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Stay Warm with Keep-Fill Propane

Stay ahead of the cold with PRO Co-op's propane keep-fill program. Signing up ensures your tank is monitored and refilled automatically, so you never run out during the busiest or coldest days of winter.

Fall is the perfect time to make sure your appliances—especially heating systems—are running safely and efficiently. Simple steps like changing air filters or scheduling an inspection can make a big difference before cold weather sets in. For pricing or to book a maintenance appointment, contact our Carriers location and ask for Wyatt at 406-487-2660 or give Jason a call at 406-783-7321.

Why Soil Tests Matter

Soil tests are the foundation of effective crop management. They provide essential information about nutrient levels, pH, and soil health, helping farmers make informed decisions about fertilizer and other inputs. By knowing exactly what your soil needs, you can apply the right products in the right amounts, maximizing yield potential while avoiding waste.

Regular soil testing also supports long-term soil health. Understanding nutrient balances helps prevent over- or under-application, protects the environment, and ensures that your fields remain productive year after year. A soil test is a small investment that can deliver big returns—both in crop performance and sustainable farm management.



Fertility First: Why Feeding Your Soil Feeds Your Bottom Line

The idea of soil as a living system is not new, but there is more interest now than ever in supporting plant health and soil health. With current fertilizer prices and crop prices, producers wonder if biological products or alternative cropping practices can replace traditional fertilizers and improve soil health without sacrificing yield or crop quality.

Agronomist Jed Grow of AgVise Laboratories writes in the latest newsletter that the foundation of soil health is fertility. Fertile soil isn't just about nutrients; it's about feeding the microbial life that keeps your soil alive and working.

Microorganisms play a vital role in breaking down organic matter, cycling nutrients, and improving soil structure. But they can't do it alone. They need the right conditions—moisture, organic inputs, and balanced fertilizer practices—to thrive. When microbes are active and healthy, your crops benefit from better nutrient uptake, stronger root systems, and improved yields.

Soil microbes need moisture, healthy plant roots and crop residue. If the plants are nutrient deficient and struggling, we can't expect the soil microbes to make up the difference in the absence of fertility. In a 40-year no-till study in Australia, restricting nitrogen use resulted in a faster decline in soil nitrogen and lower grain yields.

While we can't control the rain, we can support the microbes and the long-term sustainability of the soil. The organic inputs microorganisms depend on are the actively growing crop and crop residue you return to the field after harvest.

Maintaining soil cover returns nutrients to the soil as organic material as well as protecting the fragile soil surface from erosion and overheating. Failing to address soil fertility while continually harvesting cash or forage crops can disrupt microbial balance, deplete organic matter, and gradually weaken soil structure. When done right, fertility management supports both your bottom line and your soil's future.

Start the Conversation for 2026

While harvest is still fresh in your mind, now is the perfect time to start planning for the 2026 crop season. Early conversations with your PRO Co-op agronomist can help you lock in the right seed, fertilizer, and crop protection products to meet your yield goals.

Planning ahead not only ensures product availability, but also allows you and your agronomist to build a tailored plan that makes the most of your acres. From selecting crops that fit your fields to fine-tuning fertility programs, early decisions pay dividends down the road.

Reach out today to begin the conversation—because the best crops start long before planting.



Proud Supporter of our Local 4-H programs!



PRO Co-op was pleased to support the Daniels County Fair by purchasing Halle Cromwell's 4-H steer. Well done, Halle, on your hard work and achievement!

Safety Spotlight: Grain Handling

● Harvest Creates Storage Hazards

North Dakota State University Extension notes that high-moisture grain can cause clumping, crusting, and dangerous bridging in bins. Never enter a bin while grain is being removed, and test the surface before stepping in.

(Source: NDSU Extension, ["Difficult Harvest Creates Grain Storage Hazards"](#))

● Check Your Equipment Before Winter

Ken Hellevang of NDSU Extension emphasizes dryer and aeration system maintenance: clean fans, ducts, and augers, and inspect belts, bearings, and safety guards. A little attention now prevents breakdowns and accidents later.

(Source: NDSU Extension, ["Grain Drying and Storage System Planning"](#))

● Auger Safety is Non-Negotiable

A North Dakota worker was severely injured after being caught in an operating auger. OSHA reminds farmers: always shut off and lock out power before working on or near augers, and ensure guards are in place.

(Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA release, [Fargo, ND](#))





PRO Co-op proudly purchased this 4-H steer at the Sheridan County Fair, exhibited by Eliana Wagler. Congratulations on a great showing!

Digging Deeper: Building Better Soil

Soil is the backbone of every operation. Healthy soil doesn't just grow better crops—it also holds more water, makes nutrients easier for plants to use, and keeps fields productive year after year. Even a small boost in organic matter can make a big difference. For example, just a 1% increase in organic matter can raise yields by several bushels per acre and store thousands of extra gallons of water in the soil.

The challenge is that some of our everyday practices can wear soil down over time. When soil structure breaks apart, it's more likely to erode, lose nutrients, and cost more to farm in the long run. Protecting your soil now means protecting your bottom line in the future.

One of the best ways to start improving soil health is with a soil test. A test gives you a clear picture of what nutrients are already in your field and what your crop really needs. That means less guesswork, more accurate fertilizer applications, and fewer dollars wasted. Some tests can even measure the biological activity in your soil, helping you track progress as you make changes.

After you know what's in your soil, you can build on it with practices that work for your farm. Compost or manure applications can also boost fertility and strengthen soil over time.

The good news is, many of these changes pay off right away. Farmers who switch to reduced-till or no-till often notice savings on fuel and labor in the first year. Over time, healthier soils bring higher yields, better water retention, and more resilience in dry or windy conditions.

Building soil health is about farming smarter, not harder. Small steps like soil testing can make your land more productive today and leave it in better shape for the next generation.

The Benefits of Soil Testing

- Know Your Nutrients:**
Understand what your soil needs for optimal growth
- Save Money & Time:**
Apply only what's needed, avoiding waste
- Boost Yields:**
Healthy soil supports stronger, more productive crops
- Plan For the Future:**
Regular testing helps maintain soil health year after year

💡 **Tip: Visit with your PRO Co-op agronomist to find the right product and timing for your fields**



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**Nicoli at (406) 783-7838
Danielle at (406) 762-3231**

**For all your harvest hauling needs, contact:
Ty at (406) 724-7162**

Protect Your Stored Grain

As harvest concludes, many producers are storing grain from weedy crops, which can increase the risk of insect infestations in bins. With current grain prices, it's essential to protect your stored grain to ensure quality and prevent losses.

Effective Insect Control Measures:

- **Clean Bins Thoroughly:** Before storing new grain, ensure bins are completely empty and free of any old grain or residue. Sweep and vacuum walls and floors to eliminate potential insect habitats.
- **Apply Insecticides:** Utilize insecticides to treat the interior surfaces of bins. These products help control a wide range of pests and can be used in outdoor perimeter applications around bins.
- **Monitor Grain Temperature:** Insects are less active at temperatures below 60°F. If grain temperatures are maintained at or below this level, the need for fumigation may be eliminated.

Harvest Support: Keeping You in the Field

Harvest season doesn't give second chances. When the crop is ready, the clock starts ticking—and every hour matters. At PRO Co-op, we know how critical it is to keep your equipment running without interruption, and that's why we stock the supplies you need most during this busy time of year.

From fuel and lubricants to filters, belts, and essential hardware, our shelves and bulk tanks are ready for you. Whether it's topping off the combine before another long day, grabbing a replacement filter when one plugs up, or finding the right part to keep your auger moving, we've got you covered.

Breakdowns never happen on schedule, but they don't have to bring your harvest to a halt. With convenient locations across the region and a team that understands the urgency of farm work, PRO Co-op is here to help you get back in the field quickly.

This fall, lean on your co-op for the supplies and support that keep harvest rolling. After all, your success is our success—and we're proud to stand beside you through another season of hard work and good yields.



At the Northeast Montana Fair, PRO Co-op had the honor of purchasing Lana Mason's 4-H steer. Congratulations, Lana, on a successful project and a great fair season!

**Behind every full combine
is a season of dedication.
Thank you, farmers.**



Winter Readiness Starts Now

Montana winters have a way of showing up before we're ready. That's why a little preparation now can save a lot of stress once the snow flies and the temperatures drop. At PRO Co-op, we're here to help you get ahead of the cold.

Propane Service

Securing your propane needs early is one of the best ways to lock in peace of mind for the season. Whether it's keeping your home warm, fueling shop heaters, or ensuring livestock facilities stay comfortable, our keep-fill program keeps you covered when demand is high.

Winter Fuel Blends

As the weather shifts, so do your fuel needs. Our winterized diesel blends are treated to perform reliably in cold temperatures, helping prevent gelling and equipment downtime. Stock up to keep your trucks and tractors running smoothly when the mercury drops.

Cold-Weather Supplies

From lubricants and filters to ice melt and winter gear, PRO Co-op has the supplies you'll want on hand before the first real cold snap arrives. Think of it as insurance against the unexpected—because once winter sets in, every trip to town feels just a little bit longer.

At PRO Co-op, we know preparation pays. Stop by or give us a call today to talk about propane service, winter fuels, or supplies to get your farm and home ready for another Montana winter.

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3 Reasons to Consider Fall Herbicides

- **Cleaner Fields in Spring**
Knock down winter annuals and perennials before they cause early-season competition.
- **Save Time When It's Busy**
Fall applications reduce the pressure on your spring workload.
- **Cost-Effective Options**
Tailored plans help you stretch your budget while still protecting yields.

The Value of Fall Weed Control

As harvest winds down, it's the perfect time to think about fall-applied herbicides. Fall applications can be one of the most effective ways to manage tough weeds, setting fields up for a cleaner start next spring.

From winter annuals to perennials, fall treatments help reduce early-season competition, protect soil moisture, and lessen the workload when spring gets busy. The result: stronger crops and fewer surprises when planting season arrives.

At PRO Co-op, our agronomists know every farm and every budget is different. That's why we offer a wide range of herbicide options and can tailor a plan to fit your operation. Whether you're targeting specific problem weeds or simply want to reduce spring pressure, fall weed control can be a smart, cost-effective tool.

Talk with your PRO Co-op agronomist today to explore the best options for your fields. A little planning this fall can go a long way toward next year's success.

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