AG PARTNERS
651-923-4496 | agpartners.net
Red Wing Grain, LLC

On the HOME FRONT

Fall 2026 | Volume 17
A #FarmerStrong Publication

SAVE THE DATE FOR AG PARTNERS ANNUAL MEETING
12/2/2026
MORE ON PAGE 2

"...a time to reflect on what was accomplished and begin looking ahead."
-Rick Anderson

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Ag Partners #FarmerStrong Links:

AGRONOMY FEED ENERGY
FARM SUPPLY GRAIN CASH BIDS
LOGIN CAREERS WEATHER
NEW CUSTOMER

30 YEARS FARMER STRONG
est. 1996

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SPOTLIGHT:

Harvest Season & Our Annual Meeting

By Rick Anderson, CEO, General Manager

Fall has always been one of my favorite times of the year. Since I've worked more than forty harvests in the elevator, I enjoy the sights, sounds, and rhythm of harvest. After months of planning, planting, and dealing with everything Mother Nature brings our way, we finally get to see the results of the year's work.

It is a busy season, but it is also a time to reflect on what was accomplished and begin looking ahead.

This time of year also brings another important event: our Annual Meeting.

In many ways, the Annual Meeting is a harvest of its own. It gives us the opportunity to share the results of the past year with you, our owners, and talk about where your cooperative is headed.

We look forward to sharing our financial results, highlighting the progress and investments we have made, and discussing the opportunities and challenges ahead. Just as importantly, it is an opportunity for us to spend time with our owners, answer questions, and hear your thoughts about the future of Ag Partners.

We appreciate the trust you place in us and never take for granted that Ag Partners belongs to its owners.

I hope you will take time to join us for this year's Annual Meeting. We look forward to sharing the results of your cooperative and, most importantly, spending time with the people we are here to serve.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.
-Rick

ANNUAL MEETING:

Wednesday, December 2
7 pm supper; 8 pm meeting

Goodhue School:
510 3rd Ave, Goodhue, MN 55027

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:

Durand Rod & Gun Club
N7312 WI-25, Eau Galle, WI 54737
Thursday, December 3
11 am meeting, Noon lunch

Ag Partners Le Sueur Office
901 N 4th St, Le Sueur, MN 56058
Friday, December 4
11 am meeting, Noon lunch



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WINNING THE WATERHEMP BATTLE

Invest in Control, Not Interest

By Amy Heintz, Seed Manager, Finance

If there is one weed that continues to challenge corn and soybean growers across our region, it's waterhemp. Its rapid growth, extended emergence, and increasing resistance to herbicides have made effective control more difficult and expensive. Unfortunately, there is little reason to believe this battle will get easier. The financial consequences of poor waterhemp control can be significant. Heavy infestations can reduce soybean yields by 40% or more, and corn is certainly not immune. Beyond immediate yield loss, surviving waterhemp plants can produce thousands of seeds, creating problems that persist for years.

THE COST OF DOING LESS

The days of relying on simple, inexpensive herbicide programs and expecting consistent, season-long control are largely behind us. Successful waterhemp management increasingly requires more robust programs in both corn and soybeans. Starting clean, utilizing effective pre-emergence



herbicides, incorporating multiple effective modes of action, and layering residual herbicides are becoming essential strategies. These programs often cost more per acre, but the question shouldn't simply be, "How much does my chemical program cost?" Instead, we should ask, "What is the cost of inadequate weed control?" Protecting even a few additional bushels can quickly justify the investment. Just as importantly, preventing waterhemp from producing seed helps protect future productivity.

SPEND MORE WHERE IT MATTERS.

BORROW FOR LESS.

We recognize farmers are facing considerable financial pressure. Tight margins, elevated input costs, and borrowing expenses make every dollar important. That's why we're excited about the exceptionally attractive crop protection financing opportunities available for 2027. With promotional interest rates approaching zero, and in some cases 0% on qualifying purchases, growers can invest in stronger herbicide programs while minimizing financing expenses. Rather than compromising weed control to reduce upfront costs, these programs offer an opportunity to preserve working capital, improve cash flow, and protect yield potential. It's a simple concept: Invest more where it matters, while paying less to finance that investment.

PLANNING FOR 2027

Waterhemp isn't going away. Managing it successfully will require thoughtful planning, sound agronomic decisions, and a willingness to adapt. As you develop your 2027 crop plans, visit with your Ag Partners agronomist about building a comprehensive herbicide program and taking advantage of available financing opportunities. Our goal isn't simply to recommend more chemicals. It's to help you make economically sound decisions that protect your crop and maximize profitability.

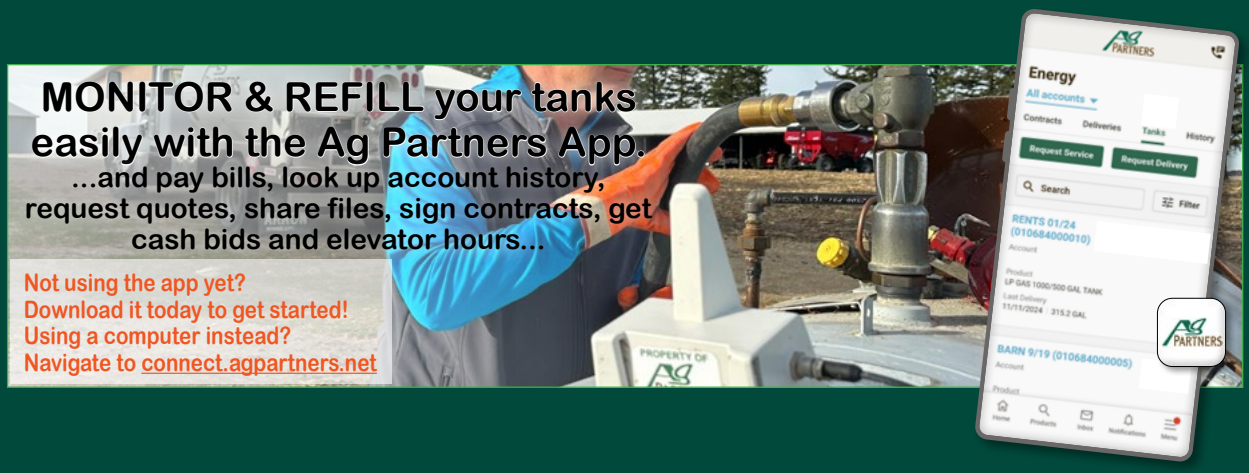
REMINDER:

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 you have an update to make, please contact Chantel at our Le Sueur office: (507)-665-6270 or chantel.barnett@agpartners.net



2027 *Scholarships*

The 2027 Ag Partners scholarship information and application will be available on our website early January, and the application window will be open until March 1. This is a competitive application process with up to 20 recipients chosen annually by a small, third party panel. *www.agpartners.net/scholarships*

Qualifications for Consideration:

- Dependent of an eligible Ag Partners customer
- Planning to start a post-secondary school, fall of 2027
- Complete application submitted by 3/1/27 (postmarked)

OUR 2027 CALENDARS ARE ON THEIR WAY FROM THE PRINTER!



PROUDLY PRODUCED WITH CUSTOMER PHOTOS

Send in your farm photos any time of year.

On-line form: agpartners.net/calendar-photo-submission/
E-mail: calendar@agpartners.net

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RELIABLE ALL WINTER:
3 BEST PRACTICES TO KEEP EQUIPMENT RUNNING SMOOTHLY

By Matt Hart, Energy Department Manager

Upper Midwest winters are tough on equipment. Focus on these three key practices to protect performance, improve reliability, and keep operations moving.

1 WINTERIZE YOUR DIESEL FUEL

Typical No. 2 diesel fuel is susceptible to gelling in freezing winter temperatures, which can lead to clogged filters and stalled engines. Before mother nature hits, consider blending down your fuel tank with a #1 diesel fuel and utilizing additives like cold flow improvers.

Ag Partners winter blend diesel is 60% No. 1, 40% No. 2 to help get you through the coldest weather. If you are blending down your tanks, blend your diesel at least 10 degrees above the cloud point of No. 2 diesel for the best results. In MN the cloud point of No. 2 diesel is around 14 degrees, so blend about 24 degrees or warmer for optimal effectiveness.

2 MAINTAIN FUEL STORAGE

Fuel quality alone isn't enough—the way you maintain your fuel tanks plays a crucial role in protecting your operation during winter. Proper tank maintenance helps ensure your fuel supply stays clean and free of harmful contaminants and remains that way until it reaches your equipment.

Removing water, sediment, and other impurities from the fuel storage tank prevents them from entering your fuel system, where they can lead to corrosion, filter plugging, and ice formation that severely hampers engine performance.

If you think you're having problems with your tank(s), Ag Partners can help determine the cause and how to best correct the issue.

3 CHANGE OUT FUEL FILTERS

Dirty, clogged or old fuel filters strain your fuel system even under ideal conditions. Add freezing temperatures to the mix, and it becomes a recipe for costly downtime. Yet, replacing fuel filters before winter often gets overlooked. Installing new filters is a simple, inexpensive safeguard that can help keep your operation running smoothly. For cold weather months, we recommend using 30-micron fuel filters. Using anything less than 30 microns will increase the chance of filter plugging. Ag Partners has fuel filters, as well as all other fuel equipment and supplies at most of our locations.

THE BOTTOM LINE: By proactively maintaining your fuel systems before winter sets in, you can prevent costly and frustrating downtime, improve cold-weather performance, and keep your equipment running strong as temperatures plunge.

YOUR AG PARTNERS ENERGY SALES TEAM

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(651) 923-6004

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



Fall Mineral & Tub Sale Through - December 11, 2026
$80 OFF PER TON
AG PARTNERS REPROMAX · STRESS TUB · PURINA RANGELAND · PURINA WIND AND RAIN CATTLE MINERAL
AG PARTNERS agpartners.net


Customer must take possession by 12/11/26 to guarantee sale price. Product may be purchased at any of our locations, though availability may vary. We recommend calling ahead to confirm product availability.
Direct Feed Line & Orders: **651-923-6001** E-mail: **feedorder@agpartners.net**

ABOMASAL BLOAT IN CALVES

By Lindsey Borst, DVM, Calf & Heifer Specialist

Every cattle producer knows what the word "bloat" means. Any bloat can be deadly in cattle. Each type of bloat requires a different type of treatment to be successful.

Today we're going to talk about abomasal bloat. It is very different than rumen bloat. The abomasum is referred to as the "true stomach" of a ruminant's four-compartment digestive system. From birth to 2 weeks of age, the abomasum comprises about 70% of a calf's digestive system and about 50% by 6 to 8 weeks. Digestion in the abomasum is very similar to that of the human stomach. Abomasal bloat only occurs in baby calves. The abomasum becomes very distended with a lot of fluid and a little gas.

SIGNS OF ABOMASAL BLOAT CAN INCLUDE:

- Big, "sloshy" stomach
- Painful belly and grinding teeth
- Weak
- Poor appetite
- Scours



We don't always know the exact cause of abomasal bloat. The "laundry list" of **RISK FACTORS** that can cause abomasal bloat in calves is quite long and can include:

- Variable feeding temperatures
- Variable feeding times
- Feeding large milk meals over 1 gallon at a time
- Very high or variable total solids
- High bacteria loads in milk
- Repeatably tubing milk
- Fast feeding
- Nipple height
- Copper or selenium deficiency
- Limited water access
- Adverse weather
- Season of the year
- Calf age
- Overcrowding
- Poor bedding
- Ventilation concerns
- Genetic predisposition
- Stress
- Etc.

Many of these factors are preventable with good management practices. Just like cows, calves like a daily routine that never changes. Keeping your calf feeding routine as consistent as possible is an important key in preventing abomasal bloat. This means keep feeding time, milk temperature, total solids, and volumes as consistent as possible from feeding to feeding.

As the outdoor temperatures get colder, temperature of milk can often fluctuate. We may need to increase the mixing temperature of the milk before it heads out to the calves. I like to carry a thermometer with me dedicated to checking milk temperatures in the winter. Check milk temperatures of the first calves and last calves fed. If you're feeding in buckets, this means checking the temperatures after it hits the cold bucket. Cold milk has two major disadvantages. Bacteria loves to grow in cold milk. Calves also use precious energy in the winter when they have to warm milk in the stomach before they can digest it.

Osmolality is a term used to describe the concentration of a solution. It can also be a factor in abomasal bloat. When mixing milk replacers, it is important to mix the correct ratio of powder to water so osmolality remains consistent. If osmolality is too high, milk is slower moving out of the abomasum. That gives bacteria more time to grow and multiply in the stomach, leading to bloat.

Treatment success often depends on how soon calves with abomasal bloat are detected. Even if they do respond to treatment and recover, these calves will often have "chronic stomach issues" and may be on and off milk for an extended period of time. Work with your veterinarian to develop a treatment protocol for your farm.

TREATMENTS USUALLY INCLUDE:

- Aggressive fluid therapy
- Antibiotics
- Clostridium Antitoxin
- Small colostrum feedings
- Do not tube calves with abomasal bloat- These calves often have poor stomach motility. Fluid will stay in the abomasum longer than normal, meaning more time for bacteria to grow.

Super El Niño is Here -
AND IT COULD HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

by Mark Ryan, Lake City Grain Location Manager

What does it mean for you, our local farmers, in the Ag Partners communities?

Imagine that weather patterns thousands of miles away in the Pacific Ocean could influence what happens in our fields right here in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Believe it or not, that's exactly what can happen with a phenomenon known as El Niño.

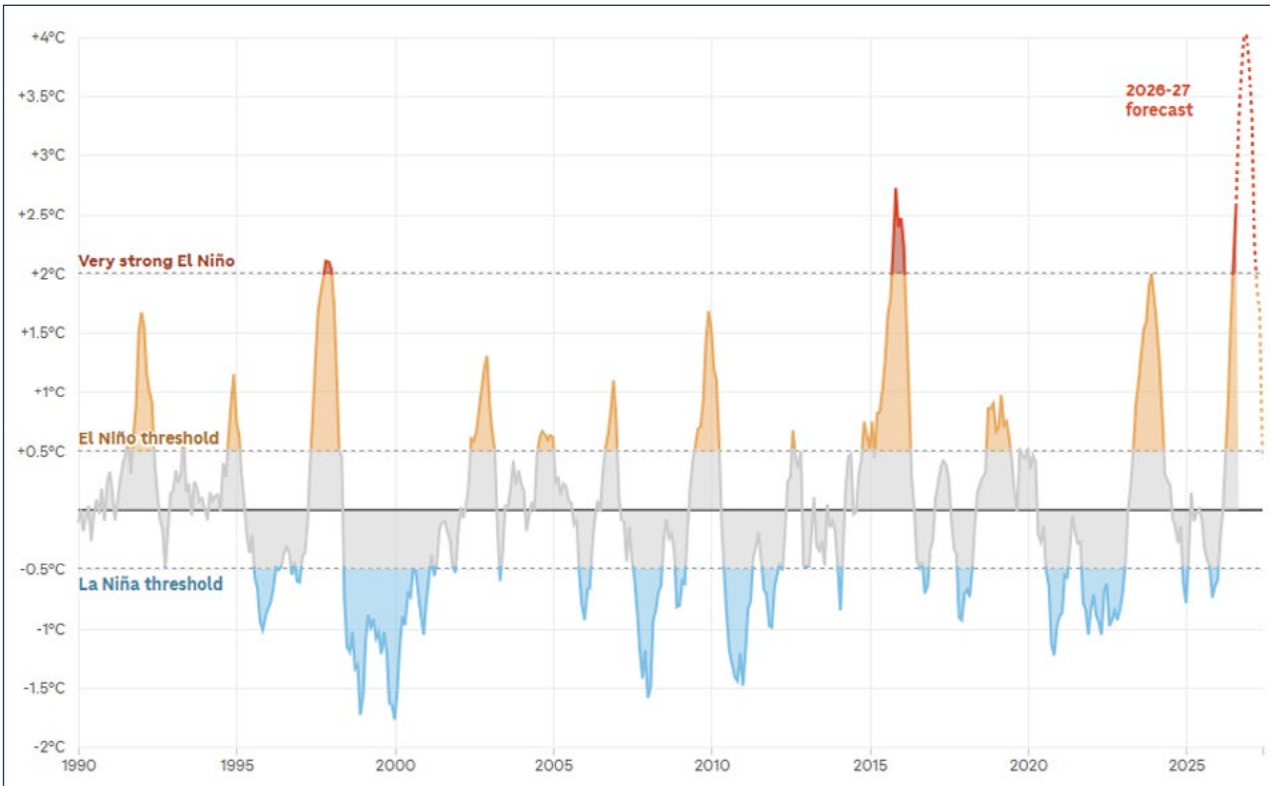
SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS EL NIÑO?

El Niño, in simple terms, is when the Pacific Ocean heats up to the point that it changes where weather systems travel, where rain falls, and where drought conditions develop. The effects can be felt thousands of miles away, including right here in our backyards.

In June of 2026, Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures in a particular area west of South America, around the equator, were already abnormally warm. This is an indicator of a developing El Niño. Since then, temperatures have only increased. Forecasters say this year the planet could see the strongest El Niño event on record, hence the term "Super" and even "Godzilla" El Niño. The warmer the water, the stronger the El Niño patterns we have. When the water is just two degrees Celsius warmer than average, it qualifies as a "very strong" El Niño.

The last strong events were in 1997-1998, and 1982-1983, and 2015-2016. El Niños typically peak in November and December, but this El Niño is already the strongest ever measured for this time of year and is expected to last through early 2027.

El Niño years have different impacts on weather globally, but how does it affect us here in



This year's El Niño could be record breaking

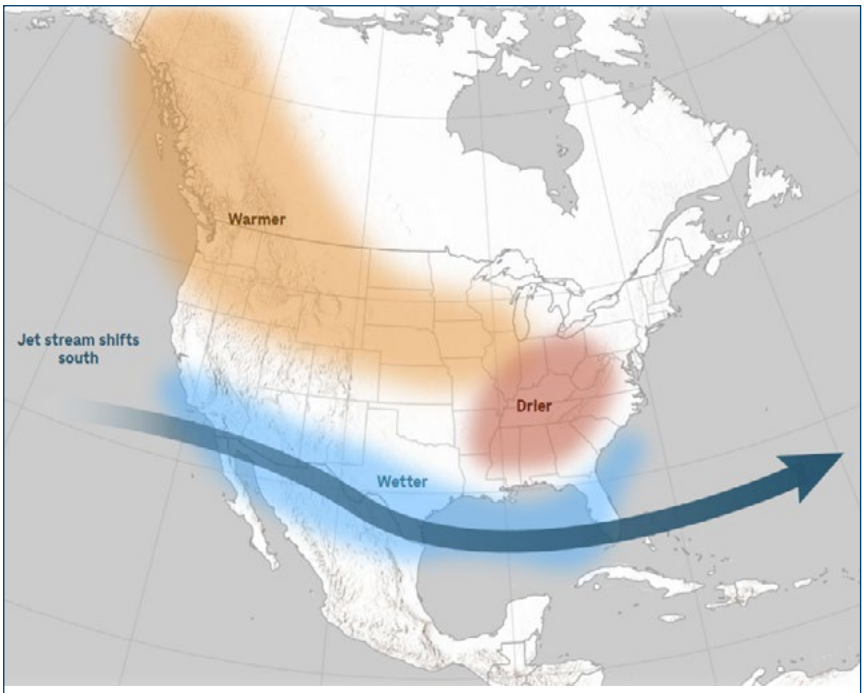
The strength of El Niño is measured by looking at the sea surface temperatures at a key region in the Pacific Ocean. This year, forecasters say this El Niño will likely be the strongest on record.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin with our crops; and how does it affect South America with their crop production?

This spring, Goodhue County April rainfall amounted to 5.93 inches. May of 2026 rainfall was only 1.47 inches; which was less than May of 1988, our biggest drought year. June totaled 3.78 inches and July was 4.08 inches of rain. August rains were very small at only 1.13 inches. Our early September rainfall of 5.21 inches seemed to be very beneficial as we were blessed with a record bean crop, and corn may be a record crop too.

As for South America, this super El Nino is bringing extreme weather patterns too. Brazil is a tale of two moisture extremes. As the world's leading exporter of soybeans, Brazil's agricultural areas are facing opposite extreme weather conditions.



El Niño shifts rainfall patterns across the U.S.

Durinig El Niño years, the jet stream's position can shift over North America, bringing heavier rainfall and flooding to the southern half of the U.S. In the northern half, conditions can be drier, potentially exacerbating drought and water supply issues.

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In the central and northern growing areas (Mato Grosso), farmers are dealing with heat waves and less than normal rainfall. In southern Brazil (Parana, Rio Grande do Sul), the opposite crisis is unfolding. Heavy rains have left fields wetter than normal. While it has not caused massive crop damage yet, the excess moisture has slowed down field work, delayed planting, and heightened concerns of fungal diseases and pests thriving in humid conditions.

Argentina, unlike its northern neighbor, is currently the primary beneficiary of this El Nino event. They are enjoying above average rainfall, and the USDA has already bumped up its forecast for Argentina's 2026-2027 soybean crop.

This is going to be very interesting the next few months watching how the weather plays out for South America's growing season, their crops, and how that will effect on our grain prices here. It is always a good time to call your local grain buyer to get offers in place for both old and new crop sales!

This Winter...

Livestock Seminars

AYS Annual Meeting

Big Bushel Club Banquet

Grain Market Outlook Meeing

Watch for upcoming meetings & seminars for Ag Partners customers! If you need more information on any of these, please reach out to your Ag Partners rep!

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Ag Partners Holiday Hours:

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day & New Year's Day:

ALL LOCATIONS CLOSED

Town & Country ACE Hardware Special store hours:

Christmas Eve: 7:30 am - 1:00 pm

New Year's Eve: 7:30 am - 7:00 pm

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

Saturday November 28th

11 am - 2 pm

- FREE Photos
- Holiday Crafts
- Llamas
- Sales throughout the store
- Cookies, Refreshments



Ag Partners Town and Country ACE Hardware

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Carlson's Lovable Llamas

Tresa Thoennes Photography

Ag Partners Town & Country
ACE Hardware Store
820 E Main Street, Belle Plaine

Recipe Corner: Harvest Turkey Dump

- 1 can Cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can Cream of celery soup
- 6 cups Shredded cooked turkey or chicken
- 3 cups Velveeta cheese (large box)
- 1 cup Chopped celery
- ½ cup Chopped onions
- ⅓ cup Lemon juice
- 1 to 1½ cups Miracle Whip

Mix all together in a crockpot (or bake in 350° oven) and cook for 2+ hours. Stir occasionally.

Serve with a soft bun or hearty bread.



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