

**30 YEARS FARMER STRONG**  
est. 1996



*We are*  
**Farmer Strong**

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Thank you, Laura Haugen, for the photo!

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**NEW CUSTOMER**

# SPOTLIGHT:

## AG IS “SAME, SAME, BUT DIFFERENT” 13 TIME ZONES AWAY

By Terra Wierson, Communications Specialist



Highlands area tour guide, Son, was gifted an Ag Partners hat among other local MN items.

In March, I had the unique opportunity to spend two weeks traveling half way around the world to Vietnam with the Minnesota Ag & Rural Leadership program which I have been a part of for the last year and a half. This program through Southwest State University is built around the idea of personal growth and development, an investment of learning, honestly, largely from stepping out of our comfort zone with an open mind. From the history-rich capitol of Hanoi, to the lush central highlands, to a vibrant, bustling Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta, this culminating international experience did just that for myself and 29 others in the program. This country was chosen for our international experience because of the stark cultural differences as well as the recent increased trade deals between our countries.

40% of the world's coffee supply is grown in the central highlands region of the country, and as we learned, almost entirely tended to and harvested by hand. Other key players in the region is black pepper and cashews, accounting for around 35% and 80% of the world's supply, respectively. While rice exports are only around 5% of the world's supply, around 80% of farm land in Vietnam is dedicated to rice production. On the other side of the coin, due to recent trade deals, Vietnam is becoming a major importer of our soybeans.



Rice fields, small village near Hanoi

While touring farms and ag cooperatives, I quickly realized how much of their ag production is done without the use of machinery as we know it - there wasn't a John Deere or a Case to be seen! However hot and humid the harvest season is (for single crops, I understand this is roughly January through March at 85+ degrees F), it seems the people are upbeat and happy. Imagine hauling a full litter or two of duroc piglets on your motorbike, pulling a wagon of foliage - and even loading up the whole family of four!

I also witnessed a strong drive for innovation in Vietnamese agriculture. One farm had been working on producing short-stature banana trees for more efficient picking, and a commercial technology center studies orchid and vegetable production, and sustainability.



Coffee roasting room, Highlands

In communist Vietnam, farmers enter a 50-year lease from the government for agricultural land, which then defaults to the family's next generation, and can be renewed after those 50 years. The government regulates crop types and quantities allowed for planting each year based on a master plan for imports/exports/local consumption. The farms our group visited had a primary crop, and used any extra space for various small-footprint farming, earning extra income for the family.



A robusta coffee farm in the highlands also produces honey from the bees which pollinate their trees. The space between the rows of a 60-acre rubber tree farm is used to cultivate earthworm beds, a lucrative livestock feed protein. There is even small scale fish farming in narrow channels



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between crops at an ag cooperative in the Mekong Delta. Other commodities you may see are rabbit, vegetables, fruits, sugarcane, or sweetcorn, all which could be consumed or sold at a local market.

I noticed that the people here are very conscious about utilizing, and capitalizing from, as many co-products as possible. The earthworm farm uses manure from nearby cattle farms, an oyster mushroom nursery uses mulch from downed rubber trees in a compact, open air barn, the entirety of a coconut is used for its water, meaty fruit and its shell, the coffee farmers sell bee pollen as a nutritional supplement, and so on.

They were proud to share their homes, farms and techniques with us. Overall, my take on the culture was welcoming, hard-working and a people full of gratitude. Seventy percent of the population is under the age of 35, largely attributed to over 100 years of war (French occupation 1858-1954, then the “American War” 1955-1975), and despite many generations of hardship, and local varying views of communism, the people have come together to re-build their country and economy. New generations are taught to take this responsibility seriously and not to dwell on the past. Notably for the economy, in 1986, congress modified restrictions, setting the groundwork for an open market system, and in 2000, the first stock exchange opened. In a sense, Vietnam is

a young country, and in my opinion, they could be set for a vibrant future on the global commodities stage.

This travel experience was truly an honor to have had. It enriched my own love for ag in many ways. It opened my eyes to a whole different world, a way of life, and understanding of government regulation, and as Americans, we are blessed to have what we do!

In the end, there is no one correct “way of agriculture,” and the pride and passion behind it, from home to half way around the world, is undoubtedly universal.

You see? Same, same, but different!

Thank you for reading. And thank you to the people and businesses who support the MARL program.

-Terra



40 families operate 30 acres at this Community Cooperative



Cooperative president



The perfect combination: coffee & honey



Oyster mushroom nursery



Did you know cashews grow with an edible fruit?



Farm manager



Earthworm production amongst the rubber trees

# Summer Mineral Sale

Purchase your spring & summer minerals NOW to

## SAVE \$100/TON

\*Prepay by May 31<sup>st</sup> to lock-in sale price.  
Pick up product by August 1.

NOW - MAY 31, 2026



**AG PARTNERS** 651-923-6001 | [agpartners.net](http://agpartners.net)  
[feedorder@agpartners.net](mailto:feedorder@agpartners.net)

# SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN AG. VISIT A COUNTY FAIR THIS SUMMER!



## MINNESOTA

- Waseca** July 8-12
- Winona** July 8-12
- Wabasha** July 15-18
- Dodge** July 15-19
- Rice** July 20-26
- Fillmore** July 20-26
- Scott** July 22-26
- Blue Earth** July 23-26
- Olmsted** Jul 27-Aug 2
- Sibley** Jul 29-Aug 2
- Washington** Jul 29-Aug 2
- Freeborn** August 4-9
- Dakota** August 10-16
- Goodhue** August 11-15
- Mower** August 11-16
- Nicollet** August 12-16
- Brown** August 12-16
- Steele** August 18-23
- Houston** August 19-23
- Le Sueur** August 20-23

## WISCONSIN

- St. Croix** July 15-19
- La Crosse** July 15-19
- Trempealeau** July 17-19
- Dunn** July 22-26
- Buffalo/Pepin** Jul 31-Aug 3
- Pierce** August 13-16

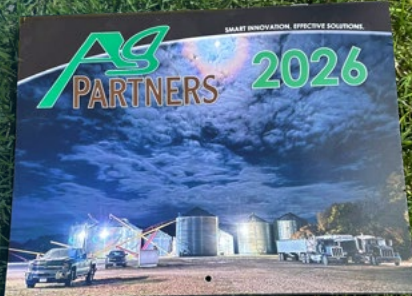
WE KNOW YOU ARE THE BEST CUSTOMERS- SO LET'S SEE IT!

Share your pics for the **2026 Ag Partners calendar**, and don't wait too long!

**DEADLINE: AUGUST 31**

All customers' ag photos welcome; and snowy, wintery photos are always in short supply.

Photos received after August 31 will be kept for consideration the following year.



Upload your digital photos:  
[agpartners.net/calendar-photo-submission/](http://agpartners.net/calendar-photo-submission/)

OR Email them:  
[calendar@agpartners.net](mailto:calendar@agpartners.net)



SAVE THE DATE:

# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS



- TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 IN ELLSWORTH
- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 IN ELGIN
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 IN LE CENTER
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 AT GOPHER HILLS GOLF COURSE

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- Agronomy
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# NEW STEWARTVILLE AGRONOMY SITE TAKING SHAPE

By Ryan Ness, Agronomy Department Manager

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the fire on May 10, 2025, that destroyed the Stewartville fertilizer plant. While that day was a difficult one for Ag Partners, it also marked the beginning of an important rebuilding effort—one focused not just on replacing what was lost, but on building something even stronger for the future.

Today, the new agronomy site west of Stewartville is really starting to take shape, and the progress has been exciting to see. Our goal is to have the new dry fertilizer plant up and running by October 1 this year, positioning us to better serve patrons along the southern edge of our trade territory.

The new facility will bring a significant increase in capacity and efficiency. Dry fertilizer storage will grow from 4,500 tons at the former plant to 9,000 tons at the new site. The blending tower will also see a major upgrade, with the ability to blend 1,200 tons per day compared to 600 tons per day previously.

In addition, the site will include a new liquid facility for both chemical and liquid fertilizer. Chemical storage will expand substantially, increasing from 27,000 gallons to 120,000 gallons. Liquid fertilizer storage will expand to 360,000 gallons, essentially tripling the capacity. Warehouse space for packaged products and mini-bulk storage

is also being greatly expanded, giving our team more flexibility and room to operate.

The project also includes a new shop and office facility, creating a more complete and efficient campus for our employees and customers alike.

We're excited about what this investment means for Stewartville and the surrounding area. This new site represents Ag Partners' continued commitment to serving our patrons with the capacity, speed, and reliability they expect—this fall and well into the future.



Stewartville Agronomy Center  
2620 County Rd 6 SW  
Stewartville, MN 55976

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# YOUR FUEL TRUCK DRIVERS A DAY IN THE LIFE

By Dillon Page, Fuel Truck Driver, Le Center

Being a fuel truck driver is more than just delivering gasoline and diesel. For me, it is a career

built on responsibility, independence, and the relationships I create with people every day. While the job comes with long hours and demanding work, it also gives me the opportunity to meet new customers, build trust, and become part of the communities I serve. Depending on the time of year, the start of my day can vary based on the demands of the customers.

Once I hit the road, every day feels different. Some mornings I'm driving through quiet country roads delivering fuel to farms, while other days I'm stopping at commercial businesses or construction sites. Not every delivery is the same. Some customers ask for a variety of fuels ranging from red farm diesel, gasoline, or even clear road diesel. Deliveries can vary from filling bulk tanks, farm equipment, or construction equipment. I try to communicate to each and every customer on whether they have enough fuel/ gas to complete the job. My route needs to be a little flexible, too. It's not always feasible for a customer to take their equipment home every night to refuel so I will often fill it at the field or job site.

While I enjoy the work I do, the most meaningful part is the relationships I get to build. Over time, many customers stop feeling like customers and start feeling like friends. I look forward to seeing familiar faces during the day and having conversations that go beyond work. It's talking about family, sports, farming, weather, or simply how their week has

been going that makes the long days more enjoyable. I'm reminded that customer service matters. I try to help answer any questions the customers may have, whether it's about the next delivery, how or when they can pay their bill or order another delivery through our new Ag Partners app.

Building relationships is important in this line of work because customers depend on reliability and trust. They want to know their fuel will arrive on time and that the driver who is delivering it truly cares about doing the job right. I always try to be professional, respectful, and approachable because I know those interactions leave a lasting impression.

Being a fuel truck driver is not always easy, but it is rewarding in ways many people do not realize. For me, the best part of the job is knowing that every delivery helps support farmers, businesses, and communities while also creating meaningful relationships along the way.

## YOUR AG PARTNERS ENERGY SALES TEAM

### Andy Anderson

Energy Sales,  
Western Wisconsin  
(715) 781-4055  
[andy.anderson@agpartners.net](mailto:andy.anderson@agpartners.net)

### Dan Schmidt

Energy Sales,  
Southern Minnesota  
(612) 756-0611  
[dan.schmidt@agpartners.net](mailto:dan.schmidt@agpartners.net)

### Dave Radtke

Energy Sales,  
Southern Minnesota  
(507) 259-3049  
[dave.radtke@agpartners.net](mailto:dave.radtke@agpartners.net)

### 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



*Thank you, Farmers!*



## Congratulations, 2026 Scholarship Recipients:

This spring, twenty \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded to local high school students seeking a post-secondary education. These students completed and submitted a competitive application form which was reviewed by an independent committee. Our committee members choose recipients based on a number of qualities. These include: volunteering and leadership, extracurricular activities, awards and honors, academic performance, any extenuating circumstances, and an outside appraisal. Eligible recipients must also be dependents of active members of Ag Partners, and are not required to be pursuing an education in Ag.

Thank you to all the students who submitted an application and good luck with wherever the future takes you!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Treyton Alberts, Pine Island</i>        | <i>Ashlyn Loula, St. Peter</i>         |
| <i>Landon Anderson, Hager City</i>         | <i>Camden Peterson, Welch</i>          |
| <i>Jacob Androli, Waterville</i>           | <i>Anna Rott, Elgin</i>                |
| <i>Bakster Arendt, Mazeppa</i>             | <i>Toby Shafer, Baldwin</i>            |
| <i>Nora Boles, Prescott</i>                | <i>Blake Siewert, Lake City</i>        |
| <i>Omar Coulson, Ellsworth</i>             | <i>Brady Staub, West Concord</i>       |
| <i>Eddie Dittrich, Alma</i>                | <i>Lindsey Strauch, Fairchild</i>      |
| <i>Carsten Ingoalson, Blooming Prairie</i> | <i>Derek Syoerson, Wanamingo</i>       |
| <i>Kyli Ketchum, Altura</i>                | <i>Mary Tienter, Elgin</i>             |
| <i>Clare Landrum, Waterville</i>           | <i>Lydia Warmkagathje, St. Charles</i> |

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# Milling Efficiency in Goodhue

## FEED MILL EXPANSION UPDATE

By Jay Voth, Feed Operations Manager

Our feed mill expansion at the Goodhue facility was completed the second week of March. The work done was monumental for the Ag Partners feed department. We removed eight ingredient bins from the original 1998 mill structure, and replaced them with ten new bins totaling 800 tons of added ingredient storage, for a new total capability of 2,300 tons of bulk ingredient storage. A scale system was then added below these bins to weigh the bulk ingredients. This integration has enabled us to shorten batching times and mix more tons per hour.

Phase two of our expansion was to add a pellet mill in the Goodhue plant. This is no small task, as a commercial pelletizer is a complex machine that requires the perfect ratio of dry feed and moisture for a quality product. Our new pellet mill is a computer-controlled 400 horsepower machine that can produce 15 tons of pelleted feed per hour.

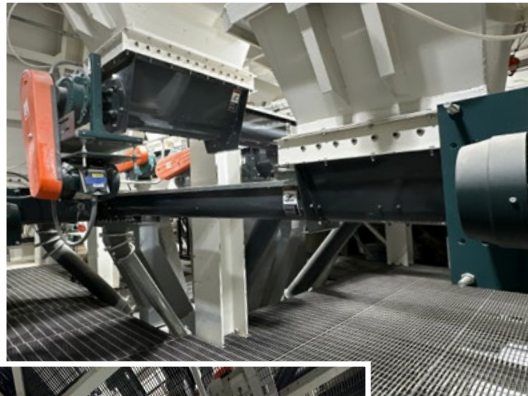
Once we have the formulas and parameters set up in the computer, that formula will run the same each time we make

it. This will help us make high quality pellets consistently the same, every time.

The work started last summer, and like any expansion project, we had weather delays and unexpected issues arise, but here we are... as of April 1st, we now manufacture all the pelleted products we sell in our own mill. We are very pleased with the quality of pellets this new system can produce and the speed at which it produces them.

Conditioner & pelletizer, fed by a conveyor belt from the mixer.

Start here: 10 ingredient hoppers coming from above, flowing to the ingredient scale below.



Ingredients are each weighed on the scale and sent out to the (existing) mixer.



Jay checking hot, fresh pellets.



Cooling hopper below the pelletizer

Out to the bagger or bulk load-out bins.

Mixer

# BIOFUELS & DEMAND FOR HOMEGROWN GRAIN

By Ridge Erdmann, Grain Department Manager

The current situation in the Middle East has not been settled and continues to send shock waves throughout the ag industry. The obvious impact of the war is the price of crude oil and what that is doing to fuel prices. That has helped grow the demand for biofuels and is changing the outlook in the United States for both soybean processors and ethanol plants. Traditional agriculture markets are now more closely tied to energy markets than ever before and that has created new opportunities for farmers, grain elevators, crushers, and fuel producers alike.

## SOYBEANS

One of the biggest changes has been in soybean crush margins. "Crushing" soybeans means processing them into soybean meal and soybean oil. Often times, soybean meal for livestock feed was the main driver of profits, while soybean oil was considered more of a byproduct. That has changed in a big way because soybean oil is now heavily used to make renewable diesel and other biofuels.

As renewable diesel production has expanded, demand for soybean oil has surged. That stronger demand has improved crush margins and encourages companies to build new soybean processing plants across the Midwest. States like Iowa, Nebraska, and North Dakota have seen major investments in new crush facilities, creating stronger local demand for soybeans and giving farmers more nearby markets to sell into. Even though we have not seen one directly in our backyard, it is still beneficial to a local producer creating more domestic demand. More demand = lower carryout = higher prices.

## CORN

The biofuel boom has also helped ethanol producers. With high energy prices, ethanol is a low-cost fuel reducing the cost of fuel blends. Ethanol remains one of the most widely used biofuels in the country, and policies allowing seasonally expanded E15 gasoline blends have helped keep demand strong. Brazil recently increased their blend mandate

to 32%, up from 30% last summer. India was able to hit their target of 20% 5 years ahead of schedule in 2025. Both countries are aiming for higher numbers not only to reduce demand for oil imports, but to give more support to farmers in addition to a renewable product.

## PROFITABILITY

Government policy has been a huge factor behind both soybean crush and ethanol profitability. Federal renewable fuel mandates continue to push refiners and fuel companies to blend more biofuels into gasoline and diesel supplies. Those policies have encouraged billions of dollars in investment into renewable diesel plants, ethanol facilities, and soybean processing infrastructure.

Because of this, agriculture and energy markets are connected more now than ever. A rise in energy demand can suddenly increase demand for soybean oil or corn, while changes in crop prices can impact fuel production margins. Farmers are paying closer attention

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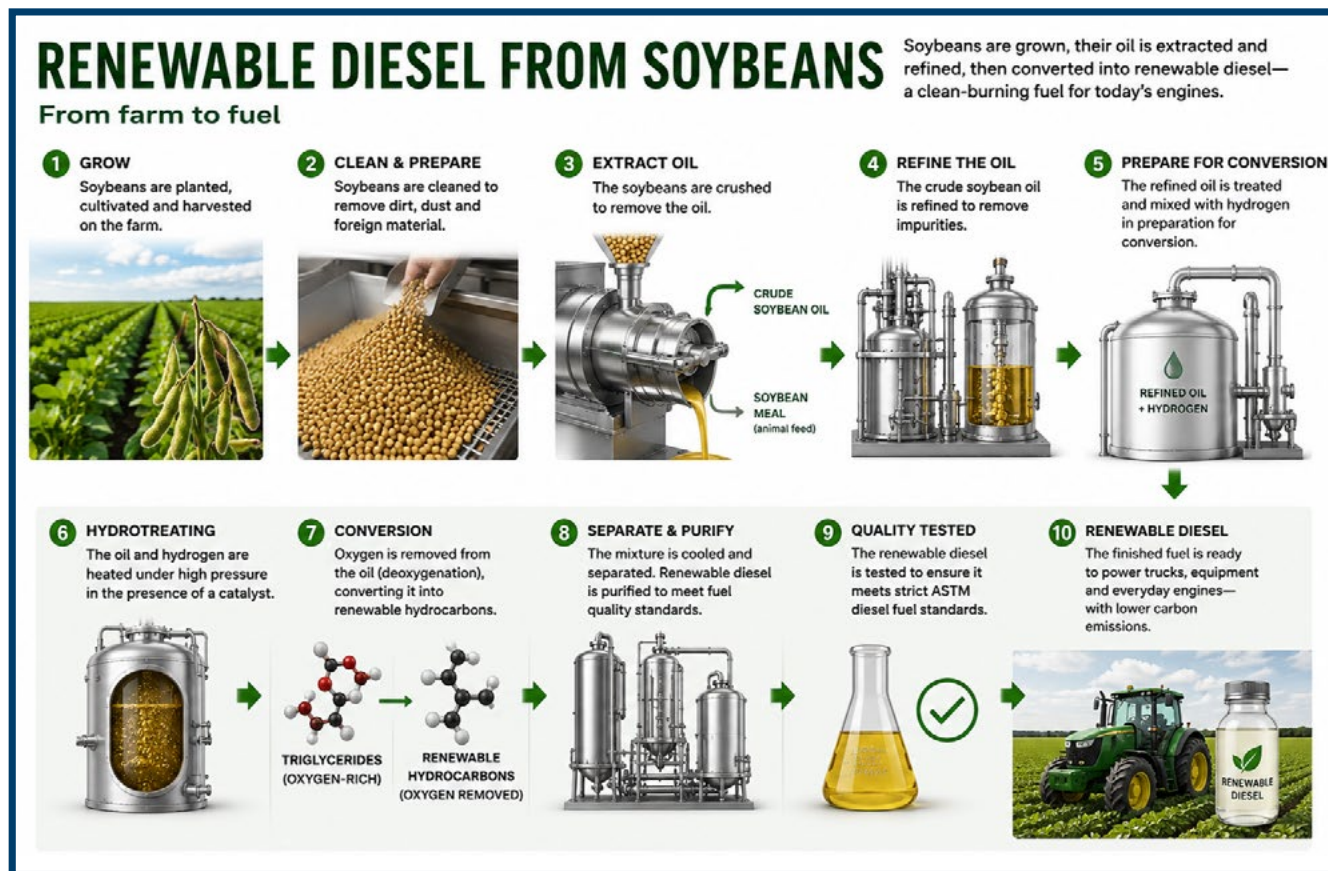
to energy markets, and energy companies are watching crop production forecasts more than they used to.

## SO WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

The biofuel industries are enjoying good times now, but just like farming, margins can change in a hurry. Changes in administration can lead to a policy change or geopolitical tensions easing can drop the price of crude. We also need to remember that biofuels can come from sources other than corn or soybeans. Renewable diesel producers can also use other feedstocks like used cooking oil, animal fats, and canola oil, which sometimes compete with soybean oil and reduce demand.

Even with those risks, the long-term trend still points toward growing biofuel demand. Governments and companies continue pushing for lower-carbon fuels, and biofuels are expected to remain an important part of that transition. That means soybean processors and ethanol plants will likely continue playing a major role in both agriculture and energy markets for years to come.

**Ag Partners looks forward to playing a vital role in that relationship, bringing your corn and soybeans to a fuel tank near you and to better position your operation!**



Biodiesel references:

<https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/renewable-diesel>  
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/cfpdieselfaq.pdf>

<https://www.mbenergy.com/en-gb/energy-transition/renewable-diesel>  
<https://www.cummins.com/en-na/news/2024/05/16/deep-dive-renewable-diesel>  
<https://www.sustainableentertainmentalliance.org/toolkit/factsheet-renewable-diesel>

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AG PARTNERS

# Chick Days

2 0 2 6



Don't forget starter feed & supplies!

[agpartners.net/farm-stores](http://agpartners.net/farm-stores)

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

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## Town & Country ACE Hardware

820 E Main Street, Belle Plaine, MN 56011  
952-873-3244 | 8:00 am until gone

**MULTI-DAY EVENT**

**Friday, May 15:**

Barred Plymouth Rock  
Blue Wyandotte  
Buff Brahma

Salmon Faverolles  
Speckled Sussex  
Americana

**TBD End of May:**

Ducks, Geese, Bantams & Silkie's - if there is enough customer interest. Ducks, geese, bantam & silkies will all be a straight run. Please call or stop in.

Customers can also place special orders no later than 1 week in advance of shipping dates.

## Goodhue Scale Counter

101 N Broadway, Goodhue, MN 55027  
651-923-4496 | 7:30 am until gone

**FRIDAY, MAY 15**

**Egg Layers: (all female)**

Americana  
Barred Plymouth Rock  
Sapphire Gem  
Amberlink  
Brown Leghorn  
Starlight Green Egger  
Midnight Majesty Marans  
Prairie Bluebell Egger

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IF YOU MISS CHICK DAYS, CALL YOUR FARM STORE TO SPECIAL ORDER MOST ANY TIME.

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4/15 - 5/26

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Products can ship between locations.

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2026

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- 🌟 Start & Grow® 18% Crumble, medicated & non-medicated

Ag Partners Coop  
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PO Box 218  
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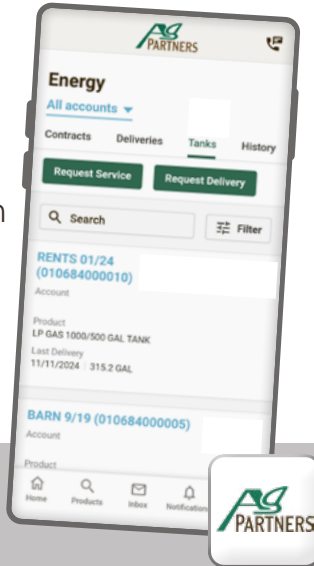


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# THE AG PARTNERS APP

## WHY IT'S SO GREAT:

- View statements & invoices
- Search purchase history
- Pay balances & set up auto-pay
- Check grain prices & elevator hours
- Easily sign LP, Fuel, Grain & Agronomy contracts
- Order LP & bulk fuels
- Monitor fuel tank levels all year\*



Not using the app yet? No problem. **Download it today** to your mobile device to get started! Using a **computer instead?** Navigate to [connect.agpartners.net](https://connect.agpartners.net)

### Questions? OR NEED HELP SIGNING IN?

A trained Ag Partners employee is happy to help. Call Shawn at our Le Center office: 507-357-6868 or use the contact button in the top right corner of the screen.

Resources can be found at: [agpartners.net/customer-login/](https://agpartners.net/customer-login/)

\*For LP customers who have a free Nee-Vo tank monitor from Ag Partners

Goodhue General: 651-923-4496  
Feed Orders: 651-923-6001

Energy Line: 651-923-6004  
By location: [agpartners.net/about](https://agpartners.net/about)

Quick and easy for packing!  
"Half hour, tops"

## Recipe Corner: BLT Pasta Salad

- 10 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled, keep some grease
- 12 ounces rotini or penne, cooked and cooled
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ¾ cup ranch dressing
- 1 ½ cups diced fresh tomatoes
- ½ avocado diced
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ⅓ cup diced red onion
- 1 cup chopped romaine lettuce
- Optional garnish: chopped fresh parsley



1. Mix together mayonnaise, ranch dressing and (optional) 1 tablespoon bacon grease.
2. In a large bowl, add the pasta, tomatoes, avocado, cheese, red onion, lettuce and bacon.
3. Pour the dressing over and toss to combine.
4. Garnish with parsley and serve.



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