time. The app offers much more versatility in services and we encourage all customers to give it a try.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO HARVEST IN PINE ISLAND

417 N MAIN STREET  
PINE ISLAND, MN 55963  
507-356-8313

By Joe Mahoney  
Assistant Location Manager, Pine Island

A major investment and facility upgrade at the Pine Island location began in December 2023 and is set to be completed by September of this year with two new grain bins. The efficiency of our site and the quality of our grain are two things that make our Pine Island grain facility stand out. The existing facilities had served us well but the time had come to decide whether to take on steadily increasing operation and maintenance costs, or rebuild. This investment will further enhance our ability to serve our customer needs and provide the highest quality grain to our feed mill for all our products made on site.

The project started with the demolition of our outdated Dump A receiving area and surrounding bins. Some of the buildings and equipment dated back to the early 1960's. This included the old wooden house and annex which contained 20 different individual bins and had a total capacity

of 100,000 bushels. Also demolished were two 65,000-bushel corrugated steel bins, a 150,000-bushel white steel tank, a 100,000-bushel flat storage shed and a Carter-Day dryer. The demolition was done by Fitzgerald Excavating. Our mild winter weather really helped move the project along.

Lodermeier's then designed a new system to take advantage of the existing Dump B, improving the traffic flow on the site. Two new 78' diameter bins with a capacity of 360,000 bushels each were erected. These added a net capacity of almost 250,000 bushels overall. The plan is for one bin to be designated for soybeans and one to be used for corn storage. This will provide us with plenty of flexibility come harvest time to keep lines at a minimum, allowing our customers to get back to the field.

With the addition of the new bins and equipment, we needed to revamp and replace some components



July 19, 2024  
Aerial by Colton Risty

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# FREE ONLINE SEMINARS TO SPARK YOUR INTEREST:

Educational events from the U of M Extension office

## FARM TRANSITION AND ESTATE PLANNING, TAXES:

Four sessions on introductory farm transition and estate planning. Attend as many sessions as you like. FREE WEBINAR

**Aug. 14:** Developing your farm transition goals and assembling your "team"

**Aug. 21:** All things tax: gifting, selling, and transferring

**Aug. 28:** Wills, trusts, ownership titling – what does it all mean?

**Sept. 8:** Putting the basics together: estate, retirement, healthcare, and business transfer planning

ONLINE 10 am - 12 pm <https://extension.umn.edu/event/farm-transition-and-estate-planning-taxes-0>

## PRESSURE CANNING LOW-ACID FOODS:

Participants will learn about low-acid foods, and how to safely can these foods.

By the end of the webinar, participants will be able to safely prepare and can low acid foods, and identify how they can sell these foods.

FREE WEBINAR September 10, 12 - 1 pm & September 13, 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

ONLINE <https://extension.umn.edu/event/canning-low-acid-foods-pressure-canning>

## BEING SEPTIC SMART:

Septic systems are designed to last 20 to 30 years but can last longer depending on use, care and maintenance. "Being Septic Smart" helps property owners maximize their investment so their septic system can function during and beyond its designed lifetime. FREE WEBINAR

Tuesday, September 17, 7 - 9 pm

ONLINE <https://extension.umn.edu/event/being-septic-smart-1>

at our Dump B receiving area. Here we replaced the existing tower structure with a brand-new state-of-the-art tower complete with a stairway to the top and multi-level platforms. Heavy duty catwalks and high-speed conveyors lead from the new tower to each bin. A revamped receiving leg and conveyor allow for 14,000 bushels of grain per hour to be dumped, nearly *double* the previous speed. Along with that, outside the dump building is a new 8,000-bushel overhead loadout bin to allow for efficient shipping of grain - from any bin on site - to a centralized position. In other words, with the new improvements we are now able to reclaim corn, from any of our bins, back to our feed mill for production. This upgrade will save time, wear and tear on trucks and fuel, as prior to this corn had to be transferred by truck across the site.

We hired Knobelsdorff Electric to wire in new lighting and cameras to add to our site security. They are also rewiring all the new equipment along with most of the existing equipment, giving us new and reliable power throughout the site. To tie everything together Knobelsdorff Electric has also designed an all-new program for us that will automate most of the Pine Island location, all operated from a computer screen.

We would like to thank everyone involved with the project for all their hard work! We are excited to have everything up and running for harvest 2024!



Seasonal temporary workers are vital to Ag Partners operations. See what their day is like in agronomy or even grain.

Maybe this type of work is right for you! Apply on our website or give us a call!

[agpartners.net/careers](https://agpartners.net/careers) | 651-923-4496



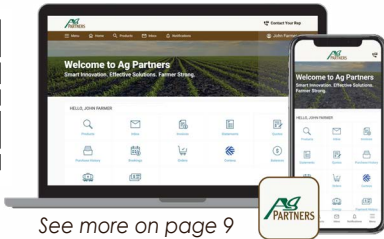
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Goodhue, MN 55027



**AG PARTNERS**  
agpartners.net

## Ag Partners @ Your Fingertips



See more on page 9

If you're not using Ag Partners app, it's high time you start! With the app, you can easily view statements & purchase history, pay balances, sign contracts, order LP, monitor LP tank levels and much more!

from the truck, combine or office.



## Strawberry-Rhubarb Cheesecake Bars

You'll want to pull the rhubarb out of the freezer for this one!  
Makes one 9" springform pan or one 9x13 baking pan. Preheat oven to 290° F.



### Crust:

- 2 cups finely ground Nilla Wafers
- 1 stick butter (softened)
- ¼ cup sugar

Mix ingredients together and press into the bottom of pan. You may also press some 2/3 of the way up the sides if using the springform pan.

### Batter:

- 4 – 8oz blocks of cream cheese
- 1 cup sugar
- 1.5 tbsp liquor (spiced rum) or 1.5 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 4 eggs

Beat cream cheese in stand mixer on high speed for 5 minutes. Add sugar and mix at high speed for another 2 minutes. Add liquor and salt. Add eggs one at a time and mix on lowest speed just until each egg is incorporated. Pour over crust.

### Fruit Swirl:

- 1 pound of strawberries – sliced
- 1.5 to 2 cups rhubarb, chopped
- ¼ cup sugar

Simmer on low temp on stove top until mixture is a jam-like consistency. Drizzle into batter and swirl with a spoon or butter knife.

### Optional Topping:

- Fresh sliced strawberries or melted white chocolate drizzle

Bake at 290° F until there is only a slight jiggle at the center. Baking time for the springform pan will be 60-90 minutes or longer at this temperature. Baking time for the 9x13 pan will be 45-60 minutes.

Turn the oven off, crack the oven door open and let the pan sit in the oven as it cools slowly for another 30 minutes before removing (this prevents cracking).

Add optional topping before serving. Store in refrigerator uncovered for up to 4 days. You may freeze the cheesecake before topping it if you choose to bake it ahead of time.



To submit your recipe for the fall issue of Home Front, e-mail to editor: [Terra.Wierson@agpartners.net](mailto:Terra.Wierson@agpartners.net). Enjoy!

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