



**News Release**

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### **United Cooperative sells hardware store to local business man**

Nov. 7, 2008, BEAVER DAM – On Friday, Nov. 7, United Cooperative, based out of Beaver Dam, signed over ownership of the Reedsburg United Cooperative Hardware Hank to Steve and Linda Behn, a local Reedsburg business man and his wife, who were interested in owning and operating a hardware store.

“We were not actively trying to sell the hardware store,” commented Karl Beth, United Cooperative vice president and chief operating officer, “but when we were approached by Steve’s realtor, we began to consider it. After careful analysis,” he continued, “we determined that the hardware business was not a core business for United Cooperative and that our customer’s and the community’s hardware needs would be well served by selling the hardware store to Steve.”

Behn possesses a passion for the hardware business and looks forward to accommodating the hardware needs of the Reedsburg community. “I enjoy working with people; I had my own construction business for 25 years and felt this was a good opportunity to continue serving the Reedsburg community,” commented Behn.

The Reedsburg hardware store will continue to fill propane tanks and sell United Cooperative’s line of feed and lube oil, in addition to offering the other products and services associated with a small-town hardware store.

Customers who paid their fuel bills and monthly statements at the hardware store can now do so at the brand new United Cooperative agronomy and energy location at 1360 Laukant Street, in Reedsburg, or simply mail payments to the main office. Fuel orders can also be placed at the Laukant Street location, or call the United Cooperative Baraboo energy office at 1-800-439-2715.

Formed in 1936, United Cooperative is a full-service cooperative offering feed, grain, agronomy, and energy products and services to south-central Wisconsin farmers and consumers. United Cooperative exists to provide its patron members with the best possible value and return on investment, backed by exceptional service and professionalism.

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#### **Photos:**

1. Steve Behn, right, a Reedsburg business man, signs the ownership papers for the Reedsburg Hardware Hank while his wife, Linda, and United Cooperative vice president and chief operating officer, Karl Beth, look on. Behn wanted to buy a hardware store because he felt it was a good opportunity for him to serve the Reedsburg community with his construction experience.

2. Steve Behn is congratulated by Karl Beth, United Cooperative vice president and chief operating officer, after he signed the papers for ownership of the Reedsburg Hardware Hank.