



PRAIRIE CENTRAL COOP *CONNECTION*



A CHALLENGING HARVEST

The 2019 harvest has been a much longer, and more challenging harvest than we have seen in recent years. With the 2019 crop getting planted late due to a wet spring we all expected a later harvest with higher moisture corn that would be harvested. However, there were a few pieces of this harvest that were more than unexpected. Although we knew it would be a higher-moisture corn harvest, it was surprising to see the average moisture coming out of the field increase as harvest went on. The June planted corn did not dry down much in the field and once the April/May planted corn was finished up the average moistures across the scale began to rise.

Then there was the propane, or lack thereof. The propane shortage in the Midwest was a hot topic for many people and industries. Colder than normal temperatures this fall caught the propane industry off guard and there was a stretch where we could not get propane at a couple of our elevators to run the dryers. Many of you that use propane on the farm too, encountered the same problem.

This wetter, late planted corn is also of poor quality - a lot of broken kernels of corn as it was harvested and a test weight that some say is the lowest they have ever seen in Illinois corn. Both factors greatly decrease the crop's durability and storability. Keep a close eye on bushels that you are storing in the

bins. On a more positive note, the majority of the soybean harvest came in at good moisture levels and quality. There were a few bean fields that got caught out in the wet weather we have been having over the last month, but luckily most of the bean harvest was completed before this.

There was a wide range on yields this fall, and they were definitely below what we've seen the last few years. But all things considered, average yields were better than what was expected on both corn and beans for most. We have also heard some reports of June planted yields being better than the earlier planted. We will get a better idea on this when the USDA puts out their production report on January 10th. There is a strong possibility there will still be a lot of crops out in the fields in the Northern US states at that time, so I'm sure some controversy will surround this report.

As we made our way through this 2019 harvest, there were challenges for all of us. We thank you for your business and your cooperation in getting this harvest completed. Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Michael Kilger
Grain Merchandiser



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HOW DID THE 2019 HARVEST GO?



WESTON

Harvest 2019 at Weston went smoothly thanks to skilled and experienced operations staff and strong support from scale operators. Timely decisions and execution by management and logistics staff were crucial and successful. The maintenance group provided key and timely support. We were fortunate that the dryers were able to stay current with wet corn intake. Later in harvest we were able to receive wet corn transfers from other locations which was needed due to propane shortages etc. We loaded two 25 car corn units on the TP&W which gave us adequate space to complete harvest. Our current challenge is to maintain grain quality for long term storage and to also stay in position to ship corn and soybeans. - **Carl**



LEXINGTON

Overall, I'm extremely pleased with this year's harvest and how it played out. The crew outside did an amazing job, as well as the inside staff and the Weston staff keeping available space for us to be open every day. Thank you to our patrons for trusting us with your business. - **Tim**



OCOYA

My first year at Ocoya went well, but I couldn't have done it without the help of all the patrons and my outside guys. When the corn harvest started it was ranging 27%-32% and did drop to about 23%-24%, but after that we didn't see much drop which caused the dryer to slow down. Weather delays did help us catch up on corn drying. We had some issues getting propane for the dryer which caused early closures and had to send corn to other facilities to be dried. On the bean side of harvest most beans arrived at 12%-14% and we filled up quickly mid-harvest. In a joint effort with the office staff and outside staff, we moved beans to the south flat to open space to finish off harvest and keep the farmers in the bean fields. - **Dakota**



MEADOWS

Harvest 2019 — What can be said that hasn't been rehashed time and time again? It was certainly a year to remember. I hope we, Prairie Central Coop as a farmer-owned cooperative met or exceeded your expectations during this challenging and long harvest. It is the middle of December, with snow on the ground, and we still have grain coming in out of the field. At Meadows, we had a record intake of soybeans thanks to our loyal customers and the dispatch program this year. Thank you, Lord, for keeping us safe. Bring on the 2020 harvest! Have a joyous Christmas season with family and friends. - **Gerald**



FAIRBURY

Harvest was kind of what I expected this year as I have only seen a couple harvests like this past in the 30 years that I have been working here that were this wet and this long. I hope 2020 is a better year to get the crops in and harvested. Thanks for the business and allowing us to handle your grain this past harvest. - **Gene**



CHENOA

The Chenoa elevator was able to show off some of its capabilities with a challenging 2019 harvest. There were many high volume, high moisture days where the facility was able to stay open and continue to take grain. This meant many hours keeping the dryer running and pressure washing the dryer multiple times to maintain efficient airflow. The staff loaded multiple unit trains during harvest and received a much larger volume of inbound traffic than the previous year. Broken kernels out of the field and after the drying process were a challenge and will continue to be a safety concern as this crop is unloaded from the bins as we move forward into 2020. Thank you to our staff for the hard work this year and thank you to our patrons for your business. - **Matt**



PONTIAC

Harvest this year was hard to comprehend as we dealt with a lot of wet corn compared to last year. Dryers were pushed to their max and we were drying wet corn around the clock, even making wet space in bins to keep farmers coming. We are still working on getting those last few farmers finished up with their corn and beans as we continue to roll closer to the end of the year. Thank you to our staff for all your hard work and efforts during this challenging harvest and thank you to all our customers for your business and your patience and understanding as we navigated through this harvest together. - **Pontiac Team**



FLANAGAN

I cannot remember a harvest as long as this one in recent year – a total of 70 days from our first load to our last. Here at Flanagan, we had a great year taking in more corn than last year with soybeans being about the same. We had to find some extra space for both corn and beans and ended up trucking out some corn, too. Merry Christmas - **Ed**



SUNBURY

Sunbury harvest is inching closer to the end heading into mid-December. The 2019 harvest has been a long and difficult one for both the farmer and elevator staff. We faced many challenges this year with wet space capacity, drying high moisture corn and an LP shortage in the northern area. I want to thank the Sunbury patrons for their communication, patience, and understanding this harvest. We were able to work through these issues together to get completed. I am very proud of the teamwork from the Sunbury staff as it showed to be a key factor in reaching the finish line for this difficult harvest. - **Caleb**

HARVEST PHOTOS



the RECIPE from PCC

INGREDIENTS

- 16.5oz Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
- 8oz Cream Cheese
- 1 cup Powdered Sugar
- 12oz Whipped Topping
- 3 cups 2% Cold Milk
- 3.9oz Instant Chocolate Pudding Mix (1 packet)
- 3.4oz Instant Vanilla Pudding Mix (1 packet)



INSTRUCTIONS

Let cookie dough stand at room temp for 5-10 mins to soften. Press into an ungreased 13x9' baking pan. Bake at 350 until golden brown, 14-16 mins. Cool on a wire rack. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Fold in 1-3/4 cups whipped topping, spread over crust. In a large bowl, whisk milk and pudding mixes for 2 mins. Spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining whipped topping. Sprinkle with nuts and chocolate chips if desired. Cover and refrigerate until firm, 8 hours or overnight.



Chocolate Chip Cookie Delight

Holiday Office Hours

December 24th
7:30am - Noon

December 25th
Closed

December 31st
7:30am - Noon

January 1st
Closed

From the entire team at PCC, have a
Merry Christmas and prosperous
New Year.

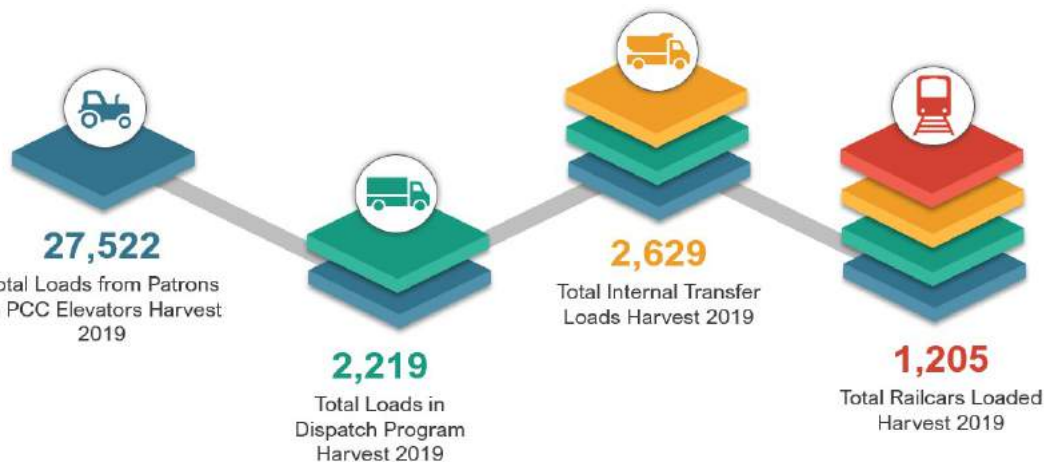


EVERY HARVEST IS DIFFERENT

The cliché gets thrown around quite a bit, but especially this year it seems to hold true: "Every harvest is different." Going on my 43rd harvest, there would always be similarities that we could lean back on, and while we did a bit of that this year, it was generally just "different." The late start to harvest allowed us to get most of our elevators ready for what was to come, although we never really knew when we'd get going. In the first part of October, things started to accelerate in the southern part of our territory. Based on what we have done in past years this is normal, but this year was an extreme. Activity south of Route 24 was busy while anything north of it was null. For the first few weeks of harvest, it seemed steady across the company but only because we were dispatching bushels up north and because of this - the Pontiac crew was forced to stand in there long and harder than anyone in the area and I am proud of them for that as their plans would often change daily. We were probably a bit lucky early in the harvest that it played out

south to north a bit more than normal, because it gave us an opportunity to get ready for the next wave coming at us and allowed us to use our trucking capacity up north when the time came around which would soon follow. The cold weather hit, and all of a sudden we were dumping wet corn at a record pace at Pontiac and Sunbury. Neither Ocoya or Sunbury were allowed propane deliveries with the cold temperatures, and we had to start transferring wet bushels back south to help with our drying capacity. At the same time, more and more calls kept coming in about bushels that usually go to farm bins would now come into PCC for fear of moisture and quality. All these factors led to a heightened awareness of the dispatch program and one that we'll all certainly remember. I would like to thank our truck fleet for a long and soggy, sometimes "change your route" type of harvest. Like Prairie Central, they stood in there and helped us handle your grain for the better part of the past 75 days to a point where we simply couldn't have gotten to the finish line

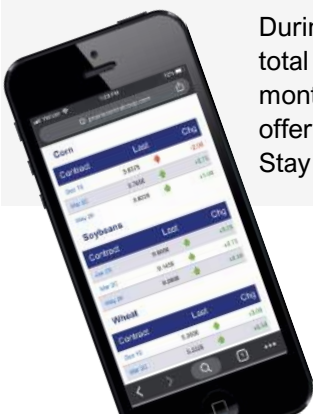
without every single one of them. I would also like to thank our staff, and all elevator locations for what we accomplished this year. There were a lot of changes in daily routines from day-to-day and for the most part, things went about as smooth as they could have given the circumstances and ever-changing format of the 2019 harvest. Simply put, the dispatch program helped PCC in an incredible way this year, allowing us to max our trucking capacity in both segments of the harvest. As always, we welcome feedback and are already looking forward to next year - how can we improve your experience? Is there anything we can be doing to help you more? As we navigate into the winter months, we invite you to look at the dispatch program we offer for patrons with on farm storage. PCC will cover the truck freight to ship bushels direct from the farm to a PCC elevator or destination of Prairie Central's choice. We will provide the truck to pick up bushels from the farm bin at no charge to the farmer or PCC reimbursing the farmer for hauling the bushels with their own truck. Please contact us if you are interested in signing up. We look forward to helping you as we head into the next few months and as we look towards harvest in 2020. Know that we can expect another harvest that can yet again be different, challenging, and rewarding at the same time for all of us.




Logistics Coordinator



We are updating customer account info. If you have changed your phone number or removed a landline recently, please let us know!



During harvest, the PCC website received a total of **508,331 pageviews!** Over the next few months, we hope to expand on our current offerings and improve your web experience. Stay tuned!



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IMPORTANT DATES



| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dec 5th | Drying Statement Mailed |
| Dec 10th | Grain Confirmation Mailed |
| Dec 16th | January Payment Confirmations Mailed |
| Dec 24th | Weston Office Only: Open until Noon |
| Dec 25th | Closed - Christmas Day |
| Dec 31st | Weston Office Only: Open until Noon |
| Jan 1st | Closed - New Year's Day |
| Jan 2nd | January Payments Issued |
| Jan 10th | Drying Charges Due, USDA Report |
| Jan 24th | Year-End 1099 Forms Mailed |