

125
CFE
YEARS

Views

Sharing New Perspectives & Information From Your Co-op



The event brought women in agriculture together and provided valuable opportunities for networking, sharing experiences and supporting each other. We can't wait until next year's event!

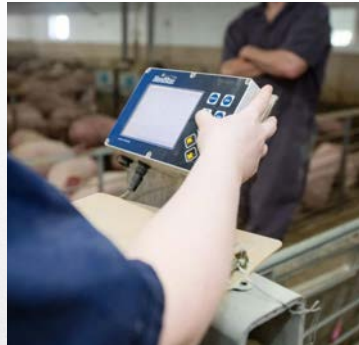
KRISTI HABBEN
READ MORE ON PAGE 11



AHEAD OF THE CURVE.



Celebrating 5 Years of Commercial Research.



A premier partner of CFE's Feed team, IDEAL Animal Nutrition strives to provide research ahead of the curve in a fast-paced and ever-evolving swine industry.

THEIR RESEARCH FEATURES:

- 42-30 head test pens
- A Big Dutchman Feed Exact Pro feeding system
- The ability to conduct water additive trials utilizing up to four water treatments
- A pen scale to determine live weight growth performance



QUESTIONS ABOUT IDEAL RESEARCH?
REACH OUT TO THE CFE FEED TEAM

VOL.9, NO.1 CONTENTS

FEATURES

11

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Empowering women in agriculture.

16

PEOPLE & PLACES

Fourth-generation farmers partner with CFE.

22

GRAIN

Brewing success in Rock Rapids.

DEPARTMENTS

5

CEO'S DESK

Notes from your cooperative CEO, Rob Jacobs.

9

SAFETY

Keeping your data safe.

14

AGRONOMY

Drone initiative takes flight.

18

AGRONOMY

Takeaways from 2023 research.

20

FEED

A look inside Hartley's feed mill.





About The Cover

EMPOWERING WOMEN

February saw the first annual Women in Ag powered by CFE. Giving life to a dream of one its own, Kristi Habben, CFE created a day focused on the development and education of women of all ages in the agriculture industry.

They were given insight by experts about topics from farm financials and farm transition planning to mental health. The women participated in a discussion with a panel of women who have found their place on the farm and are thriving. Over 120 women attended the inaugural event held in Sheldon, Iowa.

Learn more on page 11.



Same Faces. New Titles.

If you are out and about the Lake Park location, you may notice a new face in the location manager office. Nick Wehmeyer has taken over the helm of the Lake Park location, but Jeff Smith won't be leaving CFE. You can find him now as part of the Grain team as an Originator. We look forward to seeing how both Nick and Jeff excel in their new roles, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to their new teams.



Nick Wehmeyer,
Lake Park
Location Manager



Jeff Smith,
Grain
Originator

PHONE NUMBER UPDATE

Please update the phone number for our Germantown location to 712-470-8081.



CFE - Germantown:
712-470-8081



ABOUT CFE

Cooperative Farmers Elevator (CFE), is a member-owned cooperative, serving 4,975 members at 27 locations in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. The cooperative provides products, services and expertise in the areas of grain, agronomy, feed and lumber.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Van Holland, Sioux Center, IA
President

Mark Bremer, Ocheyedan, IA
Vice President

Mike Ter Wee, Larchwood, IA
Treasurer

Vaughan Ranschau, Rock Valley, IA
Secretary

Dan Lorch, Harris, IA

Jeremy Howard, Ocheyedan, IA

Justin Groeneweg, Rock Valley, IA

Nate Schulte, Rock Rapids, IA

Ryan Klingenberg, Ashton, IA

Austin Peterson, Hartley, IA

Dustin Ackerman, George, IA

Kevin Schmidt, Ocheyedan, IA
Associate Board Member

Andrew Rens, Rock Valley, IA
Associate Board Member

Brandon Ehret, Lake Park, IA
Associate Board Member

SENIOR STAFF

Rob Jacobs, *CEO*

Todd Netten, *CFO*

Dave Muilenburg, *COO*

Don Harberts, *VP Agronomy*

Steve Petersen, *VP Feed*

Matt Zeman, *VP Grain*

Dave Helms, *VP Lumber*

Sarah Ranschau, *HR Director*

Darren Fehr, *Director of Sales*

John Kane, *CIO*

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

CFE Views is the official news publication of Cooperative Farmers Elevator (CFE) and distributed to co-op members and customers. The publication serves as the source for stories, highlights and features about the people, places and industries that encompass CFE.

A CornerPost publication.

CONTRIBUTE TO CFE VIEWS

Your ideas are welcome! Submit stories and topics for future publication issues by emailing news@coopfe.com.



www.coopfe.com

Charting the Course.

A MESSAGE FROM ROB JACOBS, CEO.

Just like your operation, CFE has seen the impact of many financial challenges you may be experiencing on the farm. Market dynamics, increased operational cost and uncertain future profitability are all concerns we share with our patrons. However, with spring fast approaching, there is a renewed sense of hope and optimism that only those in production agriculture can appreciate.

However, with spring fast approaching, there is a renewed sense of hope and optimism that only those in production agriculture can appreciate.

CFE is well prepared and constantly looking for ways to best position the company for our long-term success. This fiscal year we are off to a solid start. Fall grain receipts, agronomy, feed, lumber sales and service revenues have all shown strong performance. We're continuing to watch operational expenses and do all we can to reduce and save when possible, but the truth is inflation has driven costs up significantly. As spring approaches, we feel we are well positioned with our product supplies going into the planting season and confidence remains high in what CFE can provide for you this year and the ones to come.

This confidence comes from a strong strategic direction with our core operating principles as our guide: **Operation excellence** drives us to continuously enhance our processes and services; **Accountability** ensures we reinforce the trust our members and employees have in us; **Employee engagement** establishes goals for maintaining and delivering on exceptional service and fostering positive employee relationships; and **Financial security**

provides a base for our members to rely on us for consistency and reliability.

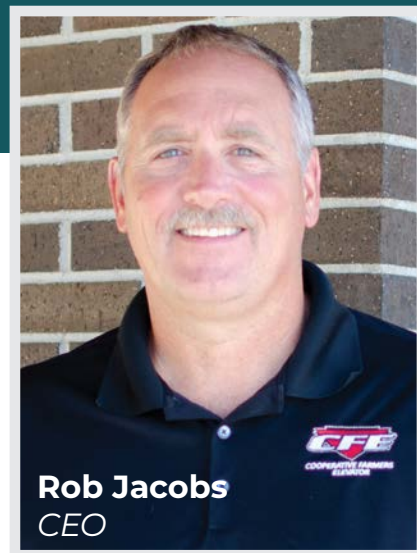
Your board of directors and senior leadership use these core principles to evaluate the past and plan for the future.

In 2023, your cooperative invested in multiple new and upgraded facilities in Hartley, Hawarden and Ocheyedon (read more on the impact of those projects on page 6), as well as continued investment in technology, rolling stock and our employees. This year, our primary emphasis is on tending to smaller-scale projects, which focus on speed, convenience and image of your cooperative.

Additionally, we are allocating resources towards multiple improvements at our Larchwood location which will include a new office, scales, warehousing, and additional grain receiving capacity. These updates are strategic investments aimed at enhancing operational effectiveness and overall productivity for the Larchwood area.

2024 also marks the 125th operating year of CFE. Although we are constantly looking for new and improved ways of serving our customers, our roots remain true to the cooperative principles your cooperative was founded upon 125 years ago of providing goods, services and markets collectively.

Thank you to our employees for your continued support and dedication. To our members and customers, thank you for your business and have a safe planting season.

LOCATION:

Ocheyedan

EXCELLENCE *in Action*

FORWARD MOMENTUM DRIVES CFE'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION.

CFE is dedicated to continuously improving and ensuring the future success of our cooperative. Our strategic direction, built on the core principles that founded us—operational excellence, accountability, employee engagement and financial security—continues to guide us through the challenges and obstacles of the industry. With planting season at our doorsteps, we're pleased to announce that CFE is well-prepared and strategically positioned to serve our members with utmost dedication and efficiency.

As we look back on the facility improvements and accomplishments of 2023, we are thankful for the teamwork and collaboration of our operations team and contractors in finishing four major projects by the fall. These projects—including the Hawarden dry fertilizer plant, the Hawarden 750,000 bin, the two Ocheyedan 1.2M bushel bins and the Hartley grain dryer—highlight the significance of careful planning and efficient teamwork.

The Hawarden 750,000 bin has brought about substantial

improvements to our operations. By switching to the leg/pit for dumping instead of the pile conveyor, we've managed to cut down scale ticket times by 10 minutes per load. This update has notably upgraded our soybean storage environment from the previous outdoor bunker, ensuring better quality and longevity for our stored crops. Moreover, it has significantly enhanced employee safety by eliminating the manual dumping of beans into the bunker, reducing potential risks.

From your perspective, the option to dump directly into the pit has simplified operations, offering greater convenience compared to waiting in line for the conveyor. Additionally, this new setup has optimized our personnel deployment, allowing for a more efficient use of resources between the leg and pit, thus reducing the need for multiple personnel at both locations. Overall, the integration of the Hawarden 750,000 bin has marked a substantial improvement in our operational efficiency and safety protocols.

The installation of two 1.2 million bushel bins in Ocheyedan has proven to be invaluable, particularly given the record fall corn receipts totaling 7.2 million bushels this past year. Without these new bins, we would have faced the task of managing 2.0 million bushels piled on the ground. Thankfully, the additional storage capacity not only accommodated the influx of corn but also ensured that all grains were kept in optimal conditions, preserving their quality for delivery to the feed mill. Furthermore, the availability of ample storage



LOCATION:**Hartley**

enabled us to avoid the need for hauling any bushels out, as evidenced by our recent completion of the outside Lemars pile, which was accommodated entirely within the added storage capacity.

The upgrade to the Hartley grain dryer has substantially enhanced our drying capabilities, offering a marked improvement over our outdated equipment. With its increased efficiency, the new dryer has enabled us to streamline our operations, particularly during the critical period at the beginning of harvest. By significantly reducing drying times, we have been able to keep our doors open continuously, eliminating the need to shut down operations to dry wet corn. This improvement not only optimizes our workflow but also ensures that we can efficiently process incoming grain without interruptions, ultimately contributing to greater productivity and satisfaction.

With the dry fertilizer plant in Hawarden, our storage capacity for dry fertilizer has increased from 3,200 tons to 12,500 tons.

This expansion not only allows us greater flexibility in purchasing and shipping products but also eliminates the need to relocate tons during peak seasons, ensuring uninterrupted service to our customers. Moreover, significant enhancements to blending capacity have been made in Hawarden, with the installation of a new mixer expected to deliver superior blends at a faster pace. Our improvements have extended to the working conditions for our employees, with dramatic reductions in dust exposure and increased safety for loader operators.

Looking ahead to 2024, we remain committed to enhancing operational efficiency and customer service. Our upcoming projects include the addition of a second outbound scale to multiple locations, such as Rock Valley, Larchwood, Hartley and Lake Park, with plans to relocate existing scales to optimize workflow. Additionally, the construction of a new office and warehouse at our Larchwood location, along with the installation of an additional drive-over pit and outbound scale, aims to streamline operations and reduce turnaround times for our valued producers. Amidst

these developments, we recognize the importance of maintenance and minor upgrades to sustain our infrastructure and uphold our commitment to excellence.

CFE is confident in the cooperative's ability to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. With a focus on customer service and collaboration, we are excited for this spring season. <<

**LOCATION:****Hawarden**



Warden® CX II

By WINFIELD
UNITED

HELP YOUR FIELDS STAY SAFE FROM EVEN THE STEALTHIEST OF THREATS.



Protect your soybean season like never before with Warden CX II seed treatment.

New Warden® CX II seed treatment is the best-in-class disease and insect protection on the market. With multiple modes of action and a new novel AI, Vayantis®, that offers up to 1,000 times more protection against Pythium and Phytophthora, stop dangerous, early-season insects and diseases from taking over your soybean seeds and robbing you of your yield potential.

Contact your local CFE agronomist for more information

© 2022 WinField United. Important: Before use always read and follow label instructions.
Warden CX II and WinField are trademarks of Winfield United.

ASK JOHN

CYBER SECURITY—MORE THAN JUST A PASSWORD.

Keeping you and your family safe extends past the front door of your home. Check out these questions and answers from CFE Chief Information Office, John Kane, that can help keep your operation's digital assets secure.

By: John Kane, CFE Chief Information Officer



ABOUT JOHN

John Kane grew up in the Twin Cities, where he was introduced to computers and technology from an early age. His father worked to build some of the earlier personal computers, and when he brought one home, John was immediately hooked. He used that passion to complete a degree in computer engineering with a minor in artificial intelligence. When John received an opportunity to work within Land O'Lakes' technology and ag retailer space, he combined this passion with a newfound appreciation for agriculture, which he describes as "a wonderful industry filled with truly the best people."

Now, John brings this experience to spearhead technology advancements and digital security to protect CFE and its members as CFE's Chief Information Officer.



What are the basic "must do" tips for protecting your digital information?

JOHN SAYS:

1. Use a password manager, and use it for everything. This will ensure you have a unique password for each account and provides the added benefit of not having to remember each password. The program will create a complex password and save it for you. I recommend Bitwarden for personal and family use. However, for mid to larger businesses, I might choose 1Password.
2. Whenever possible, use multi-factor authentication to secure your accounts. This adds a second step to the login process, usually by sending a code to your cell phone for you to input after entering your account credentials. This means the bad guy can't get into your account with only your password—they would also need access to the code sent to your phone. At minimum, ensure multi-factor authentication is enabled on critical accounts like email, financial and medical.



What are some misconceptions about cyber safety?

JOHN SAYS: People think if you are not a bank, big company or a famous person, you are not a target. Everyone is a target! In fact, small companies and individuals are easier for the bad guys to attack because they usually have less protections than banks and big companies.



Are there any new scams you're seeing that members need to be concerned about?

JOHN SAYS: It's not a new scam, but always be conscientious about what you share on social media. Social media accounts are usually easy to access and items you post can make it easier for the bad guy to trick you or loved ones by impersonating you or someone you trust. This type of impersonation attack is common and generally targets older age groups. <<





CONNECTIONS^{INC}

Employee Assistance Program | Employee & Family Solutions

EXPERTS ARE AVAILABLE & READY TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT:

Mental Well-Being

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Anger Management

Family Relationships

- Generational Issues
- Marital Issues
- Parenting Skills

Addictive Behaviors

- Chemical Abuse
- Substance Abuse

CALL TOLL-FREE:

800-779-6125

FREE ONLINE ACCESS:

Access your free benefits by simply logging in to the Connections website using the details below.

www.connectionseap.com

CFE MEMBER WEBSITE LOGIN:



Scan this QR code and use the following credentials:

Username: capeap
Password: eap

CONNECTIONS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CONNECTING CFE MEMBERS TO RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP.

Farming is a stressful life even in the best of times. But when challenges outside our control begin to take a toll on your well-being, it's time to take action.

Experts agree, the best way to deal with increased stress in your life is to talk with someone who can listen objectively and provide positive, effective ways to handle the issues that impact your mental well-being and that may be interfering with important relationships in your life.

As a member-owner of your cooperative, you are a part of an extended co-op family that cares about you and your well-being. That's why we've arranged for Connections services to be provided as a shareholder benefit, **free of charge and completely confidential.**

Rest assured, no one from CFE will be involved with your sessions and only you will be privy to any information you share.

Through Connections, you can receive up to **three free face-to-face sessions with a licensed third-party mental health professional** in your area. Your spouse and dependents are also eligible for the same services under the Connections Assistance Program.

The Connections service also has web-based wellness tools and resources to help you identify areas in your life that could benefit from a discussion with an outside professional.

www.coopfe.com





"It was truly a very valuable conference for me and I really appreciate the info that was shared—what a great idea this event was!"

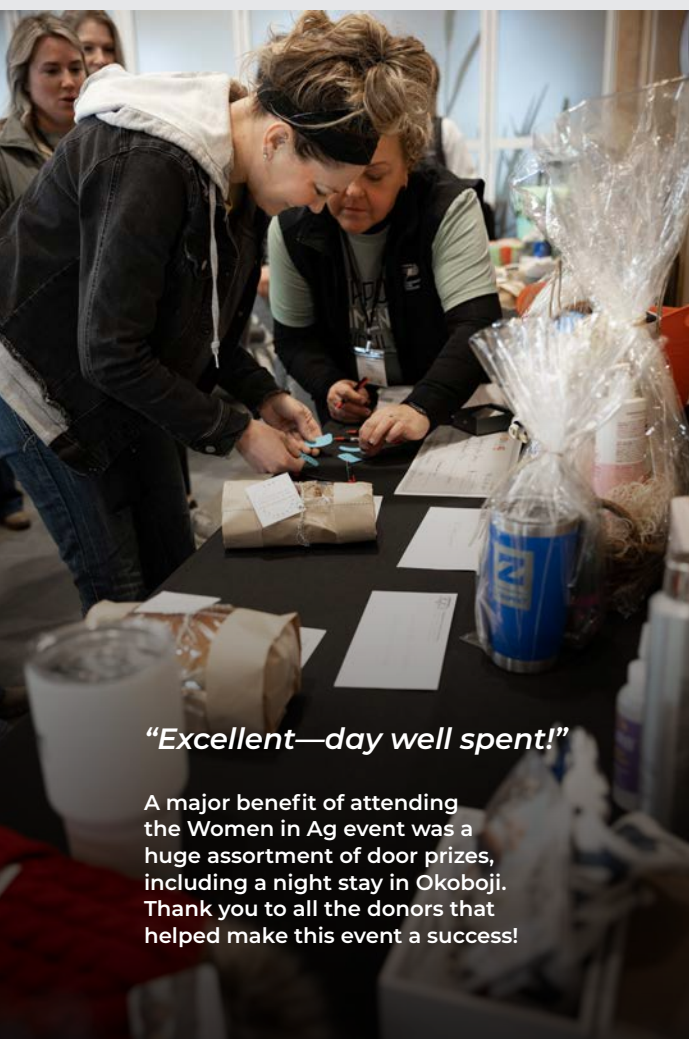
SUPPORTING & EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

CFE HOSTS ITS FIRST WOMEN IN AG EVENT.

What do you get when you bring together over 120 women with a passion for agriculture? Fun, laughter, inspiration and fresh motivation!

"The first CFE Women in Ag event completely exceeded our expectations," says Kristi Habben, CFE Credit Manager and visionist for the event. Created specifically for women in the ag industry, women ranging from their teens to retirement were in attendance, whether they run their own farm, work in the industry or are wives or daughters of a farmer.

CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE...



"Excellent—day well spent!"

A major benefit of attending the Women in Ag event was a huge assortment of door prizes, including a night stay in Okoboji. Thank you to all the donors that helped make this event a success!



CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

BALANCING BREAKEVENS

Breakfast and breakevens kicked off the morning, as Seth Oostenink from Cooperative Credit Company shared how to calculate the breakeven point for a working farm. Spreadsheets in view and examples at the ready, Seth showed many inputs and expenses that need to be considered to truly know what a farm's breakeven point is. For many, it was very enlightening. As one attendee shares, "Putting the numbers out there and seeing the example of risking \$500,000 for a profit of \$3,000 was an eye opener."

PRESERVING THE PEACE

Keeping a focus on the business of farming, the next speaker to empower the women was Jennifer Harrington, Lawyer with Iowa State University's Iowa Beginning Farmer Center and Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation. Jennifer shared the essentials for effective farm transition planning. With her focus on agricultural law, Jennifer was able to walk attendees through different scenarios of farm transitions, including information about entities and trusts. Even though there are many different ways to transfer ownership of a farm, Jennifer made it abundantly clear that having a plan in place is critical in ensuring a farmer's wishes are carried out and peace is kept in the family.

FINDING YOUR PLACE

Next, a panel of women with diverse backgrounds shared their joint passion for finding—or creating—a place in agriculture. Entrepreneur Kia Nystrom, farm wife and owner of Nystrom Orchard, shared how she turned unexpected unemployment into an opportunity to take her family orchard to a new level, building a life she loves.

Fellow entrepreneur Rachel Granstra, owner and CEO of American Farm Company, gave her "why" for starting her e-commerce company—to publicly advocate for and educate about American agriculture by creating products farmers and their families can proudly wear to foster dialogues about farming's crucial role in the economy.

Tristen Bremer, Sibley-Ocheyedan FFA Instructor, inspired women to be involved in all aspects of their farm production. Tristen also enlisted the young females from her FFA class to participate in the day, further championing how women can impact the industry.

Kristi Habben completed the panel, sharing her experience as a farm wife while also helping farmers build their businesses as a credit manager at CFE. Attendees enjoyed hearing each panelist's story, especially the key message of, "You can do anything you put your mind to. Never give up. Work hard and you will succeed."

RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The event balanced celebrating the joys of agricultural life with acknowledging the inevitable challenges. Donna Van Peurse, Connections EAP social worker and professor at Northwestern College, taught attendees how to recognize when someone is struggling with their mental health and how to best support them. Donna shared how common depression and anxiety are and emphasized, "It's okay to not be okay."

SHARING YOUR STORY

As the day wrapped up, Jenny Weg, blogger and creator of The Faithful Farming Family, encouraged every woman to share their unique story. Attendees immediately put this into practice, sharing their stories with those around them. Jenny's message further expressed the importance of telling others about farm life, where their food comes from and the global impact farmers make every day. Jenny reminded attendees that no matter your age, you can make an impact in the world.

"I'm a 62-year-old, and I loved that Jenny shared that it's never too late to be a student," one attendee says. "She confirmed for me what I want to do in ag education."

Overall, the event fulfilled its purpose—to inspire women to find their place at the agricultural table. As Kristi shares, "The event brought women in agriculture together and provided valuable opportunities for networking, sharing experiences and supporting each other. We can't wait until next year's event!"

Stay tuned for the next Women in Ag event by becoming a member on our Facebook page 'Women in Ag powered by CFE.'

*"You can do anything
you put your mind
to. Never give up."*

- A message from
the panelists



Participants were able to enjoy local vendors throughout the conference. Here Boernsen Bees share several sweet products they offer.



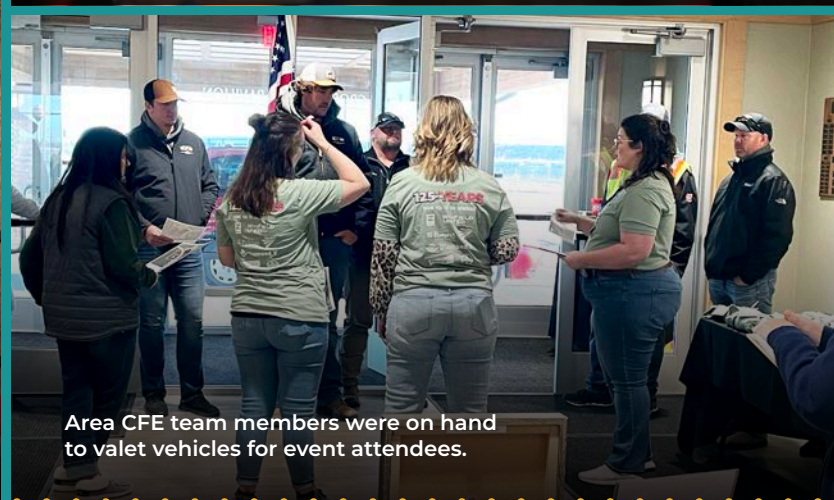
"This was my favorite session. I like the personal side. I liked hearing their stories. I love that the FFA teacher came last minute—and that some students came to support her!"

Panel participants sharing their place in Agriculture. Left to Right: Kristi Habben, Rachel Granstra, Tristen Bremer and Kia Nystrom.



"Thank you for being real and inspiring me!"

In an impromptu moment, Jenny Weg had her mother join her on stage to share their family farm journey.



Area CFE team members were on hand to valet vehicles for event attendees.

THANK YOU

SHOUT OUT TO OUR SPONSORS!

A special thank you to all our sponsors! Without your generous support we wouldn't have been able to make the first Women in Ag event such a success! <<



Crop Science



WINFIELD
UNITED



TAKING AGRICULTURE TO New Heights

CFE AIR OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES.

Cooperative Farmers Elevator is taking flight into a new area of business. Just in time for soybean pre-emergent herbicide application, CFE has officially launched our drone-powered application services: CFE Air. This revolutionary approach to crop management is just another way we intend to provide excellent service and value to our members.



SKYWARD SOLUTIONS

Crop Health Imagery

Our agronomy team is dedicated to providing cutting-edge solutions to our customers to keep their crops healthy. CFE Air will be a great addition to this service. Through advanced drone technology, we can offer unparalleled insight to optimize yields and mitigate risks. Expect detailed data on crop emergence, stand counts, disease pressure and pest detection.

Thermal Imagery

CFE Air customers can take advantage of thermal imagery provided by our drone team. This innovative strategy allows monitoring and analysis of multiple aspects of your operation. Thermal imagery offers unique value that may not be available through traditional or conventional technology. The benefits of thermal imagery include tile line inspection, bin monitoring, animal monitoring and more.

Drone Spraying

This is a groundbreaking advancement in agriculture practices and one we fully intend to continue expanding. The introduction of drone spraying to the CFE Air services adds a level of efficiency and precision to safeguard your fields. Our drone spraying capabilities extend to pre-emergent herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and pastures.

EQUIPPED FOR EXCELLENCE

This new dimension of service is a strategic investment designed to meet the demand of our customers. Our team is thrilled to add this aerial solution to our existing boots-on-the-ground services. CFE land rigs will still be available, as CFE Air is meant to complement existing fleets, not replace them. Regardless of the project, we are dedicated to excellent service no matter if it is on the ground or in the sky.

Drone technology will allow farmers to reach a heightened level of flexibility and efficiency which are crucial aspects in modern agriculture. With two carefully selected drone models to run, CFE Air is dedicated to providing an unmatched experience. The drones feature dual sprayers with optimal 10 to 14.5 gallon tank capacity. The sprayers are built to guarantee consistent coverage while preventing leaks and over-fertilization. The chosen models can cover 40 to 60 acres per hour and are highly portable due to their foldable design. These drones are even equipped with obstacle detection technology to maximize efficiency and avoid downtime.

DEPLOYING DRONES

CFE will manage six drones, with three groups of two for the initial drone deployment. The drone team will be led by Aerial Application Operations Manager, Lucas Nagel, with dedicated agronomist, Jesse Koerselman. All team members will



receive the proper training and licensing involved with drone operation. The initial rollout emphasizes pre-emergent soybean fertilizers and fungicides, but services will expand to other treatments as the program grows. CFE envisions this drone division eventually branching out beyond row crop fields into conservation land and other applications, as well.

The agriculture industry is seeing an increase in drone usage for crop scouting, data collection, pest and disease control, livestock monitoring and more. As the program grows and technology progresses, so will the scope of CFE Air applications.

AERIAL AGRICULTURE

Drone technology is multifaceted and can be extremely advantageous for farmers and landowners who utilize it. CFE's drone services allow specific and custom applications that can maximize efficiency in multiple ways. This technology also offers a way to collect and analyze data to make informed decisions about your fields and crop health. Even difficult to access areas, such as field edges or tree and fence lines, become easily managed with our agile aerial application. Similarly, spot treating areas becomes an option that previously would require machinery to enter the field and likely damage crops, which can be costly both in time and equipment.

Dan Jacobsma, Agronomy Procurement Manager, says that CFE Air is "off to a great start," adding that this is "a good launch year with plenty of preliminary momentum." CFE prides itself on the excitement felt from employees, members and customers. We look forward to watching CFE Air grow as an internal team and in the value it will bring to the customer.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you are interested in CFE Air and its potential uses for your fields, contact your agronomist or scan this QR code to fill out an interest form.

CFE AIR TEAM

Not only have we invested in the drone technology to bring CFE Air to life, but we have invested in the people that will manage this program, as well. With the introduction of this division, it also opens the door to a new talent pool. We plan to strengthen the workforce with additional drone pilots as we continue to grow this service area.

As CFE embarks on this new chapter, we anticipate high demand from our members to utilize this new and cutting-edge technology. We are dedicated to delivering the same exceptional service you have come to expect from CFE. The drone division will be led by Lucas Nagel and Jesse Koerselman, who are dedicated to crafting a skilled team and exceptional aerial technology solutions for our members.

Our agronomy department has been prepared for this program and is excited to work with you to add value to your operation. We encourage our members to work with their agronomists to determine the best options and to access our drone technology. <<



Lucas Nagel

*Aerial Application
Operations Manager*

lnagel@coopfe.com

712-475-3347

605-789-1083



Jesse Koerselman

CFE Agronomist

jkoerselman@coopfe.com

507-683-2731

507-360-7988

HOLDEN FARMS

A LEGACY OF PARTNERSHIP AND GROWTH WITH CFE.

Just outside of Northfield, Minnesota, tucked into the corn fields lies Holden Farms. As a longstanding customer of Cooperative Farmers Elevator, Holden Farms embodies the spirit of collaboration and mutual support that lies at the core of agricultural cooperatives. Kent and Barry Holden, 4th generation owners of Holden Farms, are no strangers to life on the farm. For over a century, Holden Farms has made their mark in both the swine and turkey industries. As servants of the land and animals they work with, Kent and Barry are known for their humility, respect and dedication.

The history of Holden Farms traces back to 1876, a time when John and Emma Holden, Kent and Barry's great grandparents, laid the foundation for what would become a legacy of agricultural excellence. From humble beginnings, the Holdens nurtured their land and family, passing down a tradition of hard work and integrity from one generation to the next. Through the decades, Holden Farms evolved and expanded, adapting to the changing landscape of farming while staying true to their roots.

The partnership of CFE and Holden Farms goes back to one of our legacy co-ops, Cooperative Elevators Association. In the time

that Holden Farms has worked with our co-op, they have been great stewards of the industry from the animals they raise to the support they bring to other producers. Rob Jacobs, CEO of CFE, highlighted Holden Farms' contribution stating, "As long time customers, they have helped build and support a lot of our other farmer growers throughout the years. These are the relationships that are very special to CFE."

It's relationships like this that make the following celebration even more special as Holden Farms is inducted into the 2024 Swine Hall of Fame. Hosted by Swineweb.com, The Swine Hall of Fame serves as a prestigious space to commemorate those propelling the swine industry forward.

"We could not think of anyone more deserving, or who encompasses these values better than Kent and Barry Holden," shares Steve Petersen, Vice President of Feed. "They have been a great, long time customer which makes us really proud to be a partner in the Holden Farms production as they are inducted into the Swine Hall of Fame."

While this recent induction, amongst other accolades, is surely impressive, the most

remarkable attribute of the Holden brothers is their ability to positively affect others. Kent and Barry recognize the long history their family farm has in actively supporting those around them. They continue to dedicate resources to local schools and businesses throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, as well as support local shops, charities, 4-H clubs and FFA chapters.

The heart of Holden Farms has always been rooted in honesty and a strong work ethic. Today, it stands as a beacon of innovation and sustainability, continually looking to the future of producing high quality and affordable protein—and, helping others do the same. CFE is honored to continue to work with a business with such strong values. We congratulate Kent and Barry on their recent award and thank them and their family for their ongoing business and support of agriculture.

As Cooperative Farmers Elevator and Holden Farms continue to journey forward together, their partnership remains a shining example of the power of collaboration and shared values. With each passing year, they build upon a legacy, paving the way for a future where agriculture thrives, and communities flourish. <<

Sponsorship Spotlight

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, CULTIVATING TALENT.

At CFE, we pride ourselves on enhancing each community we serve.

This includes our dedication to nurturing the next generation of farmers, producers, rural business owners and agriculture professionals. CFE offers multiple scholarship opportunities as well as tuition sponsorship opportunities to help carry out this mission.

The Associates of Applied Sciences Ag Program Sponsorship is awarded to three individuals every year who are pursuing an associate degree in agriculture at a participating school. With nine technical colleges participating across three states, CFE is excited to be seeding the success of future leaders in agriculture. This two-year full tuition program not only encourages knowledge development, but also fosters talent as participants continue to receive mentorship and employment at CFE post-graduation.

Cooperative Farmers Elevator has a 125-year legacy of supporting our members and the communities they thrive in. Upholding this legacy includes providing resources, support and expertise far beyond the field. Recognizing the vital role education plays in shaping the future, we launched our sponsorship program to empower aspiring young professionals with the knowledge, skills and opportunities needed to prosper in this dynamic industry.

These educational programs not

only provide financial assistance and employment incentives to the recipients, but they also give CFE a pathway to bring new perspectives and fresh ideas to the cooperative. Sponsorship graduates work cross-functionally with CFE teams to determine where their unique depth of knowledge best fits in terms of departments and projects, while keeping personal growth goals in mind.

Kaden Maxwell, an AAS Sponsorship recipient and May 2024 graduate, is thrilled to bring the knowledge he has gained through his schooling back to CFE. As a precision agriculture technology major at Mitchell Technical College, Kaden says he has learned so much about technology programs and applications and is hoping to bring his current software know-how and drone certification to CFE's new department, CFE Air.

Kaden spent most of his youth farming with his grandpa, who is a CFE customer. The agriculture industry and the technology within it were always of interest to Kaden, and when he was looking for internship opportunities, he turned first to see what CFE had to offer.

"I'd be close to home and can work for people we already know of and trust," Kaden says.

It was then that he learned CFE offers more than just internships, and with the support of caring CFE employees, Kaden applied for the sponsorship program.



As a recipient of the sponsorship, Kaden was very thankful to have the financial assistance for his schooling, but if you ask him about the best part of this program, he will tell you it's the knowledge and the people.

"The schooling is nice because you get to learn so many different things and it's easier to go into the workforce because you have all this knowledge already," Kaden says. "You know what you're doing and helping customers to the best of your ability. Everyone I've worked with has been so helpful in answering my questions, helping me learn, teaching me new things. It's pretty great."

CFE is ecstatic that our sponsorship program is taking individuals like Kaden to new heights, and we look forward to seeing the value he brings back upon graduation.

Are you or someone you know interested in the AAS Ag Program Sponsorship? If so, be sure to visit our website to learn more about the requirements and application process. <<



Scan here to explore CFE online.

A SEED HEAD START

SEED TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CFE AGRONOMY TRIALS TEAM.

For the past two years, drought has been a challenge for much of CFE's geography, especially in the western region. However, despite the lack of moisture, unexpected yield levels were achieved across many acres and plots last growing season. These wins emphasize the resilience

of the agriculture industry and showcase how management practices and product innovations are empowering growers to overcome adverse conditions and produce successful crops. The research trials conducted by our agronomy team amidst the dry spell provided valuable insights

into the effectiveness of various treatments for corn and soybeans. While some products struggled to perform to their best ability due to extreme drought, we remain optimistic that the treatments could prove highly beneficial under normal moisture conditions, and many still showed positive results.

TOP CONTENDERS

One such treatment is **Warden® CX II**, a top-of-the-line fungicide and insecticide combo. It protects from seedling diseases like pythium, phytophthora, and root rot, as well as other diseases and seedling insects like seed corn maggots, wireworms, and overwintering bean leaf beetles. This is the foundation we use to give us a consistent start in the spring, which is more important than

ever with the increasing interest in earlier planting and less tillage.

Preside® is an inoculant with high CFU (colony forming units) nitrogen fixing bacteria as well as another mechanism that aids in the plant taking up nitrogen. We have tested some others, and this one stands out. Additionally, **Ascend®** is a plant growth regulator that helps spur the plant early root

development, cell division and overall development that has given us consistent results.

The new kid on the testing block is a biological called **BOSS B4** from DakotaBio. It aids the bean's ability to extract phosphorus, zinc, and iron from the soil that is otherwise tied up by growing within the root tissue so everywhere the roots grow the BOSS B4 goes.

SOYBEAN REPLICATED SEED TREATMENT TESTING

Treatment	Yield Response ¹	Treatment Cost	Profit of Treatment ¹	ROI ²	Sites	Year Tested
Warden® CX II + Preside® + Ascend® + BOSS B4	3.4	\$11.25	\$29.55	362%	2	2023
Warden® CX II + BOSS B4	2.3	\$3.50	\$27.68	1048%	4	2022-2023
Warden® CX II + Preside® + Ascend®	2.3	\$7.75	\$21.50	384%	5	2021-2023
Warden® CX II check	base	-	base	-		

¹Averages from years tested.

²Return On Investment (ROI 100% = Breakeven).



We have tested **Seed+™** on corn seed and soybean seed the last three years as a “planter box” type treatment. The results were quite positive and profitable as shown in the data. Seed+™ is a blend of talc and graphite infused with essential micronutrients, amino acids, and antioxidants. These components aid the plant in coping with abiotic stresses, which are physical challenges commonly encountered, especially during the early stages of the growing season. The data suggests a little help can increase yields. Many growers are already adding planter box treatments and using Seed+ can not only help seed plantability, but also yields.

We are always looking for more ways to grow more bushels which will be even more important with today's commodity prices. These treatments show a good ROI and have become quite commonly used by CFE. Discuss these options with your CFE agronomist. <<



SEED+ TRIALS AT CFE

¹Return On Investment (ROI 100% = Breakeven).

2023 SOYBEAN TRIAL

Treatment	Yield	Added Yield	Gross Income	Treatment Cost	Profit of Treatment ¹	ROI ¹	Sites
Seed+™ on Seed	76.9	1.4	\$922	\$3.00	\$13.18	539%	4
No Seed+™	75.5	base	\$906	-	-	-	

Soybean Price/Bushel: \$12.00

2022 SOYBEAN TRIAL

Treatment	Yield	Added Yield	Gross Income	Treatment Cost	Profit of Treatment ¹	ROI ¹	Sites
Seed+™ on Seed	70.2	1.8	\$983	\$3.00	\$22.24	841%	6
No Seed+™	68.4	base	\$958	-	-	-	

Soybean Price/Bushel: \$14.00

2021 CORN TRIAL

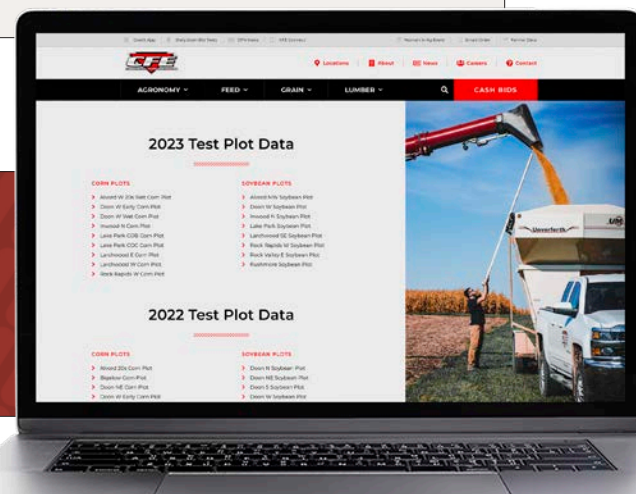
Treatment	Yield	Added Yield	Gross Income	Treatment Cost	Profit of Treatment ¹	ROI ¹	Sites
Seed+™ on Seed	243.9	168.4	\$1,263	\$2.50	\$14.19	668%	6
No Seed+™	240.6	base	\$1,246	-	-	-	

Corn Price/Bushel: \$5.25



To learn more about the 2023 Research Summary Trials, contact your local agronomist. To view all plot data from 2023, head to the CFE website or scan the QR code.

coopfe.com/agronomy/test-plot-data



CENTER STAGE

WITH CFE IN HARTLEY

A HIGH LEVEL VIEW
OF ONE OF CFE'S
MANY LOCATIONS.

Although our locations may share services, the experiences and people of CFE truly make each location unique from one another. Check out these details about CFE in Hartley, Iowa.



HARTLEY

THE TEAM:

- Lisa Schierholz, *Location Manager*
- Chad LeStrange, *Lumber Location Manager*
- 25 Team Members

KEY SERVICES:

- Grain, Feed, Agronomy, Lumber

BEST KNOWN FOR:

The ability to produce feed—and a lot of it. On average, Hartley creates and delivers more than 150,000 tons of hog feed per year to area producers.

The Hartley grain department has 2.5 million bushels of grain storage and can handle over 5 million bushels annually. Hartley can now also boast about their new grain dryer and conveyance system that were installed last fall. This spring, the location will continue to grow with an added outbound scale.

The Agronomy department has its own liquid fertilizer plant, as well as operators to spray and spread crop inputs for our members. The Hartley location also has the ability to unload rail cars with dry fertilizer, then transfer them to the CFE dry plants in Ocheyedan and Alvord.

The lumber division is also noteworthy. In addition to a full lumberyard, hardware and paint store, just across the street is a showroom that encases the latest in quality building supplies such as siding, windows, shingles, drywall, countertops, kitchens, baths, flooring and more.

WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL:

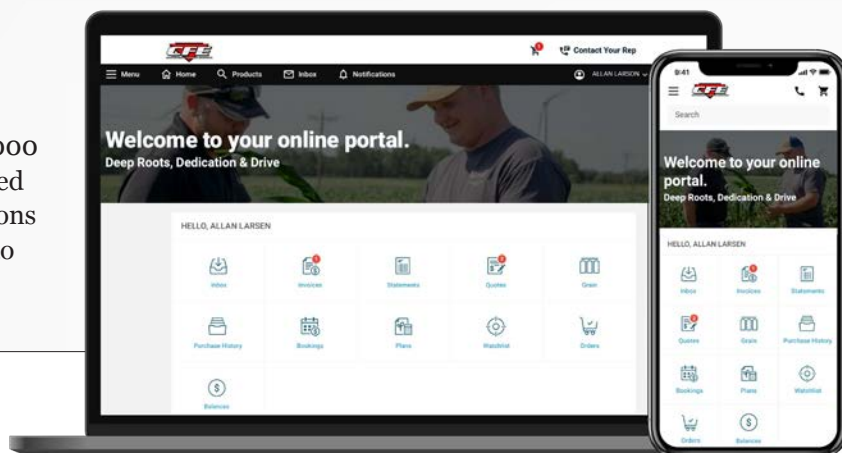
Longevity and scope of services. Hartley's elevator dates back to the early 1900s, serving farmers since the turn of the century. Over the years, the cooperative has expanded by purchasing the elevator that sits on the east side of Hartley as well as Hartley Farm and Home's lumberyard and hardware store.

Nevertheless, at the heart of what makes the Hartley location a friend to the farmers is the level of service. Each fall, this location extends its hours to ensure their customers' needs are met, and whether spraying fertilizer, delivering feed or providing supplies for a new house, the Hartley location is always looking for ways to ensure their members are receiving the service they deserve. <<

NAVIGATING CFE CONNECT

TOP 5 FAQs ABOUT THE CFE CUSTOMER PORTAL.

CFE Connect launched in fall of 2023 and over 1,000 customers use it today! If you still have unanswered questions about the app, here are the top 5 questions we hear. If you have further questions, reach out to your CFE Advisor and we'll get you squared away.



1 Why should I use CFE Connect?

CFE Connect brings all the benefits of working with your CFE team directly to your phone. With CFE Connect, all the support, services, and communications provided are readily accessible at your fingertips. By offering valuable insights, tools, and resources, the portal equips you with the knowledge and capabilities to make informed decisions and maximize your productivity. Whether you're monitoring crop yields, managing your grain contracts, or planning for the future, CFE Connect puts you in the driver's seat, enabling you to steer you towards success.

2 If I use CFE Connect, will a different person at CFE be talking to me or will I still be working through my typical go-tos at CFE?

With CFE Connect, you have direct access to your CFE Advisors across Grain, Feed, Agronomy and Lumber. CFE Connect makes it easier than ever to communicate with your team through inbox messaging, and for them to communicate with you!

3 What are the most common uses of CFE Connect?

The top three ways we see our customers use the app include paying bills through the app through the ACH and credit card functions, downloading their statements and reviewing purchase history.

4 What can I do through CFE Connect?

By accessing your CFE account information all in one place, you can more efficiently operate day-to-day actions. View and pay invoices; request and review pricing, plans and other information; easily eSign contracts; view purchase history; see cash bids and futures, grain contracts and scale tickets—and more.

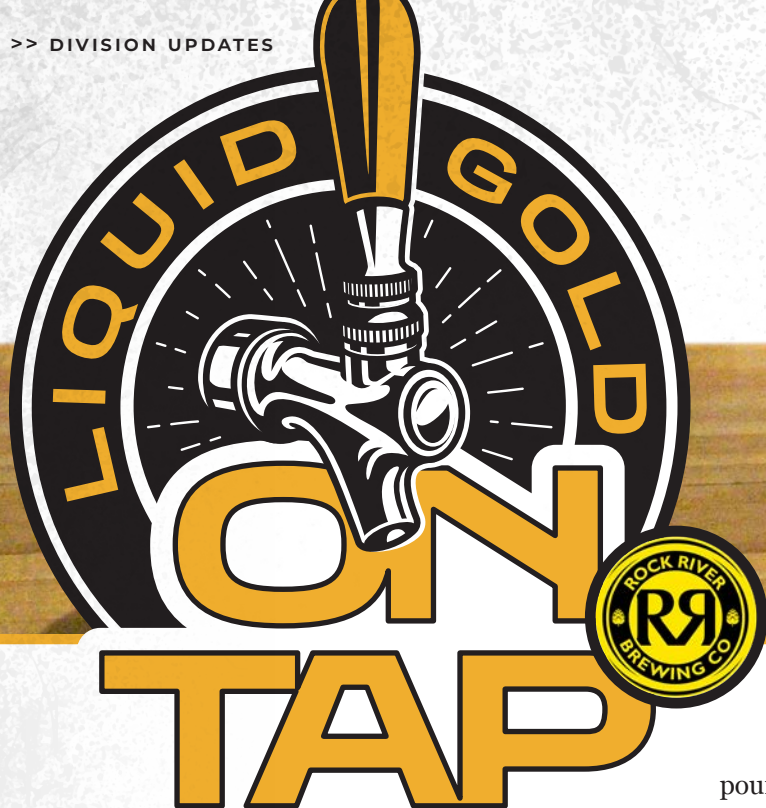
5 Do I have to use CFE Connect?

Although we strongly encourage you to give CFE Connect a try, there is no requirement of CFE members or customers to use it. But consider what you'll be missing out on if you don't! <<



SCAN HERE TO GET
SIGNED UP ON THE
WEBSITE TODAY.

connect.coopfe.com



THE GOLDEN GRAIN'S JOURNEY TO ROCK RAPIDS GLASSES.

Have you ever considered what happens to your grain when you bring it to a CFE elevator? Some farmers may assume their corn moves on to a feed mill or ethanol plant after being delivered to a CFE grain elevator, but for some bushels at CFE's Rock Rapids elevator, the grain has landed in a more unexpected location.

These bushels of corn have been converted to 22,000 pounds of dextrose and are given a new life by a local brewery and distillery.

Last year, Dave Ackerman, owner of Rock River Distillation, discovered the CFE Rock Rapids elevator had a surplus of dextrose available—sparking an idea he couldn't let go of. With his wild idea in hand, Dave called Dan Vander Zee, owner of Rock River Brewing Company, to discuss the possibility of purchasing the grain together, putting a whole new meaning to "farm to table." While the pair anticipates the 22,000

pounds will take four or more years to go through, the duo didn't want to pass up the opportunity to support local farmers.

"Since we're an agricultural community, I think it's always important to highlight farmers and to support local businesses, so I'm always looking for opportunities to do so," Dan says. "It's never lost on us that we don't exist without farmers."

Corn is a valuable product for the brewery because it is 100% fermentable, making it useful for a variety of brewed beverages. Dan's first endeavor with the dextrose was Rocky Latte, an American Pilsner with a clean, crisp finish. Corn from the Rock Rapids elevator makes up around 40% of the fermentables used for the lager, with barley being the other primary contributor.

In addition to Rocky Latte, Dan also has a hard seltzer fermented with CFE corn on tap, a popular drink with his customers. The seltzer uses dextrose as the sole fermentable.

At Rock River Distillation, the dextrose is primarily used for making bourbon. For a whiskey to be considered "bourbon," corn must meet or exceed 51% of the fermentables used. While

this means Dave may use larger amounts of dextrose per batch than Dan uses for Rocky Latte, the timeline of each batch differs greatly. The aging process for bourbon spans a minimum of two years, whereas Rocky Latte's brewing process takes just five to six weeks, and Dan's hard seltzer can be fermented in as few as 10 days.

Rock River Distillation and Rock River Brewing Company's investment in the Rock Rapids community extends beyond fermentation. Both businesses welcome community engagement by commonly hosting events, including events for CFE's Core classes. Additionally, cans of Rocky Latte will soon be available for sale, with \$0.25 from every can purchase being donated back to the Rock Rapids United Fund, supporting local non-profit organizations.

These initiatives show that just as CFE's commitment to our local communities knows no bounds, our communities' commitment to supporting each other is just as strong. Together, we are building a sustainable future for our communities.

Dan says, "Farmers help us, and we help them—it's good all the way around."

FROM FIELD TO FERMENTATION

Before the grain reaches your glass, it goes through multiple steps from corn selection to the moment of that first sip.



1 SELECTION

To start, brewers must select the corn they want to use. For the Rock Rapids brewery and distillery, the decision was already made for them—but it worked in their favor. Distillers often choose corn with a high starch content, as starch is the primary source for the sugars needed for fermentation. Varieties such as dent corn are a popular choice, as they provide an optimal balance of starch content and flavor.



2 MILLING & MASHING

The selected corn is then milled into a coarse powder, then mixed with hot water—a process known as “mashing.” The heat from the water activates enzymes that convert the starches in the corn into fermentable sugars. For Rock River Brewing Company’s Rocky Latte, barley and other fermentables are added during this step.



3 FERMENTATION

The mashing process creates a sweet liquid which is then transferred to fermentation tanks. Distillers then introduce yeast into the mix—a crucial player in the fermentation

process. The yeast feasts on the sugars, converting them into alcohol and carbon dioxide. This fermentation process can take several days, during which the mash bubbles and transforms, releasing heat.



4 DISTILLATION

After fermentation, the liquid undergoes distillation. Distillers use copper stills to separate the alcohol from the other components. The distillation process plays a pivotal role in refining the flavors and enhancing the overall quality of the spirit.



5 BARREL AGING

For some corn-based spirits, such as bourbon, the process isn’t over yet. After distillation, the alcohol may be transferred into oak barrels. The liquid then spends years developing complex flavors and taking on the wood’s distinct tastes. The aging process is often a distinguishing factor that determines the quality of the final product.

Whether the formulation process takes weeks or years, each beverage is brewed with care and complexity. <<

“IT’S NEVER LOST ON US THAT WE
DON’T EXIST WITHOUT FARMERS.”

– DAN VANDER ZEE

CFE Member NOTICE

Below is a list of patrons who need to update their address or who have an outstanding patronage check. If you are the responsible party, please call the Ocheyedan Admin office at 712-758-3636 to claim. <<

MEMBER	LAST KNOWN LOCATION		
ROBERT W FLETCHER	Akron, IA	CHAD HARTMAN	Hawarden, IA
MOGLER STOCK FARM INC	Alvord, IA	ROBERT KELDERMAN	Inwood, IA
DENNIS REINKE	Ashton, IA	KENNETH J ZINN	Lakefield, MN
MERLE WUBBENA	Ashton, IA	JOHN MIER	Lakefield, MN
DAN ROETZEL	Ashton, IA	LANCE SCHREURS	Larchwood, IA
ARTHUR K SWANSON	Beresford, SD	JDF FARMS	Luverne, MN
MIKE WYNIA	Boyden, IA	GERRIT RENSINK	Minneapolis, MN
MARLYS C. WILLIAMS	Cornelius, OR	DAN BRENNEMAN	Sioux Center, IA
LAKE INVESTMENT COMPANY	Des Moines, IA	ALVIN KLAASSEN	Sioux Falls, SD
LAURA MCMAHON	Flowery Branch, GA	IRVIN SCHONS JR.	Waukesha, WI
		WILLIAM TAYLOR	Worthington, MN



WIN THE WAR AGAINST WEEDS



FIGHT THE FIERCE® FIGHT. THREE FORMULATIONS FOR POWERFUL WEED CONTROL.

Fierce Herbicides deliver multiple effective modes of action to consistently tackle the toughest weeds in your soybean fields, and with three different formulations – **Fierce EZ**, **Fierce XLT**, **Fierce MTZ** – you're sure to find the right fit for your operation. *Fierce* Herbicides provide strong preemergence control with a lower use rate than the competition. Protect your soybeans with powerful, broad spectrum control over tough and resistant weeds, including Palmer amaranth and waterhemp, with *Fierce* Herbicides from Valent U.S.A.



ASK YOUR LOCAL RETAILER OR VISIT VALENT.COM/FIERCE TO LEARN MORE.

Products That Work, From People Who Care® | valent.com | 800-6-VALENT (682-5368)

Always read and follow label instructions.

Fierce and *Products That Work, From People Who Care* are registered trademarks of Valent U.S.A. LLC.
©2021 Valent U.S.A. LLC. All rights reserved.



FIND YOUR



FIERCE



Saucy Chicken & Asparagus

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ lbs. fresh asparagus spears (halved)
- 4 boneless/skinless chicken breast halves
- 2 Tbsp. oil
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ cup mayo
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- ½ tsp. curry powder
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Season chicken with salt and pepper.
2. Brown in oil over medium heat.
3. Put asparagus in a greased 9" baking dish.
4. Place chicken on top of asparagus.
5. Mix soup, mayo, lemon juice and curry powder.
6. Pour over chicken.
7. Cover and bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes (or until chicken is tender and juices run clear).
8. Sprinkle with cheese.
9. Let stand for five minutes. Then top with desired garnish and serve.

Fresh & Filling

Spring has arrived, and with it comes fresh asparagus! Whether you're lucky enough to have it in your garden or purchase it from the store, this time of year asparagus is full of flavor, making this dish a delicious option for dinner. Plus, it's super quick and easy to prepare!



Meet Lisa Schierholz. Lisa is the location manager at CFE in Hartley, where she and her husband John reside. The couple have three grown children and four grandchildren, with one more on the way! Besides staying busy with family, the Schierholz couple raise Pointing Labradors.



DON'T LOSE TO **EVERYDAY STRESS**

Everyday stressors from environmental or feed changes to handling and socialization can impact beef cattle's health and productivity. This stress can lead to reduced feed intake, fertility and productivity — just to name a few of its effects. **But it doesn't have to be this way.**

KemTRACE® Chromium from Kemin helps alleviate the negative impacts of stress for improved maintenance, reproduction, growth and immunity. In fact, **supplementing with KemTRACE Chromium can lead to an increase in hot carcass yield response of up to 5 lb in beef cattle.**

KemTRACE®
CHROMIUM

Learn more at
kemin.com/chromium

© Kemin Industries, Inc. and its group of companies 2024. All rights reserved.
® TM Trademarks of Kemin Industries, Inc., U.S.A.

References available upon request.

KEMIN



Cooperative Farmers Elevator
Ocheyedan - Rock Valley

920 Main Street
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

www.coopfe.com

where **R&D** meets **ROI**

EnduraPigTM
FEED ADDITIVE

EnduraSowTM
FEED ADDITIVE

These two new feed additives support piglet respiratory health and sow performance. Ask your CFE representative for more information or go to purinamills.com/swine.