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We've hit
winter meeting
mode... see
inside for more!



AG PARTNERS ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Supper: 7pm | Business Meeting: 8pm
Goodhue School, 510 3rd Ave, Goodhue, MN 55027

INFORMATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
Thursday, December 4

Ag Partners Le Sueur Office
Meeting at 11, Lunch at noon

&

Stewartville Civic Center
Supper at 6, Meeting at 7

Ag Partners #FarmerStrong Links:

Agronomy	Farm Supply	Login
Feed	Grain	Careers
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NEW CUSTOMER

End of a Season: A Farewell Q&A with Bill

By Terra Wiersen, Communications Specialist

After 50 years of co-op service, 38 with Ag Partners, and six of those in his current role, Ag Partners' General Manager and CEO Bill Ahlbrecht will retire at the end of this year. I had the opportunity to sit down with Bill to reveal what makes him tick, moments of pride along the way, and the legacy he hopes to leave.

It was 1975 in Jordan, MN when a 19 year-old Bill took his first co-op job as a laborer. This was a hands-on start that solidified the value of hard work early on. In 1976, at just 20, he married Nancy, the love of his life, and together they began building a future. By 1977, he had taken on a new role as location manager in Maple Plain. Two years later they moved to West Concord where Bill served as an agronomy manager, and within four years he stepped into the role of general manager there.

In 1987, Bill began his career with Ag Partners, known at the time as the Goodhue Elevator, as the cooperative's general manager. With the 1996 merger between the Goodhue and Lake City cooperatives, Bill's role morphed into an assistant general manager for the newly formed Ag Partners Coop—continuing to grow his impact in the agricultural community. After years of steady leadership and dedication, he earned his place of CEO/General Manager for Ag Partners in 2019. This is a role he approached with a deep respect for the people and communities he served.

Bill is quick to acknowledge that he didn't accomplish his level of leadership alone. "No one really does," he reflected. "There have been a huge number of people involved in my life to get me to where I am now." If you know Bill, you know he's humble. He's a leader by nature, in a way that cannot be taught, but strengthened over time through experience. His sincere respect for others is contagious and that has created a work culture here at Ag Partners which reflects those values. We had a fantastic conversation, and he was grateful to share with you all:



Q You have dedicated your entire adult working life to cooperatives and their members. Regarding your time with Ag Partners, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

A I'm proud to see the establishment of a cooperative that is well positioned to survive demands of change and growth over the next decades in the ag industry. The most important part of that is the growth of a large group of employees devoted to our customer service culture. Sincerely... what I have the most appreciation of, is the opportunity to help people - customers and employees.

Q What principles have guided your leadership?

A I trust my instincts, and the people who surround me. I believe that nothing is given; what you have is earned through hard work.

Q How has that shaped Ag Partners?

A It has made us a significant part of most every conversation of our competitors as they plan steps to grow and improve their companies.

How about yourself? How have your accomplishments here shaped you?

I have learned that treating people honestly and respectfully returns value to a person, personally and professionally.

Q Who inspires you?

A My wife, Nancy, and my family have always been a consistent inspiration to be the best person I can be. And, honestly, my faith guides me every day.

A real inspiration are also all of the Ag Partners board members, who I have worked for over my 38-year career here. They have been exceptional; always fully engaged with the best interest of all the members at heart.

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Q Ag has changed so much in your tenure, how have your goals for the co-op evolved?

A Sometimes it seems that my goals and expectations are changing almost daily. This is not an exaggeration! This industry amazes me with its unpredictability and opportunities. I remember when I was managing in the early 1980s, I was told at a conference that the 6,000+ ag cooperatives that existed in Minnesota would shrink to 4,000 over the next 25 years. Today, that list is less than 70.

Today, based on strong financial and competitive reputation, I believe that Ag Partners is one of the most successful ag cooperatives in Minnesota. We can see that demonstrated by the value our customers see on a daily basis. In all my years here, Ag Partners has experienced healthy organic growth as well as several successful mergers and partnerships.

Q You've certainly taken on a lot over the years, and I know you like to stay busy. What are you looking forward to the most in retirement?

A That's an easy one. I am looking forward to having more time with my family. I'll probably do more fishing, some traveling, and have the grandkids around more often - especially up at the cabin.

Q What advice would you give your successor, the next leader of our co-op?

A I would like to tell them that they are not on their own- rely and trust your team, and expect great things from your employees. Be fast to adjust to the needs of customers, and be slow to change our culture here. Don't take yourself too seriously. Continue to be humble as a company, but know that you're very fortunate to lead this company.

Q What message would you like to leave with our customers?

A Our customers are the reason we exist. There is nothing in my background that says I should be good at doing this, but I love people and being in this position has given me a platform. I met with the board of directors when I applied for this job. They asked a profound question: What will you do if you don't get this job? I told them that I would accept whoever they choose, work a few more years and then retire. I wasn't about to throw in the towel on my co-op regardless of the outcome.

I truly care. Truly. Thank you for the respect, and the trust you have given me. There is nowhere I would have rather been these years than here with all of you.

As our co-op experiences a change of seasons, know that as sure as the spring, we will carry forward the values we commit to today: making a difference for you with our experience, innovation, and customer focus. Together, we make our co-op farmer strong! Congratulations on retirement, Bill. You deserve it!

There is one last question that I've heard a lot of people asking:

When's ^{the} retirement party?!

→ We're having an open house at the Goodhue office on
Thursday, December 18, 11-2. Stop on by!



P.O. BOX 218
GOODHUE, MN 55027
(651)-923-4496

11/10/25

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF VOTING MEMBERS:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the voting members of AG PARTNERS COOP will be held on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**, at the **Goodhue School, 510 3rd Avenue**, Goodhue, Minnesota. A meal will be served at 7:00 p.m. and the business meeting is to follow at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To present Board and Management reports,
2. to elect Directors,
3. and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

An informational Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4 at the **Ag Partners Le Sueur office, 901 N. 4th Street**. The meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. and a meal will be served at noon.

A second informational Membership Meeting will be held also on Thursday, December 4 at the **Stewartville Civic Center, 105 1st St E**. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Patronage refund checks will be distributed at all three of these meetings.

AG PARTNERS COOP

Andy Buckwalter, President
Isaac Nellessen, Vice President
Ron Regenscheid, Secretary

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ARE WE PLANNING TO OUR YIELD POTENTIAL?

By Luke Daninger, Agronomy Sales Manager

As combines wrap up harvest across the trade area, one thing is clear — yields are impressive. Many fields are pushing the 250 bushel per acre mark, and overall results have been solid to excellent. It’s encouraging to see what our genetics and management can achieve under the right conditions. But as we look ahead, **it’s worth asking: are we fertilizing and managing our crops to consistently support this level of production?**

This year’s yield stories can be traced back to several key factors: **fertility** programs, in-season **nitrogen** management, and effective **fungicide** use. Where these three pillars came together, yield results were exceptional. Fields that maintained balanced fertility and timely nitrogen applications had stronger plant health and were able to carry grain fill through late-season stress.

On the disease front, 2025 was a true test. Corn fields across the region became a disease lab, with tar spot, northern corn leaf blight, southern rust, and gray leaf spot all showing up in force. In this environment, fungicide performance stood out more than ever. At Ag Partners, we ran replicated side-by-side trials with several leading fungicides on the market today.

Miravis Neo continues to be a top performer — delivering broad-spectrum disease control and consistent yield protection. With three modes of action, it provided strong defense across the diverse



disease pressure we faced this season. The performance data speaks for itself, as shown in the accompanying chart — **Miravis Neo** was among the top-tier treatments for both **disease** suppression and **yield** advantage.

As we plan for 2026, now is the time to reflect. Are your fertility plans built to sustain 250+ bushel potential? Are you managing nitrogen throughout the season to match crop demand? Are you protecting that yield with a fungicide proven to perform under high disease pressure?

The results from this season reinforce that high yields don’t happen by chance — they **happen by design**. The right combination of nutrition, protection, and timing makes the difference between good and great results.

Challenge yourself as you plan for next year: What changes will you make in your management program to set yourself up for even greater success in 2026?

	Aquila XL 10.5 oz	Approach Prima 6.8 oz	Veltyrna 7 oz	Delaro Complete 8 oz	Miravis Neo 13.7 oz
Red Wing	241.91	239.1	246.53	247.9	253.5
St. Charles	NA	252.7	244	247	254.72
Leroy	223.67	221.73	232.23	221.73	232.67
Ostrander	NA	241.53	260.63	257.15	257.61

TREATMENTS AND CORN YIELD SAMPLE AREAS IN 2025



Optimizing Feed Efficiency in Dairy Cattle:

Key Practices for Profitability

By Eric Schultz, Feed Sales Manager

Feed efficiency is one of the most important drivers of profitability and sustainability in dairy production.

With feed costs representing more than 50% of total farm expenses, optimizing how effectively cows convert feed into milk is essential. Beyond economics, improved efficiency also supports environmental stewardship.

Feed efficiency in dairy cattle is commonly measured as the ratio of energy corrected milk output to dry matter intake. Multiple factors influence this ratio, including cow genetics, diet formulation, forage quality, housing environment, and herd management. While some factors are fixed, many others can be optimized through strategic management.

One of the most impactful areas is forage quality of diet formulation. High-quality forages with good digestibility improve rumen function and allow cows to extract more nutrients from their diet. Routine testing of forages to ensure accurate nutrient content is essential for a properly balanced total diet to ensure a healthy rumen, in turn maximizing feed efficiency. Strategically including feed additives that have a research-proven record of improving cow output or moderating dry matter intake, can help us get the most out of our high-quality forages.

Another important aspect of a successful feeding program is consistency. This includes weighing all feed components accurately, calibrating scales routinely, and ensuring the feeding management is the same seven days a week, regardless of who is doing the feeding. Minor variations in the ration's dry matter content can impact intake and performance, so monitoring moisture frequently is beneficial.

By focusing on improving feed efficiency, you can enhance productivity, optimize resource use, and build a more resilient and profitable dairy operation.

Help us celebrate!

Open House RETIREMENT Parties

Thank you to Dan, Jeff, Merry Kay,
Scott and Bill for your years of
dedication and service to our coop.
We wish each of you the very best
in retirement!



WINTER IS COMING ...

CALF PRODUCER CONFERENCE

TOP DAIRY SEMINAR

BIG BUSHEL CLUB BANQUET

AYS ANNUAL MEETING

ROCROP WINTER MEETING

BEEF PRODUCER MEETINGS

GRAIN MARKET OUTLOOK

RETIREMENT PARTIES

SANTA IN BELLE PLAINE

BE SURE TO TALK WITH YOUR AG PARTNERS
REP OR GIVE US A CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THESE CUSTOMER GET-TOGETHERS!

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DOs & DON'Ts of DIESEL EXHAUST FLUID

By Trevor Schloesser,
Energy Operations, Le Sueur

Since Diesel Exhaust Fluid, also known as DEF, first came onto the market more than 15 years ago we have learned to deal with the headaches and inconveniences it might bring. From equipment breakdowns to the sticky crystallized mess it leaves behind on your shop floor when it spills. It just seems like a big unnecessary inconvenience. DEF consists of 32.5% urea and 67.5% deionized water. It is used in diesel engines that have what is known as an SCR or Selective Catalytic Reduction system. Its job is to convert nitrogen oxide (NOx) into water vapor and harmless nitrogen. Like it or not it is here to stay for the foreseeable future.

In order to get the most out of your DEF, the most important thing to focus on is to make sure the product remains clean and fresh. There are many steps you can take for this, benefiting both your machine and your pocket book.

Insure that it remains free of direct sunlight and is stored at a temperature range, optimally, between 12F and 86F. Below 12F the product will freeze. This doesn't mean the product is useless after it is thawed, but it

does shorten its shelf life. If kept appropriately you can expect DEF to keep for 12+ months.

Use appropriate containment, free of any metals or plastics that can contaminate the product. Remember DEF is 32.5% urea. This means the only products and dispensers used for DEF should contain materials like high-density polyethylene or stainless steel. Avoid other metals such as copper, brass, aluminum or carbon steel. If you need to transport DEF in anything other than the tote, drum, or jug it came in make sure it is clean and has no history of containing anything other than DEF.

Ag Partners offers both delivery and on-site pick up of bulk DEF as well as packaged DEF at a number of our locations. We also offer a variety of pumps and accessories that fit most any operations' needs. If you use DEF on your farm or for your commercial business please contact us at 651-923-6004 or reach out to our sales staff for more questions.

YOUR AG PARTNERS ENERGY SALES TEAM

Andy Anderson

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(715) 781-4055
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Energy Dept. Direct Line
(651) 923-6004

ENERGY EMERGENCY:

After Hours: 651-380-4898

Dangerous situations may need: 911

Always call before you dig: 811



THE STRATEGY OF POTENTIAL

By Carson Bryan, Grain Specialist

Harvest is all but wrapped up as we head into the final stretch of the season. The USDA had projected record yields and planted acres in what many expected to be a true “bin buster” year—and those projections largely came to fruition. Yields were strong for both corn and soybeans across much of our trade territory. Many growers filled every available nook and cranny they could find, and any extra grain quickly made its way to town. The result was busy locations and many full elevators.

A common question we hear as ahead of any harvest is, “Should I store my crop or sell it?” There’s no one-size-fits-all answer, but one strategy that gained traction this fall was the **MINIMUM PRICE CONTRACT**. This tool allows growers to capture today’s cash price while maintaining upside potential in the futures market—without taking on margin call risk.

Here’s how it works: : a grower sells grain in 5,000-bushel increments and simultaneously buys a call option in a deferred futures month. This combination locks in a floor price for those bushels while preserving the opportunity to benefit from a future rally.

For example, let’s say I’m out of bin space and need to move 5,000 bushels of corn. I also need cash flow this year but want to stay in the game if prices strengthen later on. I decide to sell my corn at \$3.75 cash at the local elevator. To retain upside potential, I buy a July ’26 at-the-money call option for \$0.25 per bushel. This gives me until late June—when that option expires—to participate in any price rally. If that call later appreciates to \$0.45, I can sell it back and effectively gain \$0.20 (less fees), capturing additional profit on top of my cash sale.

ADVANTAGES OF A MINIMUM PRICE CONTRACT:

- Establishes a price floor for your grain
- Retains upside potential in the market
- Eliminates margin call exposure

DISADVANTAGES:

- The option’s premium (cost) is nonrefundable
- Time decay erodes value if the market doesn’t move higher

We’ve already seen how this kind of strategy can pay off. After the recent trade deal announcement with China, **soybean futures appreciated nearly \$1.00 per bushel** in just a few weeks. Growers who had a minimum price contract in place were able to participate in that rally while still having sold and moved their grain earlier.

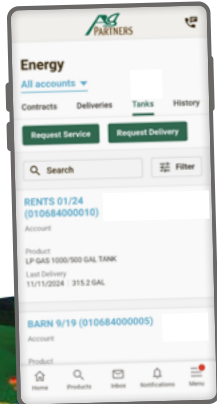
In years like this, when storage is tight and volatility looms, a minimum price contract can be a useful marketing tool—providing both flexibility and peace of mind as growers wrap up another successful harvest.



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Refill your fuel tanks easily with
the Ag Partners App.



...and pay bills, look up
account history, request
quotes, share files, sign
contracts, get cash bids
and elevator hours...

Not using the app yet? No problem.
Download it today to get started!
Using a computer instead?
Navigate to
connect.agpartners.net



Scholarship INFORMATION

The 2026 Ag Partners scholarship application will be available on our website early January. This is a competitive application process with 20 recipients chosen annually by a small, third party panel. Deadline is March 1. www.agpartners.net/scholarships

Qualifications for Consideration:

- Dependent of an Ag Partners member
- Planning to start a post-secondary school, fall of 2026
- Complete application postmarked by 3/1/26



Questions? Contact Terra Wierson,
651-923-4496 or terra.wierson@agpartners.net

Our 2026 WALL
CALENDARS have
shipped from the
printer!



Send in your farm photos
any time of year.

On-line form: [agpartners.net/
calendar-photo-submission/](http://agpartners.net/calendar-photo-submission/)

E-mail:
calendar@agpartners.net

Santa will be making
a stop at the **Town &
Country Store**

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Saturday November 29th
Noon - 3 pm

* Holiday Crafts * Free Photos with Santa * Cookies & Refreshments * Llamas *

Sales throughout the Store

Tresa Thoennes
Photography



Town & Country ACE Hardware, 820 E Main Street, Belle Plaine, MN



LAST CALL: Fall Mineral & Tub Sale



Ending December 12, 2025

SAVE \$80/TON.

Call or email 651-923-6001 feedorder@agpartners.net

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



REMINDER:

It's that time again- please make any updates to your Ag Partners account information before we process year-end statements and patronage.

This may include:

- Name (or business) change
- New phone number
- Address change
- New primary e-mail address
- Any other additions or changes

Keeping your info current is much appreciated! If this applies to you, please reach out to Chantel at our Le Sueur office: (507)-665-6270.



- Holiday Hours -

Feed mills, offices and farm stores will be closed for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please keep these holiday closures in mind while doing business or checking your livestock feed supply.

Ag Partners will be open on Friday, November 28, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Chocolate Caramel Oatmeal Bars

Preheat the oven to 350 F°

- 1 ½ cups flour
- ½ teaspoon soda
- 14 oz bag of caramels unwrapped
- 1 ½ cups oats
- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- ½ cup whipping cream
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup melted butter
- 1 bag milk chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS:

Add flour, oats, brown sugar, baking soda, salt, and melted butter to a bowl and mix well. Press ½ of mixture into a 9×13 pan. Bake for 10-12 minutes.

Separately, combine caramels and whipping cream in a microwave-safe dish. Microwave in 30 second increments, stirring between, until melted.

When oat crust comes out of the oven, sprinkle the whole bag of milk chocolate chips over the top. Then, pour caramel mixture over the chocolate chips.

Make the rest of the oat mixture into little pancakes by hand in order to spread it as evenly as you can over the top of the caramel.

Recipe from
Tonya Witte,
Cannon Falls
.....



Bake for 12-15 minutes.

Drizzle any extra caramel over the top as desired.

Let cool completely before cutting.



To submit your recipe for the next 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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