



Golden Growers
Cooperative

Memberandum

Volume 22, Number 5

December, 2016

SAVE THE DATE for the Golden Growers Annual Meeting, Thursday, March 23rd Cambria Conference Center in West Fargo

Please set aside Thursday, March 23, 2017 to attend the Golden Growers Cooperative Annual Meeting.

Members will have the opportunity to elect Directors to serve on the Golden Growers Board. Current directors up for re-election are: **Shaun Beauclair**, Stephen, MN (NE District); **Bernie DeCock**, Ghent, MN (SE District); **Mark Harless**, Borup, MN (EC District); **Chris Johnson**, Wahpeton, ND (SW District); and **Glenn Johnson**, Mayville, ND (NW District).

Any member in good standing is eligible to be nominated to the Board in the district where the member is registered. If you are interested in serving on the Board or want more information about district elections, visit our website at www.goldengrowers.com or contact us at 701-281-0468 or scotts@goldengrowers.com

More details about the Annual Meeting will be provided in our February newsletter.

Direct Deposit of Payments and Email Delivery of Newsletters Not Favored by GGC Members

Last June, we mentioned in our newsletter that Direct Deposits were on the horizon pending successful implementation of the process through our Agvance software system. At the present time, ACH is on hold.

Survey results from GGC members indicated a reluctance to participate in electronic forms of delivery. While roughly 25% would welcome ACH or emailed newsletters, over 50% said they were not interested.

Despite this result, Golden Growers will continue to review electronic delivery as a cost savings tool.

Patrick Benedict Memorial Scholarship Moved to NDSU Development Foundation

At the time the Patrick Benedict Memorial Scholarship was formed, the fund was placed with the FM Area Foundation. We have enjoyed our association with the FM Area Foundation and thank them for their service to the scholarship program.

However, after some consideration, our scholarship committee determined that the best place for a NDSU scholarship program is with the NDSU Development Foundation. As of May 18th, the transfer to NDSU was complete. The scholarship program is now titled the **Patrick Benedict Memorial Harvest Bowl Scholarship**.

Under terms of the scholarship agreement, one scholarship will be awarded each year to a NDSU student athlete on the intercollegiate wrestling team or a female student athlete in any intercollegiate sport. The recipient must also be from ND, MN or SD, have parents involved in agriculture or agribusiness, and be pursuing a degree through the College of Agriculture.

If you are interested in donating to the fund contact the NDSU Foundation (www.ndsufoundation.com) or 800-279-8971 and direct your contribution to Patrick Benedict Memorial Harvest Bowl Scholarship.

ProGold Continues to Work on Path Forward

As of this date, ProGold is unable to provide an answer to what will occur after December 31, 2017 when the current plant lease with Cargill expires. As mentioned earlier, ProGold is actively pursuing options to include a new lease to Cargill, working with another corn wet milling company, or operating the plant. We will be sure to report any developments as they occur.

2017 Annual Delivery Agreement (Pool Election) Deadline is December 15th

In October, Golden Growers members received their 'Annual Pool Election' letter offering the opportunity to change delivery method for the coming year. Only members who intend to change delivery need to respond.

Once delivery methods are set, GGC is not able to change a member's delivery obligation for the year. Therefore, if you plan to change from Method A (physical delivery) to Method B (GGC acts as your Agent) or visa versa, complete the Annual Delivery Agreement (ADA) printed on the back page of your October 15th letter and **return it to the Golden Growers office no later than December 15th.**

Note: If you have misplaced your Annual Election Letter and intend to change delivery methods, contact the Golden Growers Office for a replacement letter.

Completing 2016 Method A Deliveries

Members who elected to fulfil all or a portion of their obligated corn deliveries through the Method A Pool are reminded to contact Cargill (800-266-6732) to finalize 2016 corn deliveries as required by their membership agreement. **To make sure you receive the full benefit of your membership, deliveries must be completed by December 31st.** Meeting your delivery commitment assures full payment of allocated income and incentive payments.

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Winter Addresses for 2016 K-1s

If you go somewhere for the winter and would like your K-1 tax report delivered to this winter address, sent by email, or delivered directly to your tax accountant, please notify GGC by phone 701-281-0468 or email scotts@goldengrowers.com. Please note that we will not use prior year addresses without prior notification from a member.

Notify GGC of Changes!

Please remember to notify GGC immediately of address, phone number changes, or to report the death of a member. Call us at 701-281-0468 or email scotts@goldengrowers.com.

Important Dates:

December 9 - GGC Board meeting
December 15 - Last day to change Annual Delivery election for 2017
February 3 - GGC Conference Call on Allocated Income and Distributions
March 22 - GGC Board Meeting
March 23 - GGC Annual Meeting

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