

## Cologne - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Mark your calendars now for July 28–30, 2006: the dates for Cologne's 125th anniversary celebration!

There are a number of committees planning activities to commemorate the event. A parade is scheduled for Sunday, July 30 — Chairman Don Smith and his committee are recruiting bands, military groups and other units to participate. If you have suggestions, call Don at 466-5995.

**Float Committee:** The Cologne 125th Anniversary float will make its debut at the Carver County Fair Aug. 14. The Lions Club is building the float, which features scale models of the old city hall, train depot, water tower and photo panels from Cologne's past.

**Heritage Book:** Chair Theresa Willems and her committee invited residents young and old to help create a Heritage Cookbook — a collection of recipes and heritage stories that will serve as a kitchen favorite and cherished keepsake.

**Old-Timer's Baseball Tourney:** Baseball was an important part of Cologne's past and is a significant part of our current culture. Chair Craig Pexa is organizing an Old-Timer's baseball tournament. Watch for more information about 125th activities at [www.ci.cologne.mn.us](http://www.ci.cologne.mn.us).

**MC Mid-County**



# Mid-County Messenger

Vol. 9

www.midcountycoop.com

Spring 2006

## Mid-County Coop Contact Information

**Bill Reimers**  
General Manager  
(952) 466-3721  
billr@midcountycoop.com

Agronomy Manager  
**Kent Fabel**  
(952) 466-3730  
kentf@midcountycoop.com

Agronomist  
**Joe Forner**  
(952) 466-3730  
joef@midcountycoop.com

Petroleum Operations  
**Quay Zander**  
(952) 466-3727  
quayz@midcountycoop.com

Certified Energy Specialist  
**Aaron Huebner**  
(952) 466-3720  
Aaronh@midcountycoop.com

Service Department  
**Jim Jochum**  
(952) 466-3710  
jimj@midcountycoop.com

Office Manager  
**Belinda Storms**  
(952) 466-3723  
belindas@midcountycoop.com

Cenex Convenience Store  
Cologne Manager  
**Del Gallup**  
(952) 466-5657  
delg@midcountycoop.com

700 W. Lake St.  
Cologne, MN  
(952) 466-3700 Office  
(952) 466-3715 Fax  
www.midcountycoop.com

## Mid-County: Past, present, and future

Mid-County's history as an energy company dates all the way back to 1926 when Victoria Oil was started, and 1935 when Mid-County Co-op was started. In 1998 the two Co-operatives merged to further enhance our position in the energy business.

We have recently hired Aaron Huebner as our Certified Energy Specialist. He will play an important role in assisting our customers with not only fuel needs, but also in the area of lubricants, propane, and a very important aspect of the energy business-petroleum equipment. With all of the regulations that are adopted by the federal and state agencies, there is a whole menu of items that local cities or governments may adopt that we need to make our customers aware of.

Mid-County is also a leader in renewable fuels. We have been at the forefront of ethanol gasoline and soy based diesel fuels. Being the leader with new products can also create some risks. Though our Co-op did not experience problems with soy based diesel this winter, many dealers had issues with filters plugging. We understand that this filter plugging issue has been resolved, and we will monitor any product issues next



**Bill Reimers**  
General Manager  
billr@midcountycoop.com

pay at the pump much easier. Last week we also increased the speed of our diesel pumping by one-third. When we installed the new pumps the speed was not improved, so we added more horsepower to our pumping system to make it not only easier to use, but faster as well.

Through the years, we have also expanded into auto and truck repair. Our commitment can be shown in building a new facility in Cologne in 2000. We are continually investing in new equipment and technologies, such as our state of the art wheel alignment system, and our new transmission flush equipment.

Our Agronomy division is in preparation for what we see as a very busy spring. We experienced a lot of rain during the fall season when anhydrous usually is applied, so we are preparing the equipment accordingly.

Watch for upcoming information on Cologne's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this July 28-30. For more information you can go to the City's website at [www.ci.cologne.mn.us](http://www.ci.cologne.mn.us).

As always, we are working to make your Co-op better with Honesty, Integrity and Value.

winter.

As with any fuel, if you start out with a quality base product, your finished blended product will perform better. Starting with a quality fuel has always been important at Mid-County.

Warm winters are nice for everyone except ice fisherman and energy companies. We have experienced substantial declines in our heating oil and propane sales this winter. We have been through this before, and we will experience it again someday. Fortunately we are diversified in other areas to handle situations like this.

You may have noticed our improved gas and diesel island at the Convenience Store in Cologne. We have increased our gasoline pumps by one-third. We also changed the gas and diesel pumps to have card readers in the pump, making

Serving You With:

**HONESTY • INTEGRITY • VALUE**

**MC**  
Mid-County

(952) 466-3700 • 888-466-3700

700 West Lake Street, P.O. Box 177, Cologne

# Mid-County Fuels & Energy

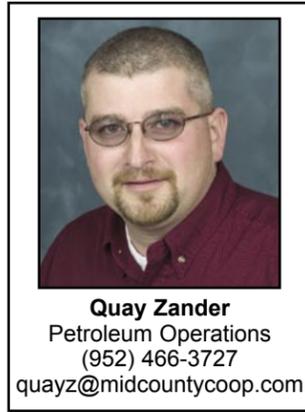
## Biodiesel a good choice for environment

Hello from the Petroleum Division. I hope that everyone is having a good winter. Are you getting ready for spring? Have you thought about contracting your fuel needs for your farm? If not give us a call.

Most of you may have heard about the Biodiesel issue in the news. There were numerous co-ops around I have talked to that had many problems with fuel filters plugging. The filters had what they called "slime" or "gelatin like substance" in them when they cut the filter open. I personally have not had any calls on this from our customers.

Most of the plugging problems came from the southern part of Minnesota. I have been told that the problem was found and has been corrected. You may ask yourself, "Should I use Biodiesel or not?" I would say "Yes." It is good for the environment, we are using our own product like soybeans, and it makes us less dependent on foreign oil. Plus, the state of Minnesota has made a mandate that we have to run a B2 blend in all diesel engines.

Don't forget, Mid County can make a



**Quay Zander**  
Petroleum Operations  
(952) 466-3727  
quayz@midcountycoop.com

soy blend to suit your needs.

What is Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD)? ULSD was mandated through the Clean Air Act that requires the current sulfur content of diesel fuel, 500 parts per million (PPM), be reduced to 15 ppm.

Sulfur level is not necessarily the only difference between today's low sulfur fuels and tomorrow's ULSD. Here are some areas of difference based on what we know now.

Cetane – used in start up of the engine. Early indications are it will have a higher cetane level.

Lubricity – As sulfur content decreases

es so does lubricity. Biodiesel blends will bring the lubricity up. Premium diesel fuels because of their detergent additives will increase it also.

Engines – all 2007 and newer on-road diesel engines will be made to run on ULSD.

Smell or Looks – it will have a clear color and a different smell vs. what we now call low sulfur diesel.

There are still questions to be answered and we will keep you informed on the ULSD issue.

I would like to welcome Aaron Huebner who is a Certified Energy Specialist. He will be your on site contact for fuels, lubricants, propane, and equipment. I would also like to welcome Lyle Neubarth. Lyle will be your propane delivery driver and propane service, and will assist in the Agronomy Division.

Please remember safety as spring arrives and we all get busy. If you have any questions concerning ULSD, spring contracts for fuel, or considering propane for heat, feel free to give me a call.



# Mid-County Cologne Convenience Store



## We're Pumped!

We've made improvements in service and equipment in our convenience store

- New and upgraded pumps
- Added card readers
- One completely new pump added to the gas island, increasing capacity by a full 1/3
- Upgraded diesel pumps
- Added card readers
- Recently improved pumping speed and volume



**Dell Gallup**  
Convenience Store Manager  
(952) 466-5657  
dellg@midcountycoop.com



## BALLPARK KITCHEN & DELI



Cologne (952) 466-5657

**Fresh Baked Pizza To Go**  
**Take 'n Bake Pizza**

	FRESH BAKED PIZZA		
	MED	LG	HOG
The Single	\$9.99	\$11.99	\$12.99
The Double	\$10.59	\$12.59	\$13.59
The Triple	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$13.99
The Grand Slam Supreme	\$11.59	\$13.99	\$14.99
Meat Lover's Pizza	\$11.99	\$13.99	\$14.99
Bases Loaded Garden	\$11.59	\$12.59	\$13.59
Breakfast Pizza	\$10.59	\$12.59	\$13.59
Bacon Cheeseburger	\$11.59	\$13.59	\$14.59
Gyro Pizza Supreme			
(beef & lamb, or chicken)	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$13.99

Toppings include pepperoni, Canadian bacon, sausage, beef, Italian sausage, black olives, green peppers and onion

	MED	LG	HOG
<b>TAKE 'N BAKE PIZZA</b>			
The Single	\$8.99	\$10.59	\$10.59
The Double	\$9.99	\$11.59	\$11.59
The Triple	\$10.59	\$12.59	\$12.59
The Grand Slam	\$11.59	\$13.59	\$13.59
Meat Lovers Pizza	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$12.99
Bases Loaded Garden	\$10.59	\$11.99	\$11.99
Breakfast Pizza	\$9.99	\$11.59	\$11.59
Bacon Cheeseburger	\$10.59	\$12.59	\$12.59
Gyro Pizza	\$9.99	\$11.59	\$11.59

**Fresh Made Sub Sandwiches**

We bake our own bread **FRESH DAILY!**

SUB SANDWICHES	6-inch	12-inch
Roast beef	\$3.19	\$5.19
Turkey	\$3.19	\$5.19
Ham	\$3.19	\$5.19
Grand Slam (Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham)	\$3.59	\$5.59
Cold cut (Salami, Bologna, Ham)	\$2.99	\$4.99
Meatball	\$3.19	\$5.19
Italian	\$3.59	\$5.59
Grilled chicken	\$3.59	\$5.59
Seafood Sub	\$3.59	\$5.59

Free toppings include American cheese, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickles, black olives, onions, green peppers, mayo, mustard, oil, vinegar, salt and pepper.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Boscós	\$1.99
--------	--------

**Check out our variety of short order appetizers**

- **Drummies • Cheese Balls • Onion Petals**
- **French Fries • Mushrooms** and more!

# Mid-County Auto, Truck & Tire Center



(952) 466-3710



## First Annual April Car Care Event

ONE DAY ONLY

Saturday, April 22 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• REFRESHMENTS • GREAT OFFERS • FREE SAFETY INSPECTION

An Event You & Your Car Won't want to Miss!

- Free** Safety and service inspection of your car or light truck
- Free** Light bulb check and replacement up to \$9.99 bulb value
- Free** Wiper inspection
- Free** Serpentine belt and hose inspection
- Free** Tire pressure check and inflation
- Free** Vehicle trailer plug inspection, clean and check, vehicle only, trailers not included
- Free** Shock and strut inspection

**Plus:** Go through the 15 minute Safety Inspection and get a certificate for free oil filter on your next oil change at Mid-County Auto, Truck and Tire Center. Cars and light trucks only, diesel vehicles not included.

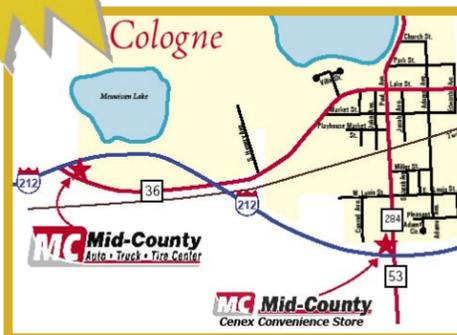
Get your vehicle, camper or boat trailer ready for the vacation travel season



CALL JIM TODAY!

Sponsored by Mid-County Auto, Truck, & Tire Center and NAPA of Chaska

Jim Jochum  
Service Manager  
jimj@midcountycoop.com



### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT OFFERS!

**TIRE ROTATION & BALANCE**  
**\$21.95**  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**FREE AC SYSTEM INSPECTION**  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**10% OFF WIPER BLADES**  
FREE INSTALLATION  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**FREE BRAKE INSPECTION**  
With your next oil change  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**SPECIAL OFFER FREE TIRE ROTATION**  
With your next visit after oil change and service  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**10% OFF SERPENTINE BELT & INSTALLATION**  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$79.99**  
Does not include fluid or filter.  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

**4-WHEEL COMPLETE ALIGNMENT \$62.95**  
Cars and Light Trucks Only offer good 4/1/06-5/31/06

With Coupon Only

# Mid-County Fuels & Energy

## Mid-County welcomes Aaron Huebner

Mid-County is pleased to announce the addition of Aaron Huebner, who joins the team as a Certified Energy Specialist.

Aaron will be involved in sales and customer service in the Energy Division, working directly with customers to meet their purchase, delivery and equipment needs.

He comes to Mid-County with a strong background in agricultural and commercial sales. His grandfather owned and operated a fuel/propane business in Denison, Iowa, where Aaron gained a great deal of experience. He looks forward to getting back to the grass-roots of his experience through his position at Mid-County.



Aaron Huebner  
Certified Energy Specialist  
(952) 466-3720  
aaronh@midcountycoop.com

Aaron plans to continue in Mid-County's tradition of quality service, while expanding contractor, commercial, and agricultural business. His skills and enthusiasm will be key in helping the co-op and its patrons move

the Energy Division forward.

Mid-County Co-op was a top choice for Aaron because it's considered to be a very progressive co-op. He likes what Mid-County and Cenex stand for, and is particularly pleased with the aspect of working with alternative, agriculturally based fuels.

Originally from Denison, IA, Aaron is a 1992 graduate of Denison High School, and a 1996 graduate of the University of South Dakota.

Aaron currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Andrea, who is a pediatric neuro-psychologist at the University of Minnesota Fairview Medical Center.

Call Aaron Huebner for your commercial and agricultural fuel needs  
**(952) 466-3720**

## Energy on Call

**Premium Diesel with Soy Blended to Meet Your Needs**

*New and Used Commercial and Farm Tanks, Pumps and Equipment, Available. Plus Discounts on Your First Fill with Tank or Equipment Purchase!*

**We Deliver**

Call Quay Zander or Aaron Huebner Today!

**(952) 466-3720**

- Propane
- Commercial Fuel
- Home Heat

**Honesty • Integrity • Value**

**888-466-3700 • (952) 466-3700**

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

- Bulk Fuel
- Fuel Oil
- Propane
- Soy Diesel
- Bulk Oil

- Lubricants
- Scheduled Delivery Program

## Mid-County Agronomy

### How much nitrogen is needed to grow corn? Participate in nitrogen study

Our University Extension, along with most of the Universities from the corn belt, have come up with new nitrogen recommendations. The new recommendations are typically lower than the previous recommendations by about 40-50 lbs/acre.

The real old nitrogen recommendations took into account yield goals and organic matter of the soil. Figuring that it takes 1.2 pounds of nitrogen to produce one bushel of corn and figuring that there is a minimum of 10 pounds of nitrogen for each percent of organic matter, you would come out with a recommendation of about 136 pounds of nitrogen for a yield goal of 180 bushel corn and soil with 4% organic matter.

The slightly newer recommendation simply has a chart where you cross reference the yield goal by the previous crop and the organic matter classification of the soil. In our above case the recommendation would be 140 pounds of nitrogen under these recommendations, which is pretty close to the previous recommendation.

What the newest recommendations do is look at the price of nitrogen and the price of corn, and nothing else. Using the parameters of 40¢ per pound nitrogen cost and an optimistic price of corn \$2.60, the most economical recommendation is 89 pounds of nitrogen. That's about two thirds the previous recommendations.

Why the difference? There are some valid reasons why these recommendations have come down over the past years. First and foremost is that we have better hybrids that can produce yields more efficiently. Part of that



**Joe Forner**  
Agronomist  
joef@midcountycoop.com

is Bio-tech traits like Corn Borer and Corn Rootworm Bt that help protect the yield. Traits like Roundup Ready and Liberty Link improved weed control and have lessened competition for fertilizer by these weeds. Throw into the mix better drainage, planting, and tillage equipment and yields have increased without increasing inputs.

Is that enough to make up a 30% decrease in fertilizer usage? In my estimation it isn't. Running the same numbers for the price of corn and price of nitrogen using the Iowa and Wisconsin equations gives recommendations of 109 and 101 pounds of nitrogen respectively.

Iowa's recommendations are 20 pounds higher than Minnesota. Illinois' recommendations are at 139 pounds of nitrogen; a whopping 50 pounds greater than Minnesota. Does corn grow that much differently in Minnesota compared to Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin?

The new rates also concede that about 20-25% of the time nitrogen will be put on at less than economic rates, meaning that about a quarter of the time we could get substantially more yield with additional fertilizer applied.

The old recommendations were insufficient about 5% of the time. With the new rates we are about 4 to 5 times more likely to see reduced corn yields due to insufficient nitrogen.

While there is some merit to bringing the recommendations down, I believe they have come down too far too fast and are out of line with our neighboring states. The risk of shorting nitrogen is also too great since we have little opportunity to sidedress nitrogen after planting. If someone wants to use these new recommendations all I can say is "use at your own risk".

#### Minnesota Nutrient Management Initiative

The Minnesota Department Of Ag has put together a program to encourage farmers from around the state to put in strip trials to examine the nitrogen and phosphorous recommendations on large plots. The fields should be in a corn-soybean or corn-corn-soybean rotation with no manure application in the previous five years. Plots need to be 600 feet or more long and approximately 300 feet wide on a relatively flat or uniform piece of ground.

**If anyone is interested, they should contact me or Kent and we can take a look at the field. This may be a good chance to take a closer look at nitrogen utilization on your own farm as well as get paid \$600 by the state. The yields data will be collected by the department of agriculture to further look at nitrogen recommendations for the state.**

## Mid-County Agronomy

### A Full Line of Quality Products and Services

(952) 466-3730



#### Products

- Dry Plant Food
- Liquid Plant Food
- Anhydrous Ammonia
- Pel Lime
- Ag Lime
- Plant Micronutrients
- Seed
- Crop Protection Products

#### Services

- Dry Plant Food Application - Standard
- Dry Plant Food Application - Variable Rate
- Anhydrous Ammonia Applications - Standard
- Anhydrous Ammonia Applications - Variable Rate
- Ag Lime Application - Standard
- Ag Lime Application - Variable Rate
- Crop Protection Spraying

#### Other Services

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spreader Rental</li> <li>• Spreader Delivery</li> <li>• Liquid Plant Food Delivery</li> <li>• Dry Plant Food Delivery</li> <li>• Seed Delivery</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop Protection Product Delivery</li> <li>• Soil Sampling - Standard</li> <li>• Soil Sampling - Grid (variable rate)</li> <li>• Crop Consulting</li> <li>• Crop Scouting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrient Management Plans</li> <li>• Yield Mapping</li> <li>• Tile Mapping (GPS)</li> <li>• Field Border Mapping (GPS)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|



**Kent Fabel**  
Agronomy  
kentf@midcountycoop.com