



Views

Sharing New Perspectives & Information From Your Co-op



These exhibitors demonstrate the same deep roots, dedication and drive that our cooperative members and employees live by every day.

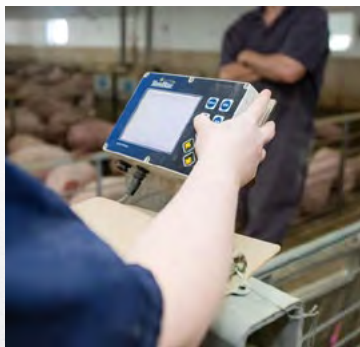
COME ONE, COME ALL
PAGE 13



AHEAD OF THE CURVE.



Celebrating 10 Years of Serving Pig Farmers.



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.10, NO.3 CONTENTS

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A Look Inside

A CELEBRATION WORTH WAITING FOR

On August 23, our 125th anniversary celebrations culminated with our long-awaited anniversary party.

Employees, members, directors and friends of CFE gathered to honor our past and shape our future with food, festivities and fellowship. Thank you to all who helped make this event happen and to those who helped us celebrate. We look forward to the next 125 years!

See more on **page 14**.



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

Kevin Delaney, Lake Park, IA
Associate Board Member

SENIOR STAFF

Rob Jacobs, *CEO*

Todd Netten, *CFO*

Dave Muilenburg, *COO*

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

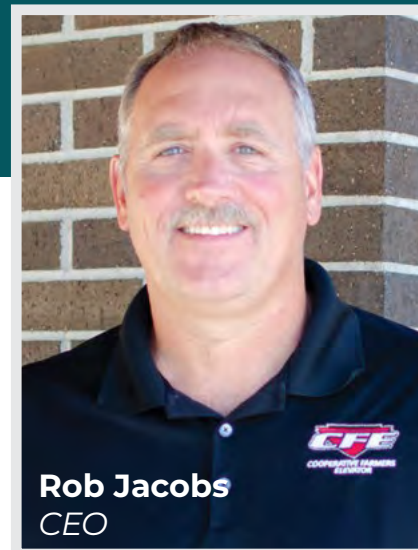
Your ideas are welcome!
Submit stories and topics for future publication issues by emailing news@coopfe.com.



www.coopfe.com

Looking Ahead to Harvest

A MESSAGE FROM ROB JACOBS, CEO.



As we transition into fall, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and resilience of our members, customers and employees. We know this industry and business never comes without challenges, but back-to-back summers with severe storms are a true testament to the perseverance of our growers and community members. Reminiscent to the devastating flooding near this time last year, severe storms at the end of July left their mark across many parts of our territory, leaving significant damage to homes, crops and infrastructure in several communities. We are working diligently to repair facilities like our Hudson location, as well as support our friends and neighbors as they begin to rebuild.

Despite the setbacks from damaged crops and waterlogged fields, the 2025 growing season has been very productive, with a large harvest expected. Across our region, soon combines will be rolling, bins will begin to fill and grain will be brought to town. Our teams are preparing throughout all departments to ensure we're ready to serve you safely and efficiently in the coming weeks. Harvest is more than a season—it's the payoff for a year of hard work, and the foundation for the year to come.

***Harvest is more than a season—
it's the payoff for a year of hard
work, and the foundation for
the year to come.***

The long hours and demanding work of harvest put our teams, processes and infrastructure to the test, but I'm proud of the investments our cooperative has made over the last year to improve our service, speed and capacity. From dedicated team members

to quality facilities, Cooperative Farmers Elevator is ready for another high-yielding fall. Our ongoing goal is to keep you moving, whether you're unloading grain, picking up feed or working with our

agronomy team on post-harvest needs. We know every minute counts, especially during busy season.

Before we are in the full swing of harvest, I wanted to remind our patrons about the board nomination and election processes. It is the duty of our members to represent the best interests of our cooperative, and a privilege to serve on the board supporting the decisions that make our operation, and yours, flourish.

This time of year also marks the close of our cooperative's fiscal year. While we're still finalizing the numbers, I can confidently say it's been another solid year—thanks to the continued patronage of our members, the dedication of our employees and the leadership from our board of directors. A strong balance sheet allows us to continue reinvesting in facilities, equipment and technology to better serve our members. As always, we will share further details on our financials in the coming months and look forward to reporting back on another year of progress.

Thank you for your trust in CFE and your support throughout the year. We wish you a safe and successful harvest season. <<

A PRIVILEGE *Worth Pursuing*

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE. YOUR COOPERATIVE.

With harvest approaching, the fall season also brings election season. Each year, members have the opportunity to help shape the future of the cooperative by electing directors who represent the best interests of their region. The ability to run, vote and serve is one of the great privileges of the cooperative system.

The CFE board of directors plays a pivotal role in guiding the cooperative's vision and ensuring the success of its members across the trade territory. From financial stewardship to infrastructure planning, long-term objectives and short-term goals, these leaders provide a strong foundation that positions our cooperative for growth and success.

As we prepare for our annual election, we reflect on current initiatives that

the board has positively impacted, such as capital improvements and significant updates at many of our locations. We're proud of the thoughtfulness and diligence our leadership has displayed, especially in the continued investments in strong engineering and infrastructure.

Locations like George and Hudson underwent extreme weather with the latest derecho, including more than 110 mile-per-hour winds, and sustained only minimal damage considering the impact of the storm. This is a direct testament to our board making decisions with efficiency, longevity and profitability top of mind—something we continue to look forward to prioritizing in the future as the board makes project considerations for 2026.

That future involves the persistent dedication of individuals taking the reins, decided on by their peers. Our nomination committee reviews candidates and selects nominees that reflect the needs of members while bringing diverse perspectives and backgrounds to the table. This process ensures fair representation and that your cooperative remains responsive to the voices of its members.

Voting members will receive further announcements in the mail including election information, ballots and annual meeting details. We kindly remind our members that your participation is an important duty in maintaining the success of your cooperative. We encourage you to play a role in helping lead Cooperative Farmers Elevator forward. <<



CLASS A MEMBERS:
Look for your ballots
arriving in the mail soon.

SEAT 1

Dave Van Holland
(Incumbent)

Andrew Rens

SEAT 2

Ryan Klingenberg
(Incumbent)

Austin Clark

SEAT 3

Austin Peterson
(Incumbent)

Jacob Tewes



SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT ON THE FARM

HOW COOPERATIVES UNLOCK NEW LEVELS OF MARKET ACCESS AND PROFITABILITY FOR FARMERS.

It's no secret that the Midwest is home to stellar soil composition and unique farming conditions that continually put it at the top of the productivity list for a variety of row crops. In 2024, Iowa farmers alone produced approximately 2.5 billion bushels of corn and 600 million bushels of soybeans. These monstrous yields require strategic management of inputs during the growing season and distribution of products come harvest—or, in other words, supply chain management. This system encompasses the flow of products such as fertilizer, grains, machinery, financial transactions, innovations, risk management and perhaps most notably, logistics. Partnering with cooperatives unlocks a new level of market access for your farm's supply chain management, from inputs to outputs, and everything in between.

As we consider the inputs required to successfully farm, a centralized provider of those resources is essential. Agriculture cooperatives provide just that. On the front end of grain production, cooperatives procure and supply many of the necessary inputs for growers. After harvest, cooperatives create value by ensuring that grains are stored, distributed and made available at the right place and time, domestically and globally. The incredible volume of grains produced in CFE's trade territory requires significant physical assets for adequate storage space and conditions. Nearly all Iowa's 2.5 billion bushels of corn and 600 million bushels of soybeans are harvested within a six-week window, but their usage is spread

throughout the year. Local cooperatives manage logistics systems that ensure grains are stored and transported to be available at the right place and time. Alternatively, growers are faced with monitoring markets and managing storage entirely on their own, on-farm.

The cooperative model exemplifies the principle of collective effort, enabling farmers to achieve together what they cannot accomplish individually. Through the cooperative system, farmers own and control the farm gate, ensuring access to inputs and markets worldwide. Without cooperatives, the assets at the farm gate—which connect farmers to global supply chains—would be significantly reduced. Farmers would be limited to the markets available to them locally, rather than accessing the broader, more cost-effective input inventory and expanded end-markets that cooperatives are able to secure through their extended network.

As we prepare for Co-op Month in October, we are reminded of the value of the cooperative system and why we invest in this business model. Rather than being driven by internal rates of return and near-term financial performance like traditional corporations, cooperatives are driven by the success of their farmer members. You can trust that your cooperative partners will continue to help you optimize your farm's supply chain and, ultimately, your farm's long-term success. <<



THE EXPERT:

BOBBY MARTENS

Director



Bobby Martens has served as the Director of the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives (IIC) since January 2025, bringing nearly two decades of experience from Iowa State University, where he was an Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management and the IIC Endowed Professor of Economics. With a deep understanding of cooperative structures and strong relationships across academic and industry sectors, Martens is focused on helping IIC's diverse membership—spanning agriculture, credit unions, rural electric, telecommunications, petroleum, and more—navigate challenges and seize new opportunities.

Raised on a family grain and cow-calf farm in North Dakota, Martens brings both personal and professional insight to his work, continuing IIC's long-standing commitment to advancing the cooperative model in Iowa. Under his leadership, IIC builds on its legacy of providing education and training, legislative support, and strategic resources that strengthen cooperatives across the state while preparing them for the future.

DO YOU STABILIZE YOUR NITROGEN?



NO I DON'T STABILIZE

I LOST

approximately

\$38/A²

of my fertilizer cost

- My nitrogen is prone to loss & unstabilized
- I'm NOT maximizing yield potential

NITROGEN STABILIZER

N-Serve®

Optinyte™ technology

Instinct NXTGEN®

Optinyte™ technology

YES I DO STABILIZE

I MADE

an additional

\$35/A¹

of revenue

- Nitrogen applications increased my yields*
7% with fall applications
5% with spring applications
- Soil nitrogen retention increased by **28%***
- Leaching reduced by **16%**
- Greenhouse gases reduced by **51%***
- Protected spring applied nitrogen for 6-8 more weeks in the soil.
- EPA registered nitrogen stabilizers are part of nationwide Nutrient Reduction Programs
- **Instinct®** nitrogen stabilizer is the winner of the 2016 EPA Green Chemistry Award

¹ Based on 2008-2023 Corteva Agriscience field trials resulting in an average 7bu/A yield increase at \$5/bu.

² Based on 180 lbs of anhydrous per acre at \$0.75 per pound or 28% of my nitrogen

*Wolt, J.D. 2004. A meta-evaluation of nitrpyrin agronomic and environmental effectiveness with emphasis on corn production in the midwestern USA. doi:10.1023/B:FRES. 0000025287.52565.99. Numbers cited are average results comparing nitrogen applications applied with Optinyte® technology vs no nitrogen application. Results may vary.

Performance, profits and yield may vary

Find Stability at NitrogenStabilizers.com

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N-Serve® and Instinct NXTGEN® nitrogen stabilizers are not registered for sale or use in all states. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency to determine if a product is registered for sale or use in your state. Do not fall-apply anhydrous ammonia south of Highway 16 in the state of Illinois. Always read and follow label directions. ©2025 Corteva. 027836-2 COR (02/25)



ASK JIM

THE SILENT WEIGHT CARRIED BY OUR AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

By: Jim Jensen, CFE Director of Risk & Safety

Agriculture is often regarded as a great way of life and a great place to raise a family. Yet in reality, uncertainty, isolation, and physical and emotional demands create challenges that few outside the field truly understand. Stress is a constant.

Uncertain market price fluctuations, livestock disease outbreaks, unpredictable weather and rising operational costs all contribute to stress. The hours are long and the stakes are high.

The impact of such chronic stress can be significant. Those involved in our industry

may experience anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, difficulty concentrating and even physical symptoms such as headaches and high blood pressure. In severe cases, mental health struggles can lead to substance abuse, self-harm or worse.

Harvest can be one of the most rewarding times of the year, but also one of the most challenging. Stress seems to go with agriculture, and seeking out support and self-care strategies is an important thing to keep in mind.



Where can farmers and their families turn for support when stress feels overwhelming?

JIM SAYS:

- **Iowa Concern Hotline:** Operating 24/7, this confidential hotline provides access to trained counselors, legal and financial advisors and stress management experts. Farmers and their families can call for support on issues that range from emotional distress to financial concerns. **1-800-447-1985**
- **AgriSafe Network:** Offers webinars, health screenings and personalized consultations tailored specifically for agricultural workers. Their resources address both physical and mental health. www.agrisafe.org
- **Iowa State University Extension and Outreach:** Provides educational materials, workshops and community events focused on stress management and mental health awareness. The "Farm and Ranch Wellness" program connects farmers with local therapists and peer support groups. www.extension.iastate.edu
- **Iowa Farm Stress:** Contains information about available programs, tips for managing stress and connections to local and virtual support networks. www.iowafarmstress.org
- **Agricultural Behavioral Health Voucher Program:** Offers up to five free counseling sessions for farmers, ranchers, agribusiness professionals and their families. Administered by SDSU Extension in partnership with Rising Hope Counseling. **605-494-1500**
- **Avera Farm & Rural Stress Hotline:** Staffed by trained mental health professionals familiar with ag-specific challenges, available 24/7. **1-800-691-4336**



What can individuals do day-to-day to manage stress and protect their mental health?

JIM SAYS:

- **Stay Connected:** Isolation is a major risk factor for poor mental health. Reach out to neighbors, family or friends, even if only by phone or text. Sharing experiences and frustrations can lighten the emotional load.
- **Set Boundaries:** Agriculture can be all-consuming, but it's important to carve out time for rest and recreation. Take some time to recharge physically and mentally.
- **Prioritize Physical Health:** Nutrition, exercise and adequate sleep are extremely important to mental well-being.
- **Don't Hesitate to Seek Help:** Asking for support is a sign of strength. Utilize the resources available to you. <<

REBUILDING Rivers Bend

A COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO RESTORATION.

From the beginning, Rivers Bend Campground has been a place built by the community, for the community. Its story began when 94 acres were generously donated to the city of Rock Valley—an act of generosity that laid the groundwork for something special. A place where families could get reacquainted over the weekend, friends could reunite, teams could get away for a retreat—a place where people could come and take a moment to wind down and enjoy nature. With the help of the city and students from Northwest Iowa Community College, that vision became reality. For years, the campground has welcomed travelers from across the region, serving as a retreat for campers,

hikers, cyclists and families. But in the spring of 2024, everything changed.

When historic flooding swept through northwest Iowa and southwest Minnesota, Rivers Bend was hit hard. Within hours, the entire campground was underwater. Campers were evacuated, and floodwaters surged into the office and cabins, eventually reaching the rooftops. The damage forced the closure of the campground for the remainder of the season.

However, it was still utilized as a temporary housing location for those who lost their homes. For the community, it wasn't just the loss of a campground—it was the loss of a

gathering space, a summer tradition, a piece of what makes this community feel like home.

As rebuilding efforts launched across the area, CFE Lumber in George was called upon for a special project: rebuilding Rivers Bend. The ask? A new office and five cabins to bring the campground back to life. Just like the original construction of Rivers Bend, the rebuild became a community effort. As soon as the snow was thawed, construction began in April 2025 at the George lumber yard, roughly twenty-five miles down the road from the campground. While our CFE Lumber team has decades of experience building





One of the most important pillars of a cooperative is to help their community, whether that's through getting through a tough season or actually rebuilding it, that's what we are here for.

JERRY SCHOO

custom structures on-site, this project brought new challenges.

"The number one concern was the transportation of the structures," explains Jerry Schoo, George Lumber Location Manager. "It's a much different process than when we move a house to set on a foundation."

Fortunately, the community stepped up again. A local business volunteered to handle the move from the lumber yard to the campground. Materials like siding and steel were sourced from local vendors, proving that the spirit of supporting communities runs deep.

"After the floods, everyone was in the mode of returning to normalcy and

ready to do whatever was needed to get their community back to what it was before," Jerry shares.

Despite the tight labor market and high demand for contractors after the flooding, progress steadily continued. Alongside the Rivers Bend project, the George lumber yard has also been at the heart of another major initiative: constructing new starter homes for flood-impacted families. Through this challenging time, CFE aimed to do what we do best, and for the lumber team, that means getting the tools out and starting to build.

The campground's new office building made its way to Rivers Bend in time

for Memorial Day weekend. By mid-summer, the first cabin was delivered, marking a visible, hopeful step toward welcoming campers back.

This project is just one part of CFE's broader commitment to helping the Rock Valley community recover and rebuild. "One of the most important pillars of a cooperative is to help their community, whether that's through getting through a tough season or actually rebuilding it, that's what we are here for," Jerry says.

As Rivers Bend has reopened its gates and welcomed back visitors, they look forward to the arrival of the four remaining cabins. <<





*I'm here to help just like
they've helped me.*



KEVIN DELANEY
CFE Associate Board Member

ROOTED IN TRADITION INVESTED IN THE FUTURE

MEET CFE'S NEW ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBER.

For as long as he can remember, farming and CFE have been part of Kevin Delaney's life. Growing up on his family's multi-generation farm outside Lake Park, Iowa, Kevin was raised in the rhythm of agriculture. It didn't take long for him to know his future would follow the same path.

Kevin got an early start working alongside his father, John, on JP Delaney Farms, a row crop and hog operation. He even started his own farming journey young, cash-renting 20 acres. Though he later hit pause to attend college and participate in John Deere's Tech program, the pull of the farm never faded. "Even in school, I knew I'd come back," Kevin shares.

After college, Kevin worked full-time for John Deere, but the dream of farming never left his mind. Nearly twenty years later, that dream became reality when

he purchased the acreage where he now lives and farms today with his wife, Kelly, and their son, Jack. His own row crop and cattle operation keeps him busy, but he still plays an active role in the family farm as his father begins to step back.

Farming isn't the only legacy Kevin shares with his dad. For most of Kevin's life, John served on the board of Farmers Exchange. Between the two of them, the Delaneys have been connected to CFE and its legacy cooperatives for decades. That lifelong partnership has shaped nearly every part of Kevin's operation.

"I've done all my business through CFE—feed, crop, agronomy, fuel—you name it," Kevin says. "Close to one hundred percent of my inputs and revenue are tied to CFE. I'm not sure there's anyone more directly invested.

They're my go-to for everything."

Now, Kevin is continuing that legacy of leadership, stepping into a new role as a CFE Associate Board Member. While he brings a strong history with the cooperative to the table, he also brings practical insight from years of experience in his trucking and spraying backgrounds. That firsthand perspective, paired with his long-standing relationship with the cooperative, gives him a grounded understanding of how CFE operates and where it can continue to grow.

"CFE has done things well for a long time, and I don't want to change that," Kevin says. "I'm here to help just like they've helped me."

Join us in welcoming Kevin to the CFE Board of Directors! <<

COME ONE COME ALL

CFE EMBRACES
COMMUNITY DURING
COUNTY FAIR SEASON.

Carnival rides and community meals, livestock barns and learning projects—there's something for everyone at a local county fair. CFE is proud to support our communities during fair season, whether volunteering as judges, participating in a parade or simply watching the next generation of young leaders show off their hard work. These exhibitors demonstrate the same deep roots, dedication and drive that our cooperative members and employees live by every day, and we hope to continue our connections with them long into the future. <<

Photos courtesy of Amy Grace Graphics



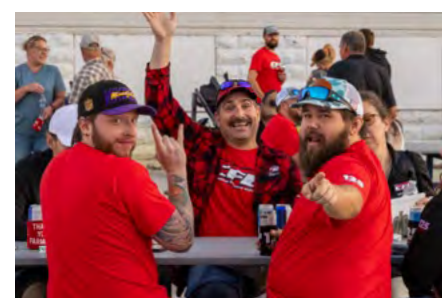
Grand drives and good times—there's fun to be had by all at the county fair.







08.23.25



CENTER STAGE

WITH CFE IN ROCK VALLEY

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

The Rock Valley location recently completed a major overhaul of its facilities, an investment aimed squarely at improving speed and accuracy. The updates mean a smoother, more efficient operation designed to meet the demands of today's harvest and beyond.



THE TEAM:

- **Matt Waren**, *Location Manager*
- 11 Full-Time Employees
- 1 Seasonal Employee
- 8 Sales Staff (Agronomy & Feed)

SERVICES:

- Agronomy
- Feed
- Grain

BEST KNOWN FOR:

"We have a very diverse workforce," says Matt. And that's no small part of what makes Rock Valley stand out. Out of 11 full-time employees, team members represent four different countries: the United States, Mexico, Guatemala and Guam. "The culture we've been able to build with everybody here is great," he adds.

That diversity, paired with the experience of several long-time employees—some with more than 30 years at CFE—means the Rock Valley team knows their work and takes pride in doing it well. They cover a lot of ground, from grain operations to agronomy support to one of CFE's heaviest feed divisions. When it comes to feed, this location is a big player. "When we're going full bore, we're the third-largest supplier of tons out of CFE for swine," Matt adds.

Whether it's handling grain quickly, providing customized agronomy support or supplying high-quality swine and cattle feed, the Rock Valley crew is focused on serving members well and getting the job done right. <<

RECENT UPGRADES:

- Expanded pit space for better grain handling.
- A new 17,000-bushel-per-hour leg to move grain faster than ever.
- All-new spouting and conveyors for smoother, more reliable operations.
- Two new distributors off the main leg and the dryer leg.
- Full automation so everything can now be run from a single computer inside the elevator.
- A new motor control room to house the technology driving these upgrades.

While these updates didn't increase storage capacity, they will significantly boost speed and accuracy, helping ensure a smoother, more efficient harvest season. "This project has been in the works for a few years," Matt says. "Finishing it ahead of this harvest puts us in a great position to serve our members."

FUNDING THE FUTURE

CFE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO
EMPLOYEE FAMILY MEMBERS.

EMMA
EVANS

Our cooperative is dedicated to supporting our employees and our community, and we exemplify this with our CFE employee dependent scholarships. In addition to our public scholarships for local students pursuing higher education in agriculture, we have \$500 scholarships designated for students of CFE team members to give back to our CFE family.

Supporting the success of our employees extends beyond the individual. We take pride in supporting the success of their families, as well.

We're thrilled to announce these scholarship recipients as they embark on their higher education journey. We know they'll continue to display the same passion and pride in their coursework as their parents display in their careers at CFE.

Megan Aukes is the daughter of Terry Aukes, regional agronomy sales manager, and a graduate of Sioux Falls Christian School. She is now attending Dordt University, majoring in biology.

Emma Evans is the daughter of Chad Evans, CFE custom applicator. She graduated from West Lyon High School and is now studying elementary

education and youth ministry at the University of Sioux Falls.

Elise Fornia is an Elk-Point Jefferson High School graduate and the daughter of Eric Fornia, regional agronomy sales manager. She is currently studying nursing at South Dakota State University.

Ava Kingma is the daughter of Jeff Kingma, who is part of CFE's beef sales team. She graduated from Alcester Hudson High School and is currently attending Augustana University, studying nursing.

Tanner Lincecum is the son of Chris Lincecum, CFE feed safety director, and a graduate of Central Lyon High School. He now attends Kirkwood Community College with plans to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Brooke Meyer is a graduate of Trinity Christian High School and the daughter of Brent Meyer, a member of CFE's beef sales team. She will be attending Grand Rapids Community College, studying nursing.

Covey Wynia is the son of Brady Wynia, who works in CFE beef production and sales. He graduated from Rock Valley Community School and is studying agricultural business at South Dakota State University. <<

ELISE
FORNIAAVA
KINGMATANNER
LINCECUMBROOKE
MEYERCOVEY
WYNIA

A Farm To Come Home To

EXPANDING TO SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION.

In August of 2025, after over a year and a half of planning, permitting and building, Loyson Farms reached a very special milestone—the completion of their brand new, deep pit cattle barn. Located in Ghent, Minnesota, Loyson Farms is a diversified cattle, corn, hay

and soybean operation, expanding to support the fourth generation on the farm.

Nestled in the southwest part of the state, Doug Loyson now operates what was originally his grandparents' farm. The land Doug and his wife Jodi are raising

their four children on is the same land Doug grew up on and that his father grew up on before him. With deep family ties to the farm, welcoming home their oldest son and fourth-generation operator, Lane, to carry on their legacy is that much sweeter.

With Lane returning home after college, Doug knew that expanding was the key to providing Lane a place on the farm and bringing him into the operation. While both love the row crop side of their farm, their passions lean towards cattle, making the feedlot an easy choice for expansion.

As they weighed their options, ultimately, the addition of a deep pit cattle barn seemed like the best opportunity for growth. Compared to bed pack barns, deep pit barns offer higher potential in labor savings and fertilizer value—two things the Loysons set out to optimize with this build. Not only would this type of infrastructure benefit their efficiency in the cattle business, but the ability to recycle nutrients back into their row crop operation made it a win-win.

All farmers know that time and money are hot commodities in this industry, and this barn seemed like a natural fit for Doug and Lane. With already high fertilizer prices that are

expected to keep climbing in 2026, the ability to use cattle manure on their crops is going to be a huge asset for Loyson Farms. The flexibility and reliability of having their own nutrient source readily available and an easy-to-execute manure management plan creates a seamless crop-livestock integration for them. Plus, the farm will reap long-term cost benefits in reduced bedding expenses and associated labor, along with increased cattle comfort—especially in Minnesota winters—and better overall functionality of space.

To make this investment come to fruition, the Loysons put in countless hours alongside their builders to help bring the barn to life. With so much of this project tied to the family and Lane's return to the farm, large portions of this vision rested on him. Welcomed home with a welder in hand, Lane did most of the weld work on the new barn, including all the gates. They were custom-made so they'd be uniform, sized



It was a very rewarding feeling to watch cattle run down the alley for the first time.

DOUG LOYSON

appropriately and built to the Loysons' quality and longevity standards. Lane's craftsmanship led a significant part of the build. "He can definitely take pride in that," Doug says happily. "It was definitely a family affair to build this."

That sense of ownership runs deep at Loyson Farms. For Doug, caring for cattle has always been ingrained in him; he doesn't remember a time without waking up to do livestock chores. While Doug laughs that he's "just wired that way," this barn offers future generations the ability to grow their passion for the cattle business just as Lane and Doug have. The Loysons appreciate the daily rhythm their cattle give them—as opposed to some of the downtime that can come with raising crops—making this new barn even more special.

With much of the fall being dedicated to harvest time, they set their sights on finishing the barn before the summer was over. From permitting to design to construction, the addition of their deep pit cattle barn was a labor of love. Doug jokes that setting a hard deadline served as good motivation to complete the project and get cattle moved into their new home on their intended timeline.

For anyone who has seen the excitement of cattle in a new pen, field or even on fresh bedding, you can imagine the view the Loysons had the

privilege of witnessing and the feelings of pride and relief as they watched cattle come into their new barn. "It was a very rewarding feeling to watch cattle run down the alley for the first time," he said, "To see the joy on my son's and his girlfriend's faces when filling the barn for the first time, it was a proud dad moment," Doug remembers fondly.

The now cattle-filled barn not only marks the completion of the project and the start of a longer-term investment but also symbolizes a new chapter for their operation. A new chapter with a greater emphasis on efficiency and sustainability, and one that anchors Lane's place on the farm with the potential to welcome home other family members in the future. Family, tradition and innovation all intersect at Loyson Farms. From handmade gates, nutrient recycling and generations of hard work, every detail of this farm tells part of their story.

It's stories like this, happening in quiet corners of our trade territory, that make us proud partners. We're overjoyed by the innovation and dedication our customers and community display in the name of continued growth and success. CFE is thrilled to play a small role in these operations, and we look forward to a strong future for many generations to come. <<



HARVEST POLICIES

Grain Handling Rules & Rates Effective 9/15/25.

Please notify scale operator of grain ownership and splits prior to dumping.

You will have 10 days from the last delivery date to dispose of your grain. Grain after the 10 days will automatically be settled to House Receipts. Maximum of 20 day delivery window from first load. Storage charges start on average delivery date.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS:	MOISTURE	TW	FM	DAMAGE
Corn				
Cash Sales Contract, Price Later, Extended Price	15%	54#	3%	5%
Warehouse & House Receipts, Condo, Grain Bank	14%	54#	3%	5%
Soybeans				
Cash Sales Contract, Price Later, House & Warehouse Receipts	13%	54#	1%	2%
Oats				
Cash, House & Grain Bank Receipts	13%	36#	2%	0.1%

DISCOUNT SCHEDULES:

Corn

Moisture: (Bought on a dry basis only.)

All corn loads per settlement sheet will be averaged together.

Test Weight: (Averaged by lot.)

2¢ per lb. 54-50 lbs.

3¢ per lb. 50-48 lbs.

4¢ per lb. 48-46 lbs.

Rejected below 46 lbs.

Foreign Material: (Averaged by lot.)

3¢ each percent from 3% to 4%

4¢ each percent over 4%

Damage: (Discounted by load.)

2¢ each percent from 5% to 10%

3¢ each percent over 10%

Shrink & Drying:

(All loads will be averaged per sheet.)

Moisture Shrink of 1.18% & handling shrink of 0.32% per point, drying charge of \$0.05 per point of moisture removed.

Sour or Weevils: 10¢ per bushel

Musty: 5¢ per bushel

COFO: 25¢ per bushel

Soybeans

Moisture: (Less than 12% will be figured at 12% for averaging.)

Soybeans 12% to 15%: averaged as one lot.

Soybeans 15.1% above: each load will stand on its own.

13.1% to 15%: 3% shrink per point, discounted per tenth.

Above 15.1%: 4% shrink per point, discounted per tenth.

Discount will be taken off of weight.

Over 16% must be sold upon delivery. 17% will be rejected.

Test Weight:

53.9 to 53: \$0.005 per bushel

52.9 to 52: \$0.01 per bushel

Foreign Material: (Discounted by load.)

Any fraction over 1% will be deducted from the gross weight.

Damage: (Discounted by load.) Market Scale.

Sour or Weevils: 10¢ per bushel

Musty: 5¢ per bushel

COFO: 25¢ per bushel

Oats

Moisture: 13.1 & above: 2.5¢ per point

Test Weight: 32 to 35.9: 1¢ per lb.

31.9 & under: 2¢ per lb. & subject to rejection.

Warehouse & House Receipts: (Pro-rated daily). \$0.08 per bushel per month. Grain removed from storage, condo or open storage will have a 25¢ fee plus accrued storage on house, warehouse and open storage.

Price Later Contracts: (Pro-rated daily). \$0.07 per bushel per month until contract matures on October 14, 2026.

Storage & Service Charges: House Receipts, Warehouse Receipt, Price Later and Grain Bank will be billed out monthly.

Custom Drying: Handling fee of 25¢ per bushel. Grain not removed the same day will be charged 0.002¢ per bushel per day until removed (6¢ per month).

Grain Bank: (Pro-rated daily). Free storage for 30 days then 5¢ per bushel per month. Unprocessed grain taken out will be assessed a 25¢ per bushel penalty plus storage charges. Grain Bank is for milled, cracked or ground corn only.

Deferred Payment Contract: Contracts are always available.

No quantities of less than 100 bushels may be placed on Price Later Contract, House Receipt or Warehouse Receipt.

Late delivery of contracts may be subject to a minimum of \$0.25 per bushel penalty.

We cannot accept treated grain, as they are illegal to sell. If treated grain are received, they are subject to a minimum discount of \$1,000.00 plus any subsequent penalties should they occur.

All rates are subject to change without notice.

PLANNING AHEAD, DELIVERING RESULTS

BALANCING QUALITY, RISK AND VALUE FOR MEMBERS.

By the time combines hit the field, CFE has already been planning for harvest since spring, monitoring crop potential and preparing to handle the bushels farmers will bring in.

“We’re looking at what potentially could be a really good crop,” said Matt Zeman, CFE Vice President of Grain. “That’s great news for our members, but it also means we need to be ready to move a lot of bushels, and do it quickly to protect quality and keep things flowing.”

To make that happen, the grain department has scheduled more rail shipments than they’ve had in past years. “This year, we’ve got multiple trains sold for October through December, and even more scheduled out into winter and early spring. That’s a big change for us, and it’s going to make a big difference in how quickly we can move grain.”

Why More Trains?

It comes down to two things: a bigger crop and a smarter marketing approach.

“When you’ve got grain sitting out in uncovered piles, you’ve got a short window to get picked up before you start to risk quality issues,” Matt explains. “We don’t want to get anywhere near that.

By lining up more trains early, we’re making sure those piles get picked up in a timely manner.”

Rail sales also give CFE members access to markets they wouldn’t reach otherwise. “A lot of these trains are headed to dairies and ethanol plants out west, like California and Idaho—places where demand is strong,” Matt says. “That helps us find the best value for members’ grain, instead of being limited to only what’s available locally.”

Plan Ahead, Stay Flexible

Selling trains months in advance isn’t without risk, but the grain team has built in flexibility to pivot if needed.

“If something changes, say the local market improves, we can buy back those trains and keep that grain here,” Matt points out. “That kind of flexibility lets us take advantage of opportunities as they come up, while still having a plan in place to keep grain moving. It’s about putting members in the best position possible.”

More Than Marketing

Behind the scenes, CFE’s grain department is part broker, part marketer and part logistics manager. Whether it’s selling directly to a buyer, working with a broker or securing freight, they’re always looking for ways to get members the most value.

“Our goal is simple,” Matt says. “We want to handle this potential big crop in a way that protects quality, manages risk and captures value for our members. That’s what we’re here for.”

With more trains moving out than in years past and a plan in place to keep things on track, the grain team is ready for what looks to be a strong harvest and ready to make the most of it for CFE members. <<





CORE CLASS III

ON THE GROUND

EXPLORING CFE UP CLOSE.



In June, CFE's Core Class III participants gathered at our Ocheyedan location for a day that mixed hands-on learning with a closer look at how their cooperative operates. This latest session gave attendees the chance to see CFE's work up close, ask questions and connect with each other and our team.

The day started with tours of the fertilizer plant and feed mill, where participants got an inside look at the facilities that keep inputs and feed moving for our members. Seeing the process firsthand gave the group a better understanding of how these parts of the cooperative work together to meet the needs of local farms and livestock operations.

Another highlight was stepping inside one of our massive grain bins, which holds about 700,000 bushels. Standing inside makes it clear just how much infrastructure it takes to handle and store grain at this scale.

The group also checked out the new on-site solar panels, a reminder of how CFE is looking ahead by investing in energy solutions that support long-term efficiency and sustainability.

CFE's Air team presented live demonstrations, showing the precision and technology behind our aerial application services. For many in the group, this was a chance to see firsthand how these tools help maximize efficiency in the field while

protecting land and resources.

We were also joined by Iowa State Representative John Wills, who spoke with the group about current issues affecting agriculture and rural communities. He also took time to answer questions, giving participants a chance to engage directly with someone who represents their interests at the state level.

As with every Core session, this event was about more than just touring facilities. It was about connecting members to the bigger picture of how their cooperative works—whether that's seeing what goes into feed production, understanding grain storage and handling or hearing from leaders who impact agriculture policy.

Looking ahead, the program isn't slowing down. Next, Core participants are headed to Iowa State University for industry tours with a bonus of attending an Iowa State football game. Look forward to highlights in the next issue.

Experiences like this are what make Core so valuable, helping participants build stronger connections with each other, our employees and their cooperative. By opening the doors to our operations and fostering those relationships, we're building a more informed, engaged and connected membership—one that's ready to help carry CFE forward. <<



Blake Bellamy



Jackson Byers



AJ Bomgaars



Sam Chambers



Emma Fisher



Tara Iverson



Joscelin Jasper



Ben McConaughy

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF AG

CFE'S INTERNS SHAPED BY
MENTORSHIP AND EXPERIENCE.



Emma Orr



Brady Russell



Autum Wittstruck

*Not Pictured Above:
Travis Kamradt*

At Cooperative Farmers Elevator, investing in the next generation of agricultural leaders isn't just a goal—it's a commitment. This summer, that commitment took shape in the form of twelve talented interns from eight different colleges, each bringing fresh ideas and eager energy to CFE.

The group of 2025 interns included Blake Bellamy, AJ Bomgaars, Jackson Byers, Sam Chambers, Emma Fisher, Tara Iverson, Joscelin Jasper, Travis Kamradt, Ben McConaughy, Emma Orr, Brady Russell and Autum Wittstruck. The summer experience extended far

beyond technical skills. It sharpened their leadership, patience, agility, flexibility, teamwork, communication, accountability and initiative. Working in various departments, the interns saw firsthand what it means to put the customer first and how a cooperative operates to support its members.

"From riding along with the cattle team to visiting with producers, I gained valuable hands-on experience," shared beef sales intern Emma Orr. "I'm grateful for the relationships I built and the chance to learn from so many knowledgeable people. This internship

confirmed my passion for the beef industry and inspired me to continue building a career focused on helping producers succeed."

We're grateful for the initiative these interns showed, taking advantage of every opportunity to make the most of their summer with our team. With their mindsets and motivation, we are confident their futures are very bright. CFE is proud to celebrate these incredible young leaders and looks forward to seeing all they achieve in the years to come. <<

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Scotcheroots

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 cup of crisped rice cereal
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup semi-sweet or milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup butterscotch chips

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Grease a 9x13-inch pan or line with parchment, set aside.
2. In a large saucepan, combine the corn syrup, sugar and butter. Stir constantly over medium-low heat until the sugar dissolves and the mixture just starts to bubble. Don't let it boil or the bars will turn out too hard.
3. Remove from heat; stir in peanut butter until smooth. Then mix with cereal, gently folding in the crisped rice cereal until evenly coated. Press mixture into the prepared pan. Don't pack too hard or the bars will be dense.
4. Melt chocolate chips and butterscotch chips together (microwave in 30-second bursts or use a double boiler), stirring until smooth. Spread evenly over bars.
5. Let the topping firm up at room temperature or refrigerate briefly. Cut into squares and enjoy!

Favorite Fall Treats

THE CURE FOR A HARVEST SWEET TOOTH.

With harvest here, we set out to find the ultimate in-the-field snack. We surveyed over two dozen farmers across our trade territory to see what their go-to treat was in the fall. While homemade rice krispies, chocolate chip cookies, brownies and beef jerky topped the list, an easy winner stood out... Scotcheroots!

As scotcheroots took the dominant lead in our poll, we set out to find the best recipe for you to try this harvest season. We searched through grandma's recipe cards, the depths of the internet and all our favorite cookbooks and decided on these tried and true, no-bake scotcheroots—perfect to enjoy in the cab of the combine, buddy seat or behind the wheel of the grain cart! <<

ANYTHING BUT *TYPICAL*.



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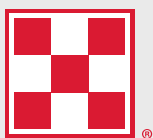
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