

SUMMER/FALL 2025



# What's Inside

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GRAIN DIVISION: POSITIONING  
FOR OPPORTUNITY AMID  
MARKET SHIFTS



The 'Big Beautiful Crop' 2025  
Division Updates  
Summer Safety

Robotic System Transforms Dairy Farm  
IAS 2025 Summer Interns  
and More



# CONTENTS

## SUMMER/FALL 2025

- 3 The 'Big Beautiful Crop' 2025
- 4 FAS: A Simpler Way to Manage Feed and Livestock Data
- 5 Navigating Tomorrow's Workforce:  
Why Diversity is Key to Serving You Better
- 6 Operations: Wrapping Up Applications,  
Shifting Focus to Equipment Readiness
- 7 Grain Division: Positioning for Opportunity  
Amid Market Shifts
- 8 Tissue Sampling & Micronutrient Management  
Data-Driven Agronomy
- 9 Agronomy Progress & Planning Ahead
- 10 From the Driver's Seat: Energy Updates
- 11 Meet the IAS 2025 Summer Interns
- 12 AI in Agriculture
- 13 Robotic System Transforms Dairy Farm
- 14 Summer Safety



The AgBiz is a publication for Innovative Ag Services members and stakeholders. If you have feedback, suggestions or content you would like to submit for future IAS communications, please email [IAS@innovativeag.com](mailto:IAS@innovativeag.com).

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# The ‘Big Beautiful Crop’ 2025

Ken Smith, CEO



The corn and soybean crops are off to a fantastic start. We have had plentiful moisture and above-average heat/GDU units at most of the locations where we operate. While we still have plenty of growing season in front of us, we have great potential for crop yields at this juncture. These conditions are not just localized to

our production areas, it is representative of much of the Midwest. With the prospect of a large crop coming, corn and soybean prices have suffered. The resulting income prospects for row crop production appear challenging. Looking at Iowa State’s crop production cost estimates and then factoring in good yields and current prices, results in most producers having a negative net income (rent being factored into this equation). The 2026 crop profitability forecast also looks similar.

## Your partner in challenging times

While we are familiar with these cycles, it does not make it easier to navigate. We understand the current challenging environment, and our team, along with our cooperative board of directors, continues to look for ways to be more efficient with our resources and services. Maintaining competitive prices and good service remains at the core of our focus. When we do this well, you win. Innovative Ag Services has a great track record of allocating and returning equity.

Patronage Dividend Units in dollars unless noted	FY 2024 Patronage/ Acre	3 YR Avg Patronage/ Acre	FY 2024 Patronage Rates
<b>AGRONOMY</b>			
Dry Fertilizer	\$3.92	\$5.89	3.6%
Nitrogen & Stabilizer	\$3.06	\$4.59	3.6%
Chemicals	\$2.16	\$3.24	3.6%
Seed	\$4.68	\$7.02	3.6%
Services	\$0.90	\$1.35	3.6%
<b>GRAIN</b>			
Grain (Bushels per Acre)	\$12.30	\$10.66	6.0¢
Drying	\$7.30	\$7.30	25%
Storage	\$16.91	\$16.91	25%
Services	\$1.03	\$1.03	25%
<b>FUEL</b>			
Propane (Gallons) Captured in Grain Drying	\$0.00	\$0.00	13.0¢
Diesel (Gallons)	\$0.40	\$0.64	8.0¢
<b>Overall IAS Book</b>	<b>\$52.66</b>	<b>\$58.62</b>	

In this environment, allocating and returning equity is meaningful. This financial success also puts us in a position to maintain good people and assets.

## Growth and Local Improvement

Our team and cooperative board also look for growth opportunities. This typically involves getting assets and capital spend in the right places. One opportunity that is being explored is an expansion of our ethanol plant at Steamboat Rock. Finding additional demand for local corn is beneficial to our members. Helping members be part of the value-added margin is also meaningful. It is not usual for processing margins to be strong when grain prices are depressed. We will keep you updated as we evaluate this opportunity.

Finding ways to grow and improve also includes working with other cooperatives where we can partner together. Reducing costs or capital expenditures is a significant concern in the current environment. Identifying ways to better utilize assets and personnel in an area is crucial. We continue to see asset cost and people cost continue to increase, finding ways to work together just makes sense.

## Thank You

Thank you for your business and partnership with Innovative Ag Services. We are deeply aware of the current challenges and strive to find ways to put you in a stronger position. Being efficient and effective with our resources is critical. This includes working and partnering with others when it benefits members. When we do this well, returns are shared with you. In this environment, this is powerful.

Thanks again for the relationship we have with you.

Good days are ahead.





# FAS: A Simpler Way to Manage Feed and Livestock Data

Now available through Innovative Ag Services

Innovative Ag Services is introducing a new tool to help simplify day-to-day livestock management: the Feed Allocation System (FAS) from Prairie Systems.

## What is FAS?

At its core, FAS is a web-based system that allows you to order feed directly from your phone. But it does more than that. FAS also helps track mortality and treatments, manage bin inventories, schedule market sales and pig movements, Ag View tracking, and collect data through surveys such as site audits or visits.

## Why It Matters

FAS helps reduce paperwork, cut down on manual errors, and streamline communication between farms and the mill. For producers, it brings more visibility into what's happening across sites—whether it's feed deliveries, medication use, or

inventory levels. That added clarity helps ensure the right feed and medications are going to the right pigs at the right time.

If feed delivery confirmation is used, you'll also be able to check on your phone when feed has arrived, rather than guessing or waiting. That can help you stay focused on other tasks until it's time to turn on a feed line.

## What It Means for All of Us

FAS improves accountability and traceability, not just for individual operations, but across the feed and livestock system. It provides a cleaner, more consistent way to manage and share information—which benefits everyone from producers to feed mills to the broader industry.

## Moving Forward

This tool is part of IAS's ongoing effort to support members with practical solutions that improve efficiency and accuracy in daily work.

If you're interested in learning more or want help getting started, reach out to your IAS Swine Production Specialist or Feed Technology Lead at [InnovativeAg.com/Feed](http://InnovativeAg.com/Feed).

## All New FASMobile

- Record Bin Inventories
- Multiple Species
- Critical Alerts
- Complete Company Surveys
- Record Animal Treatments
- Order Feed
- Confirm Feed Delivery
- Farm Level Data Entry
- Organizational Messaging



# Navigating Tomorrow's Workforce: Why Diversity is Key to Serving You Better

Carla Elliott, Vice President of Human Resources



In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, organizations like ours are facing significant

workforce challenges. From attracting top talent in a competitive market to adapting to new technologies like AI, the way we operate is constantly changing. We're seeing shifts in employee expectations, greater emphasis on work-life balance, and an increasing need for specialized skills. These are not just internal concerns; they directly impact our ability to deliver the exceptional service you've come to expect.

One of the most powerful strategies for navigating these challenges, and indeed, for thriving in this new environment, is building and nurturing a truly diverse workforce. It's more than just a buzzword; it's a fundamental commitment that directly benefits you, our valued customer.

## The Power of Different Perspectives

Think about it: our customer base is incredibly diverse, encompassing a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and needs. To genuinely understand and cater to this rich tapestry of customers, our team needs to reflect that same diversity.

When our employees come from different walks of life, they bring

unique perspectives, innovative ideas, and a deeper understanding of various cultural nuances. This diversity of thought allows us to:

- **Better understand your needs:** A team with diverse backgrounds is better equipped to empathize with your unique challenges and preferences. They can anticipate unspoken needs and offer solutions that truly resonate.
- **Innovate and problem-solve creatively:** Different viewpoints lead to more robust discussions and original solutions. When facing a complex issue, a diverse team is less likely to fall into "groupthink" and more likely to discover groundbreaking approaches that benefit you.
- **Enhance communication and connection:** Employees who share cultural or linguistic commonalities with customers can build stronger rapport and trust, leading to more positive and effective interactions. This human connection is invaluable in providing excellent service.
- **Improve accessibility and inclusivity:** A diverse workforce naturally champions accessibility and understands the varying needs of all customers, ensuring our services are inclusive and easy to use for everyone.

## Our Commitment to You

We are actively working to build and foster a workplace where every

employee feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique talents. This means implementing inclusive hiring practices, promoting a culture of belonging, and providing opportunities for growth and development for all.

Our goal is not just to hire a diverse group of individuals, but to create an environment where everyone can thrive and bring their authentic selves to work. Because when our employees are engaged and feel a strong sense of purpose, it translates directly into the quality of service you receive.

We believe that a diverse workforce isn't just the right thing to do; it's essential for our continued success and, more importantly, for our ability to serve you with excellence, empathy, and innovation, now and in the future.

We're excited about the future, knowing that our commitment to a diverse, knowledgeable workforce will continue to strengthen our ability to meet your needs and exceed your expectations. Thank you for being a valued part of our journey.

"It's more than just a buzzword; it's a fundamental commitment that directly benefits you..."



# Operations: Wrapping Up Applications, Shifting Focus to Equipment Readiness

Adam Rollinger, Vice President of Business Operations



As we move further into summer, we're pleased to provide you with an update on our operational progress.

Thanks to favorable weather conditions and the hard work of our dedicated team, we're nearing completion on several key initiatives, allowing us to pivot our focus to preparing for the next phase of the season.

## Dry and Liquid Applications Nearing Completion

We're happy to report that our dry and liquid application programs are coming close to completion across the board. Our crews have been working diligently to ensure timely and effective application of fertilizers and crop protection products, laying a strong foundation for healthy crop development. We appreciate your

cooperation and flexibility as we navigated schedules to get this critical work done efficiently.

## Grain Bin Clean-Out Underway

In preparation for the upcoming harvest, our teams are actively engaged in grain bin clean-out. This vital step ensures that your storage facilities are in optimal condition, free from residual grains, dust, and potential contaminants. A thorough clean-out helps maintain grain quality and prevent issues down the line. If you have specific needs or questions regarding your grain storage, please don't hesitate to reach out.

## Transitioning Our Focus to Equipment Readiness

With the bulk of spring applications behind us and bin clean-out progressing, our operational focus is now transitioning to comprehensive equipment readiness. This involves meticulous inspections, maintenance, and any necessary repairs to our entire fleet of machinery. Every piece of

equipment will undergo thorough checks to ensure peak performance and reliability. Our goal is to minimize downtime during the busy harvest and agronomy season and ensure we're fully prepared to meet your needs efficiently and effectively. We are committed to providing you with the best possible service, and this proactive approach to equipment maintenance is a cornerstone of that commitment.

As always, we value your business and appreciate your continued trust. If you have any questions about these updates or anything else, please feel free to contact us.



## IAS Wins Award for Sustainability Video

Innovative Ag Services was recently honored with First Place in the Promotional Video (Under 3 Minutes) category at the Cooperative Communicators Association Awards for the project, "Tim Daly: Pioneering Sustainable Farming Practices Through IAS & the Truterra Program." The video, produced by Communications Director Shelby Wartick in partnership with Tyler Breitbach of My Four Creative, highlights longtime IAS member Tim Daly and his leadership in sustainable agriculture. Featuring insights from IAS experts Kayla Bergman and Dillon Langel, the video was IAS's first-ever entry in the national contest, which drew nearly 400 submissions from cooperatives across the U.S. and Canada.



# Grain Division: Positioning for Opportunity Amid Market Shifts

Charlie White, Vice President of Grain



Good news seems to have a way of being followed by bad news. Or the reverse, and a more positive outlook is

also true that you could say bad news is usually followed up with good news. The reality of the ag economy, break even prices, and returns to farm operations was discussed earlier in this publication as the bad news. Fortunately, we have what appears to be great crop growing, with stable demand for our commodities, which is good news.

Demand has been strong for US commodities in the export market, even in the face of a large crop growing in South America. Domestic demand in Brazil has also been increasing for corn into ethanol, and Brazil's mandatory blend of ethanol in gasoline increasing from 27% to 30%

which helps to absorb some of that additional SAM supply.

The EPA's Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO's) set earlier in June also gave the market a confidence boost in maintaining corn grind for ethanol, while providing the runway for an increase in demand for US Feedstocks going into biomass-based diesel, supporting the soybean crush market. The soybean market felt more of the initial market movement optimism, while also seeing soybean crush board margins rebound. Ethanol margins also improved with the improved pricing for Distillers Corn Oil (DCO). OBBB recently passed also supports demand through extension of the 45Z tax credit with some changes to the Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) scoring that will open the door for more plants to qualify. Additional guidance is still necessary from the US Treasury on how, or if, farm level CI scores will be impactful, and if realized is an opportunity ahead for our members.

The IAS Grain division continues to position your cooperative's capital, resources, and time to connect our local corn, and soybean supplies to the end destination market demand, while finding ways to service you better and more efficiently. One way the IAS team has been doing that is by accessing the UP-rail corn market out of Garden City to connect demand in the western United States and Mexico to our membership locally. Just like being efficient with growing crops, equipment maintenance, tax strategies, and cash flow management is critical on the farm, an equal amount of time is being spent at IAS to focus on weathering the *bad news* while positioning for *good news* ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to earn your business, we appreciate the relationship we have with you and your operations.

## Get the Most from Your Corn Silage – Burn Down Days Are Coming Soon!

Maximize your harvest timing and feed quality by attending one of our upcoming IAS Burn Down Days in late August. Bring 3–4 stalks per field (cut at your normal harvest height) for fast, accurate moisture testing using near-infrared technology. It's a simple step that helps you make data-driven decisions for better results. Watch your mailbox for specific dates at Cuba City, Waukon, Monona, and Ungs Shopping Center in Luxemburg — and reach out to your local feed rep for details!



# Tissue Sampling & Micronutrient Management Data-Driven Agronomy

Mindy Keehner, IAS Agronomy Intern

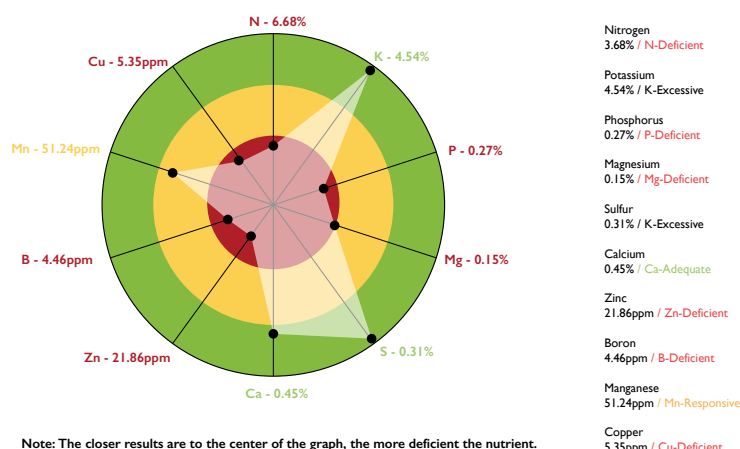


From the outside, a plant may appear deficient in one thing, but from the inside

standpoint, the same plant may be deficient in multiple nutrients, slipping right under the grower's nose. Tissue sampling in crop production provides the grower with insight into how a plant is using nutrients during the growing season. It can help growers make mid-season decisions and furthermore gather long-term information on their crops' needs. Tissue sampling will give results for the main nutrients; nitrogen, and sulfur, as well as many micronutrients such as iron, boron, manganese, and zinc. While soil sampling gets you comparable results, tissue sampling provides a mid-season snapshot for the current crop's needs.

Timing tissue sampling is critical when it comes to accuracy of the results. Too early, and the crop may not have taken in the nutrients from the ground yet. Too late, and the crop will have distributed the nutrients throughout itself, and results will be lower. Always remember to diversify your sampling by taking samples from various parts of the field. The following are the most important things to consider when it comes to tissue sampling:

- Do not sample too early or too late into the growing season
- Sample the correct part of the plant



- Handle samples properly
- Understand what the results can or cannot tell you.

Managing nutrient content in your fields is key to supporting a successful crop. Knowing what your land is missing can help you understand and better make decisions for your operation. Fertilizer applications can vary from foliar (during growing season) to dry applications (post-harvest). Each method has its pros and cons, and it is up to you to choose what is best for your crops.

After receiving your tissue sample results you think, "Well now what do I do? What method should I use? When should I apply fertilizer? What are my options?" When reading your results, it is important to recognize the limiting factor that may be hindering your potential yield goals. Tissue sample results will provide the actual concentration of the nutrient in your plant while also comparing it to a 'normal' or suggested amount that should be present. Collecting samples

over many years will assist growers in recognizing deficiency patterns in their practices, and make them aware of how well plants are absorbing nutrients.

## Soil Application

### Pros:

- ✓ Less precision needed — easier to apply
- ✓ Can be applied at any stage of growth
- ✓ Less effected by weather conditions

### Cons:

- ✗ Hard to regulate how much each plant gets
- ✗ Can be affected by erosion and compaction
- ✗ Not broken down — harder for plant to absorb

## Foliar Application

### Pros:

- ✓ More effective when applied at the correct growth stage
- ✓ Easier for plants to absorb the already broken-down nutrients



- ✓ Easier to regulate how much fertilizer hits the plant
- ✓ Less likely to runoff into nearby water sources

**Cons:**

- ✗ More susceptible to weather factors like wind & rain
- ✗ Requires precision for foliar absorption

Growers may also choose to do a combination based on their land type, field history, and crops planted. Other factors may include timing

of your application, soil conditions, type of fertilizer needed, and cost of products needed. Ultimately, choosing the appropriate method for your operation is the most important consideration. Be sure to be knowledgeable about your field and production habits to ensure successful fertilizer applications.

For questions about your tissue sample results or help determining the right nutrient application method for your fields, reach out to your local IAS agronomist.

*Article Resources:*

WinField United. "Why You Should Be Tissue Testing."

"Use Tissue Sampling Data to Drive Fertilizer Decisions." winfieldunited.com

University of Minnesota Extension. "Plant Tissue Analysis: What to Know."

"5 Things to Consider Before Collecting Plant Tissue Samples." extension.umn.edu

Agritec International. "Foliar Applications vs. Soil Applications." agritecint.com

**Curious about financing options for your crop inputs?** Be sure to catch the next *Crop Talks & Field Walks* video on our YouTube channel, where IAS Agronomist Melissa Schumann breaks it down for you.



## Agronomy Progress & Planning Ahead

Tim Krausman, Vice President of Agronomy



It has been a warm start to the summer, with crops progressing ahead of schedule and receiving more than adequate rainfall in most areas. If we continue in this weather pattern, we will see good to great crops that shouldn't require much extra cost for drying. Fungicide and insecticide applications are in their early stages to contribute to the best possible yield for the crop this fall.

The Innovative Ag Services Agronomy Division is in the process of finishing the 2025 growing season and preparing for the 2026 crop. We are starting the process of planning chemical inventories while evaluating the performance of the last growing season and utilizing experiences from other growing seasons, as we know the weather patterns are not consistent from one season

to the next. We are also gaining insight into what fertilizer costs could look like this coming fall. Additionally, we are in the early stages of having productive agronomic discussions on seed hybrids and varieties. If you haven't heard from your local IAS sales advisor already, they will contact you soon to discuss your farm and explore solutions to areas where you may be experiencing challenges.

Thank you all for your business this past growing season. We look forward to helping you with decisions for crop year 2026. Have a great rest of the summer.

# From the Driver's Seat: Energy Updates & What's Ahead

Isaac Imsland, Vice President of Energy



## Hello from your NEW man with gas!

Since my last update, the energy markets have continued to experience extreme volatility. From tariffs to war, there hasn't been a quiet trading day in months. This environment keeps the job interesting, although my barber has recently noticed a few new gray hairs! The most frustrating aspect of all this is the disconnect between bearish fundamentals and the oil market's lack of reaction. Despite several key indicators, such as increased supply, demand concerns, and ongoing trade tensions, the oil market has shown minimal response.

For example, OPEC+ has significantly ramped up oil production over the past few months and has announced another substantial production hike set for August. Normally, these

actions would lead to downward price pressure, yet the market remains stubbornly unpredictable. Still, in the midst of this, we've seen brief windows of opportunity to lock in positions for the fall and winter seasons in propane and diesel.

As of this publication, you should have received your propane contracts. Please take the time to review them carefully and ensure they are returned by August 31. Timely submission helps us serve you better and secures your pricing for the colder months ahead. If you're looking to contract diesel, please reach out to your local driver or contact your nearest IAS Energy location to get your usage covered.

In addition to market updates, I'd like to bring members up to speed on a key infrastructure project currently underway. We are in the process of upgrading our cardtrol systems, and you should begin seeing those updates finalized by the end of August. These upgrades are part of our ongoing

commitment to efficiency, security, and customer service, especially as credit card transactions continue to increase.

With the new cardtrol system, you'll gain greater control and flexibility. Features will include setting gallon and dollar limits per day, week, or month; selecting your own PIN number; and many more enhancements in card management. These improvements aim to make your fueling experience more secure and more convenient.

The Energy Division is on track to have a successful and profitable year, and I want to take a moment to thank the people who make that possible. Thank you to our service technicians, drivers across propane, diesel, and transport, and our customer service representatives. Your hard work, dedication, and the strong relationships you've built are the foundation of IAS Energy's continued success.



## New Cardtrol System Benefits

- ✓ Set daily, weekly, or monthly gallon and dollar limits
- ✓ Choose your own secure PIN
- ✓ Improved card management tools
- ✓ Enhanced security and convenience

Pictured is Russ Ellingson, LP/Refined Fuel Delivery along with trainer at our annual propane safety training.





# Meet the IAS 2025 Summer Interns

Listed below you will find the name, the type/division of the internship and primary IAS location for our summer class of interns. We wish them all the best as they return to school in the next few weeks.



**Benjamin Schuckert**  
Facility Operations  
Farley, IA



**Briley Miller**  
Feed  
Cuba City, WI



**Claire Beitz**  
Agronomy  
Garden City, IA



**Colleen Pals**  
Agronomy  
Cleves, IA



**Dakota Oberender**  
Facility Operations  
Alden, IA



**Isabella Sessler**  
Agronomy  
Alden, IA



**Kelsey Burke**  
Grain  
Hubbard, IA



**Kinzi Schlarmann**  
Feed  
Hopkinton, IA



**Leah Their**  
Feed  
Elkader, IA



**Louis Hamlett**  
Agronomy  
Elkader, IA



**Mindy Keehner**  
Agronomy  
Waukon, IA



**Reid Manternach**  
Agronomy  
Andrew, IA



**Sam Wessels**  
Agronomy  
Monticello, IA

## ***FY26 IAS Board of Directors Election: Call for Candidates***

The FY26 Innovative Ag Services Board of Directors election process is underway, with three seats up for election this fall. Current board members Loren Manternach (representing the Cascade, Farley, and Monticello areas), Steve Perry (Union and Lawn Hill areas), and Joe Thraenert (Elma area) have all indicated their intent to seek re-election.

While these experienced directors plan to run again, **IAS welcomes and encourages interested members who live in these respective geographic areas to consider running for the board.** Serving on the board is a meaningful way to contribute to the direction and success of your cooperative.

To be considered, candidates must be nominated by the IAS Nominating Committee, which includes President Randy Blake, Tim Burrack, Ryan Collins, and Adam Hill. The final slate of candidates will be completed by October 1, 2025.

If you're interested or have questions, please contact Chairman Randy Blake, a nominating committee member, any current board member, IAS CEO Ken Smith, or your local IAS staff. We're here to help you explore this leadership opportunity.

# Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture

Daniel Pesek, Director of IT



We see the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) making inroads in the way farmers cultivate and manage their

crops. As global food demand rises, AI has become a vital tool in optimizing crop yields, reducing waste, and improving resource allocation. In this article, we will explore the features and benefits of AI in agriculture, including John Deere's new laser weed-eating machine.

## Crop Monitoring

AI-powered systems use computer vision to detect early signs of disease, pests, and nutrient deficiencies. These tools allow farmers to act quickly, minimizing crop loss and reducing pesticide use. Subtle changes in plant health can also be identified, helping farmers fine-tune irrigation and fertilization.

## Automated Farming

Autonomous farming equipment, such as tractors and drones, is becoming increasingly popular. These machines utilize AI to navigate and perform tasks such as planting,

precision lasers. This has the potential to reduce the need for chemical herbicides and minimizes crop damage.

## Livestock Management

AI is also being used in livestock management to improve animal health and productivity. Machine learning algorithms can analyze data on animal behavior, nutrition, and health to identify early signs of disease. This enables farmers to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of disease and reduce the use of antibiotics.



## Precision Farming

One of the most significant advantages of AI in agriculture is precision farming. By using advanced sensors, drones, and satellite imaging, farmers can gather detailed data on soil conditions, crop health, and weather patterns. This data is then analyzed using machine learning algorithms to provide insights on optimal planting, irrigation, and harvesting strategies. This data-driven approach helps reduce crop failure and boost productivity.

spraying, and harvesting, and can operate continuously, reducing labor costs and increasing efficiency. John Deere's new laser weed-eating machine is a prime example of automated farming technology.

## John Deere's Laser Weed-Eating Machine

An example of AI that is coming is John Deere's laser weed-eating machine. Equipped with high-resolution cameras and machine learning, it identifies weeds in real time and eliminates them using

## Benefits of AI in Agriculture

The benefits of AI in agriculture are numerous. Some of the most significant advantages include:

**Increased Efficiency:** AI can automate many tasks in agriculture, reducing labor costs and increasing efficiency.

**Improved Crop Yields:** AI-powered precision farming and crop monitoring systems can optimize crop yields and reduce waste.



**Reduced Chemical Use:** AI-powered weed control systems, such as John Deere's laser weed-eating machine, can reduce the use of chemical herbicides.

**Enhanced Animal Health:** AI-powered livestock management systems can improve animal health and productivity.

**Data-Driven Decision Making:** AI provides farmers with detailed insights on soil conditions, crop health, and weather patterns, enabling them to make data-driven decisions.

### In Summary

AI is reshaping agriculture by making farming more efficient, sustainable, and productive. Technologies like John Deere's laser weed-eating

machine highlight the potential of AI to reduce chemical use and improve crop management. As these tools continue to evolve, they will play a critical role in feeding a growing global population.

## Robotic System Transforms Dairy Farm

IAS Member Darlene Kregel of Guttenberg shares how her family's use of Lely Automated Barn Systems has transformed their dairy operation. The robotic system handles milking, feeding, and overall livestock management—creating a low-stress environment where cows thrive. Darlene says the automation has not only improved herd health and productivity but also enhanced her family's work-life balance. With the daily milking taken care of, she's able to spend more time with her grandchildren.

The system also delivers real-time data on each cow's milk production, health, and activity, allowing the Kregels to make informed decisions and provide more personalized care.

Their farm recently added automated calf feeders powered by IAS Calf Starter. Like the milking system, each calf wears an ear tag that identifies them and delivers a precise ration tailored to their needs. The feeders also track how much each calf consumes and store that data in a farm management system—making it easy to monitor performance and growth across the entire herd.

*Written by Shelby Wartick, Communications Director*

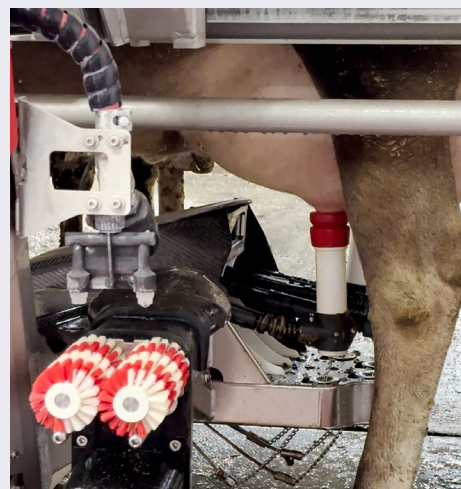


### Want to see robotic milking in action?

Scan the QR code and check out this and other great videos on our YouTube Channel.

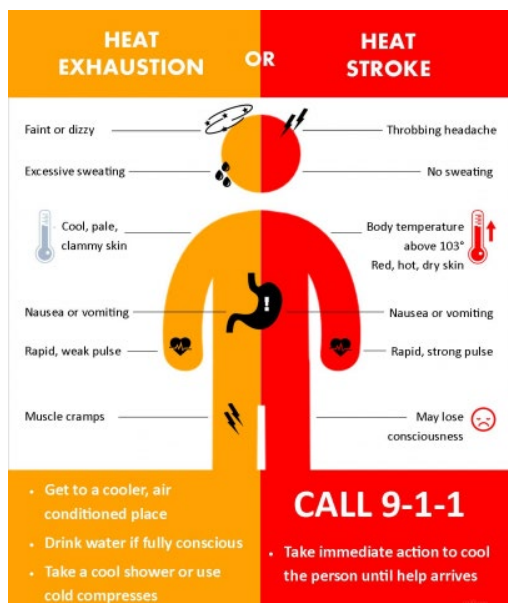


Darlene Kregel shares about their robotic milking system.



# Summer Safety Reminder for IAS Members

Bill Vetter, Safety & Compliance Director



As summer activities ramp up—both on and off the farm—it's important to stay mindful of safety. Taking a few simple precautions can help prevent injuries and health issues during the busy season.

## Think Ahead and Stay Prepared

Whether you're mowing, baling hay, climbing ladders, or out on the water, every activity carries some risk. Take time to review your surroundings, identify hazards, and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective gear. Supervise children carefully and make sure equipment is used appropriately for their age and ability.

## Heat Awareness and Prevention

Most heat-related illnesses can be prevented with a little planning and awareness. Heat stress can build quickly during long hours outside, especially between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### Protect yourself by:

- Drinking water frequently and avoiding alcohol or

caffeinated drinks

- Wearing lightweight, light-colored clothing
- Taking breaks in the shade or a cool place
- Wearing sunscreen, hats, and long sleeves when possible

### Know the signs of heat stress:

- Headache, dizziness, nausea, muscle cramps, heavy sweating, or fatigue
- If left untreated, these symptoms can lead to heat exhaustion or even heat stroke

**Heat Exhaustion** happens when your body loses too much water and salt through sweating. Move to a cool place, drink water, and apply wet towels to exposed skin. Medical attention usually isn't needed if caught early.

**Heat Stroke** is more serious and requires immediate medical help. Symptoms include high body



## Celebrating Co-ops and Country

Innovative Ag Services proudly joined cooperatives around the world in celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives, an initiative led by the United Nations to highlight how co-ops deliver inclusive, people-first solutions to global challenges. This year's CoopsDay theme, "Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World," reflects the very heart of our cooperative model — putting members first, investing in local communities, and upholding values like democracy, solidarity, and sustainability. IAS is proud to be part of a global movement that empowers people and strengthens rural America through shared ownership and purpose.



temperature (103°F+), hot/dry skin, confusion, or unresponsiveness. Move the person to a shaded area, cool them with water or wet towels, and seek emergency care right away.

### Outdoor Food Safety

Warmer temperatures and higher humidity increase the risk of foodborne illness. If you're preparing food outdoors, make sure you have hand sanitizer or cleaning wipes nearby, and keep food properly stored to reduce the risk of bacteria growth.

### Water and Equipment Safety

If your family is around pools, lakes, or rivers, use multiple safety precautions—especially with children. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of death for children under 14. Monitor kids closely and limit sun exposure when heat indexes are high.

Use caution around lawnmowers and motorized equipment. Children under 12 should not use push mowers, and

kids should not be allowed to ride as passengers on mowers. UTVs and ATVs also require supervision and proper gear; these vehicles account for thousands of injuries and deaths each year.

Whether you're working or enjoying time with family, take a moment to think through your environment and keep safety in mind. Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.



**Did you know that August is Summer Sun Safety Month?**

## Red, White & Co-op Blue

To mark the occasion and kick off the 4th of July weekend, IAS held our very own Red, White & Co-op Blue celebration across locations on July 3. Team members dressed in patriotic and IAS gear, decorated offices, and shared their co-op spirit through creative photos. The Elkader location took top honors in our Spirit Contest, winning a grill-out prize package — and serious bragging rights! Events like these showcase the pride and passion behind the IAS culture — where teamwork, community, and a little friendly competition bring out the best in all of us.



Elkader Location



Garden City Location



2010 S Main St  
Monticello, IA 52310

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At Innovative Ag Services, we know that the best yields come from strong relationships—and those relationships are worth celebrating. You're invited to join us for the 2025 IAS Member Appreciation Dinners, where we'll serve up hearty meals, good company, and our sincere gratitude.

**Let Us Know You're Coming:**

Contact your local IAS location to RSVP and get more event details. Whether you've been a member for decades or just joined our cooperative, we look forward to serving you a meal as a small way to say—thank you.

Location(s)	Date	Time	Venue
Cascade and Farley	Jul 24	5–8 p.m.	Farley Memorial Hall
Ellsworth, Garden City, and Hubbard	Aug 4	5–8 p.m.	Hubbard Golf & Recreation Center
Central City	Aug 6	5–8 p.m.	Linn County Fairgrounds
Ackley, Aplington, Cleves, and Faulkner	Aug 12	5–8 p.m.	Timbers Edge
Andrew	Aug 21	5–8 p.m.	ISU Extension Building
Union	Aug 28	5–7 p.m.	South Hardin Rec Center