

# Working to Make Your Coop Better



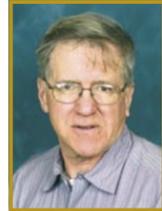
**Bill**



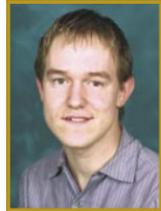
**Belinda**



**Ben**



**Bob**



**Cody**



**Corey**



**Dale**



**Del**



**Dick**



**Doug**



**Jerry**



**Jim**



**Joe**



**Joyce**



**Julie**



**Kent**



**Lynn**



**Mark**



**Quay**



**Raf**



**Nikki**



**Zach**

*with*  
**Honesty  
Integrity  
Value**



# Mid-County Messenger

## Growing and Improving

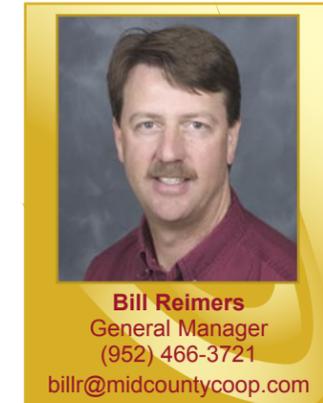
I enjoy looking at historical photos and reading about the early days of Mid-County Coop. I have read old meeting notes as far back as the '30s, and have some old photos; I can't believe how much things have changed at Mid-County.

I have the 25th annual report from 1960. In this report, there are clean trucks, well dressed employees, and clean facilities.

Today's marketplace requires you to have a top-notch image. We are making a continual effort to improve our image throughout the entire company. We have re-sided and spruced up the agronomy, administrative and petroleum offices.

We also added on to a storage building, and if all goes well, we will have our equipment storage building ready before fall. At the Mid-County Auto Truck and Tire Center, we have expanded the parking lot, and re-leveled and re-seeded a large part of the lot.

We are continuing to plan improvements to the Cenex



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

to offer you what it takes to make your operation profitable.

We are also very excited about our new scouting and crop consulting program. We plan to bring our service level one notch higher, and we are currently signing up acres for the upcoming crop year.

Getting back to the old days, our roots were in energy, and that is where a majority of our sales are.

The product offerings we have now include: lubricants for any piece of machinery; propane for homes, businesses and farms; fuels that include dyed fuels, clear fuels, winter fuels, soy fuels; and gasoline and Ethanol for cars, tractors, ATV's, race cars, boats, and an occasional airplane, to name a few. Our product offerings are second to none.

As always, I appreciate your calls and comments how we can make your Coop better. Serving you with Honesty, Integrity, and Value!

Convenience Store. We are in the planning stages of adding kerosene, dyed off-road diesel fuel, and premium gas to our product offerings. We would also like to add a propane refill station. Since the store was built in 1995, it is now ready for some cosmetic improvements to the interior and exterior of the property and building, which we hope to complete in the next 12 months.

You may have noticed through our marketing efforts our commitment to the agronomy business. We have the people, we have the facilities, and we have the equipment



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

# Mid-County Agronomy

## Improve yields: Control compaction

As your equipment is being readied for the field, now is a good time to check the air pressure in your tractor and implement tires.

With all the snow and heavy rain we received prior to freeze up, the fields may be wetter than normal, at least at the surface. Even when the fields look dry on the surface, there may still be significant moisture as this moisture soaks in. With today's bigger tractors and equipment, it is easier to work ground that is still marginally wet. Not only is moist ground more prone to compaction, but the heavier equipment sends the compaction deeper.

Once a field has a compaction problem, there are a few ways to help alleviate it:

- Our Minnesota winters help break up the compaction. This may take several years to remove the compaction from the soil. If the compaction is deep enough, it may take much longer. Studies at the U of MN Waseca showed significant yield loss due to compaction in the first three years after the compaction was done.

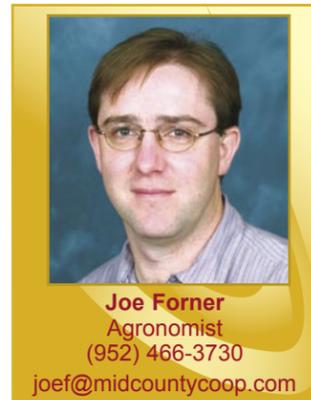
The same study showed yield losses due to compaction after three years during drought and during flooding conditions although yields were not significantly impacted during years where rainfall was near normal. This would indicate that compaction was still present to some degree in the field even after three years and maybe as long as ten years.

- Deep tillage seems to be a popular answer also. The problem with tillage is that the conditions for it to work are not always the best. Wet subsoil conditions can cause smearing instead of shattering of the hardpan. Also the reduced width of the deep tillage equipment means more time, more fuel, and unfortunately more tire tracks across the field, which in a worse-case scenario will mean even more compaction.

- Increasing fertilizer rates will temporarily help with compaction-induced nutrient deficiencies. When plants are drawing nutrients from a shallower root zone, increasing the concentration of nutrients in that zone will help the plant produce a crop even under these adverse rooting conditions. Increasing fertilizer rates will not help with moisture induced stresses.

In droughty conditions, the roots' inability to access moisture under the hardpan will severely limit the plants' ability to produce a crop. Poor internal drainage due to compaction will leave soils saturated much longer than non compacted soils and in extreme cases may lead to ponding. This leads to a host of problems including denitrification, decreased soil aeration, and increased exposure to fungi and other diseases.

The best answer is don't compact the soils in the first place. This may be one of those cases



soil will be about 2 psi higher than what the tire inflation pressure is. A tire inflated to 25 psi will exert roughly 27 psi on the soil. A tire inflated to 12 psi will exert about 14 psi on the ground. The lower the tire inflation pressure, the lower the soil contact pressure, and the lower the potential for compaction.

Radial tires have a couple of advantages over Bias Ply tires. Radials naturally have a wider footprint, which allows them to spread the weight across a larger area. Radials also are designed to operate at lower inflation pressures, which will increase the length of the footprint. A properly-inflated Radial tire will better distribute the weight of the machine across the whole tire surface in contact with the ground.

Bias Ply tend to concentrate the soil contact pressure in the center of the tire. This not only increases compaction, but also causes the tire to sink more and takes more horsepower to get the same work done. More tire area in contact with soil with a Radial also means less slippage which, in turn, leads to higher field speeds.

If you have more questions about what air pressure your tires should be running at for optimum efficiency, or need new tires and would like to look at some different options, talk to Jim at our Auto Truck and Tire Center. We carry Michelin, Firestone, and Titan, (formerly Goodyear) tires for all agricultural applications.

When spring does roll around and the fields start drying off, remember that you only get one chance a year to do it right. Stay off the wet fields – the compaction you cause will not only hurt this year's crop, but those for many years to come.

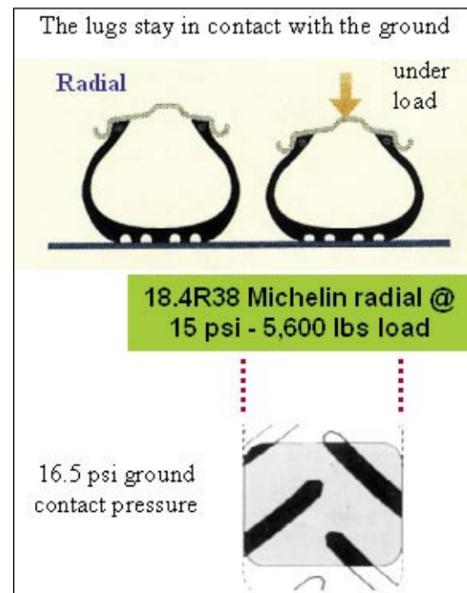
where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, but it is also something that is easier said than done. I know how hard it is for some people to stay out of the field when 85% of the field is ready, or when you have three days of planting and only two days to get it done before the next big rain hits.

One of the easiest ways to lessen the severity of compaction is through choosing tires and by properly inflating them. The rule of thumb is the more rubber on the soil the better.

- Use a tire with the largest diameter and the widest width, which will help carry the load across a larger area of ground or footprint.

- Maintain proper tire pressure based on the tire manufacturer's specifications based on the axle load weight. Tractor tires can be as much as 20 psi over inflated.

A round hard tire in the field distributes much more of the weight in the center of the track. Typically, the pressure exerted on the



# Mid-County Cologne Convenience Store

## We Deliver Pizza!

Thurs.-Sat. 4-9 p.m. Within Cologne and surrounding areas • Call (952) 466-5657 • (952) 466-4700

### Fresh Baked Pizza To Go • Take 'n Bake Pizza

FRESH BAKED PIZZA	MED	LG	HOG	TAKE 'N BAKE PIZZA	MED	LG
The Single	\$10.09	\$11.99	\$12.99	The Single	\$9.09	\$10.59
The Double	\$10.69	\$12.59	\$13.59	The Double	\$10.09	\$11.59
The Triple	\$11.09	\$12.99	\$13.99	The Triple	\$10.69	\$12.59
The Grand Slam Supreme	\$11.69	\$13.99	\$14.99	The Grand Slam	\$11.69	\$13.59
Meat Lover's Pizza	\$12.09	\$13.99	\$14.99	Meat Lover's Pizza	\$11.09	\$12.99
Bases Loaded Garden	\$11.69	\$12.59	\$13.59	Bases Loaded Garden	\$10.69	\$11.99
Breakfast Pizza	\$10.69	\$12.59	\$13.59	Breakfast Pizza	\$10.09	\$11.59
Bacon Cheeseburger	\$11.69	\$13.59	\$14.59	Bacon Cheeseburger	\$10.59	\$12.59
Gyro Pizza	\$10.69	\$12.15	\$13.15	Gyro Pizza	\$9.99	\$11.59

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

### Fresh Made Sub Sandwiches • We bake our own bread FRESH DAILY!

SUB SANDWICHES 6-inch	12-inch	SUB SANDWICHES 6-inch	12-inch		
Roast Beef	\$3.29	\$5.29	Ham	\$3.29	\$5.29
Turkey	\$3.29	\$5.29	Grand Slam (Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham)	\$3.69	\$5.69

### THE CLASSIC

**\$3.00 OFF**

12" or 14" Take-N-Bake

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY  
Expires April 30, 2007

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### BREAKFAST SANDWICH

**50¢ OFF**

Reg. Price \$2.44, Plus Tax

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Expires April 30, 2007

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### COFFEE & Roll

**\$1.39**

16 oz. Coffee & Roll

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY  
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### SUBS

**6" Subs • 2 for \$5**

Any Reg. 6" Sub

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### SUBS

**4-PAC \$9.75**

(4) Any Reg. 6" Subs

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### HOG PIZZA

**Only \$9.99**

16" Hog Baked, 1-Topping

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY  
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### CAR WASH

**\$1.00 OFF EVERYDAY PRICE**

For Any Car Wash

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Have it **DELIVERED**



### DELIVERY ONLY

**Only \$19.99**

(2) 16" Hog, 1 Topping Pizza

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY • Expires April 30, 2007

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### POP-N-PIZZA DELIVERY

**\$16.99**

(1) 16" Hog Pizza + 12 Pack of Pepsi

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY • Expires April 30, 2007

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### DELIVERY ONLY

**\$10.99**

16" Hog, 1-Topping Pizza

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY • Expires April 30, 2007

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### DELIVERY ONLY

**\$16.99**

(2) 12", 1-Topping Pizzas

+ Tax. With coupon ONLY • Expires April 30, 2007

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# Mid-County Auto, Truck & Tire Center

## Join Us for April Car Care Month at Mid-County Auto, Truck & Tire Center!



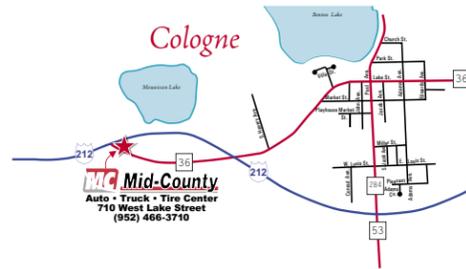
# Large to



# Small



# We Repair it ALL!



Hwy. 212 Cologne  
(952) 466-3710



**\$10 OFF**  
per Tire  
When Purchasing  
Two Heavy Truck Tires

Price includes heavy trucks only. Mounting, taxes and environmental fees extra. Expires 4/30/07



**\$75**  
Buy 3 Oil Changes,  
Get 2 FREE  
With your Mid-County oil  
change card.  
Pick yours up soon!  
Available at  
MC Auto, Truck & Tire Center  
Price includes cars and light trucks only. Taxes and environmental fees extra. Expires 4/30/07



**\$99**  
Quality Service  
Package  
Oil, Lube, Filter,  
Brake Inspection,  
Alignment,  
Rotate & Balance Tires  
Price includes cars and light trucks only. Taxes and environmental fees extra. Expires 4/30/07



**\$20 OFF**  
A Set of  
4 New Tires  
Price includes cars and light trucks only. Taxes and environmental fees extra. Expires 4/30/07



The NAPA AutoCare "Peace of Mind" Warranty:

- Qualified services and repairs covered nationwide for 12 months/12,000 miles
- Doubled to 24 months/24,000 miles for consumers paying for qualifying repairs with the NAPA Visa or the NAPA AutoCare EasyPay credit cards

## Fixing Your Flat



Service Manager Jim Jochum displays some of the various items Mid-County Auto, Truck & Tire has removed from flat tires.

# Mid-County Agronomy

## How to get the most from your fertilizer



Doug Kraska  
Agronomy Production Specialist  
(952) 466-3730  
dougk@midcountycoop.com

Are you applying not enough fertilizer?

Are you applying fertilizer in the right place?

Are you applying your manure in the right place?

With fertilizer prices higher than what we are accustomed to, you can't afford to over apply, and with the price of corn around \$4.00 you can't afford to under apply. So what is the answer SOIL TEST, SOIL TEST, SOIL TEST.

A soil test can be done many ways: a composite sample of the whole field, a grid sample of 3-acre grids, or a sample done by soil type.

At Mid-County, we encourage farmers to grid sample their fields, giving them a much better understanding of their fields. A grid sample will help in spreading a very important product, MANURE. Spreading manure on areas of a field that are low in fertility and not spreading on high fertility areas will not only increase yields across the field, but may also reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer.

In spring, right after planting is a good time to get your fields grid sampled. This way, when fall arrives, we are ready to apply lime and fertilizer to the areas of your fields that will benefit the most.

Are you applying too much fertilizer?



Kent, Doug, Joe, Ben, Mark & Dale  
MC Agronomy Team

### Providing Quality Agronomy Products & Services at Great Prices

With Honesty • Integrity • Value

- Crop Protection
- Nutrient Management
- Grid Sampling
- Yield Mapping
- Crop Consulting
- Turfs & Pasture Management
- Plant Food, Anhydrous, Lime, & VRT
- Custom Anhydrous Application
- Producers Cropland & NK Hybrids

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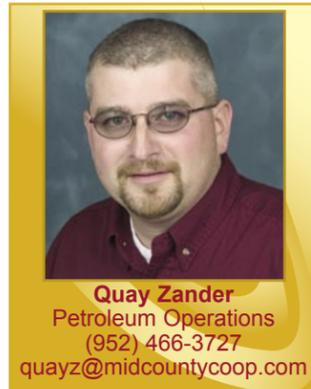


# Mid-County Fuels & Energy Delivery

## We maximize efficiency to keep costs down

We have had numerous calls from our customers asking, "Why am I using so much LP or Heating Oil, while it has been so warm this winter?" One may not think that it is possible with the warm temperatures we had during the winter. Compared to this time last year, we have had 613 more heating degree days. Degree days are calculated by the National Weather Service. Anytime the temperature gets below 60 degrees, we start calculating heating degree days. On a normal January day, we will commonly see 40 to 60 heating degree days.

Another factor to consider is the direction of the winds. Even though the earlier part of the winter season was fairly warm, our winds were out of the south, and a south wind brings moisture. Many homes



have their wind-breaks along the west and north sides, leaving the south open to the elements.

Our heating season will be coming to a close the end of April. Our drivers will be out using up the LP prepaids and bookings

for those on the Scheduled Delivery Program. The Scheduled Delivery Program was set up to avoid customer run-outs and it helps us be efficient when we are routing our trucks.

We have added another element to this program by putting an onboard computer in one of our trucks that will include mapping software for greater efficiency.

Maximizing our deliveries and having scheduled routes helps to keep costs down per delivery, which also means that this will benefit you by keeping the cost of the products down.

We encourage everybody to be on the Scheduled Delivery Program. Call us anytime and we can further explain the benefits of the program.

# Mid-County Fuels & Energy Delivery

## Cenex products designed to protect your investment

Mid-County Coop is a proud distributor of Cenex lubricants.

Cenex lubricants are formulated for specific functions in a wide variety of applications. Lubricant categories include engine oil, tractor fluid, grease, hydraulic oil, transmission fluid, gear oil, two-cycle engine oil, recreational engine oil, industrial lubricant and other miscellaneous categories.

### Protection + Performance = Peace of Mind

Whether you buy new or used equipment, you simply won't find a better way to protect your investment. That's because the Cenex® Total Protection Plan™ Warranty program gives you unsurpassed cov-



erage while helping to ensure that only high-quality energy products go into your equipment.

When you use Ruby Fieldmaster™ premium diesel and Cenex® lubricants exclusively, you'll get up to 10 years or 10,000 hours of engine and transmission coverage for new equipment and 8 years or 8,000 hours coverage for used equipment. The warranty covers agricultural equipment and certain construction equipment.

Mid-County Coop, also has many lubricant programs that can help the end user put money back in their pocket, such as the warranty program, rally tank program, new end user equipment program, volume credit program quarterly and annually, and the field test challenge.

For questions, call Raf at 952-466-3725 or Quay at 952-466-3727.



**New and used commercial and farm tanks, pumps and equipment available.**

**Plus discounts on your first fill with tank or equipment purchase!**



## Guess Who!

**This photo was taken around 1987 or '88.**

**The first person to call in and correctly identify the child in this picture will win Mid-County Coop gift certificates.**

**Call (952) 466-3720.**

### Dura-Life® Storage System



The Dura-Life® Storage System is a smart alternative to heavy and awkward drums. It will save you time and money in material handling costs, save on valuable floor space with its stackable design, provides a clean work environment, and easy product change over. A complete line of accessories is also available.

