



SPOTLIGHT: We've Got THIS

By Terra Wierson, Communications Specialist

At every turn, in case you haven't noticed, there seems to be some noticeable turbulence in the areas of life we cannot control. This is not just a phenomena isolated to agriculture alone, but (not to get too deep in the weeds) it's a culture thing. As much as we tend to worry about all those things we cannot control, the good news is that we *can* control a whole heck of a lot and much of that relates right back to the farm. What's even better, is that being a part of a co-op, especially one like Ag Partners, means we have a whole community of like-minded people to lean on once in a while.

The strength of our agricultural community as a whole is rooted in our ability to cross the fence line and work together. I want to call out the sense of community amongst our members and employees. There are ways this proves itself time and time again: celebrating each other, confiding in and taking advice from each other, exploring

new ideas together, and overcoming challenges. So much of this takes place in social settings; good old face-to-face time, and the benefits go well beyond the business transaction.

If you've ever attended one of our seminars or meetings, you know they tend to be busy and full of useful information and usually revolve around food. We enjoy providing time to network, sharing knowledge, and always having a little fun. And please, if you're interested in learning more about any Ag Partners event, seminar or program, please reach out! I can help direct you to the right person.

Ag Partners recently held our annual Big Bushel Club banquet. Here, our growers who choose to compete for the highest yielding corn crop sit and converse with each other over a meal for a good hour or more

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Ag Partners #FarmerStrong Links:

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- Weather

NEW CUSTOMER

before the awards begin. During the awards part of the night, names are announced and plaques are given. The entire room finally gets to find out the top five growers, honorable mentions by region, and the next 25 runner-ups. When talking about yield and farming competitions, growing up crop farming, believe me- I get it! Despite an innate competitiveness farmers have with their neighbors this banquet gives everyone a chance to compare notes and talk shop and it could be with someone who farms completely different ground 60 miles away.

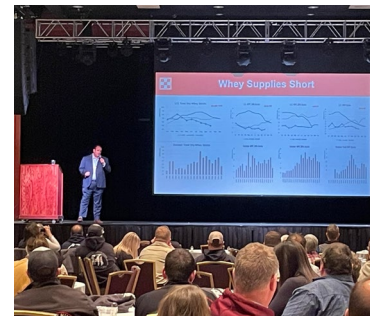
Although there is no real prize aside from bragging rights and your photo taken with your plaque and agronomist, the people in the room bond over the excitement of a congratulatory handshake and good conversation.

I found another amazing display of community sitting at the dinner table with a small group of growers. We were talking about succession planning and the concerns around it. The farmers I was sitting with were all attending solo. This discussion lead to divulging some gritty details, and for one all the way down to the LP tanks out by the corn dryer. I had only met these individuals, and it struck me that none of them knew each other well either, yet they were seeking support. Wouldn't you know it, another at the table gave some advice using his own experience. Maybe it was the delicious food, or it could have just been the right atmosphere, but something good was happening here.

Just this winter, we held our 3rd annual Team of Professionals two-day dairy seminar with over 175 in attendance. We appreciate the effort made by each person to come together to make a great event. We know it can be a challenge to get away for an over-night. It was here with our keynote speaker, the "Stubborn Farmer," who challenged each person in the room to change something about themselves to be a better person for the purpose of building up a stronger family farm. His idea was that if you can change this one thing, you may inspire someone else on the farm to also change one thing, helping you both work better together. Then that one thing can lead to another and so on. Some may call it a leap of faith.

Whether we have a producer struggling with herd fertility rates or a grower dealing with tar spot for the first time, or something more, we do our best to sort through information and viable options during one-on-one meetings and phone calls. Sometimes, though, it's when we can get together that makes all the difference in the world. This community we have in our co-op is what makes us Farmer Strong. Face it. It's in our DNA and there isn't anything we can do about it!

In the end it's about supporting each other and cultivating relationships. When we offer personalized service and expert advice, we are putting that work in to earn trust and respect. We hope to nurture long-lasting connections, whether it is with us or each other, to do our part of ensuring resilience and growth of our agricultural community - and industry.



A few of this winter's events >
Annual Meeting, Dairy Seminar, AYS Annual, and Big Bushel

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DEFENDING AGAINST THE YIELD KILLER

By Kjersten Veiseth, AYS Specialist

With the 2025 crop season getting closer, we are thinking ahead towards what we can do to help you gain the highest yields possible. One of the biggest challenges that we have faced in the past few years is **tar spot** in corn. Tar spot is produced by a fungus which grows on the plant, creating black spots, damaging the leaves and hampering the plant's growth potential.

In cool and humid conditions, tar spot can thrive, especially if the leaves of plants are wet longer into the day. The fungal spores overwinter in the soil and plant residue. If there has been a tar spot infection in one of your fields the spores are already present for the next growing season.

Tar spot is easily recognizable on broad corn leaves as small raised lesions that are black in

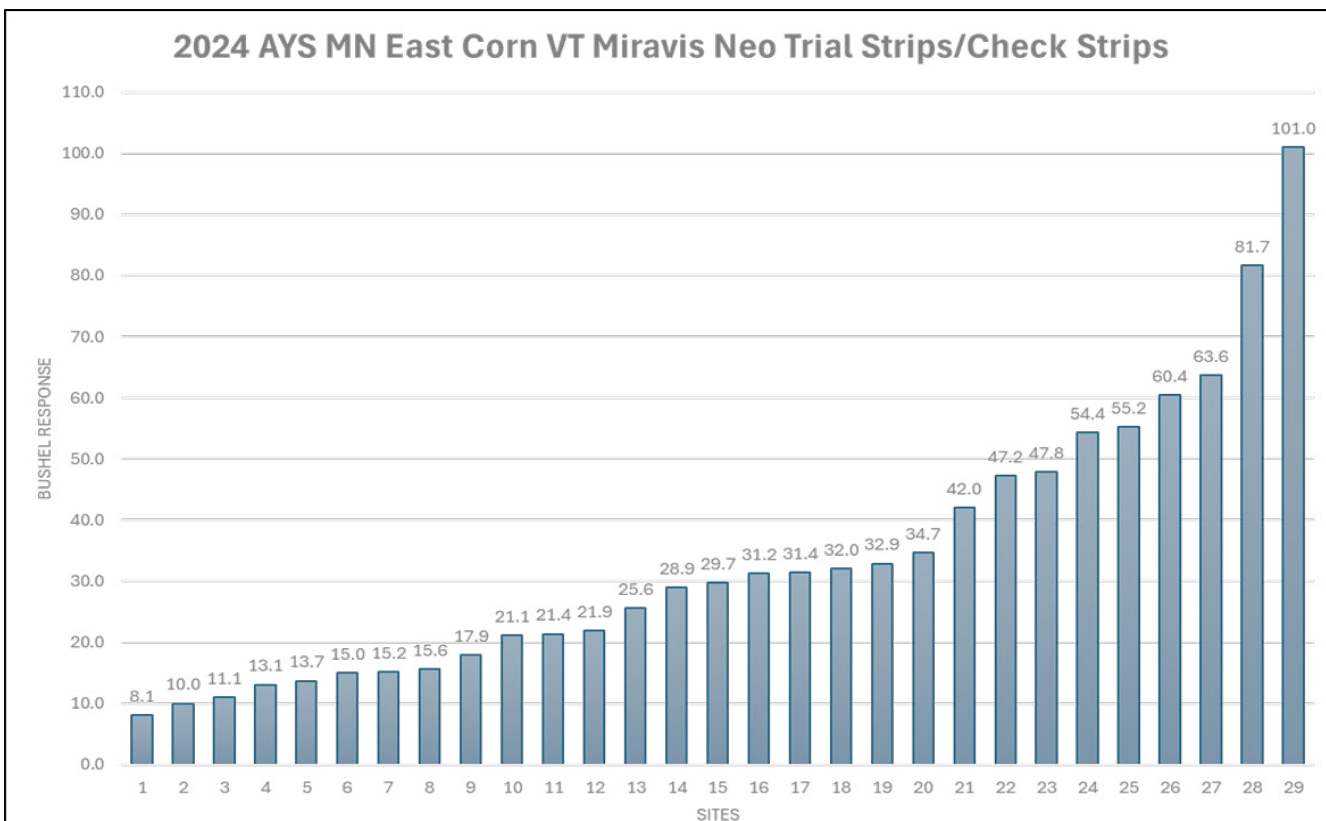


color, and cannot be rubbed off of the leaf. We typically see the lesions start to show up later in the season, however, due to weather conditions in 2024, there were some

tar spot infections earlier in July.

While there is not a way for us to know when and where tar spot will hit the hardest, we are able to prevent high yield losses with the correct management conditions.

The first way to defend against tar spot is in choosing your seed variety for your problematic fields. There are some varieties that have shown a higher tolerance to tar spot than others, however it is important to know that there haven't been any varieties that are truly resistant to the fungus. All of our Ag Partners agronomists have access to reliable data resources to help make those decisions.





Fungicide application is our most effective defense against yield loss from tar spot. AYS data from 2024 shows an average yield response of 34 bushels per acre with a VT fungicide application. Areas of very high tar spot pressure also show that a second fungicide application is also profitable. A VT application plus a R3 application had another 18.28 bushel per acre positive response according to the same AYS data.

As a yield loss preventative, it is important to scout for tar spot starting in July. If you spot any amount of tar spot in your fields get in touch with your Ag Partners agronomist or AYS specialist about the options you have - and make a plan - to prevent detrimental yield losses!

2024 Annual Meeting >

During the 2024 annual meeting in December, Todd Sullivan of Le Center was elected to fill the seat of retiring board member Greg Piller of Kenyon who had fulfilled his term limit. Greg presented the board report, remembering the significant changes that have taken place over the years he experienced on the board. President Andy Buckwalter presented Greg with a plaque to commemorate his service and value to the company.

Pictured below (left to right) from the recent Annual Meeting are Board Members Eric Nigon (Eyota), Todd Myren (Nelson, WI), Isaac Nellesen (VP, Spring Valley, WI), Joe Horstmann (Stewartville), Keith Saemrow (Waterville), Greg Piller (Kenyon), Andy Buckwalter (President, Mantorville), Bill Ahlbrecht (CEO/GM Ag Partners), Ron Regenscheid (Secretary, St. Peter), Heather Schafer (CFO Ag Partners), Zac Johnson (Rushford), Mike Thompson (Oronoco), Jim Grobe (Millville), Todd Sullivan (Le Center) and Chris Buck (Goodhue).



**WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE - GO TAKE A LOOK!
AGPARTNERS.NET**

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To Feed High Oleic Soybeans, or Not.

By Cam Freisinger, Dairy Production Consultant

High Oleic Soybeans, or “plenish beans,” are a current hot topic in the dairy feed world. Initially developed for human products, the oil coming from these beans is more similar to olive oil than conventional soybean oil. Constrained processing capacity and limited trait offerings have prevented these beans from taking over American soybean acres for the human food market.

Although I’m unsure of who the first person was to think of including HO soybeans into a cow’s ration, I know that Dr. Adam Lock, professor and associate



chair for farm operations (dairy lipids nutrition program and laboratory) from the University of Michigan has studied the effects of replacing conventional soybean meal with roasted and ground HO soybeans and has seen improvements in production without large increases in dietary costs. Feeding supplemental fats in dairy diets can be very expensive,

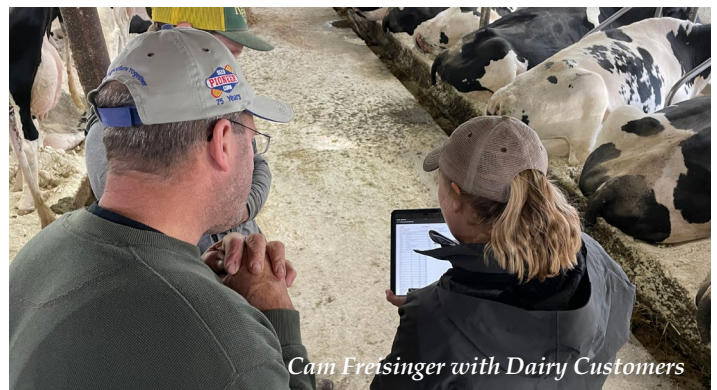
and most of the popular fats included in today’s dairy diets come from abroad. If we can feed home grown fats and get similar results, many American farmers find that to be pretty exciting news!

Ag Partners consistently looks for new technologies that could positively impact our customers. Starting in the fall of 2024, we accepted raw high oleic soybeans at our Stewartville location for the first time, and opened up a storage bin to bank HO soybeans for customers who grew them in the 2024 crop year. With this crop, we are roasting and grinding the beans before

delivering them back to the farm to be fed to the cattle. In order to participate in this new program, farms needed to grow their own HO soybeans, deliver them to our feed mill in Stewartville, and have a place on the farm for us to deliver them back to. At this time the HO soybeans are not able to be incorporated into feed mixes. The beans need to be handled separately as an identity preservation crop and cannot be mixed with conventional soybeans.

So far, everyone involved in this program at Ag Partners has learned a lot, and we are excited about what the future holds regarding HO soybeans in dairy rations. By the fall of 2025 we hope to be able to include HO soybeans in protein mixes for customers who grow them and bank them with us.

As a dairy production consultant, my take on feeding high oleic soybeans is that currently, it’s a good fit for our folks that already grow and sell soybeans. As Ag Partners continues to grow this program, it may be worth it to talk to a neighboring grain farmer about contracting them to grow HO soybeans for your dairy. If you are unsure about how these beans might fit into your operation, your Ag Partners consultant, or Feed Sales Manager Eric Schultz in Goodhue, can help you figure out whether to plant these beans or experiment in another way on your farm. Or maybe you’re already satisfied with the way you’re doing things. Either way, the research being done and the discussions around it sure is interesting!



Cam Freisinger with Dairy Customers

From the Beef Team:

JOIN US FOR YOUR

Annual Winter Cow-Calf Meeting



Three meeting options. Choose one that fits on your calendar:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

- 6 - 8 pm -- The 715 Steer & Beer, Ellsworth

715 Steer & Beer
W6087 US-10
Ellsworth, WI 54011

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm -- The Wykoff Commons
- 6 - 8 pm -- The Wanamingo Community Center

Wykoff Commons
201 W Bartlett Street
Wykoff, MN 55990

Wgo Community Center
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN 55983

→ All three meetings include a meal. Please RSVP at 651-923-6001

At the meeting, be sure to pick up a Buy One, Get One Free Land O' Lakes Colostrum Replacer coupon that can be redeemed at any one of our farm stores. Limit one per farm.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE COWS?

Seminario de Becerras

Calf Care Workshop

*Comida incluido/
Lunch included

en español



Miércoles 26 de febrero
Wednesday, February 26
10a-2:30p

Immanuel Lutheran School Gym
30 S. Wabasha Street
Plainview, MN 55964

Los Presentadores /
Presenters:

Alltech Beef Quality Assurance
Purina Ag Partners Calf Team

Responder antes del 24 de febrero / RSVP by February 24 to Lindsey Borst: Lindsey.Borst@agpartners.net / 651-923-6001

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AG PARTNERS

Chick Days




Don't forget
starter feed &
supplies!

Our Farm Stores have everything you need from the brands you trust, even the chicks.

LAMPS, FEED, BEDDING, WATERERS, FEEDERS

agpartners.net/farm-stores

Town & Country Ace Hardware

820 E Main Street, Belle Plaine, MN 56011
952-873-3244

MULTI-DAY EVENT

March 27th

Americana, White Leghorn, Blue Laced Gold Wyandotte, Cuckoo Maran, Rhode Island Res, Sapphire Splash

April 10th

Americana, White Leghorn, Lavender Orpington, Blue Wyandotte, Speckled Sussex, Buff Brahma

April 24th

Bantams and Silkies

May 8th

Easter Egger, White Leghorn, Black Australorp, Sapphire Olive Egger, Midnight Majesty Maran, Rainbow

May 22nd

Americana, White Leghorn, Buff Orpington, Barred Plymouth Rock, Salmon Faverolles, Cinnamon Queen

*May 29th

Ducks

** Tentative. Based on customer interest.*

Minimum of 3, maximum of 14. Chicks are female, ducks and bantamas are straight run.

Lewiston Farm Store

600 Debra Drive, Lewiston, MN 55952
507-523-2188

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

All Female Layers:

Americana

Barred Rock

Blue Laced Gold Wyandotte

Cream Legbar

Easter Egger

Olive Egger

Lavender Orpington

Mottled Java

Midnight Majesty Maran

Prairie Bluebell Egger

Sapphire Gem

Sapphire Olive Egger

Sapphire Splash

Cinnamon Queen

Amberlink

Starlight Green Egger

Welbar

8:00 am until they're gone!

Chicks available in-store. First come, first served, no holdovers. Minimum orders may apply. Subject to change.

Plainview Farm Store

140 3rd Street SW, Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-2531

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND

Meat Birds: Straight Run Cornish Cross

Female layers and others chicks:

Americana
Appenzeller Spitzhauben
Assorted Polish and Crested
Barred Plymouth Rock
Blue Laced Gold Wyandotte
Buff Orpington
Dark Brahma
French Blue Copper Marans
Rhode Island Red
Sapphire Splash
Welbar
ISA Brown
Blue Breasted Brown Leghorn
Easter Egger
Mystic Onyx
Sicilian Buttercup

Bantams- Straight Run only:

Easter agger
Mille Fleur d'Uccle
Mixed Sickies
Frizzle Cochins

Assorted **Guineas-** Straight Run

Assorted **Turkeys-** Straight Run

Ducks & Geese- TBD

Pine Island Farm Store

417 N Main Street, Pine Island, MN 55963
507-356-8313

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

Meat Birds:

Straight Run Cornish Cross

Female Layers:

Americana
Barred Rock
Black Jersey Giant
Buff Orpington
Cream Legbar
Rhode Island Red
Easter Egger

NEW: Goodhue

101 North Broadway, Goodhue, MN 55027
651-923-4496

PRE-ORDER ONLY

Special orders only this year. Layers & Broilers: ducks, turkeys, guineas, geese and game birds available.

Chick orders of 15 or more may be placed any time.

Interested in orders of less than 15? These orders must be placed by April 15th to allow us to combine orders to meet the minimum requirements for a May delivery date.

Customers must have an active charge account or if no account, chicks must be prepaid.



Chicks available in-store. First come, first served, no holdovers. Minimum orders may apply. Subject to change.

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PROTECT YOUR ASSETS

By Dan Schmidt, Energy Sales

You have insurance on your farm, your crop, your car, your health, your teeth, your vision, your phone, your life, even your trip.

As you invest in new equipment for your operation, consider the importance of insuring that investment with quality lubricants, fuels and the Cenex Total Protection Plan®.

The TPP covers major repairs on your tractor, combine, or sprayer up to 10 years or 10,000 hours. It covers the engine, transmission, fuel injection pump and injectors.

Purchase a new tractor, combine, or sprayer and you may be eligible to purchase a Cenex Total Protection Plan Warranty. Two-year-old equipment can also qualify (call for details). The cost to you is \$799. Your only obligation is to purchase Cenex Lubricants for that machine (hopefully your fleet too). The coverage for fuel pump and injection system requires the use of Cenex Ruby Fieldmaster premium diesel.

Submission of an annual oil sample for each covered component is required. For example, use the oil drained from the combine during its annual oil change. The process is pretty well laid out. Cenex gives you a sample kit to collect the oil, and the sample goes through the mail in a prepaid envelope. Cenex tests the oil, then e-mails you a thumbs up with the test results and you are good for another year. This "Lubescan" oil analysis program has sophisticated instrumentation to measure small amounts of contaminants, such as dirt, wear metals, coolant, and fuel dilution in a used oil sample. Using Lubescan on a regular basis



Joe Loula of High Point Farms (left), with Dan Schmidt, receiving a check from the Cenex TPP Program for a warranty he purchased through Ag Partners. The check went towards expenses for an engine failure in his Cat Challenger. A big thank you to Joe for allowing Ag Partners to highlight this in our newsletter, and for your continued energy business.

will establish a base line or historic trend for this particular machine. Abnormally high wear rates or contamination can be more easily identified, so corrective actions can be taken before catastrophic damage occurs. Additional Lubescan kits can be purchased separately for equipment not enrolled in the warranty plan for about \$20.

Ag Partners has sold many of these plans over the years. Cenex is the only oil blender to offer such a confident warranty package. Bulk oil products are available, and very reasonably priced. Cenex offers the most advanced engineered lubricants available.

Spring is a great time to get topped off on oil products- so remember that Ag Partners sells totes.

Contact Dan Schmidt or Dave Radtke for questions on the TPP or your local Ag Partners Energy sales reps for bulk oil orders.

- Dan

ENERGY EMERGENCY:
After Hours: 651-380-4898
Dangerous situations may need: 911
Always call before you dig: 811

YOUR AG PARTNERS ENERGY SALES TEAM

Andy Anderson
Energy Sales, Western Wisconsin
(715) 781-4055
andy.anderson@agpartners.net

Dave Radtke
Energy Sales, Southern Minnesota
(507) 259-3049
dave.radtke@agpartners.net

Dan Schmidt
Energy Sales, Southern Minnesota
(612) 756-0611
dan.schmidt@agpartners.net

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



AG PARTNERS
agpartners.net



Lake Pepin weekly measurements will start up on February 11th to determine how thick the ice is and predict when the river will open. This year there are very few Lock and Dam Projects, so the amount of ice will be the main factor on opening for barge traffic.



GULF EXPORTS LOOK POSITIVE

By Jim Larson, Manager, Red Wing Grain

After two years of shorter crops in the west, the US harvested in a near record size crop this past fall improving export forecasts for this spring and summer on the river. When parts of the US crop suffers, the domestic demand in the U.S. can be more competitive than the export market. The center Gulf handles nearly 60% of U.S. corn and soybean exports each year and 98% is delivered by barges. This is the reason the river has been the most consistent market in a typical year of trendline yields.

The recent rally has been a welcome surprise, especially this early in the year which has been brought on by the lack of moisture in South America. As we all know, things can change fast, so keep your target levels ready on the way up! The \$4.80 and \$10.40 spring and summer target levels were filled this past week while new crop prices also hit the \$4.30 and \$10.00 levels.

A very consistent and popular contract has been our Average Price Contract which is for both old and new crop corn. This contract allows you to average the price during the typical prime marketing time of the year during the March- June time frame. The history for the Average Price Contract has been very impressive for 20 of the last 25 years, beating the harvest price. The signup deadline is February 21st, so give us a call for more information or to review the past results.

Thank you for your continued business, we look forward in servicing your grain needs this Spring!

The Red Wing Grain App that will show cash bids, futures, weather, news and Agris accounting information such as contracts, scale tickets, and settlements.

Accounting information will be tied to your phone number in Agris. redw.marketplace.barchart.com/mobile-apps

Your Red Wing Grain Mobile App is here
Built for the modern producer.

Access cash bids, futures and your account information anytime, anywhere

Powered by barchart

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Scholarship INFORMATION

The 2025 Ag Partners \$1,000 scholarship program for member dependents is taking applications. Up to twenty recipients will be chosen by a small third party panel. Qualified recipients are dependents of Ag Partners members planning to attend a post-secondary school in the fall of 2025, regardless of area of study. **Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2025.**

Please visit agpartners.net/scholarships to download the application packet. Contact Terra Wierson with questions at 651-923-4496 or terra.wierson@agpartners.net. An application packet can also be mailed to you, or picked up from an Ag Partners location near you, by request.



WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST?

Social/educational events from the U of M Extension office



AGRITOURISM BUSINESS PLANNING SERIES

Interested in creating a business plan for your agritourism operation? The Agritourism Business Planning Series will walk through each of the sections of the AgPlan for Agritourism resource to help you develop your business plan. Each week, a different session is featured at no charge. Attend as many of the Tuesday sessions as you'd like. **Free. February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18 WEBINAR 1 - 2:30 pm** <https://extension.umn.edu/event/agritourism-business-planning-series>

STRATEGIC FARMING 2025: LET'S TALK MULTI-STATE TRIALS IN SOYBEANS AND COVER CROPS The Strategic Farming webinar series will provide up-to-date, research-based information to help you optimize your crop management strategies for 2025. Pull up a chair and join in or bring the conversation with you as you go about your day. These online sessions will be very informal and open to all interested. Each session will start with a brief presentation by the discussion leaders for the day, followed by discussion framed around farmer/participant questions on the topic. **Free. Wednesday, February 19 WEBINAR 9-10am** <https://extension.umn.edu/event/strategic-farming-2025-lets-talk-multi-state-trials-soybeans-and-cover-crops>

2025 FOOD SAFETY DEEP DIVES FOR FARMERS:

ALL ABOUT WELLS The Strategic Farming webinar series will provide up-to-date, research-based information to help you optimize your crop management strategies for 2025. Pull up a chair and join in or bring the conversation with you as you go about your day. These online sessions will be very informal and open to all interested. Each session will start with a brief presentation by the discussion leaders for the day, followed by discussion framed around farmer/participant questions on the topic. **Free. Wednesday, March 5th WEBINAR 9-10am** <https://extension.umn.edu/event/strategic-farming-2025-lets-talk-corn-and-soybean-diseases>

MULTI-GENERATIONAL FARM TRANSITION RETREAT Join us for hands-on planning and discussion on farm transition for the whole farm family. All generations actively involved in the farm should attend the retreat together, including spouses, partners and other relevant parties. **Free. March 21-22 ROCHESTER** <https://extension.umn.edu/event/multi-generational-farm-transition-retreat-rochester>

Sourced from the U of M Extension website. Unsolicited.

Have you tried the app yet??!

FUEL UP FROM THE BREAKFAST TABLE.

Get MORE DONE in your day when you order fuel with the Ag Partners App.



connect.agpartners.net



Find our Ag Partners app on Google Play or the Apple App Store. You can also navigate to connect.agpartners.net on your computer. The app lets you order fuel, contact your Ag Partners rep, look up statement history and pay bills. Also check futures and cash bids and look up grain elevator hours. Download and log in- give us a call if you need assistance. 651-923-4496.

Wisconsin Beer Cheese Dip

Serves 10

Prep time about 15 minutes

- 3/4 C Cream or half and half
- 2/3 C Beer
- 2-1/2 C Shredded cheddar
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp Brown or horseradish mustard
- 1/2 tsp Garlic
- 1/4 tsp Paprika
- 1/4 tsp Salt
- 1/4 C Bacon bits



You've surely heard of beer cheese soup, and this version of ingredients is sure to please a crowd! This recipe comes from one of our Ag Partners Wisconsin residents.

Mix all ingredients in a small crockpot or oven-safe baking dish and melt. Serve with bread, pretzels, tortilla chips or veggie sticks. Stir occasionally.



To submit your recipe for the winter issue of Home Front, e-mail to editor: Terra.Wierson@agpartners.net. Enjoy!

Goodhue General: 651-923-4496 • Feed Orders: 651-923-6001 • Energy Line: 651-923-6004 • By location: agpartners.net/about

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- | | | |
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