



Golden Growers  
Cooperative

# Memberandum

Volume 21, Number 5

December 2, 2015

## 2016 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 their method of delivery necessary to meet membership obligations under the Uniform Member Agreement. Only members intending to change their delivery method need to respond.

The Board of Directors believes it is in the Cooperative's interest to have a large portion of member obligations satisfied through direct member deliveries. Method A pool participation strengthens our relationship with Cargill, ProGold's tenant, and it assures continued proportional allocation of income to all members of the cooperative. Therefore, we encourage each member to seriously consider the \$0.07/bushel Method A advantage when making your annual election.

To change your delivery method, simply complete the Annual Delivery Agreement (ADA) printed on the back page your October 15th letter and return it to the Golden Growers office. Changes in delivery **must be received by GGC 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.*

## Corn Refiners and Sugar Association Settle Lawsuit

On November 20th, corn refiners and sugar companies reached a settlement in their ongoing legal dispute. In 2011, sugar companies filed suit claiming that the corn refiners campaign promoting HFCS as 'corn sugar' and 'natural' were false asking for \$1.1 billion in compensatory damages. Corn refiners countersued for \$530 million suggesting that the Sugar Association was promoting false information and creating fear about the safety of HFCS.

The lawsuits went to trial on November 3rd and were poised to result in a great deal of damage for the entire sweetener industry. Terms of the settlement have not been disclosed. Plaintiffs and defendants issued statements pledging to encourage 'safe and healthful use of their products...'

## The meaning of 'Natural', the FDA wants your thoughts

The use of the term 'natural' as it applies to food has been the result of a great deal of controversy. Many 'natural' claims have been litigated over the years over the inclusion of foods containing genetically modified foods or manufacturing processes of foods (i.e. converting corn starch to sweetener).

There have been several petitions to the FDA asking for clarification of what can be claimed as 'natural' on a food label. Presently, FDA's policy states that 'natural' means foods that are composed only of substances that are not manmade and that nothing artificial or synthetic has been included. Petitions vary widely. For instance, one petition requests a prohibition for using the term 'natural'. Another asks for a determination on whether genetic engineered foods or foods containing HFCS can be considered natural.

The request for comments asks:

- \* Should the FDA define the term 'natural'?
- \* Should the FDA prohibit the use of the term 'natural'?
- \* What types of foods should be allowed to be called 'natural'?
- \* Do consumers confuse the term 'natural' with 'organic' or 'healthy'?
- \* Should the food manufacturing process be considered?
- \* Are there public health benefits in defining the term 'natural' in foods?

Golden Growers does not believe the manufacturing process should be considered in the definition. We also think that prohibiting the use of genetically modified foods will result on only organic foods to achieve the label of natural.

If you would like to submit a comment, visit the Golden Growers website for a link to FDA's website on this comment request.

### Time to Complete 2015 Method A Deliveries

Members who elect to fulfill all or a portion of their obligated corn deliveries through the Method A pool are reminded to contact Cargill (800-580-2676) to finalize 2015 corn deliveries as required by their membership agreement. **To make sure you receive the full benefit of your membership in Golden Growers, deliveries must be completed by December 31st.** Meeting your delivery commitment assures full payment of allocated income, incentive payments.

Delivery will also make record keeping at Golden Growers so much easier!

### SAVE THE DATE for Golden Growers Annual Meeting, March 24, 2016

#### Cambria Conference Center in West Fargo

Please set aside Thursday, March 24th, 2016 to attend the Golden Growers Cooperative Annual meeting. This year, our meeting will be held at the Cambria Suites & Conference Center - 825 East Beaton Drive, West Fargo, ND. We'll start the morning with a continental breakfast followed by interesting short courses, the GGC Business Meeting, and a buffet lunch. A private member session immediately after lunch will conclude the day's activities.

### December, 2015 Memberandum Newsletter



Golden Growers Cooperative  
1002 Main Ave. W. Suite 5  
West Fargo, ND 58078

### Winter Addresses for K-1's

If you have a 'winter' address, please inform the GGC office by calling 701-281-0468 or by email to [scotts@goldengrowers.com](mailto:scotts@goldengrowers.com). (GGC will use your 'winter' address only for the purpose of forwarding your K-1 tax report.)

### Notify GGC of Changes!

Please remember to notify GGC immediately of address and phone number changes or the death of a member. Call 701-281-0468.

### Important Dates

**December 10**—GGC Board Meeting  
**December 15**—Last day to notify GGC of Intentions to change Annual Delivery Agreement (Method A to Method B, or vice versa)  
**March 23**—GGC Board Meeting  
**March 24**—GGC Annual Meeting

### memberandum is published by:

Golden Growers Cooperative  
1002 Main Ave. W, Suite 5  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
701-281-0468

Scott Stofferahn  
Executive Vice President  
[scotts@goldengrowers.com](mailto:scotts@goldengrowers.com)  
[www.goldengrowers.com](http://www.goldengrowers.com)

© 2015 Golden Growers Cooperative