



MOMENTUM

**INTRODUCING
MY MFA OIL**

Your Account, Your Control

PAGE 10

High Yields,
HARD TIMES

PAGE 6



We live where you do.

Fall 2025

POWER THROUGH YOUR DAY **LIKE A BOSS**



When the job demands everything you've got, BOSS Performance Diesel keeps you going strong. Designed to deliver maximum power and efficiency, it fuels your engine with the energy to conquer long hours and heavy workloads. Stay in control and power through every challenge—like a BOSS.

- ✓ Increases horsepower and fuel economy over untreated #2 diesel fuel.*
- ✓ Extends engine life by increasing lubricity, typically by 15%, exceeding the standards of manufacturers and ASTM International.
- ✓ Keeps engines cleaner by preventing fuel-filter plugging and deposits on nozzles and internal diesel injectors.

Find BOSS Diesel near you at
BossPerformanceDiesel.com.

BOSS[®]
PERFORMANCE DIESEL

MFA[®] OIL
Bulk Fuels

Petro-Card
24

*When used consistently over the life of the engine vs typical rack fuel.



contents

FALL 2025 ----- VOL. 11 NO. 1



6

FEATURES

6

High Yields, Hard Times

Rising Expenses
and Weak Markets
are Squeezing
Farm Profits

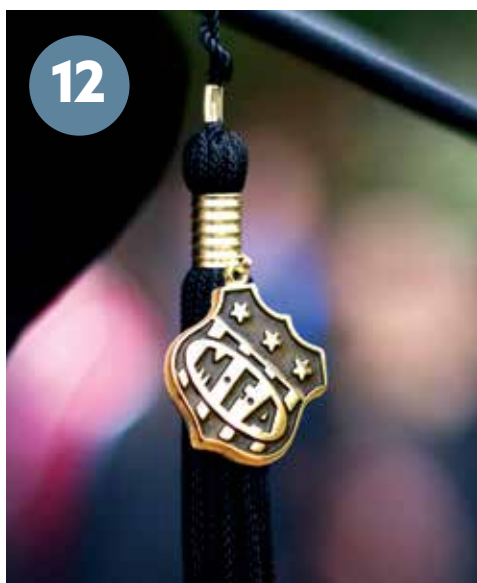


10

10

Introducing My MFA Oil

Your Account,
Your Control



12

12

2025 MFA Foundation Scholarship Recipients



Cover photo by
Soru Epotok.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Leadership Letter | 24 Giving Back |
| 5 Spotlight | 28 Delegate Profile |
| 20 The Big Picture | 30 Market Commentary |
| 22 Ag Educators Series | 31 News Briefs |



Service Made Simple

In the age of the smartphone, technology has put information and convenience literally at our fingertips. You can order a pizza, pay your bills or check the weather in a matter of seconds. People have grown accustomed to doing business online, and we've been working hard to add convenience for MFA Oil members and customers.

I am proud to announce the development of My MFA Oil, our online customer portal, which will provide a streamlined, user-friendly platform that puts you in control of your accounts. This digital hub will allow you to manage your MFA Oil accounts at any time, from anywhere.

My MFA Oil will link all accounts associated with your taxpayer ID, allowing seamless access to tank data, contracts, estimated tank percentages and account activity. This means you can monitor fuel levels, review sales and payments, and download invoices or statements by date range, with just a few finger taps or mouse clicks.

We've designed the portal to be a one-stop shop for all things related to your MFA Oil accounts. Everything from membership and patronage details to Petro-Card 24 data and tax exemptions will be accessible. We've even added an MFA Oil locator to help you find the closest office or Petro-Card 24 location if you are traveling.

If you are approved for MFA Oil credit, you also will be able to make payments through the integrated system without re-entering your payment data, making it easier to pay your bills. The portal is designed for use on both mobile and desktop devices, allowing you to manage your farm, business or household accounts on the go.

You may be wondering, "When can I sign up for this service?" An official launch date is coming soon (see story on page 10). We are carefully testing the portal to ensure a smooth rollout.

By late 2026, My MFA Oil will gain even more functionality, including the ability to update contact information, digitally sign and submit forms, manage Petro-Card preferences, and receive push notifications and estimated delivery times.

The development and launch of the My MFA Oil customer portal is a big step forward for our cooperative. We want to make it easy to do business with us, whether you're in the cab of your tractor, the sale barn or your home.

Convenience and mobile access are the name of the game in 2025, and we are excited to bring you these features through My MFA Oil. It's the next step in strengthening our service and connection with you, providing you with the convenience and control to manage your energy needs, no matter where you are.

Jon Ihler,
President and CEO



Fall 2025 • Vol. 11 No. 1

This magazine comes to you courtesy of MFA Oil Company, a farmer-owned cooperative providing energy solutions to customers for more than 90 years. We deliver high-quality propane, fuels and lubricants to farmers and other customers across an eight-state region stretching from Indiana to Kansas. Momentum is an information service for farm families, published by MFA Oil.

Momentum is digitally published three times annually. For story ideas or other inquiries, email editor@mfaoil.com or call 800-366-0200.

www.facebook.com/MFAOil
[instagram.com/MFAOil](https://www.instagram.com/MFAOil)

Address: 1 Ray Young Drive
Columbia, MO 65201

President and CEO
Jon Ihler

Sr. Manager of Marketing Services
Ashley Bower

Editor
Adam Buckallew

Graphic Designer
Kristin Branscom

Board of Directors
Glen Cope (Chairman),
Jake Taylor (Vice Chairman),
Tony Dameron, Monte Fisher,
Mike Moreland, Randy Pace,
Dean Snyder, Jim Stuever

©2025 MFA Oil Company
www.mfaoil.com

Break Time Marks 40 Years of Convenience, Connection and Change

When Break Time opened its first store in 1985, convenience looked a little different. The average store was about 500 square feet, roughly the size of a two-car garage, with just a handful of soda options, two kinds of coffee and a cash register that actually required cash. Four decades later, the convenience-store brand owned by MFA Petroleum Company has grown into a network of 76 locations across Missouri, some of which are 10 times larger than the originals. And while much has changed, the mission remains the same: to make life easier for customers.

40 Deals in 40 Days

Break Time marked its milestone anniversary this summer with 40 Deals in 40 Days. Promotions ran from July 1 to Aug. 9 and rewarded customers with daily savings through the MyTime Rewards program. The campaign featured fun, rotating offers on snacks, drinks and fuel. Additionally, Break Time offered forty-cent refills on fountain and coffee drinks to all customers from July 1 through Labor Day.

“The 40-cent refills were a huge success,” said Anita Bichsel, Break Time’s marketing manager. “Customers loved the pricing, and it was a fun way to thank them for 40 years of support.”

The MyTime Rewards deals created excitement both in-store and online.

“It gave us a chance to collaborate with our vendors and highlight new products,” Bichsel said. “The free Mountain Dew day was one of the most popular promotions we’ve done.”

Occasional pop-up fuel discounts added another layer of excitement to the anniversary celebration.

“This celebration was our way of saying a heartfelt thank-you to the customers who’ve supported us for 40 years,” Bichsel said. “Surprising them with pop-up fuel discounts was a fun way to



show our appreciation and make the anniversary feel truly special.”

Evolving with the Industry

As the convenience-store industry has evolved, so too has Break Time.

“Some of our first stores were incredibly small, with limited cooler space,” said Jennifer Bach, vice president of Break Time operations. “Back then, we might have had milk, soda and beer. Today, we have a huge selection of adult beverages, soft drinks, bottled water, energy drinks, teas, coffee drinks and more.”

In modern Break Time locations, some of which are as large as 6,000 square feet, customers will find Beer Caves, expanded snack sections and complete food-service programs like Chester’s Chicken, Hunt Brothers Pizza and the brand’s own line of AnyTime Eats breakfast sandwiches.

“Fuel remains an important part of what we do,” Bach said, “but today’s convenience-store customer wants a reason to come inside. That’s why we’ve invested so heavily in food service and store experience.”

Break Time has also embraced technology with the launch of its MyTime Rewards loyalty program in 2017 and the introduction of self-checkout kiosks in 2023.

“Many of our customers are looking for flexibility at checkout,” Bach said. “With

most transactions now happening through digital payment methods, offering self-checkout gives them more options and a faster, more convenient experience.”

Behind the scenes, technology is improving operations, too.

“We’ve added systems that help our team manage inventory, scheduling and training more efficiently,” she said. “Customers may not see that side, but it helps ensure every visit feels consistent and convenient.”

Powered by People

While Break Time’s stores have gotten bigger and smarter, Bach said the brand’s greatest strength still lies in its people.

“In many of our stores, the employees know their customers by name,” she said. “They know their usual order. Those types of connections keep people coming back. That community bond is something we’re very proud of.”

Looking ahead, Break Time plans to continue upgrading older stores, expanding food options and introducing new technologies like mobile pay and potential food delivery for select markets.

“We’re also developing a more interactive training program to engage younger employees,” Bach said. “We have to meet our workforce where they are—on their phones, in digital spaces—and make learning more dynamic.”

From its humble beginnings to today’s modernizations, Break Time’s 40-year journey reflects the evolution of the convenience industry itself.


“What hasn’t changed is our commitment to serving our communities,” Bach said. “We’ve been part of people’s daily routines for 40 years, and we’re excited to keep earning that place for many more years to come.” **M**



High Yields, **HARD TIMES**

**Rising Expenses and
Weak Markets are
Squeezing Farm Profits**

BY ADAM BUCKALLEW



Across the countryside, combines are rolling through a projected fall harvest of 21.5 billion bushels of corn, soybeans and grain sorghum, a 10% increase over last year. While silos are being filled to the brim, the bin-bursting crop is not expected to bring much financial relief. Balance sheets are buckling under the weight of high input prices and weak commodity prices.

Across the Corn Belt, the math just isn't penciling out. Input costs that spiked during the pandemic have remained stubbornly high while grain prices have dropped below breakeven for many operations.

"The sobering reality is that many farmers are hurting," said Zippy Duvall, a third-generation Georgia farmer who has served as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation for nearly a decade. "Talk to any farmer who grows row crops, and he or she will tell you they are struggling with the lowest prices in almost 20 years."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts cash receipts from crop sales to fall by \$6.1 billion, or 2.5%, from \$242.7 billion in 2024 to \$236.6 billion in 2025. If that projection holds, crop cash receipts would sink to their lowest level since 2007.

The downturn comes as farmers face mounting financial pressure from myriad angles. Interest rates remain high, agricultural exports are stagnant or declining, input expenses continue to climb, and a government shutdown has halted access to USDA marketing assistance loans, a vital tool many producers use for cash flow during the harvest season.

USDA EYES COMPETITION

The dire circumstances challenging producers have drawn the attention of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, who acknowledged "agriculture is under threat" during an appearance at the Ag Outlook Forum in downtown Kansas City, Mo., on Sept. 25.

"The cost of doing business for our farmers has increased drastically while commodity prices have slipped," Rollins said.

The agriculture secretary proceeded to outline how costs are up across the board. Since 2020, seed expenses have risen by 18%, fuel costs have increased by 30%, electricity costs have jumped 36%, fertilizer costs are up 37%, machinery prices have grown by 45%, labor

costs are up 47%, and interest expenses have ballooned 73% higher.

Rollins announced that USDA will work with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to closely examine the rising cost of agricultural inputs and ensure competitive supply chains under a memorandum of understanding.

"The DOJ will scrutinize competitive conditions in the agricultural marketplace, including antitrust enforcement that promotes free market competition," Rollins said.

Interest rate reductions have been a frequent topic of concern for the White House, and Rollins said she would be more vocal with the Federal Reserve to advocate for farmers.

"The Fed needs to keep lowering rates so farmers and rural communities can finally see relief, and I'll be talking about that as we move toward the next meeting of the Fed," she said.

SOUNDING THE ALARM

When representatives from the offices of Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Rep. Rick Crawford (R-Ark.) scheduled a farm meeting in northeast Arkansas on Sept. 2, they intended to meet with a handful of farmers. However, word of the meeting spread, and over 400 producers stepped away from harvesting their fields to share their concerns with the officials in attendance.

Adam Chappell, who raises soybeans, rice and corn on 2,400 acres in eastern Arkansas, told Farm Journal's Chris Bennett, "This is the worst agriculture economy of my lifetime over at least the past three years, and right this minute, guys are going under—as in bankruptcy or leaving the farm."

Chappell says farmers are being squeezed by monopolistic practices, and as the last link in the supply chain, there is no way to pass those costs on to anyone else.

"Seed, chemicals or fertilizer, it's all in the hands of a few companies that are the only game in town," he said. "You want to fix farming? Start a federal investigation on those big companies. Booming quarterly earnings and big stock dividends make no sense when farmers can't pinch a penny."

CONSOLIDATION CONCERNS

A 2023 USDA study found that two companies supplied nearly 72% of the corn seeds and approximately 66% of the



The cost of doing business for our farmers has increased drastically while commodity prices have slipped.”

-U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins spoke at the Ag Outlook Forum in downtown Kansas City, Mo., on Sept. 25, where she warned that “agriculture is under threat” as production costs continue to climb. Rollins detailed sharp increases in expenses since 2020 and announced a new USDA partnership with the Department of Justice to investigate input pricing and strengthen market competition.



soybean seeds cultivated by U.S. farmers. Meanwhile, mergers and acquisitions in the fertilizer market have consolidated roughly 80% of the market among four primary corporate players.

In response to farmer concerns about rising fertilizer prices and competition, on Sept. 16, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) reintroduced the Fertilizer Research Act, bipartisan legislation that would look at how industry consolidation is driving up the cost of key inputs such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Speaking from the U.S. Senate floor on Sept. 29, Grassley spoke of the stress farmers are dealing with in response to the difficult crop math, “losing \$1.10 per bushel on corn and about \$2 per bushel on soybeans,” as commodity prices have failed to keep up.

“It’s beginning to look like the 1980s agriculture depression all over.... Thousands of farmers went out of business in the 1980s, and that should concern us all,” he said.

The bill, which is backed by the National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association, has yet to have a hearing and may not receive one for some time as legislators debate how to fund the federal government, which shut down on Oct. 1.

TRADE AND AID

At the end of October, farmers received long-awaited trade news which should help buoy soybean prices. President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping struck a one-year truce in trade disputes, with China pledging an immediate \$15 billion purchase of soybeans and commitments to maintain imports near 2023–24 levels through 2027. The announcement steadied soybean markets, which had been reeling from a lack of Chinese purchases in 2025, with soybean exports down 51% year-over-year before the deal.

China is the world’s largest grain buyer and traditionally has been the top buyer of U.S. soybeans. During the recent trade tensions with the United States, China has been diversifying its imports by increasing purchases from Brazil and Argentina. The news that Xi approved at least 12 million metric tons of U.S. soybean purchases in the final two months of 2025 and at least 25 million metric tons in each of the next three years provides much-needed demand for U.S. growers.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said other countries in Southeast Asia have agreed to buy another 19 million tons of U.S. soybeans but did not specify a timeframe for those purchases or the nations involved. Asian importers other than China have imported between 8 million and 10 million tons annually in

recent years, according to U.S. Census Bureau trade data.

More relief could be on the way once legislators resolve the government shutdown. The White House is planning a multibillion-dollar farm support program, but administration officials are still finalizing how much money to include in the first round of aid, how to pay for it and how to deploy it.

Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), who chairs the Ag Appropriations panel, said a portion of the aid program will come from the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), but it’s stuck behind the shutdown: “It’s teed up and good to go... it’s really up to the president and ag secretary to decide on the timing.”

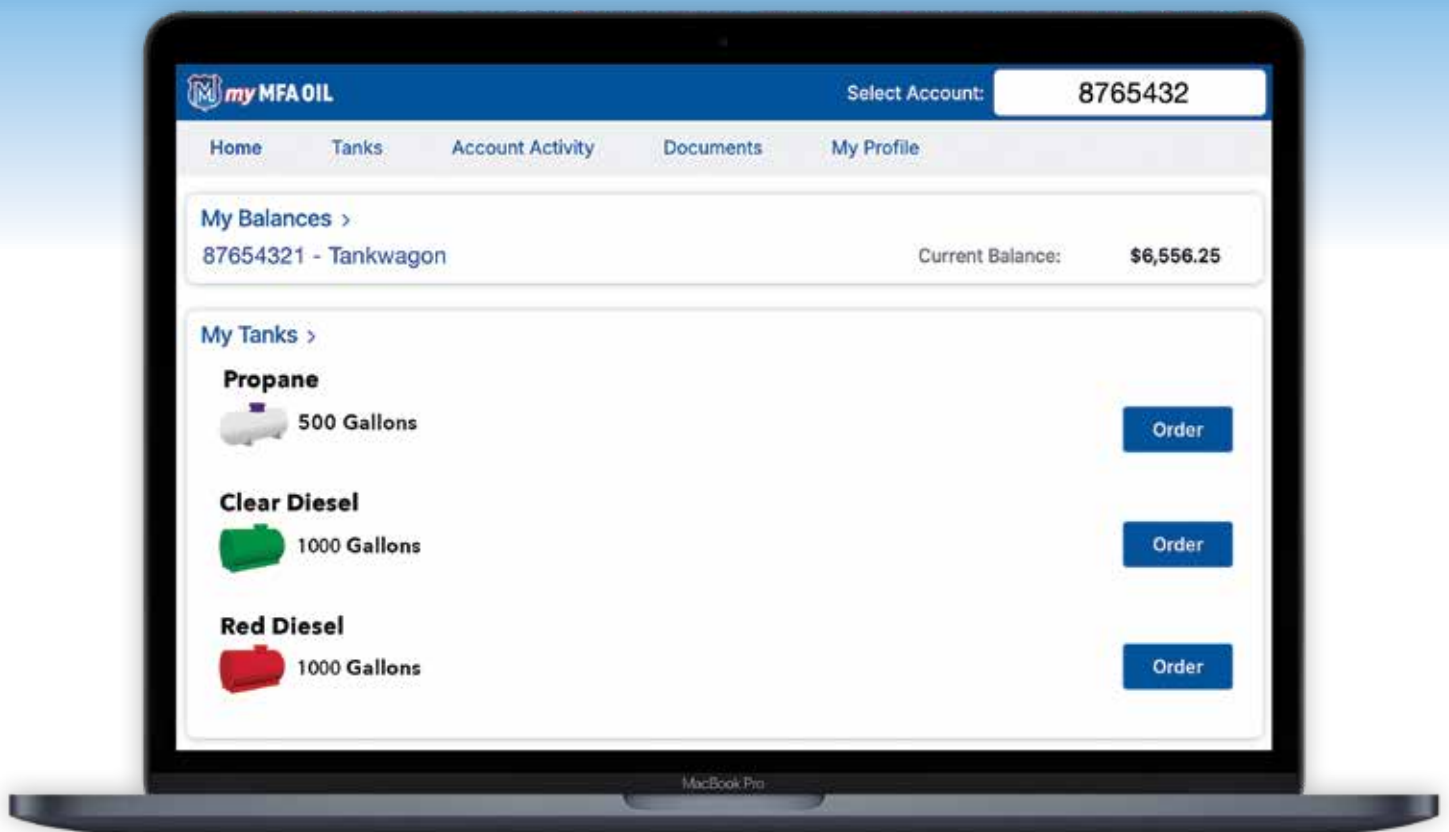
USDA has shifted \$13 billion from the CCC to a new emergency fund to help farmers weather the tough circumstances. The move gives the USDA flexibility to deploy direct assistance quickly once the government reopens.

For now, many farmers are taking the trade breakthrough and pending aid as a much-needed glimmer of hope in a difficult year. The promise of renewed demand from China and Southeast Asia, combined with fresh USDA support, offers a lifeline to operations stretched thin. These developments provide a welcome shift toward stability and a hint of optimism that next season will be better than the last. **M**



INTRODUCING MY MFA OIL

Your Account, Your Control

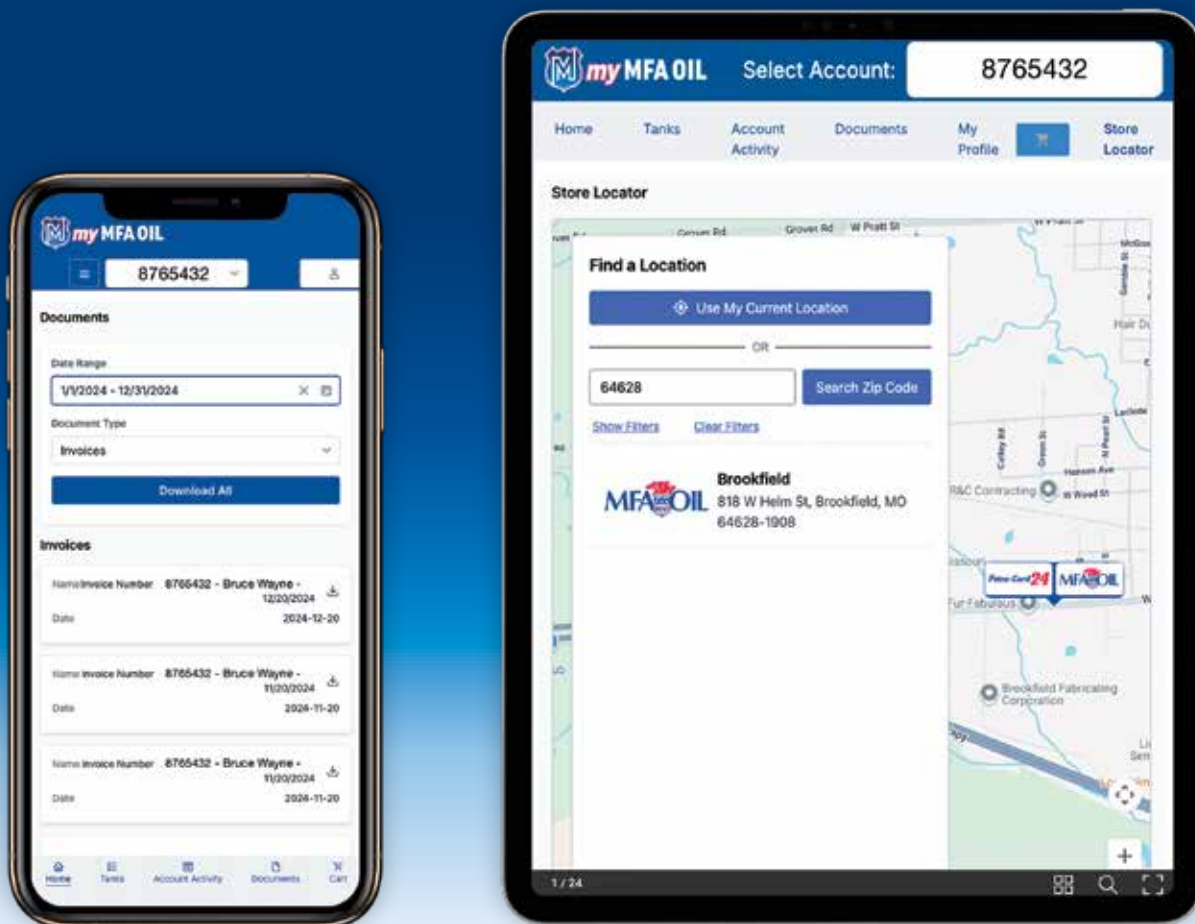


For years, MFA Oil members and customers have asked for an easier way to manage their accounts online. This December, that request becomes a reality with the launch of My MFA Oil, a secure digital portal that allows members to manage their account details, invoices, orders and payments in one convenient place.

“My MFA Oil represents a major step forward in how we serve our members,” said Justi Montague, director of operational

efficiency and data governance. “Our members and customers want the ability to do business with us on their own schedule, whether that means checking deliveries, paying a bill or placing an order from their phone. This platform gives them that flexibility.”

The new portal reflects MFA Oil’s ongoing investment in technology, strengthening its connection with members while improving convenience and transparency. Once logged in, users



can view invoices and payment history, check recent deliveries, see estimated tank levels, and review their account balance. They can also place orders, make secure payments, access statements, and review tax and patronage information. “My MFA Oil gives our customers a clear view of their relationship with the co-op,” Montague explained. “It’s designed to make doing business with us simple, efficient and accessible from anywhere.”

BUILT FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW


The launch is part of a broader effort to modernize MFA Oil’s digital services. The company began developing the portal more than a year ago, working closely with internal teams and technology partners to ensure it integrates seamlessly with existing systems.

“From the beginning, our goal was to build something that truly fits how our members do business,” Montague said.

While the initial version includes robust account management tools, MFA Oil plans to continue adding new features after launch. Future enhancements will allow users to update contact information, manage paperless billing preferences and more.

“Our members’ expectations are changing, and we’re evolving with them,” Montague said. “The portal will allow for a more connected experience that keeps members informed and in control of their accounts.”

More information about how to register and start using the new system will be shared as the official launch date nears.

“Our members count on us to make their lives a little easier,” Montague said. “My MFA Oil is another way we’re delivering on that promise, by putting their account information and ordering tools right at their fingertips.” 

My MFA Oil Features:

- One Login for All Accounts
- Monitor Tank Levels & Contract Details
- Place Fuel Orders
- Review Sales & Payments
- Download Invoices & Statements
- Pay Online (January 2026)
- View Tax Exemptions & Expiration Dates
- Find MFA Oil Locations

COMING SOON:

- Update account contact details
- Manage paperless billing preferences

2025

MFA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Every year, the MFA Foundation distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to high school seniors. The Foundation is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization jointly administered by MFA Oil Company and MFA Incorporated with the primary purpose of providing educational opportunities to youth located throughout the trade territories of the two companies. Since 1965, the Foundation has awarded scholarships to nearly 16,000 students, totaling more than \$18.7 million.

One scholarship is offered annually at each high school in whose town a participating MFA Agri Services Center, MFA Oil Company propane plant, MFA Oil Company bulk plant or other MFA agency is located. MFA Oil funds its contributions to the Foundation through unclaimed member equities.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship should contact their school counselor to see if one is offered in their area. Counselors obtain applications from participating locations. Local committees select the scholarship winners, who are announced at graduation ceremonies. The majority of the scholarships are \$2,500 and may be used at any college or university. This year, 293 high school seniors received a total of \$732,500 in scholarships.

Marissa Kay Andrus, Ash Grove
Jerry Gauge Arbogast, Centerville, IA
Logan Michael Arbuckle, New Cambria



Shelby Lynn Austin, English, IN
Gage Louis Baker, Fulton
Hailey Renee Baker, Nixa
Sydnee Kristine Baldwin, Nevada
JayIn Zane Barb, Edwards



Andrew James Basler, Bloomsdale
Lilly Anne Bax, St. Elizabeth
Harlee M. Beck, Chillicothe
Carter Roland Bell, Rich Hill
Brody Wayne Bird, Gallatin





Ethan Warren Bletzinger, Greenville, KY
Henry Laurence Bohlmeier, Centralia
LeAnna Marye Boone, King City
Kaleb M. Bower, Laredo
Jacob Pickett Bradley, Ravenden, AR



Connor Thomas Briggs, Beaufort
Ryan Allen Broyles, Blue Mound, KS
Trenton Carl Broyles, Blue Mound, KS
Ava Claire Burkhalter, Green Ridge
Kaelyn J. Burns, Rector, AR



Baylie Irene Busby, Parnell
Riley Nichole Buttress, Summersville
Olivia Carlson, Lincolnville, KS
Trenton Carmon, Norwood
Elyana Clair Castleman, East Prairie



Ellie Danielle Cawyer, Carthage
Kenzi Cheek, Preston
McKenna Lynn Claborn, Silex
Lexi Mae Clark, Chillicothe
Gabe Alexander Clutter, Belton



Hana Marie Cole, Olpe, KS
Ben Donald Cordell, Skidmore
Addison Cotton, Seligman
Patrick Dean Cox, Eminence
Zoey Rayne Criner, Mountain Grove



Addison Brooke Culp, Forrest City, AR
Reece Shannon Culwell, Vandalia
Emma Daum, Centralia
Mary Elizabeth Davidson, Ash Grove
Tony Lee Davidson, Stilwell, OK



Blayne Adesen Davis, Cabool
Jackson Ivan Debrock, Cape Girardeau
Addisyn Grace Deis, Gilliam
Gretchen Dickerson, Unionville
Landon John Diebal, Hermann



Lyndon Dohlman, Riceville, IA
Isabelle Dooley, Richmond
Sophia Lynn Dovin, Shelbina
River Stanley Dow, Tarkio
McKenzie Dowell, Miami

Brooklyn Marie Duggan, Camdenton
 Emma Nicole Duling, Galena, KS
 Hayden Philip Duncan, Centertown
 Noah Timothy Eckhoff, Lincoln
 Jenna Marie Edwards, Carrollton



Zachary Eftink, Chaffee
 Eva Eloise Engel, Worth
 Lindsey Marie Engelage, Warrenton
 Whitney Erickson, Blue Springs
 Clara Kate Farran, El Dorado Springs



Magnum Lee Fenimore, Pattonsburg
 Callie Marie Ferguson, Adrian
 Kallie Feuerborn, Garnett, KS
 Sawyer Harrison Ford, Hamilton
 Sophia Marie Fritsch, Ste. Genevieve



Gabe Connor Gall, New Cambria
 Tayla Dawn Garlock, Gibbs
 Jacie Marie Gavisk, Walnut Grove
 Grace Elizabeth Gebhardt, Salisbury
 Tyler J. Gegg, Ste. Genevieve



Emma Teresa Gerdes, New Haven
 Jacob Douglas Gerdes, New Haven
 Joshua David Giesmann, Saint Paul
 Averi Marie Glosemeyer, Marthasville
 Emma Goetz, Henley



Landry L. Golden, Mountain Grove
 Carter Bradley Grass, Ste. Genevieve
 Noah Ryan Groose, Dadeville
 Jarrett Dawn Groseclose, Lancaster
 Jackson David Gunter, Conway



Brayden Jude Hallford, California
 Cole Aaron Hamilton, Archie
 Cord Hamilton, Van Wert, IA
 Jace Addison Hanes, Lancaster
 Emma Jayne Hankins, Osceola



Paige Marie Hanson, Graham
 Hallie Robin Harkrader, Appleton City
 Abigail Louise Harms, Westboro
 Hailey Marie Harry, Slater
 Lydia Marie Haynes, Dawn





Emily Adeline Heins, Concordia
 Braydon Michael Hemme, Carrollton
 Addilyn Jo Henke, Princeton
 Aiden Gene Henley, Eldon
 Elise Rayleon Hettinger, Novinger



Lanie Elizabeth Hill, Linneus
 Chloe Marie Hodge, New Hampton
 Rachel Nicole Hodges, Perry
 Dexton Scott Hoelting, Olpe, KS
 Maleah Denise Hogan, Moundville



Emma Holmes, Rector, AR
 Wyatt William Holt, Rosendale
 Cash Dale Honeycutt, Richmond
 Memphis Hadassah Hoover, Depew, OK
 Kaylee Marie Howerton, Lebanon



Tucker Lee Hughes, Essex
 Rylan Grant Hundley, Franklin
 Rebecca Ann Hunt, Braymer
 Haley Elizabeth Imhoff, Blackwater
 Olivia Anyango Inda, St. James



Hallie Ann Ingram, Russell, IA
 Melissa Marie Rose Innes, Fayette
 Colton Austin Isch, Gridley, KS
 Adelynn M. Jackson, Osborn
 Emily Jeffries, Garden City



Abbye Devoe Johnson, Trenton
 Hynlie Kaye Johnson, Birch Tree
 Myah Faith Johnson, Ash Grove
 Jasper Tucker Jones, Chillicothe
 Samuel L. Jordan, Savannah



Morgan R. Kallmeyer, Salisbury
 Rhett William Keaton, Anderson
 Alice Marie Kenedy, Matthews
 Audrey Christian Keuper, Lincoln
 Collin R. Kinsella, Elmo



Kolton James Kleeman, Lockwood
 Ava Loraine Kloeppel, Vienna
 Brystol Lynn Klossner, Rolla
 Josephine Kluesner, Washington
 Ella Kraenzle, Ste. Genevieve

Kameryn Addison Dianne Lane, Licking
 Erin Summer Lee, Lee's Summit
 Kendall Link, Meadville
 Clayton Dean Linsey, Lebo, KS
 Paidyn Linville, Clearmont



Blake Lewis Livengood, Sweet Springs
 Jansen Lee Loeb, Owensville
 Alexandra Elaine Lucas, Jacksonville
 Ada Marie Mabary, Preston
 Addison Mais, Dardenne Prairie



Lillie Marie Mannering, Warrensburg
 Lilyan Grace March, Greentop
 Ava Irelyn Martin, Fulton
 Gunnar Morningstar McCrary, Pattonsburg
 Kynlee JoAnn McCulloch, Lamar



Lindsay Anne McDonald, Mt. Vernon
 Cole Alton Lee Medsker, Oregon
 Cadence Grace Meyer, Brunswick
 Alexis M. Miller, Chilhowee
 Ashton Miller, Huntsville, AR



Chelsea Marie Miller, Lancaster
 Nolan Hayes Milliken, Lebanon
 Jackson Andrew Mills, Ozark
 Langston Jolee Mitchell, Cassville
 Clayton Garrett Moore, Fulton



Heather Lee Mowdy, Pittsburg, KS
 Jillian A. Mudd, Knob Noster
 Carter L. Nash, Parsons, KS
 Laura Gayle Noland, Hannibal
 Reagan Lynn O'Farrell, Appleton City



Dane William Oelrichs, New Haven
 Gavin Edward Ohrenberg, Concordia
 Grace Catherine Oswald, Fairfax
 Gavin Painter, Brunswick
 Harrison John Parker, Kahoka



Peyton Isaac Parn, Brookfield
 Cash James Pasley, Winona
 Samuel Parker Patterson, Stilwell, OK
 Jade Peak, Scammon, KS
 Walker Pearce, Butler

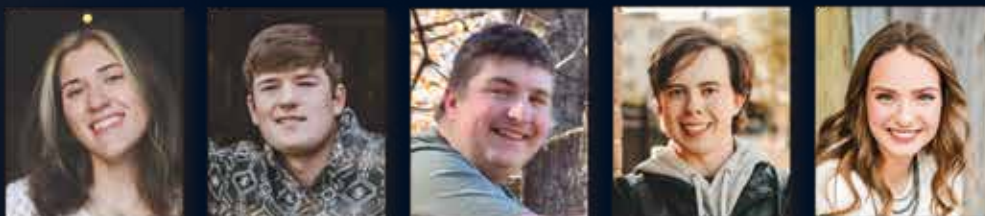




Bryce Logan Pemberton, Richland
Natalee A. Pennington, New Cambria
Carsyn Taylor Petree, Tipton
Brenna Phillips, Memphis
Ethan Ray Phillips, Lebanon



Austin Pope, Jasper
Kennedy M. Post, Maywood
Landon Pottebaum, New Florence
Liza Jane Priggel, Portageville
Annalee Claire Qualls, Lake City, AR



Jacey Maye Rader, Forest City
Reid Powell Ragsdale, Holliday
Jason Wade Ralls, Hale
Max Powell Ramsey, Lake Saint Louis
Maddux Elaine Irene Rash, Elkland



Hunter John Redden, Stanberry
Mallory Cate Reed, Green Ridge
Mason Eugene Reed, Atlanta
Tristan James Reed, Monett
Brayden Thomas Reid, Concordia



Claire Alexis Rentel, Pilot Grove
Sadie L. Rethman, Emporia, KS
Talan Brady Reynolds, Drexel
Andrew Paul Rhoad, Agency
Ethan Grant Rhoades, Princeton



Megan Elaine Rice, Green Ridge
Avery Elizabeth Ridgley, Jonesburg
Kentley Rieder, El Dorado Springs
Bailey Jane Riley, Marshall
Brooklyn M. Ritchhart, Carrollton



Kira Robertson, Eagleville
Kate Addison Robnett, Laddonia
Madison Marie Rode, Fair Grove
Jace Colton Rodgers, Willow Springs
Timothy James Rogers, Bedford, IA



Amelia Rohrbach, Fulton
Kaitlin Fay Rouell, Pryor, OK
Gabriella Grace Rowen, Sheridan
Eli Payton Rujawitz, Dixon
Amber Lee Sayre, Milan

Kathryn Marie Schaffer, Clinton
 Isaiah Aloysius Schieber, Maryville
 Blaine Charles Schlosser, Scott City
 Lizzie C. Schlueter, Tarkio
 Gage Lee Schneider, Union Star



Jackson Schuber, Flemington
 Rodney Wade Schuchmann, Bogard
 Eleanor Schweich, Washington
 Kaylee Scrivner, Mt. Vernon
 Brody Seitz, Aurora



Paige N. Sentlinger, Jasper
 Brock Shahaunt, Ayr, IA
 Randa June Shahan, Ridgeway
 Sadie Brooke Sharp, Berryville, AR
 Avah P. Shisler, Albany



Natalie Rose Shively, Monroe City
 Aric W. Siegel, Versailles
 Tierany Sky Sloan, Exeter
 Jaelyn Presley Smith, Malden
 Seth Michael Smith, Success, AR



Riley Katherine Smyser, Moberly
 Hanna Lee Snow, Pleasant Hill
 Marley Morgan Speer, Paragould, AR
 Clare Grace Staley, Rea
 Kenzie LeeAnn Starr, Stilwell, OK



Kaylen Grace Sterneker, Gallatin
 Kenton Dale Stevens, Albany
 Sienna M. Stewart, Glenwood
 Ryesen Stiens, Ravenwood
 Adeline Elizabeth Stone, Leon, IA



Ethan Strobel, Russellville
 Jackson Strodman, Glasgow
 Cheyenne Renee Studer, Fulton
 Max Stuecken, Freeburg
 Kyneigh Morgan Stull, Atlanta



Aubrey Michelle Suter, Strafford
 Sarah Taylor, Stockton
 Nik Allen Thieman, Lockwood
 Colton Eric Thompson, Cole Camp
 Myals Koen Thornhill, Clark





Maycee Lynn Thouvenel, Versailles
Taelor Reane Tomlinson, Berryville, AR
Beau Triplett, Rutledge
Wyatt G. Troesser, Mexico
Grayson William Turnmire, Excello



Jeralyn J. Twiehaus, Grain Valley
Lila Anne Uthlaut, New Florence
Gavin R. Utz, Easton
Marion Pauline Viana, New Haven
Ella Rose Virus, Concordia



Brooks David Volkart, California
Sami Jo Walker, Sparta
Jaylie Walther, Jackson
Madison Wankum, Meta
Zoe Lynn Warden, Bolivar



Mylee Kaydron Waters, Breckenridge
Bailey Jane Watson, Atlanta
Anabel Kathleen Weber, Argyle
Keaton Thomas Weter, Milan
Gabrielle Diane White, Pittsburg, KS



Riley Lee Whitlow, Greentop
Emily Lane Wilkens, Warrensburg
Jaden Opalina Wilkerson, Bucyrus
Lane T. Willard, Monroe City
Logan Wyatt Williamson, Bloomfield



Jonathan Todd Wilson, Bunch, OK
Riley Nicole Wilson, East Prairie
Nolen Scott Winkler, Clifton Hill
Zavrie Wiss, Lamar
Skylar Jo Wolfe, Slater



Klaire Cathryn Womack, Lake City, AR
Paige Madison Woods, Stanberry
Levi Matthew Wright, Emden
Owen LeRoy Wyatt, Callao
Makayla Dawn Yapple, Maryville



Chase W. Young, Lincoln
Levi Lewis Youtsey, Weatherby
Troy William Zeilstra, Brunswick
Kaly Jo Zoph, Dittmer
Brilynn Grace Zykan, Odessa



The Sky's the Limit for Drones on the Farm

BY UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Enthusiasm for drone use in agriculture is growing quickly, says Caleb O'Neal, University of Missouri Extension field specialist in plant science.

O'Neal teaches classes about drones across the state. He's seen interest from farmers, commercial sprayers, cow-calf operators, real estate professionals and some who are just curious about new technology. According to the American Spray Drone Coalition, acres sprayed in the United States increased from 4 million in 2023 to 10.3 million in 2024.

Like the ATVs of the 1980s

O'Neal likens increased drone usage to what has happened over the decades with all-terrain and utility task vehicles.

"Back in the 1980s, it would have been rare to see a UTV being used on a farm," he says. "Visiting farms today, I'm hard-pressed to find an operation larger than 20 acres that doesn't have some type of UTV that they utilize regularly."

This is likely to be the case with drones on the farm, as more farmers and ranchers see what an incredible tool they are, he says. "Drones have progressed from being a neat toy we might get our kids for Christmas to becoming a necessity for many agricultural operations."

Saving Time and Money

Drones with high-resolution cameras can reduce the need for ground-based field inspections, O'Neal says. They can help row crop farmers identify nutrient deficiencies, locate areas of poor soil health, scout for insects and disease, and make crop stand assessments.

Livestock producers can monitor fences and availability of water and can make sure animals are where they should be without even opening a gate. Drone technology lets producers quickly check estrus indication patches for optimized breeding timing, monitor cows during calving season, search for hidden newborn calves and look out for potential predators.

"Time is one of a farmer's most valuable and limited resources, so the more of it we can save while still completing the task, the better," O'Neal says.

Precision Ag Use

But precision agriculture is where drones truly shine.

"Using data-driven insights, drones can enable farmers to apply site-specific fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs to maximize return on investment,"

he says. "A pasture with a rash of blackberry weeds in isolated areas has great potential for a prescription herbicide application where only the problematic areas receive treatment via a spray drone, as opposed to a broadcast application where the entirety of the field is treated whether it needs it or not. A targeted spray application like this minimizes waste, reduces negative environmental impact and often can leave more dollars in the wallet of the landowner due to reduced chemical costs."

Accessibility Appeal

Drones also provide access to hard-to-reach areas of the farm, turning unproductive acreage into a moneymaker.

"In my neck of the woods in southwestern Missouri, the topography can be quite unforgiving, with some areas too harsh to allow access by ground spray rig or even ATV," O'Neal says. "With an aerial piece of equipment like a utility drone, landowners can now get herbicide applications on these problematic areas and put them into proper forage production."

"With current land values reaching for the heavens, it can be difficult to justify buying more acreage as we try to expand our farming operations. It may be a more prudent investment to ensure every acre of land we already own is highly productive. If we can reclaim a quarter acre here and a half acre there on property we already own, it can add up quickly and make sense from an investment perspective."

Training Required

While drones are valuable assets in modern farming, they pose inherent risks, as well as require state and federal licensing, O'Neal says.

Training programs hosted by MU Extension equip farmers and applicators with many tools for determining flight parameters of different spray applications. Through research, MU Extension specialists also have found that there are times when conventional equipment, such as a ground spray rig, is a more effective option for application.

"Drones are another tool available to modern farmers, and as most farmers will agree, you can never have too many tools," O'Neal says. "As drone technology continues to advance, its potential uses in agriculture grow as well. On many farms, drones are saving producers time, reducing input costs and bringing new levels of productivity to their land. Drones are no longer futuristic machines; they are transforming agriculture today, and they are tools that can enable farmers to optimize every acre and ensure their operational success." **M**

SHAPING THE JOURNEY

BY NATALIE KIENTZY

At Silex (Mo.) High School, it's hard to miss the blue corduroy jackets. The majority of students don the iconic FFA uniform proudly, not just as a part of their wardrobe, but as a part of who they are. With over 80% of the student body involved in agricultural education, FFA is a cornerstone of school life. Students raise crops and animals through supervised agricultural experience (SAE) projects, compete in contests, participate in team-building activities, and serve the community through roadside cleanups, appreciation breakfasts and more.

Guiding students through it all are ag teachers and FFA advisors Sean O'Brien and Elizabeth Kientzy, who believe the true value of ag education extends far beyond the classroom.

O'Brien has been leading the Silex FFA Chapter and shaping the student experience for 13 years. His journey toward ag education started early in his life. He grew up immersed in agriculture and involved in 4-H and FFA.

"I always knew I wanted to work in the ag industry, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," he said. "I studied ag education because it was such a broad path, but once I did my student teaching, I was hooked. I loved sharing my knowledge and building relationships with the students."

Kientzy, who joined the expanding program in 2023, took a similar route, combining a lifelong passion for education with her background in agriculture.

"I wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember, and I grew up farming," she said. "Once I started taking ag classes in high school, I felt called to pursue a career as an ag educator. I love teaching and agriculture, so it just made sense."



Sillex FFA members participated in the Drive to Feed Kids at the 2025 Missouri State Fair, where they joined FFA members from around the state to pack more than 177,000 meals.

Under their guidance, the program has achieved remarkable success. The trap shooting team once held a nine-year state championship streak, and the chapter has produced multiple Missouri State FFA officers and earned top honors across all levels of competition. In 2024, the program celebrated a monumental victory when its Agricultural Issues Forum team placed first in the nation, a major accomplishment that highlights the real-world skills students develop in ag classrooms.

But for O'Brien and Kientzy, awards and titles are only part of what defines success.

"The most rewarding part of the job is being along for the journey," O'Brien said. "Watching students grow as leaders and agriculturalists from freshman year to senior year and beyond is truly special."

That growth shows up in many forms, whether it's a student stepping into a leadership role, launching a new SAE project or simply taking on more responsibility.

"I feel proud of our program when I see someone step outside their comfort zone and start a new SAE program or give a speech for the first time," Kientzy said. "Being an ag educator can be a lot of work, but seeing what our students accomplish makes it all worth it."

In a rural community like Sillex, agriculture touches nearly every household in one way or another. Ag

education helps students connect what they're learning to the world around them and see where they might fit in.

"Almost all of our students have been exposed to agriculture, even if they didn't grow up on a farm," Kientzy said. "So, what they're learning in our classes can be engaging and help carry them through the rest of their lives."

O'Brien agreed, expanding on the importance of the program's diversity.

"We teach students the skills they need to work in production agriculture, but they also learn how to write a resume, manage finances, grow gardens, build things and so much more," he said.

That's the heart of O'Brien and Kientzy's work: giving students a chance to grow into skilled agriculturalists, thoughtful citizens and confident leaders, so that whether they stay in the industry or take another path, their roots in ag education will always be part of their journey. **M**

Agriculture teachers are vital to developing their students' understanding and appreciation for the agricultural industry. In recognition of their important role, MFA Oil is profiling the amazing work ag teachers do to prepare the next generation of leaders in agriculture.



Seed homework? We help you ace it.

From trial results to trait stacks, MFA has the resources you need to make smart seed decisions. When you're ready to plan, let MFA help you select the right hybrids and varieties for every acre.



Scan the code to see our
2025-26 Seed Solutions
Guide for all the MorCorn,
MorSoy and MFA Wheat
seed data in one place.



Helping Youth Thrive

BY NATALIE KIENTZY

Across rural communities, youth programs serve as powerful catalysts for learning, leadership and connection. Three 4-H clubs in MFA Oil's trade territory are proving just how impactful these opportunities can be, especially when paired with strong community support.

Each spring in Henry County, Mo., elementary students gather around warm incubators, eyes glued to the fragile miracle of life as chicks break free from their shells. Through a hands-on embryology program led by the local 4-H and extension office, students experience agriculture and life sciences in a way few textbooks can offer.

"The embryology program is a great way for kids to get involved in agriculture," said Delaney DeHart, youth program associate in Henry County. "It's not something you see in typical curriculum."

Until recently, the program had 20 Styrofoam incubators with small viewing windows and unreliable climate controls, but through funding from the MFA Oil Foundation, the program was able to purchase 10 new incubators with 360-degree viewing windows and advanced temperature and humidity regulation systems.

The updated equipment has made a significant impact. The larger viewing windows help students easily monitor the eggs, while improved climate control boosts hatch rates and reduces maintenance for teachers. With the new incubators, the program was able to reach seven schools, 31 classrooms and nearly 475 students in the spring of 2025.

While Henry County students experience science firsthand, 4-H members in Kansas are learning safety and responsibility through the Morris-Chase County Sharp



Members of Yadkin Creek 4-H Club worked with local FFA chapters to revamp the goat barn at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. An MFA Oil Foundation grant helped pay for the addition of 18 pens to the barn.

Shooters 4-H program. Seventeen years ago, Clark Carroll, his brother and another community member founded the program to give kids in Morris and Chase counties an opportunity to participate in shooting sports through 4-H. The program, which is completely self-funded, currently has roughly 40 members, many of whom started at age 8 and stay involved until they age out at 16.

"Gun safety is an important life skill—and one that's not widely taught," Carroll said. "We teach safe gun handling at every practice, so even if a member leaves after one year, they have those skills to carry throughout their lives."

For nearly two decades, the program relied on the same equipment, worn from many years of use. Through the MFA Oil Foundation, the Sharp Shooters were able to afford much-needed upgrades.

"When we got the grant, we were so happy," Carroll said. "We purchased new mats, cases for the kids to carry their guns, and spotting scopes and stands that we've never had before."

Meanwhile, in Crawford County, Mo., the Yadkin Creek 4-H Club is working hard to balance community service with the variety of projects 4-H offers, such as quilting, baking, gardening and raising livestock.

"Our program encompasses many things, but we really encourage kids to get involved and give back," said Kim Zeiss, the Yadkin Creek 4-H Club leader.

Some of the club's work includes fundraising for community causes, hosting fun events with the local senior center, and building and maintaining birdhouses in a local park. More recently, the club joined forces with local FFA chapters to take on a major project: revamping the goat barn at the Crawford County Fairgrounds.

The original barn, constructed with steel posts and uneven hog panels, was no longer sufficient for the growing goat exhibitors in the county. With the help of grants, including support from the MFA Oil Foundation, the barn was updated to include 18 additional pens, allowing more community members to showcase their hard work.

From science lessons to safe marksmanship practice, 4-H programs open doors for young people to learn and grow. Thanks to the support of the MFA Oil Foundation, these three programs—and many more like them—have been able to expand, improve and reach further than ever before, providing the next generation with the tools and experiences they need to succeed. **M**

GRADUATING SENIORS

APPLY NOW FOR THE MFA SCHOLARSHIP
BEING OFFERED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

The amount of the scholarship is \$2,500.

The scholarship may be used to pursue any course of study
that leads toward a certificate, associate or bachelor's degrees
at accredited insitutions.

Eligible high school seniors can apply for
the scholarship online between
Dec. 1, 2025, and Feb. 15, 2026, at
www.mfafoundation.com. For additional
information, see our website or contact
your local MFA or MFA Oil location.



MFA
FOUNDATION

ENABLE • INSPIRE • ACHIEVE

mfafoundation.com



—NOTICE—

MFA OIL COMPANY ANNUAL MEETING

**MONDAY,
DEC. 15, 2025**

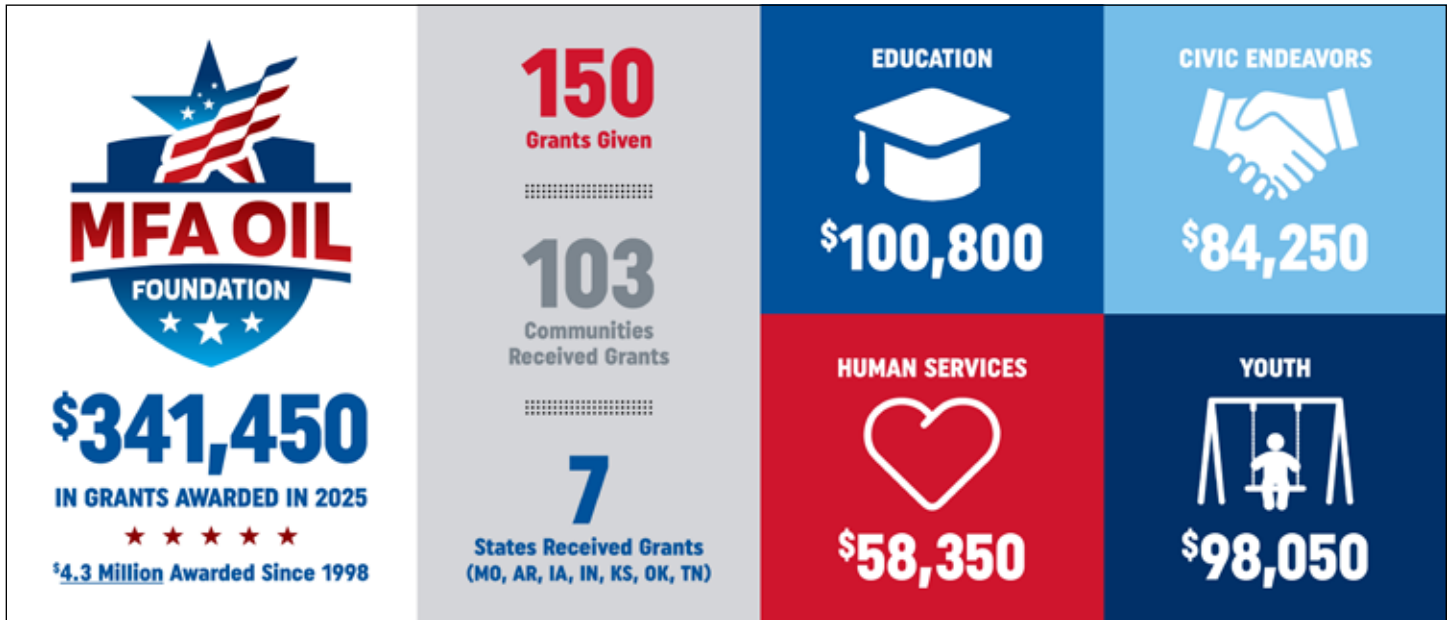
**9:30 a.m. • Wyndham Executive Center
Columbia, Missouri**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of MFA Oil Company, as represented by delegates elected in accordance with the bylaws, will be held at the Wyndham Executive Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Dr. SW, Columbia, Missouri, on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of presenting the annual report, approving the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes and the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.



Tami Ensor, Corporate Secretary

MFA Oil Foundation Distributes \$341,450 to Strengthen Local Communities



From classrooms and libraries to food banks and youth sports fields, 150 nonprofits shared in over \$341,450 in support from the MFA Oil Foundation during its 2025 fiscal year, strengthening 103 communities across seven states where MFA Oil Company has a presence.

The MFA Oil Foundation provides funding to local organizations that serve education, youth, humanitarian services and civic endeavors. Grants are frequently used to help nonprofits complete major projects or make significant purchases.

James Greer, senior vice president of supply and transportation and chairman of the MFA Oil Foundation, said the foundation is committed to strengthening the communities where the co-op's members and employees live and work.

"We believe strong communities make for a stronger cooperative," Greer said. "These grants are one way we can give back to the people and places that support us. Whether it's helping rural first responders purchase life-saving equipment, providing schools with resources for students or supporting youth programs that build future leaders, we're proud to invest in projects that create lasting impact."

In 2025, the foundation awarded more than \$100,000 for education; more than \$84,000 for civic endeavors, such as fire and police departments and libraries; more than \$58,000 for human services, including mental health services and senior


centers; and more than \$98,000 for youth organizations such as 4-H, after-school programs and youth sports.

New Grant Opportunities in 2026

As it enters its 2026 fiscal year, which began Sept. 1, the MFA Oil Foundation is expanding its grant program. In the past, most grants were limited to \$2,000, but the foundation will now consider larger, more impactful requests.

- Community Betterment Grants will continue to be awarded in amounts typically not exceeding \$2,000. Examples include supplies for first responders, educational materials for schools, support for 4-H and FFA programs that promote agriculture and cooperative education, and furniture or appliances for shelters and community facilities.
- Community Development Grants will provide opportunities for larger projects that offer more significant community impact. Examples include county fairground building projects, athletic fields and park facilities owned by local governments or school districts, major first-responder projects, and rural infrastructure improvements for libraries, community centers or schools.

Since its founding in 1998, the MFA Oil Foundation has awarded more than \$4.3 million in grants to community organizations throughout the cooperative's trade territory.

Organizations interested in applying for future grants can find program guidelines and eligibility requirements at mfaoil.com/foundation. 



40 YEARS OF BREAK TIME

A lot has changed, but one thing has always stayed the same: we have the best customers around.

Thank you for being a part of our journey!



Back Where She Belongs

BY NATALIE KIENTZY

Lacey Autrey's heart has always been rooted on her family's farm.

Her father bought the land in Morris County, Kan., in the 1970s, and she spent her childhood helping out and imagining her future in agriculture.

However, after high school, her father encouraged her to broaden her horizons. Lacey went to college, earned a philosophy degree and began a career away from the farm—but something was missing.

"I just felt stuck," she reflects. "I called my dad, and he said, 'Well, why don't you come work for me?'"

So, Lacey and her husband, Joshua, moved back to the land where she grew up and eventually purchased part of the farm to build their own operation. They started out raising cattle, growing soybeans and baling brome hay. A few years later, they added hogs and chickens to the mix.

One of their most innovative ventures was Oatie Beef, a direct-to-consumer business sparked by their curiosity about feeding cattle oats. They developed a ration of oats and alfalfa, and testing by Kansas State University revealed that the beef had lower cholesterol levels than chicken, turkey and grass-fed beef.

Over time, rising costs and the realities of small-scale row cropping prompted the Autreys to step away from soybean production. Now, they focus on their cow-calf operation, raising hogs, and growing alfalfa and brome for hay. Throughout these changes, one constant has been the family's relationship with MFA Oil.

During their years of crop production, Lacey and Joshua relied on the co-op's service to keep things running, especially during long days in the field. But what



Lacey Autrey farms with her husband, Joshua, in Morris County, Kan.

began as a practical partnership to have fuel on hand for harvest grew into something more meaningful.

"Going to customer appreciation events and hearing about the cooperative's values really excited me," Lacey recalls. "I was very pleased with how MFA Oil serves its customers and community."

When Johnnie Howe, the plant manager in Emporia, Kan., asked her to become a delegate in 2023, she accepted the invitation.

"MFA Oil invests in the community and helps people directly," she says. "It feels good to support a company that supports us right back."

As a delegate, Lacey sees herself as a bridge between the co-op and her rural community.

"I try to think about everyone involved in agriculture," Lacey says. "I want to make sure they're familiar with the cooperative and know that their voice matters."

She also values the opportunities and resources MFA Oil provides members, especially through events and programs such as local annual meetings and the Emerging Leaders in Ag Conference.

"They bring in such knowledgeable people to talk about everything from oil markets to mental health," Lacey says. "We don't always have time to stay on top of those things ourselves. Knowing someone is looking out for farmers is comforting. It really makes a difference."

That kind of support is something Lacey strives to offer in her community as well. Alongside managing farm operations and raising two children, Lacey serves as the Morris County Farm Bureau coordinator, a 4-H board member and the president of the Dwight Public Library board. Through it all, she draws strength from the legacy she's carrying forward.

"I love continuing the farm and ranch life that my dad and his dad started before me," Lacey says. "There's a sense of pride when I reflect on how hard they worked to keep going in this profession and pass it on to me."

For Lacey, success isn't about having the biggest operation in town; it's about staying rooted in her values and resilient through change.

"Just because something's been done the same way for 50 years doesn't mean it's the only way," she says. "It's okay to try new things until you find what fits your family, your farm and your future." **M**



MEMBER DISCOUNTS

\$100 OFF

ANY SET OF 4 IN-STOCK TIRES



15% OFF SERVICE

Brakes, Alignments, Shocks, Struts, Oil Changes & Lift Kits

- ✓ Same as cash financing
- ✓ Same day drop-off / Same day service
- ✓ Courtesy shuttle



BIG O

36 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

MISSOURI: Blue Springs • Branson • Camdenton • Chillicothe • Columbia • Hollister
Jefferson City • Kansas City • Lake Ozark • Lebanon • Lee's Summit • Nixa • Osage Beach
Ozark • Raymore • Rolla • Sedalia • Springfield • St. Robert • Warrensburg

KANSAS: Kansas City • Olathe • Overland Park • Shawnee

ARKANSAS: Bentonville • Fayetteville • Springdale

WWW.BIGOTIRES.COM

Service discount up to \$100. Tire discount valid on purchases of \$650 or higher before tax & discount.
Cannot be combined with any other offer.

Smart Hedging in a Softening Market

Citi analysts forecast the Brent crude oil futures price will fall to \$60 per barrel by year-end and average \$62 per barrel between the second and fourth quarters of 2025. The bank attributes its bearish outlook to rising OPEC+ production and continued Chinese stockpiling.

Citi revised its global liquids balance outlook after OPEC+ announced plans to unwind an additional 1.63 million barrels per day of voluntary cuts starting in October 2025, adding slack to an already loosening global supply. By the end of 2026, Citi estimates global liquids inventories could rise to 10.96 million barrels, equivalent to 103 days of forward demand cover.

Under Citi's base case, oil prices remain under pressure. The bank assigns a 30% probability to Brent crude falling below \$60 per barrel, possibly dipping to \$50, due to weaker global demand, faster growth in non-OPEC supply and lower compliance among OPEC+ members. Its bullish scenario, given a 10% probability, would see prices above \$75 per barrel if geopolitical disruptions escalate.

Other major institutions, including JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), share similar expectations for stable to lower prices through next year.

A Fragile Calm

With so many forecasts pointing toward cheaper oil, it's tempting to relax and enjoy the relief at the pump. However, history shows that stable outlooks can change quickly. Refinery outages; sanctions-related supply constraints, particularly involving Russia; and renewed demand growth in China and India could all push prices higher. On the downside, additional OPEC+ supply, economic uncertainty, and continued adoption of renewables and biodiesel could further weigh on prices.



Crude oil futures markets are inherently forward-looking, as traders constantly scan the horizon for value opportunities. Since late June, WTI crude oil has traded in a narrow band between \$62 and \$70 per barrel, and the forward curve through 2026 remains relatively flat. If front-month crude slips below \$60, that could spark renewed buying interest among traders.

Season Considerations

Even amid global shifts, seasonal trends continue to influence price movements. Unless there is a significant disruption (such as war), we are likely to see a winter dip in pricing.


Diesel and gasoline futures have also traded in tight ranges since June and typically soften during the winter months. November through February often presents the best window to consider price protection for the year ahead.

Traders are eyeing \$2.10 per gallon for NYMEX Heating Oil and \$1.80 per gallon for NYMEX RBOB (gasoline) as levels where buying interest could pick up. These prices could serve as reasonable targets for securing fuel cost protection into 2026.

Planning Ahead

With all the uncertainty around the globe, from war risks to shifting production targets, the prudent thing to do is to take some modest price protection for your key usage months. Booking a conservative number of gallons can help even out your overall costs if price spikes materialize. At this point, diesel appears to be the product most vulnerable to supply tightness as 2025 winds down and we head into 2026.

Looking further out, the current bearish outlook for 2026 could present an opportunity to plan ahead for early 2027. If crude oil hits \$50 per barrel in 2026, that would be an ideal time to secure price protection for key months in 2027. Perhaps you cover the spring months, from March through May, and then the fall, from August through October.

While no forecast is guaranteed, the consensus of lower prices offers both relief and opportunity for those prepared to act when the market shifts. 



Tim Danze
is the hedging manager
for MFA Oil.



Jim Stuever

Jim Stuever Elected to MFA Oil Board of Directors

In a special election on Aug. 25, 2025, Jim Stuever of Dexter, Mo., was elected to MFA Oil's Board of Directors, representing District 4 – Southeast.

The board represents the interests of the co-op's members, establishes company policies and operating guidelines, and is responsible for evaluating the performance of the chief executive officer.

The special election was held to fill the seat that became vacant due to the untimely death of former board member Doyle Oehl of Jackson, Mo. Stuever's term will run through the company's 2027 district meetings.

Stuever is a lifelong resident of Stoddard County and has farmed near Dexter and Bernie since 1974, raising corn, cotton, soybeans, wheat and rice. He and his wife, Pam, have five children and six grandchildren. Stuever has been an active supporter of church, agriculture and community organizations throughout his life. He has served in leadership roles on the Bernie School Board, Stoddard County Soil and Water Conservation District,



Karen Whitt

Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, U.S. Grains Council Board of Directors, Elk Township Road District, Knights of Columbus, and Parish Council. He also has served as a delegate for MFA Oil for several years.

Karen Whitt Joins MFA Oil

MFA Oil's executive team gained a seasoned financial leader on Sept. 1 with the addition of Karen Whitt as vice president of finance and accounting.

Whitt comes to MFA Oil from The Equity, a cooperative in Effingham, Ill., where she spent 24 years as part of the leadership team, serving as controller; CFO; and, most recently, managing executive officer. She brings more than 30 years of experience in the agricultural industry, beginning her career as an auditor before transitioning into leadership roles with agricultural cooperatives and privately owned ag companies.

Her extensive background includes financial and budget preparation, financial analysis, and data governance. Whitt is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and holds expertise in accounting, finance and agribusiness.

"Karen's deep cooperative experience and proven financial leadership will be invaluable as we continue to strengthen MFA Oil's financial practices and prepare for the future," said Jon Ihler, MFA Oil president and CEO. "We are excited to welcome her to our team."


MFA Oil Supports Missouri State Fair with Major Arena Investment

Last summer, the Missouri State Fair broke ground on the new Governor Michael L. Parson Arena, a modern, climate-controlled facility that will host livestock shows, agricultural events and community gatherings year-round and during the 11-day annual fair. Construction is now underway, with completion anticipated in 2026.

MFA Oil is proud to be part of this exciting project. Through the MFA Oil Foundation, MFA Oil committed to providing \$30,000 to help make the arena a reality. In addition, the MFA Foundation itself—which MFA Oil administers jointly with MFA Incorporated—contributed \$120,000 toward the project.

Together, these contributions reflect the company's shared commitment to supporting agriculture, rural communities and the next generation of Missourians. The arena will serve as more than just a building; it will be a gathering place where hard work, tradition and innovation come together under one roof.

"As a farmer-owned cooperative, we're always looking for ways to invest in the future of agriculture," said Jon Ihler, MFA Oil president and CEO. "Supporting the new arena is one way we can give back to our members and ensure Missouri agriculture continues to thrive."

As a cooperative, MFA Oil knows that investing in projects like these benefits not only its members but also the entire state. The company is proud to be part of building something that will strengthen Missouri agriculture for both today and tomorrow. 



FUEL PRICES GO UP AND DOWN. YOUR PEACE OF MIND SHOULDN'T.

Secure your fuel price with MFA Oil's Fuel Contracting Program and stay protected from market fluctuations.

Protect your budget from unexpected price spikes and focus on what matters most. Choose from fixed or maximum price contracts for diesel or gasoline, with delivery options tailored to your needs. Ensure your fuel costs remain predictable—start planning today!

Plan Ahead. Pay Less. Stress Less.



**Contact your local
MFA Oil office to learn more.**

800-442-0171 • mfaoil.com