



Perham (218) 346-6240
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"Coop Scoop"

Spring 2022

Locker Div. (218) 346-6245 // Fertilizer Div. (218) 346-2355 // Milk Div. (218) 346-6240 // Battle Lake Coop (218) 864-5574
Vergas Country Store (218) 342-2441 // Wolf Lake Coop (218) 538-6660 // Menahga Farm (218) 564-4453
Feed: Perham (218) 346-7075 // Menahga (218) 564-4421 // Toll Free 800-935-8951
Bulk, LP, Gas & Diesel: Perham (218) 346-3500 // Menahga (218) 564-4453 // Toll Free 866-346-5601
C-Stores: Perham Oasis (218) 346-7810 // Ottertail Oasis (218) 367-3626 // Dent Oasis (218) 758-3300 // NYM (218) 385-2060
Menahga (218) 564-5264 // Park Rapids (218) 237-2667 // Akeley (218) 652-2665 // Clarissa-Eagle Valley Express (218) 756-3320.

Lakes Area Cooperative

www.lakesareacoop.com

The General Manager's Corner...

Dear Patrons

3/1/2022

The Board of Directors and Employees of Lakes Area Cooperative (LAC) thank you for a successful 2021. Please join us for the 109th Annual Meeting and appreciation lunch of the Lakes Area Cooperative to be held on March 17th, 10:30 AM @ the Countryside Barn 48174 County Highway 53 Perham, MN 56573 At the meeting, we will hold the election of three officers for three-year terms, financial reports will be given, future plans will be discussed and lunch will follow. In 2021, LAC had record sales volume of 97.9 million dollars and an additional 16 million in sales in our 50/50 owned LLC, Professional Agronomy Services. We are able to report positive earnings for 2021. This will be our first in person annual meeting since March of 2019.

Lakes Area Cooperative has completed our first year of business in the Cenex Hardware Hank in New York Mills. The store has been upgraded with new diesel islands, coffee bar and other fixture replacements. We are extremely pleased at how the community has patronized the store and there is a plan in place to add a carwash at this location.

At our Dent C-Store, we have recently done a remodel to allow for more space. The laundromat has been removed, new bathrooms are complete and more retail grocery room has been added.

LAC is currently making plans to add space to the existing milk truck garage on Fort Thunder Road. The existing building holds 8 trucks and we would like to double the size of it as we currently have several trucks stored outside.

In the propane department we continue to add remote monitoring devices to residential tanks. These monitors reduce the risk of runouts, provide efficiency in delivery and timely valuable information to our customers. Other projects this year will include truck replacements in milk, fuel transport and feed.

Thank you for the continued support of LAC. I hope to see you at your annual meeting!

Dale Tellinghuisen

News From...

Steve Greenwood Mgr.

New York Mills

First off THANK YOU! to all of our customers for supporting LAC in the community.

Cenex/Hardware Hank had many improvements this past year in 2021. The main improvement was the diesel island and canopy and paving most of the parking lot. It opened up on October 15, 2021. We have increased our volume and it's going great. The over the road drivers love it.

Coming to the Hardware store is a new paint mixing system that will be able to do five gallon buckets of paint. Also a new key cutting machine.

With spring right around the corner, we carry a full line of Husqvarna mowers, trimmers, blowers and the auto mower to make your spring cleanup a little bit easier. We also carry Troy built push mowers and tillers, and plan on having potting soils, garden soils and mulch on hand this spring.

Coming in late summer or early fall we will be opening a two bay touchless car wash with a pet wash in the front.

From the crew at Cenex/Hardware Hank

LAKES AREA COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 109th Annual Meeting of the common stockholders of the Lakes Area Cooperative will be held

Thursday, March 17, 2022

at Countryside Barn

48174 County Hwy 53 Perham, MN

Registration starts at 10:00 a.m with the Meeting beginning at 10:30 am.

The purpose of the meeting will be as follows:

- To review the Annual Report
- To elect three directors for three year terms
- To conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting

Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Dated 2/28/2022

Jason Bachmann, Secretary



News From... Battle Lake

Brian S, Mgr.

We'd like to remind you that spring is right around the corner. With that in mind, we would like to spotlight a couple services that often times are forgotten.

The first service that can be regularly overlooked, but very critical, is an engine oil change. Oil changes help to reduce and remove any excess gunk that can build-up in your engine from prolonged use. With a timely and routine oil change, your engine will run cleaner.

With your engine running smoothly, we step into our next line of service, tires. Proper tire inflation, rotation and alignment will offer a safer and better driving experience. It also gives your tires a longer life and your vehicle fewer costly repairs. Our shop offers new tires sales, tire service, lube service and light duty mechanics.

The Hardware Hank section of the store offers a vast variety of plumbing, painting, electrical and much more. As part of Battle Lake's local community, we strive to be a successful business that gives back to our patrons by serving them with the products and services they need. We are also thankful for the opportunity to provide employment for our hard-working employees and local job seekers.

Thank you for your continued patronage.
Brian and the gang



News From... Ben Lindquist, Mgr. The Feed Department

2021 is officially in the books, and here at the feed department we are looking forward to a productive and successful 2022. That being said, we are now moving into the spring season.

Calving season is right around the corner and may have already begun for some of our producers. Stop in and see us at any LAC location for full line of minerals and tubs, along with QLF liquid supplements for all your classes of livestock. If you have questions or concerns on livestock nutrition etc.; feel free to contact us and any one of our nutritionists would be happy to help you.

2021 posed some extreme challenges with forage harvest. We are still seeing the effects of this. Hopefully we will not see a repeat of this in 2022. We will be offering the full line of forage harvest products again this year. Ag bags, covers, bale wrap, twine, net wrap, inoculants and preservatives will all be available through any of our locations.

Our Country store location will again carry a full line of grass seed and fertilizers, along with garden seeds of most every kind. Stop in and see the crew and they will be more than happy to get you set up with whatever you need.

Mark your calendars for the annual meeting which will be held Thursday March 17th at 10:00 at the Countryside Barn. Lunch will follow at 12:00.

As always a heartfelt thank you to our loyal patrons. You are truly the ones that make it possible for all us. Looking forward to a great 2022 and beyond.

LAC Feed Department



News From... The Energy Department

Jason Aho
Energy Division Mgr.

Well folks, I hope by the time you read this it is warming up and snow is melting. Now as the temperatures start to warm, we will have people thinking they will not need to check their tank as much. However, as we get into March, it will be critical to keep an eye out on that tank to assure that you don't run out. If your tank is close to that 30% range, give us a call to get your tank topped off. Also, I would like to remind folks that with the very deep snow, our drivers need your driveway cleared and a path to the tank. It has been very challenging getting deliveries made. We may have to pass up your delivery to get others delivered if it isn't cleared. If you haven't taken advantage already, contact us about our tank monitor program. For a very minimal annual cost, this tank monitor allows you to watch your tank level from your smart phone and receive alerts when your tank is ready for a fill.

I would also like to put this reminder out to our patrons to call us this summer and get those tanks topped off. This allows you to take advantage of summer pricing. Be sure to watch for the prepay letters once again. These are typically mailed in July.

Before we know it the temps will come up, the snow will be gone, and farmers will be itching to get into the fields. Before we get going out there, let's get those filters changed out on the farm pumps to make sure the pumps are working at peak capacity and any contaminants are caught before they get into equipment. We have a variety of filters on hand and also carry upgrades for some of the obsolete systems out there.

Thank you for your patronage.

News From... The Oasis Carol King, Mgr.

Think Spring...Think Spring...Think Spring!
Brrrrr, it's hard to think of spring coming when we seem to have day after day of cold weather.

During this winter we have seen surprisingly good numbers at our stations. Akeley had a really good run of folks headed to Lake of the Woods for fishing. It didn't last as long as we had hoped, but it was great while it lasted. The stores have seen good sales this winter even though prices are a bit higher than we have seen for a while. It will be interesting to see what they do in the coming months.

We will be busy come spring with some canopy and store upgrading to the new Halo Image. Akeley and Menahga are some of the first ones on the list. We will also be doing some work at the Vergas location.

We kept busy over winter working on the Dent store. I think you will be very surprised when you stop there next. The laundromat is a thing of the past due to decreasing use. We added a new coffee area, beautiful front counter and another bathroom along with an expanded sales area. It certainly changed the looks of the store. Who knew we would have so much more space by removing a wall. It turned out very nice and we are excited to get some feedback from our customers.

A BIG Thank You to all our customers for their continued loyalty. We try very hard to add value to all the communities that we serve. Have a wonderful summer!

News From... Professional Agronomy Services

Charlie Guck
P.A.S. Mgr.

I would like to start by thanking our customers for their business.

2021 was a very challenging year in many ways. We had a drought most of the spring and summer months. Many acres of small grain were harvested for forage. The dryland corn and soybeans did not yield as we had hoped. The irrigated crops and the heavier dryland did produce well and was harvested in good condition and most of the fall tillage was completed which will help our workload this spring.

Looking forward to this spring, there will be many challenges to overcome. The costs of almost everything we need to put a crop in the ground have gone up and the supplies will be tight on certain products. Customers often ask, "Why have prices gone up so much?" I'm sure you've heard a few reasons. Without going into much detail, I will give a few reasons. China not exporting any fertilizer, Russia, COVID, supply chain being strained, global supply and demand, high global natural gas prices, products that go into making the products we need are nonexistent, supplies to make the containers they are packaged in are in short supply. I could go on with many more, but with all the challenges we may face there will also be opportunity. The commodity markets are strong currently and over the years we have learned how to produce some record yields given the right weather. We need to make sure we continue to do what has made us successful in the past. We can look at adjusting a few things to cut some expenses, but we shouldn't cut inputs so dramatically that our yields will suffer. If you need to find out where your breakeven is or need to make a 2022 plan, get ahold of one of our sales staff and we would be happy to figure that out. Have a safe season.

The PAS Staff

News From...Wolf Lake Coop

Jim Taylor, Mgr.

Spring is nearly here! After the snow and cold of this past winter, we might have thought spring would never come. But, now it is time to think ahead to all the outside work that needs to be done. Need to plant alfalfa? Pre order your alfalfa, clover, pasture mix, and other seeds so we are sure to have what you need when you need it. Need a planter? The Brillion small-grain planter is available for rent--stop in or call to get the details and rental terms. Need to start a deer food plot? We have rutabaga, turnip, clover, and mixes! Need to plant a garden? Seeds, weed killers, pest controllers, and gardening supplies are here. Need to work on the lawn? Grass seed for all lawn types, fertilizers, spreaders, and weed killers are available now.

New this spring: Muck boots for kids through adult sizes, gloves for all jobs, and flags and flag wall-mounts. We still proudly feature LAC Locker Plant meats, Ten Finns milk, and Croix Valley rubs and sauces for your pellet-smoking dinners. We added some new flavors to the Croix Valley lineup, some new pellet flavors, and are featuring CJ's All Terrain Seasoning, a new gluten free, no MSG seasoning for anything from meat to salad. Lisa loves it!

Got calves, lambs, chicks, and foals? We have everything you need to get them off to a great start--milk replacer, bottles, calf-sized ear tags, feed pans, electrolytes, wormers, fly sprays, and antibiotics. We have salt blocks with cobalt and iodine to assist your cattle, sheep, and horses with B-12 synthesis and goiter prevention. We also have mineral blocks with selenium, which promotes growth, fertility, and can help prevent mastitis and calf scours.

No livestock? We carry a broad selection of food, toys, and tick medications for your household pets and bird feed and feeders.

Bale wrap and twine are in stock for the early season and more is on the way!

Spring is also a great time to get out and check those fences! We are an authorized Gallagher fencing dealer with a full line of fencers and fencing supplies in stock. We also have auto and tractor fluids, hoses, and filters. Check with Jim for special spring pricing on filters.

Thank you for choosing to shop at the Co-op! We appreciate seeing everyone who comes in our doors. The coffee is always free here at the Center of the Universe!

From all of us in Wolf Lake--Jim, Lisa, John, Scott, Jordana, and Kay

News From... The Perham Meat Market

Steve Sweere, Mgr

We have had a great Holiday season with our front end remodel. We have added several new products to help make shopping easier for our customers. To give our customers options, we offer several different seasonings, barbeque sauces as well as a variety of cheeses.

This spring we will be adding another rail in our cooler to help make a few more processing options available by fall. With the extra rail, we hope to increase our processing capacity by a few more animals. But like everything else these days, this will ultimately depend on the availability and labor status.

I would like to encourage our customers to sign up for our email ads. You can do this by going on our web site www.lake-sareacoop.com and selecting Perham Meat Market. This will keep you up to date on our weekly specials and the new items available at your Perham Meat Market.

Some of our meat products we carry on hand are; beef roasts, t-bone, rib-eye, New York strip, tenderloins, top sirloin, briskets, flanks and skirt steaks, 85% lean ground chuck, pork chops, steaks, spareribs. We also have grilling favorites like baby back ribs, and boneless pork loins. We carry fresh bratwurst and several types of smoked sausages, along with "Bacon - Bacon - Bacon". What's your flavor - regular, maple, cottage, pepper or Canadian....

Please be sure to book any butcher animals for your home needs A.S.A.P. Our slaughter dates are filling up fast. We will do whatever we can to accommodate, but we too have our limitations.

Thank you from your team at Perham Meat Market

Steve, Joe, Ryan, Robert, Paula, Jen, Chris, Nora, John, Everett, Omar, Dalton, Zack, Alex & Trev-



Cream off the Top! Employee Spotlight

Well this “spring” let’s take a little trip north. Here in Wolf Lake and at Menahga Farm and Home we find a cheerful John Roberts.

John wasn’t always from this area. He originated in the small town of Beach, North Dakota. From there he went to college in Kalispell, MT, then to Dickenson and off to Grand Forks.

That is until the big flood whisked him away and he found himself in Sebeka. One month later he was working at the Sebeka Co-op SAMPO. When the merger took place between Perham Co-op and Co-op SAMPO, John stayed on with the new company, Lakes Area Coop. John has been spending his days between the Wolf Lake and the Menahga F&H locations since then. And when he’s not there, he may be helping out with the Confidence Learning Center, a camp for kids with disabilities, located near Brainerd. John would like you all to check them out, they do accept donations!

One of the biggest changes John has seen in his work experiences, is the ever changing technology. There is always something new to learn.

So next time you are out and about, stop in and see John, share a joke or two, and exchange a laugh. And a friendly reminder from John, please support your small businesses and buy local...

News From...Menahga Farm & Home

12 Birch Ave. Menahga MN 56464
218-564-4453
Jay Pokorny, Mgr.

Let’s put winter behind us and think about spring. We will be stocking seed potatoes, onion sets and garden seeds again this spring. We will not have a huge inventory of these items, so come in early to get what you need before we are out of stock. We have to place our orders in February, so when we are out, that’s it.

If you are planning to get baby chicks this spring, come and see us for your supplies. We carry starter/grower feed, heat lamps, waterers and bales of wood shavings to get those chicks growing. When this snow starts to melt, it will be a little muddy out there and you will need good water proof boots to get those chores done. Check out our selection of Reed brand boots. They will keep your feet dry and warm. We have different styles and sizes to choose from. Boots to satisfy the whole family.

If you have not used our self-serve car wash, come on in and give it a try. You can get that winter road grime and salt residue off of your vehicle that automatic washes can leave behind. It accepts \$1,\$5,\$10 dollar bills and also quarters. Speaking of vehicles, come and see us for your spring oil changes or maybe some brake work to get ready for summer driving. How about your tires? Are they ready for that summer road trip? Give us a call at 218-564-4453 or stop on in for a quote on some quality brand name tires.

Have a safe and productive summer!

Thank you for your business. Jay, Bob and John

Recipe

Crockpot Broccoli Cheese Soup



4 cups Broccoli (diced small)	¾ cup Ham or bacon (small dice) optional
2 Tbls. Butter	4 cups chicken broth
4 cups shredded cheddar cheese	1 cup heavy cream
½ cup diced onion	1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. minced garlic	1 tsp. pepper
½ celery (small dice)	¼ cup corn starch

Cut broccoli into small bite size pieces and place in the crockpot. Add butter, onion, celery, ham and garlic to the broccoli.

Mix the chicken broth with the cornstarch and stir into the crockpot.

Cover and cook on low for 4 – 6 hours.

Then stir in the cream and shredded cheese. Cover and cook on high for 30 minutes until cheese is melted.

Stir thoroughly and Serve.. Enjoy!