

SPRING 2024

R/C INSIGHTS

WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

**RIVER
ALLEY**
COOPERATIVE

**RVC TO ACQUIRE
RUMBOLD & KUHN, INC.**

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**TAKING FLIGHT WITH
DRONE DEPLOY**

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RVC INSIGHTS

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Contact

1-866-962-7820
www.rivervalleycoop.com

Locations

Altona • Annawan • Bradford • Cambridge
Camp Grove • Clarence • Clinton • Deer Grove
DeWitt • Dixon • Donahue • Durant • Edelstein
Eldridge • Fenton • Galva • Geneseo • Kasbeer
Lost Nation • Manlius • Martelle • Mineral • Olin
Osco • Princeville • Putnam • Ryan • Sheffield
Speer • Sperry • Stanwood • Sunbury • Toulon
Valley • Walcott • Wyoming



THE WHOLE ACRE APPROACH

Craig Patty, Vice President of Sales and Marketing

In the vast expanse of agricultural operations, success isn't just about individual parts of a farming operations – it's about the seamless integration of all facets of farming. At River Valley Cooperative, we strive to deliver on this holistic approach, providing comprehensive solutions that cover every aspect of helping our customers be successful.

Agronomy:

Our highly trained and experienced team of Agronomy Account Managers and Crop Specialists work closely with farmers year-round, offering tailored recommendations to optimize soil health, improve yields, and enhance overall crop performance. We're dedicated to maximizing productivity and profitability on every acre, whether through the latest technology in custom application, seed and seed treatments, value-added products with a proven ROI, or precision agriculture solutions.

Energy:

Energy is the lifeblood to rural America, providing fuel that powers

machinery and propane to heat grain dryers and homes when the seasons turn cold. Our energy team ensures our customers have access to reliable fuel and propane resources year-round. Our professional sales team provides market insight and contracting options when purchasing decisions are being made. Our devoted delivery team provides efficient, refined fuel and propane delivery. We're dedicated to keeping farms running smoothly regardless of the season.

Feed:

Livestock health and performance rely on high-quality feed. Our feed services provide our livestock customers with a diverse range of nutritional solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of their animals. Whether it's custom feed formulations, nutritional supplements, or complete feed programs, we're committed to supporting healthy, thriving livestock year-round.

Grain:

River Valley provides grain services designed to streamline the entire

grain marketing process. From trucking to storage, we offer comprehensive assistance to help our customers manage the logistics of their crop efficiently. Our experienced grain origination team provides insights and expertise when making grain marketing decisions and can also provide risk management solutions based on market trends. We offer farmers competitive prices and seamless transactions. With our market expertise and strategic partnerships with key end-users, our customers can confidently navigate the grain market year-round.

On the Ground Year-Round:

At River Valley, we understand that farming isn't just a job – it's a way of life. That's why our team is dedicated to being there for our customers, day in and day out. Our slogan, "On the Ground Year-Round," reflects our commitment to providing personalized support and expertise whenever and wherever our customers need it.

By offering integrated agronomy, energy, feed, and grain services, we provide farmers with the tools and resources they need to succeed year-round.

RIVER VALLEY COOPERATIVE EXPANDS ITS REACH

Acquisition of Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. and Ezra Rumbold and Son, Inc.

Tom Parchert, Vice President of Grain

River Valley Cooperative, a leading agricultural cooperative, is excited to announce its acquisition of the grain assets and rolling stock of Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. and Ezra Rumbold and Son, Inc. This strategic move is poised to enhance River Valley Cooperative's presence in the region and strengthen its position in the agricultural market.

The transaction, scheduled to close on Friday, June 28, 2024, will see these facilities seamlessly rebranded as River Valley Cooperative locations starting Monday morning, July 1, 2024.



Duncan, Illinois

Expanding Footprint and Logistics

The acquisition includes seven grain facilities strategically located in Illinois, which complement River Valley Cooperative's existing footprint. These facilities, situated in Duncan, Princeville, Speer, Toulon, Putnam, Wyoming, and the Valley location southeast of Wyoming, will significantly enhance River Valley Cooperative's grain handling capacity.

Of particular significance is the Valley location, which served as the central hub of operations for Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. and Ezra Rumbold and Son, Inc. This facility houses the administration office and trucking operations, and boasts an impressive 4.5 million bushels of grain space. With this acquisition, River Valley Cooperative's licensed grain space will increase to over 60 million bushels, with two-thirds of the total capacity situated on the Illinois side of the river.

The addition of fifteen semi-tractors with hopper trailers and anhydrous trailers will further strengthen River Valley Cooperative's logistics capabilities, ensuring smoother harvests and improved transportation efficiency.



Speer, Illinois



Valley Location, Illinois



Toulon, Illinois

Welcoming New Talent

In addition to the physical assets, River Valley Cooperative is excited to welcome forty new employees into its family. These experienced professionals, including grain marketing and operations staff, as well as veteran truck drivers, bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the cooperative.

“We are thrilled to welcome the talented team from Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. and Ezra Rumbold and Son, Inc. into the River Valley family,” said Tom Parchert, Vice President of Grain at River Valley Cooperative.

“Their expertise and experience will be invaluable as we continue to grow and expand our presence in this strong agricultural region.”

A Vision for Growth

This acquisition underscores River Valley Cooperative’s commitment to growth and its mission to provide exceptional service and support to its members and customers. With expanded grain handling capacity, enhanced logistics capabilities, and a team of experienced professionals, River Valley Cooperative is well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of the agricultural community and drive future success.

ABOUT RUMBOLD AND KUHN, INC.

Rumbold and Kuhn began its operations in 1952 in Duncan, Illinois, and has since celebrated 72 years in business. Over the years, as seed genetics and farming practices improved, the company experienced significant growth in the amount of grain it handled. To expand its reach and better serve its customers, Rumbold and Kuhn made strategic acquisitions, purchasing locations in Speer, Putnam, Princeville, Wyoming, Toulon, and Kewanee.

RVC FEED DELIVERS

Small changes in nutrition can have a big influence on health.

Chris Green, Ag Finance Director & Feed Business Lead

River Valley Cooperative offers a wide range of feed services tailored to meet the diverse needs of our valued members. Operating from our state-of-the-art mills in Sunbury, Iowa, and Galva, Illinois, we specialize in producing bulk swine and poultry feeds.

Our feeds are available in bulk or conveniently packaged for direct delivery to your farm, ensuring ease and efficiency in your operations.

In our commitment to excellence, we have partnered with Purina to ensure top-tier feed quality. Our extensive range includes feeds for

cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and hogs, meeting the nutritional needs of a variety of livestock. Additionally, we offer specialized fish food options to cater to fish producers, providing a comprehensive solution for all your feed requirements.

Furthermore, our collaboration with QLF enables us to provide liquid feed solutions directly to our customers' farms, ensuring optimal nutrition for your livestock.

In addition to our feed products, we offer a wide range of supplementary products, including milk replacers, colostrum, and various medications,

to support the health and well-being of your animals.

At River Valley Cooperative, we aim to be your trusted advisor for your livestock operation. Our dedicated team takes immense pride in being present on your farm, actively engaging, learning, and contributing to your success.

Whether it's our skilled mill workers or the support staff in Clarence, Iowa, every team member is committed to ensuring the health and productivity of your livestock, day in and day out.

SCHEDULE A DELIVERY

As part of our commitment to exceptional service, River Valley Cooperative offers free bagged feed delivery directly to your farm. We understand the importance of your time, and as member-owners, we strive to simplify your livelihood by providing this convenient service at no additional cost.

Below are some details on our delivery service:

- 500lb minimum for free delivery
- Pallet discount for every 40 bags or eight tubs of the same product
- Choose how often you receive deliveries (Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.)
- Delivery day will be assigned based on your location

For information regarding Purina feed options, personalized feed programs, or rations, please contact our livestock specialists. To place an order, please call 563-343-3773.



**TOM DALE**

Swine Feed Account Manager
tdale@rivervalleycoop.com
Cell: 563-357-0093

I am Tom Dale, Swine Feed Account Manager at River Valley Cooperative. I have lived and worked in the Geneseo, Illinois, area for most of the last 40 years.

After graduating from Illinois State University, I began my career in swine production in Henry County, Illinois. I bring my 20+ years of swine production experience and ten years of being involved in swine nutrition to the farm for each of my customers in Illinois and Iowa. I aim to explore how River Valley Cooperative can help find cost-effective solutions for your swine operation, big or small. We offer bulk feed manufacturing and delivery, on-farm ingredient deliveries, and nutrition consulting with our partners at Purina.

We also offer a wide range of complete feeds, premixes, and specialty products to naturally enhance your swine herd's production efficiencies. Additionally, we work between pig owners and contract growers in our area to help form solid, long-lasting partnerships.

Don't hesitate to contact me at 563-357-0093 for any feed, nutritional, or networking needs.

**KATELYN KOBERG**

Beef Feed Specialist
kkoberg@rivervalleycoop.com
Cell: 563-320-7276

Hi, I am Katelyn Koberg, the Beef Feed Specialist for River Valley Cooperative. I come from a diversified row crop and beef cattle background in Eastern Iowa. I strive to bring the best service to our customers, whether taking forage samples, putting together rations, or finding the right product for your operation's needs. I want to help producers achieve their goals and answer any questions.

We have a wonderful team to help answer your questions and provide helpful services. We also have creep and mineral promos throughout the year, so reach out. I'd love to schedule an on-farm visit to discuss your operations goals and how we can achieve them together.

TAKING FLIGHT

How drones are revolutionizing stand counts in agriculture.

Matt Van Sloten, Decision Ag Lead

In the ever-evolving landscape of agriculture, technology continues to drive innovation, and drones have emerged as a transformative tool for farmers worldwide. Nowhere is this synergy more apparent than in agriculture, where the marriage of drones and data transforms how we cultivate the earth. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) offer a bird's-eye view of fields, allowing us to see more of what is happening in our fields.

This year, we are excited to be working with DroneDeploy and their suite of agronomic tools. We are pairing this with the latest DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise drones to help unlock

insights we have not seen before.

One area that we hope to capture the most value in is improving stand count collection. The more traditional method is to walk the field and select a representative area in the field, roll out the tape measure, and start counting plants. This method is more labor-intensive and prone to error depending on where the count is done in the field.

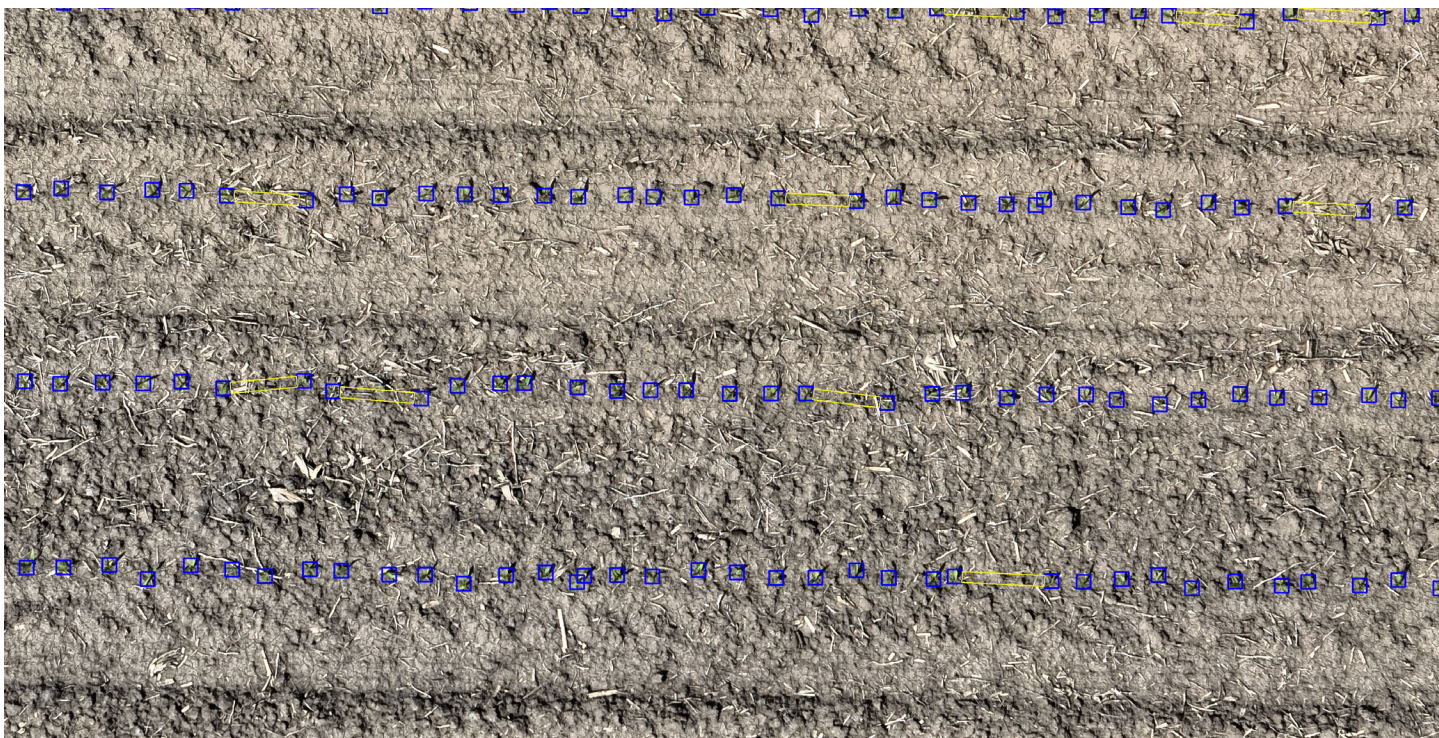
Or, if someone like me has only so many fingers and toes to keep count on, it can cause inaccurate values. We can capture detailed aerial imagery with unprecedented speed and precision by deploying

drones over fields. These images are then processed using advanced algorithms to identify and count individual plants, providing accurate crop density and spatial distribution data.

What was once done in a small area can be done across the entire field in about the same time.

While stand counts are not a new concept from drone or aerial imagery, the timing has changed this technology. Most systems required that the crop be advanced enough that the imagery or software could identify each plant.





DroneDeploy's stand count evaluation being shown on a recently emerged corn field. The blue boxes indicate plants and yellow boxes indicate skips or gaps in the stand. DroneDeploy empowers you to make smarter decisions faster, saving time, reducing costs, and improving overall efficiency.

This was usually done around the V3-V4 stage of the plant. The drawback with this stage is that if someone were worried about their emergence, they would have to somehow patiently wait until the crop progressed until they could fly their field and get their stand count. This is just not practical when a decision to replant or continue with an existing stand must be made.

DroneDeploy, paired with the newest DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise, allows us to fly fields as early as

when the crop is at the V1 stage. It does not sound like much, but when time is of the essence, it makes an enormous difference. We can now get a stand evaluation early and plan without risking too much time, which can equal yield loss. With their bird's-eye view and high-resolution imagery, drones can detect subtle variations in plant density that may go unnoticed by the human eye. We can do this earlier because of the advanced technology in the Mavic 3 Enterprise that allows the camera to zoom in

on the crop. DroneDeploy software interprets this imagery in real-time and can deliver quick results right at the farm gate as soon as the flight is complete.

This is only the beginning of what we hope to bring to the farm from DroneDeploy. We will continue to challenge the status quo and look for ways to improve. Make sure to ask one of the Decision Ag Specialists how DroneDeploy can help your operation.



MATT VAN SLOTEN
Decision Ag Lead



ANDREA CARROLL
Decision Ag Specialist



SETH LANDWEHR
Decision Ag Specialist



UNVEILING THE POWER OF FUNGICIDE

Even when margins are tight, using fungicide on corn and soybeans is crucial for protecting yield potential and maximizing profitability. By investing in fungicide applications, farmers can safeguard their crops, ensuring optimal health and ultimately securing their bottom line.

Matt Boeckmann, Agronomy Product Manager

Safeguard crops and boost yields in corn and soybeans

As farmers continually seek ways to optimize crop yield and quality, the use of fungicide treatments has become an increasingly common practice. While the primary goal of fungicide application is disease prevention, its benefits extend beyond just disease management.

Let's delve into why utilizing fungicides offers benefits from plant health to yield increases in corn and soybean production. Let's explore these advantages:

Enhanced Plant Health:

Greener Plants: Fungicides promote a healthier canopy with a better window for grain fill.

Longer Plant Survival: Quality fungicides provide long residual benefits, allowing plants to thrive and protect yield potential. This translates to improved kernel depth and increased test weight.

Standability:

Historical Reports: Those involved in corn production have reported increased standability and a greening effect from fungicide applications.

Research Support: A research team from Iowa State University conducted a series of experiments in 2016 and 2017, looking in part at the effect of fungicide on stalk lodging in corn. Their results confirmed those observations with an average reduction in stalk lodging of 9.3%.

Fungicides are crucial in managing diseases in corn and soybean crops. Let's dive into key considerations:

Soybean Fungicide Applications:

Timing: Fungicide applications are recommended for foliar diseases when soybeans reach the R3 growth stage (beginning pod). At this stage, the pod is approximately 3/16 inch long at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem with a fully developed leaf.

Yield Response: Research conducted in 2023 in Iowa and Illinois showed that the average yield response to foliar fungicides in soybeans was 6.64 bushels per acre.

Product Selection: Consider using the most effective fungicides based on the latest information available, such as Delaro, Delaro Complete, Veltyma and Miravis Neo.

Corn Fungicide Applications:

Timing Matters

VT-R1 Growth Stages: The optimal timing for fungicide application in corn is typically during the VT-R1 growth stages (tasseling to silking). This period aligns with high disease pressure, and the tissues we want to protect are actively present.

Results from Trials:

In a study conducted at the Bayer

Water Utilization Learning Center, applying fungicide at both the V5 stage and VT stage led to improved yields even under dry conditions and low disease pressure.

Yield Advantages:

V5 Application Alone: Showed a 5.7 bu/acre advantage over the untreated control.

V5+VT Application Sequence: Had a 15 bu/acre advantage over the untreated control and a 9.7 bu/acre advantage over the VT-only application.

Selecting the Right Corn Product
To maximize fungicides' benefits, it is crucial to choose the appropriate corn product based on the growing region. The right combination can promote a healthier upper canopy, increase photosynthetic activity, and improve plant stress tolerance, ultimately leading to improved yields. Delaro, Delaro Complete, Veltyma and Miravis Neo to name a few.

In conclusion, the benefits of using fungicide treatments on corn and soybeans are numerous and significant. From disease prevention and management to increased yield and quality, fungicides play a vital role in optimizing crop health and productivity. By incorporating fungicide treatments into their crop management practices, farmers can protect their investments, increase profitability, and contribute to the sustainability of the agricultural industry.

CONTRACTING YOUR ENERGY SUPPLY

Work with your account manager to secure competitive fuel contracts and ensure consistent energy supply

Jean Bowen, Energy Business Lead

As we approach the summer season, it is always a busy time of the year for the energy department as our contracting activity begins. We begin this process by initiating the budget billing propane contracts from June 1st through May 31st each year. Many propane customers like this option, allowing twelve equal payments each year. We initiate the propane contracts for dryer, commercial, and home heat customers in late June. Those contracts begin on September 1st. From a River Valley Cooperative perspective, we manage the risk and hedge positions to ensure we have a diverse propane supply and meet your propane needs.

River Valley Cooperative also offers various options for contracting refined fuels. The energy market continues to experience volatility, so developing a refined fuels strategy is key to

limiting exposure. Most customers still struggle with when the best time is to contract. Our managers take into account typical trends and recognize optimal times for contracting spring and fall fuel needs.

Many factors affect the energy market each day, however there are three key impacts to the price you pay for refined fuels:

- Crude oil price – This is impacted by geopolitical issues, economic trends, inventory position, seasonal demands, and production.
- Crack spread – The difference between the cost of a barrel of crude oil and the products refined from it. As demand for the various products changes, so does the crack spread.
- Cost basis – Simply put, it's the price difference of the product at New York versus our location. Any

disruptions or inventory concerns will cause this to fluctuate.

River Valley Cooperative is proud of our energy business and employees who ensure our exceptional service meets all our customers' needs. Our energy account managers provide:

- Market intelligence
- Risk management and contracting options
- Fuel strategy assessments
- Equipment, oils, and lubricants
- Tank leasing programs

One thing can be certain, as we look to the 2024 energy market, volatility will remain. River Valley Cooperative provides a brief energy market update each week with insights into market conditions and key fuel-related information. Check these out on our website or sign up through our Customer Portal to receive them in your inbox.

YOUR RIVER VALLEY COOPERATIVE ENERGY TEAM



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RIVER VALLEY COOPERATIVE APP

Register for an online River Valley Cooperative account for 24/7 access

Customer Portal



River Valley Cooperative constantly improves its all-in-one platform to streamline the customer experience. Within the Customer Portal, growers can conveniently access their River Valley Cooperative account information anytime, anywhere, using the mobile app or website, 24/7. For more information on how the Customer Portal can benefit your farm, contact Ariel French at afrench@rivervalleycoop.com.

Access Your Account Information 24/7

- **Payments** - View and pay invoices, statements, and product bookings.
- **Grain Management** - View scale tickets, cash bids, futures, and E-sign contracts.
- **Grain Offers** - Make and manage grain offers 24/7.
- **Past Purchases** - Plan for the season ahead by viewing past agronomy purchases.
- **Energy** - Manage your energy account, receive, sign and pay energy contracts.
- **Shop Online** - Browse and order agronomy products, view product labels, and request quotes.



Download the App

- Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to download the app.
- The app can also be downloaded by searching for River Valley Cooperative in the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Please allow 24 hours for account confirmation Monday-Friday.

Visit the Website

- Access your account online from a computer by visiting: <https://shop.rivervalleycoop.com>.

Protect farming operations from cyber threats.

[illegible]

Cybersecurity Risks in Farming Operations

Consider the scenario of ransomware attacks that can lock farmers out of their tractors and planting equipment. Such an attack could bring operations to a standstill, causing significant delays that could impact planting seasons and harvests. The resulting financial losses and lower crop yields identify the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures in farming operations.

Consider a scenario where a cyberattack compromises the integrity of farm management software, leading to the theft of sensitive data, such as crop yield data, financial information, and personal details of farm workers. This scenario risks financial security and endangers the privacy and safety of those involved.

Phishing schemes can deceive farm owners into divulging critical information, such as login credentials, to financial accounts or operational systems, leading to unauthorized transactions and access.

The Role of the Retail Agriculture Industry in Enhancing Cybersecurity

The retail agriculture industry, including suppliers, processors, and online marketplaces, is crucial in helping farmers mitigate these cybersecurity risks. Their support is beneficial and essential in the fight against cyber threats.

Educational Programs and Resources

The industry can offer educational programs focused on cybersecurity tailored to the unique needs of farming operations. Workshops on identifying phishing attempts and securing online transactions can empower farmers with the knowledge to protect their operations.

Cybersecurity Solutions for Agricultural Technology

Suppliers and technology providers in the retail agriculture sector can develop and offer cybersecurity solutions specifically designed for agricultural technology. These solutions include secure software for farm management systems and regular security updates for innovative farming equipment.

Collaborative Security Frameworks

The industry can facilitate the development of collaborative security frameworks, where farming operations, technology providers, and retail agriculture businesses share information on emerging cyber threats and best practices. This collective approach can enhance the agricultural sector's resilience to cyber threats.

Cybersecurity Best Practices in Farming Operations

Farming operations should consider the following measures to protect against cyber threats:

Regular Cybersecurity Training

Conduct regular training sessions for all individuals involved in the farming operation, focusing on the latest cyber threat trends and safe online practices.

Secure Configuration of Farming Devices

Ensure that all smart farming devices are securely configured and regularly updated to protect against vulnerabilities. This step could involve setting strong passwords, enabling firewalls, and installing security software recommended by the retail agriculture industry.

Data Encryption and Backup

Encrypting sensitive information transmitted between devices and backing up critical data in secure, off-site locations to prevent loss in a cyberattack.

In conclusion, as farming operations increasingly rely on digital technologies, growers must recognize the importance of cyber-security. Collaborating between farming operations and the retail agriculture industry is essential in developing a robust cybersecurity posture. Through education, tailored cybersecurity solutions, and a collective approach to threat intelligence, the agricultural sector can defend against cyber threats, ensuring the sustainability and security of farming operations in the digital age.

NAVIGATING THE ROAD

Inside the Transportation Division of River Valley Cooperative

Bridgett Wildermuth, Regional Logistics Manager - Iowa

In the heartland of agricultural America, where vast fields stretch as far as the eye can see, lies River Valley Coop, a vital link in the agricultural supply chain. While much attention is often given to the cultivation and harvesting of crops, the transportation division of River Valley Cooperative quietly plays a crucial role in ensuring that goods flow smoothly from farm to market. Behind the scenes, a fleet of 105 semi-tractors, 60 hoppers, 32 feed trailers, and 25 tankers, operated by 68 full-time drivers, form the lifeline of this cooperative's operations.

However, like the fields they traverse, the transportation industry is not immune to the winds of change. Just as the cost of equipment rises on the farm, River Valley Cooperative's transportation division has witnessed a steady increase in expenses. Over the past couple of years, the cooperative has faced a 25% surge in the cost of semi-tractors and a

35% hike in hopper bottom prices, reflecting broader trends in the transportation sector. Additionally, fuel costs and employee wages add layers of complexity to the operational landscape.

Despite these challenges, River Valley Cooperative remains steadfast in its commitment to efficiency and reliability. One key to achieving this is leveraging cutting-edge technology, such as the Samsara GPS system and forward-facing cameras, to monitor and optimize fleet performance. These tools provide real-time insights into vehicle location, fuel consumption, and driver behavior, enabling the cooperative to make data-driven decisions that enhance safety and productivity.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of 11 mechanics ensures the fleet remains in peak condition. In the first six months of this year alone, they have completed over

1300 work orders, totaling \$2.1 million in repairs. Their expertise and diligence are instrumental in keeping the wheels of commerce turning smoothly, even in the face of unforeseen challenges.

On average, River Valley Cooperative's transportation division covers between 4.5 and 5 million miles annually, crisscrossing the highways and byways of the heartland. These miles represent more than just distances traveled; they symbolize the cooperative's unwavering commitment to serving its community and supporting the agricultural industry.

As the transportation landscape continues to evolve, River Valley Cooperative remains agile, adapting to meet the needs of its customers and stakeholders. By investing in technology, prioritizing safety, and nurturing a culture of excellence, the cooperative is not merely traversing the road ahead but paving the way for a brighter, more efficient future for agriculture and beyond.





PREPARING FOR 45Z

Please reach out to your local RVC grain contact for information.

Kale Petersen, Regional Manager

What is 45Z? Section 45Z of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides a tax credit for the domestic production of clean transportation fuels including ethanol, biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuels. Also known as the Clean Fuel Production Credit, the tax credit will apply to fuels produced in 2025 and extends to the end of 2027. This tax credit will provide incentive for ethanol producers to make necessary capital expenditures to capture and process CO₂ and for farmers to increase production of low carbon intensive corn for ethanol production.

River Valley Cooperative is diligently preparing for this new landscape in 2025. While specific industry guidelines for 45Z is unknown yet, River Valley Cooperative is in a unique position to aide in the supply chain process:

Helping farmers grow sustainable crops and make sound marketing

decisions, enhancing the bottom line for your whole acre.

Keeping detailed records this spring will be critical as field-by-field data will be a key component of determining your farm's carbon intensity (CI) score. River Valley Cooperative will be working closely with end users to provide updates as they become available.

Below is a statement from Marquis Energy LLC:

The U.S. Government is set to introduce incentives for low-carbon intensity (CI) transportation fuels through the Inflation Reduction Act. Although details and guidance for these incentives are scarce, there is the potential for some incentives to be passed to corn growers supplying low CI corn to biofuel facilities.

Marquis continues to proactively invest in lowering their CI through

innovative technology and capital investments. These investments enable growers to realize the value of low CI corn, pending official federal guidance.

As we await guidance, Marquis encourages local corn growers to keep good records of all activities for each corn field they operate.

Please remain attentive to future communications from Marquis regarding low CI corn. The latest updates from Marquis will be relayed through your local elevator and on our web page, marquisinc.com.

If you have further questions, please reach out to your local River Valley Cooperative grain contact.

RIVER VALLEY COOPERATIVE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

River Valley Cooperative's commitment to our communities runs deep, reflecting a steadfast dedication to fostering growth, safety, and education. Our initiatives are designed to address critical needs and enhance the quality of life in the areas we serve. We aim to make a significant positive impact by focusing on hunger programs, youth in agriculture, agricultural education, fire department and EMS services, and various community projects.

2023 Highlights

Feeding Kids in Our Communities - \$24,000

River Valley Cooperative allocated \$24,000 to programs to combat hunger among children in our communities. These funds have been crucial in ensuring children have access to nutritious meals, supporting their overall health and well-being. By partnering with local food banks and food pantries, we strive to address food insecurity and provide a brighter future for our younger generations.

4-H and FFA Programs/County Fairs - \$45,000

We are proud to support the leaders of tomorrow through substantial contributions to 4-H and FFA programs and county fairs. With \$45,000 dedicated to these initiatives, River Valley Cooperative helps foster a passion for agriculture in youth, providing them with the resources and opportunities to develop essential skills and knowledge. These investments not only nurture individual growth but also strengthen the agricultural backbone of our communities.

Ag Education - \$35,000

Agricultural education is vital for the sustainability and advancement of our industry. In 2023, River Valley Cooperative invested \$35,000 in ag education building projects at high schools in Kewanee and Cambridge, Illinois, and Eldridge, Iowa. An additional \$105,000 is being provided in 2024 for some of these projects through multi-year pledges. We are cultivating a more informed and capable agricultural community by empowering individuals with knowledge and skills.

Volunteer Fire Departments and EMS Services - \$20,000

Safety is a cornerstone of thriving communities, and River Valley Cooperative recognizes the importance of well-equipped and well-trained emergency services. This year, we provided \$20,000 to support volunteer fire departments and EMS services. These funds help ensure our first responders have the tools and training to protect and serve our communities effectively.

A Commitment to Continuous Support

At River Valley Cooperative, our efforts to support our communities go beyond financial contributions. We are dedicated to building strong, resilient, and vibrant communities through ongoing engagement and support. Whether through direct involvement in local projects or fostering partnerships with community organizations, we are committed to making a lasting difference.

Our focus on hunger programs, youth in agriculture, agricultural education, and emergency services highlights our comprehensive approach to community development. As we look to the future, River Valley Cooperative will continue to invest in initiatives that enhance the quality of life and promote the well-being of the communities we serve.



Regional Innovation Center
North Scott Community School District
A \$100,000 commitment was presented to the North Scott Community School District for the Regional Innovation Center. The facility will provide education opportunities for area ag students.

WOMEN FIGHTING HUNGER

RIVER BEND FOOD BANK

River Bend Food Bank Women Fighting Hunger
(Left) River Valley Cooperative was proud to help sponsor the event in 2023 and 2024. This year's event raised nearly \$85,000, helping to support local school food pantries.



Cambridge High School
(Right) Agriculture Education Complex
River Valley Cooperative provided \$25,000 toward the construction of a new facility, which will provide a agriscience lab and animal science wet lab, an ag business community board room, restrooms, a walk-in lobby, storage, and a custodial closet.

Ryan Endowment Fund
(Below) Community leaders set up an endowment fund for Ryan, Iowa. The fund will provide \$20,000 to award grants annually to local organizations that will help build the community's thriving future.



Kewanee Community School Foundation
(Above) New Ag Science Center was constructed at Kewanee High School. River Valley Cooperative's \$15,000 donation will help purchase equipment, instructional supplies, and program/curriculum needs.



RIVER VALLEY COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the 2025 academic year are due April 15, 2025.

Cathy Green, Talent Specialist

We are excited to announce scholarship opportunities for the children of River Valley Cooperative's Class A members and children and grandchildren of River Valley Cooperative employees.

The River Valley Cooperative Scholarship Program aims to invest in the educational pursuits of the children of cooperative members and the children and grandchildren of employees, fostering academic excellence and engagement among the younger generation.

2024 River Valley Cooperative scholarship recipients include Kaylin Heims, Lydia Stutt, Emily Boeckmann, Preston Matthew, David Moriarity, Kayla Sweeney, John Gravitt, Nicole Kerber, Alivia Bainter, Frankie Dolan, Alison Boeckmann, Kyler Webster, Theo Boss, Zoey Nielsen, Samantha Horman, Ryan Parchert, and Kyria Loecke.

For questions or additional information, email Cathy Green at crgreen@rivervalleycoop.com or call 563-285-1724. Applications are due by April 15th of each year.

