



**Administrative Office**  
459 3rd Ave Se  
P.O. Box 247  
Perham, MN 56573

**PHONE:** (218) 346-6240  
**TOLL FREE:** (866) 346-5601  
**FAX:** (218) 346-6241

# “Coop Scoop”

Fall 2023

**Lake Park Office**  
14583 Hwy. 10 W | P.O. Box 329  
Lake Park, MN 56554  
**Phone:** (218) 238-5911

**Mahnomen Office**  
1458 State Hwy 200 | P.O. Box 398  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
**Phone:** (218) 935-2281

Energy- Propane/ Petroleum/Natural Gas // Agriculture- Feed, Milk Hauling, Fertilizer, Meat Market // Stations- Akeley, Clarissa, Dent, Menahga, Ottertail, Park Rapids, Perham, Twin Valley, Mahnomen, Detroit Lakes, Lake Park // Hardware & Other- Battle Lake, Menahga Farm & Home, Vergas Country Store, New York Mills Cenex, Flom Store, Wolf Lake Coop, Lake Park Hardware Hank, Lake Park Auto Shop, HVAC Service

[www.lakescommunitycoop.com](http://www.lakescommunitycoop.com)

## The General Manager's Corner...

The year is moving by quickly and we are now into fall. The first year of the merger continues to move forward in a smooth manner with many positive outcomes. Lakes Community Cooperative financially had a good first half of the year with many divisions having strong financial performances and increases in efficiency have helped control costs in an inflationary environment. With this good financial performance, the Board decided to send out the old Lakes Area Cooperative 2022 patronage checks a littler earlier this year. With some of the struggles going on within the dairy industry we hoped this would help bring a little relief and some added cash flow to the farm. The Board also approved the retirement of year 2002 for former Community Co-op Patrons of Lake Park and those checks will be sent out later in the year.

Lakes Community Cooperative will have retired over 1.5 million dollars back to the patron this year as well as paying out 1.8 million in cash from the previous year's earnings. This shows the strength of your cooperative and its dedication to returning savings back to its patrons. To continue to retire equity and plan for future equity retirements we need to update some of the patron information. Some patrons will be receiving a letter in the mail this fall requesting an update to your information in our system such as date of birth, change of address or name corrections. This is vital information that we need to make sure we are able to return your equity to you so I thank you in advance for returning that information to us when requested.

I have had the privilege of getting to know a number of the patrons over these first eight months and have been able to reintroduce myself to a number of patrons that I worked with previously back in my Co-op SAMPO days. I look forward to getting to meet more of you going forward.

Thank you for your continued support of Lakes Community Cooperative.  
We are here to earn your business each and every day.

*David Blomseth*  
**General Manager**  
*Lakes Community Cooperative*

## Lake Park Shop : Larry Renner, Manager

Fall is Here – you can definitely feel it in the air these days. Harvest is underway so please be watchful on the roads. Give the farmer and his equipment enough room and we can all get to our destination safely.

On to the business at hand. Here in Lake Park, we operate a three bay shop. We are very busy this time of year with oil changes and tires, whether they be new or just rotated. Here at the shop we carry a variety of brands of tires. If we don't have the one you are looking for in stock, we will get it for you. We also handle small ag tires for that quick fix to keep you going in the field. Besides tires and oil changes, we can do numerous other fixit jobs, such as breaks, mufflers, radiators, engine diagnostics and tire alignments. To name a few. Pretty much any smaller mechanical work – we have you covered. We can also make hydraulic hoses – you know in case you have a blow out with one of those.

We are here for your servicing needs five days a week (Monday-Friday) 7:30 – 5:00. Give us a call and stop on in. We will get you taken care of and back out on the road.

Just a quick reminder – Get that appointment made today to have your vehicle winterized. Snow will be here before we know it and we don't want you getting caught off guard or unprepared for the winter roads that are surely ahead of us.

Have a great and safe fall. We thank you for your continued patronage. See you soon,

**Larry, Dan, Bob and Pat**

## Petroleum Department : Shawn Starkey

The beans are within days of coming off, this will put our drivers into full gear. We have a good group of guys ready to help with your fuel needs. Kevin in Perham, Mike in Menahga, Josh & Jared in Lake Park and Dave in Mahanomen.

Bulk fuel department has been growing every year, and with the merger, will keep on increasing gallons sold. We also have a group of salesmen out knocking on doors, Jeff in the Perham area, Will in Lake Park area and Rocky covering the Mahanomen area. The bulk department has recently started a large project of moving our Winger Bulk Plant to the Mahanomen area. This will help us become more centralized in that area, creating less miles on the trucks. This bulk plant will be state of the art, with bottom feeding capability. Thus, keeping the driver off the top of trucks. The plan is to do 1 bulk facility per year. LCC currently has five bulk plants, Perham, Menahga, Lake Park, Twin Valley and soon Mahanomen.

We offer fuel deliveries off our 5 straight trucks, with transport loads also available. With the rising cost of fuel, a lot of people have upsized their tanks, increasing their storage when prices are lower. Contracting is another way to control expenses. With only \$.75 down per gallon, you can lock in your fuel needs and prices without having to worry about the fluctuating markets. Prebuying is another way to lock in prices. We have over 670,000 gallons of storage available.

LCC carries Cenex Premium Fieldmaster, Roadmaster, and lubricants. #2 fuels without the Cenex additive packages are also available. Our services are provided to patrons large and small. We also sell Fillrite pumps, hoses, nozzles, filter, tanks of all sizes, def(diesel exhaust fluid), pretty much anything you need for your operation. Call for an estimate. LCC offers The Cenex Total Protection Plan. This is an industry leading warranty coverage of your new and used equipment. Please contact your sales person for more information.

We have monitors available at only \$29.00 per year. We have many monitored tanks, that send us signals once a day and when your tank is at 30% and again at 15%. There is an app available for you to follow and monitor your tank(s) as well. We have recently installed some on large transport tanks. It is a great tool to control your fuel inventory and have us keep you full during busy times. LCC Petroleum Department is gearing up for a busy fall. We will have someone on staff Monday thru Fridays 7:30 – 5:00. Please have a safe and eventful harvest and drive safe on these busy roads. We Are your "One Stop Co-op"!!!!

## Propane : Jason Aho

Propane, what do you think when you hear or see that word? Did you know that it is a domestic energy and that 90% of it is produced and supplied here in the United States? Did you know that it is a low carbon energy source and that it can make fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline, diesel and electricity in a lot of applications? For example a tank less water heater produces 50% less carbon emissions than the storage tank electric water heaters. Lots of people think about propane when they fire up the grill or need heat in the deer stand, but you can also heat your water, cook your food, dry your clothes, power your vehicle, heat your home and countless other things. So when you need to change out those electrical appliances in your home or business, consider using propane.

Thanks to all of our customers who called and got those tanks filled this summer and participated in the prepay program. We are also excited for all of our customers who have requested the monitor service that we offer and the benefits that go with it.

For those who haven't had a chance to learn about the monitoring, we ask that you call our office or go on our website [www.lakescommunitycoop.com](http://www.lakescommunitycoop.com) to learn about this great service. For a small annual fee you are able to monitor the level of your propane tank from your smart phone or tablet. If you are a scheduled delivery customer, we can also watch that level from the office and when that tank level reaches the delivery point, we will put it in a route for delivery.

Well you all have noticed that the logo and name has changed on the trucks, but we are still providing that same service you have had all along. And if any of you are interested in a job in the propane industry please call us, as we are looking for good people.

I would like to remind customers as winter approaches, that their drivers have lots of deliveries to make, and really appreciate that clear driveway and path to the tank!

*Jason & the crew*

## Battle Lake : Dave Deuchar, Manager

I would like to thank our customers for another great summer!

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind our customers that we are stocked up on everything you need to get ready for winter. We stock everything from RV Antifreeze to Window Plastic, Snow shovels etc. for the upcoming seasons. We also recently installed a new open faced deli cooler in store. We are now able to showcase more of the Perham Meat Market beef jerky, beef sticks, and also Bongards' cheese sticks and some other assorted snacks that will be new to the store.

In the shop, we recently installed a new tire machine, and new tire balancer so we can ensure that our customers are getting the best quality tire work we can offer! But aside from tires, remember that we offer several other services in the shop! We are able to tackle almost any general maintenance related repair for your vehicle as well. Anything from oil changes to brakes, thermostats, water pumps, and alignments, just to name a small portion of the automotive services we offer.

As we head into fall, make sure to take note of tires, coolant etc. on your vehicle. Feel free to give us a shout if there's any way we can help!

*Thanks!*

*-Employees of Battle Lake Cenex!*





## Professional Agronomy Services : Charlie Guck

Looking back at the spring of 2023, small grain planting was a little later than we would have liked to see. Corn and beans were also a little late, but they were planted in good time when we started. We did see some germination issues due to dry soil conditions in some of the later planted crops. With less than desired rainfall and some high temperatures during those dry periods we will have yields that will be all over the board.

I'd like to talk a little on some of the challenges of supplying fertilizer for our customers. When we look at the logistics of moving fertilizer, we rely heavily on the Mississippi river. There have always been challenges with the river and there always will be. For example, last fall the river was low but with the snow melt from last winter and some spring rains the river levels started out too high this spring and by June the river levels were low again. What does this mean for us? When the river is too high or too low, they can't move the barges to the terminals to unload them and in some cases, they can only bring half full barges up the river. There were times this spring that we had to wait for products until they could dredge the river to get the barges to their scheduled terminals. In one case we were able to find another terminal to unload a barge but that doesn't come without cost. Even though there were days we were close to running out of certain products, we were always able to procure enough product to service our customers.

Seed selling season will be here shortly. Please keep in mind your weed control needs for the 2024 season. There are many options for herbicide tolerant varieties and hybrids available and they are not all equal. Our staff would be happy to go over your plan for next year and place the right seed on the right acre. It is also time to get your fields soil sampled for next year. We can either take composite or grid samples for you. Let us know as you are done harvesting fields and we can get them taken for you.

We would like to thank you for your business and as harvest season approaches remember to take the time to be safe.

*The PAS Staff*

## Bulk & Natural Gas Sales: Jake Swiers

I would like to thank all patrons for the opportunity to serve them with their energy needs. We don't take your patronage for granted and we strive to work hard every day to earn your business.

LCC's natural gas division is having a good year of new service installs and is working diligently to better our distribution system for the upcoming heating season. We are looking at some new opportunities and will be excited to announce those in the near future.

Our energy sales staff is working hard every day to serve our energy customers be it natural gas, propane, fuel, lubricants, DEF etc. They are working their sales territories and look forward to your call. So don't hesitate to contact them with any energy related questions.

Lastly, our HVAC department is busy wrapping up summer work and preparing for the inevitable cold weather, so please give us a call to get your old appliances serviced and with any new appliance needs.

Thank you again for your patronage and be safe this harvest season!  
Thank you,

*Jake Swiers*

## Grilling Safety 101:

### 10 Tips to Grill Safely During the Summer

1. Clean Your Grill
2. Cook Away from Other Objects
3. Place Your Grill on Stable Ground
4. Check for Gas Leaks
5. Have a Fire Extinguisher on Hand
6. Stay by the Grill
7. Keep Children and Pets Away
8. Know How to Safely Start Your Grill
9. Avoid Loose Clothing
10. Shut Down Your Grill Correctly

## Farm & Home : Jay Pokorny, Manager

Hello from Menahga!!!

Since we are now a new company after the merger of Lakes Area Co-op and Community Co-ops we would like to let you know what the Menahga Farm & Home is all about. Our store inventory includes Cenex oil and grease, animal health products, farm related products, boots and gloves, pet food, bagged feed, frozen meat from our Perham Meat Market, fasteners and so much more. On a side note, we are upgrading our fastener (nuts and bolts) section very soon with a brand new display set-up that will be more user friendly and up to date.

We have a single bay self-serve car wash that we rebuilt and upgraded a few years ago for your use to keep your car, truck, ATV, boat or whatever sparkling clean year around. It accepts \$1, \$5, \$10 bills or quarters.

Our auto shop keeps busy mainly with oil changes and tires but we also do brakes and some light repair work on vehicles. The shop has modern equipment such as two different tire changers and a top notch wheel balancer to handle almost any passenger/light truck tire that rolls in the door. Speaking of tires, the Farm & Home is a great place to buy tires for your vehicles this Fall. Cooper, Hankook and other tire companies are offering some nice rebates this time of year so give us a call or stop on in and check us out. Our tire pricing includes mounting, computer wheel balancing and free tire rotation!  
Call 218-564-4453 and Let's talk tires!

We would like to thank our customers for your business and look forward to serving new customers in the future.

Thanks again,

*Victoria, Bob and Jay*



## Cream off the Top! Employee Spotlight

Cool, crispy, foggy mornings Gotta Love the Fall. With heating season just around the corner, it brings our thoughts to Dean Eklund. Who makes sure that we all have our propane to stay toasty warm over the long wintery months? Why Dean of course. For many years he has over seen the LP department in the Lake Park area. Seeing firsthand the expansion of the propane industry and the growth of the Company he is working for – now called Lakes Community Cooperative. Many things have changed but its all for the betterment in service to our customers and our employees.

The following is a partial excerpt from the Minnesota Propane Assn. news in his own words:

“When I started out working for Community Co-ops 34 years ago, I was asked if I could drive a truck with a 2 speed? I said Sure.? I was instructed that this lever was for the Clutch and this lever is for the PTO. Put the ticket in meter and turn it till it clicks and fill the tank to 80%. The “internet” was dial up. Cell phones were bag phones. CETP, DOT, NFPA 58 and OSHA???? Things have certainly changed. My duties grew from being a rookie to managing the propane department, Safety Training Director, along with other responsibilities. I now know what OSHA, DOT, NFPA 58 and CETP are and what they represent. Seeing where the industry has come from and all the various progresses, along with the technology that has taken place, I feel the future looks strong.”

Dean has served on the MPA Board for 11 years now. He also served his community having volunteered as a First Responder for the Rescue Squad and a Fireman in the LPFD (we thank you for your service!)

He has also served on his Church Council for years. Outside of work, Dean enjoys trying to catch fish, golf and enjoys gardening. (followed by a relaxing IPA). He also enjoys playing bass in Church for Sunday morning service.

Over the years his wife of 42 years, Jo Leen, has become accustomed to Dean coming home smelling of propane. Still doesn't like it though. Together they have raised their two sons, added a daughter-in-law, and two AWESOME grandchildren.

So when you come across Dean Eklund, Thank him for his years of loyalty and commitment to his Community and his Company. Before you know it, he'll decide he wants to retire and spend more time actually catching those fish.

Thought for the day: Don't get to Comfortable - be ready for a Change.

## The Milk Department : Luke Flink, Manager

MOST of the time (knock on wood), a farmer doesn't have to question whether or not their milk has been picked up. For the most part, barring adverse weather conditions or a wait at the intake, a farmer can almost time their watch by the milk truck in the farm yard. This consistency has always been one of our main goals in the Creamery Division. Our drivers haul in all weather conditions and are always dedicated to braving the storm to provide the best service possible for our patrons.

We would like to take this opportunity to send out a friendly reminder about ice/snow. Over the past couple of years, our drivers have had some slip/falls on ice at farms. Areas where the milk truck drivers walk seem to be especially prone to icy conditions.

We would like to ask that our farmers, please remember to clear the snow near the hose port, and areas where the milk truck driver needs to walk. Also, please sand or salt any slippery surfaces when needed. (beneath the porthole always seems to be prone to ice).

We Thank You for your continued patronage, and always look forward to seeing you in the milkhouse!

*Dave Strom, Carl Hoffmann, Lane Seifert, Jason Steffens, Kevin Eckel, Tom Sweere, Josh Johnson, Sabino Hernandez-Mejia, Bob Lackmann, Don Krack, Tucker Swiontek, Jim Barry, Dean Rix*

## Recipe

### Seven Bean Hotdish



2 cans Pork & Beans  
1 can Butter Beans (drain & rinse)  
1 can Kidney Beans (drain & rinse)  
1 can Navy Beans (drain & rinse)  
1 can Northern Beans (drain & rinse)  
1 can Pinto Beans (drain & rinse)  
1 can Black Beans (drain & rinse)  
1 lb Bacon strips - chopped

1 large Onion – chopped  
1 large sweet Yellow Bell Pepper chopped  
1 large sweet Red Bell Pepper chopped  
6 cloves Garlic - minced  
½ tsp Pepper  
2 bottles of your favorite Barbeque Sauce  
¼ cup Brown Sugar  
1/3 cup vinegar

Preheat oven to 350

Brown bacon in large skillet, Remove from grease and drain on a paper towel. Discard bacon grease except for 3 tablespoons. In the same pan as you browned bacon, with the reserved grease saute vegetables until tender. In the meanwhile, put your drained beans, pork n beans, pepper, bbq sauce, brown sugar and vinegar into a Dutch oven or large casserole dish. Add the vegetables to beans. Combine.

Bake for 1 – 1 ½ hours until heated thoroughly. ENJOY!

For options replace one can of beans with a can of Chick peas. Browned hamburger or sausage works great. Add 1T Liquid smoke for a smokey flavor. Chop a Chipotle Pepper with the Vegetables for a bit of heat. Great over a hot dog for that tailgate party..