



Memberandum



Information for members and friends of Golden Growers Cooperative

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GGC Board Approves Equity Credit Retirement of \$0.22/bushel.

At their June 18th meeting, the Golden Growers Board of Directors approved a distribution of \$3,408,900, or \$0.22/bushel delivered in 2014, to members of record as of June 1, 2015. Combined with the February distribution, 84% of 2014 allocated income has been retired. The remaining equity credit balance is \$1,295,004 or \$0.0836/bushel delivered in 2014.

To date, Golden Growers has issued payments to members totaling \$76,648,051. This represents 142% of members' original equity investment in the ProGold plant.

EPA releases volumetric requirements for Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS)

In a long awaited decision, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a proposed rule to set renewable fuel consumption standards at levels considered an improvement from previous proposals, but below levels necessary to push fuel blends beyond standard 10% blend levels. The proposed EPA rule would still allow for growth of the RFS over time, but at a slower rate than is required under the decade old Energy Policy Act. Essentially, the EPA appears to have matched the RFS with current and projected levels of renewable fuels production. Golden Growers continues to be supportive of an aggressive RFS.

Mexican Trade Case Not Over as Cane Refiners Challenge Mexican Settlement

On April 24th Louis Dreyfus Commodities' Imperial Sugar Co. and AmCane Sugar LLC filed a summons in the Court of International Trade in opposition to the settlement agreement signed on December 19th by Mexico and the Department of Commerce (DOC). The DOC has subsequently resumed its antidumping and countervailing duty investigations into Mexican sugar exports to the United States. Despite the resumed investigation, the DOC will not reinstate import duties on Mexican sugar. Both companies have now appealed the settlement contending that the agreement will harm their companies by restricting raw sugar imports to the U.S. In the meantime, the ongoing dispute is unlikely to impact trade which will continue under terms of the December agreement.

Corn Sweetener Supplies Tighten Up

As a direct consequence of Cargill's decision to close its Memphis, TN corn milling plant, corn sweetener supplies have been tight through the first half of 2015. Corn wet mills appear to be running at capacity to meet demand. Plants with 'swing' capacity are not shifting from ethanol to sweetener production.

Golden Growers Cooperative Market Research supported by ND Corn Council and ND APUC.

Last August, Golden Growers Cooperative was awarded a marketing research grant from the North Dakota Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) on the strength of a prior commitment from the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council (NDCUC). NDSU is conducting this market research project focused on forecast demand for HFCS, consumer trends in the sweetener markets, and potential products that may be produced at a corn wet milling facility. NDSU will conduct a wide ranging study to include potential food ingredients, improved feed products, and renewable oils and chemicals.

This type of market insight is invaluable to the Board as they consider your cooperative’s future. A final report, however, is not anticipated for over a year.

Market research funding from the ND APUC would not have been possible without the continued support and leadership provided by the ND Corn Utilization Council. NDCUC funds are a direct benefit of checkoff dollars received from corn marketed in North Dakota by our region’s corn farmers.

Legacy Planning for Your Farming Operation

Dan Peterson of e4 Brokerage, LLC met with the GGC Board of Directors at their June meeting to discuss Nationwide Financial’s ‘Land As Your Legacy’ planning program. Nationwide’s ‘transitional’ planning program was driven by an interest to preserve a family’s farming legacy. Elements of a successful transitional plan include: succession planning; business planning; risk management; financial independence planning; and estate planning.

If you would like to learn about successful transition planning through the ‘Land As Your Legacy’ program, visit the program link provided on the Golden Growers website or contact Dan Peterson at dpeterson@e4brokerage.com.

Sustainable Measurement, A Strong Supply Chain Trend

In his report at GGC’s recent annual meeting, former Chairman Jason Medhaug discussed the demands for sustainability measurements from within the food supply chain. Measurements normally revolve around three issues: the Environment; the Community; and Economic Sustainability. The trend for sustainable food production is gaining momentum as food and beverage companies jump on board to demonstrate to consumers that they are responsible corporate citizens. Cargill, Coke, and Pepsi are among those companies who have made a sustainability commitment.

You Can Help Prove our Corn is Produced ‘Sustainably’

The **Field to Market organization’s Fieldprint Calculator** *is emerging as a key tool to show producer sustainability.* The Fieldprint Calculator collects in-field data and provides comparison information on such metrics as water use, greenhouse gas emissions and soil erosion, among others. Producers can compare their performance to local, regional and national averages. Cargill can provide additional information on the Fieldprint Calculator and will assist GGC members with data entry. Contact **Bill Costello** at William_Costello@cargill.com or call 952-742-2315 for more information.

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Important Dates:

- September 7, 2015—Transfer Request Deadline
- September 17, 2015—Board of Directors Meeting
- December 10, 2015—Board of Directors Meeting
- December 15, 2015—Delivery Election Deadline