



Dear Danvers Patron,

We are excited to announce that Danvers Farmers Elevator and United Prairie LLC have agreed in principal to merge their agronomy businesses. United Prairie is a partnership of three cooperatives; Premier Cooperative Inc. of Champaign, Illinois, Topflight Grain Cooperative Inc. of Monticello, Illinois and CHS Inc. of Inver Grove Heights, MN. After several months of study and evaluation by the board and management of Danvers and United Prairie, Danvers has unanimously agreed to join United Prairie as a fourth member of the United Prairie ownership group. Following completion of our due diligence we expect this to take place on or around September, 1, 2017.

The board and management of Danvers feel very strong that this merger will significantly benefit the agronomy patrons of Danvers. It is expected to provide improved leverage and access to resources for the supply of inputs, cutting edge technology, enhanced market knowledge and expertise in the ever-changing marketplace for farm input resources. All current employees working in the agronomy business will continue to be employees of United Prairie. It is also important to note this is for the agronomy business only. Danvers will continue to operate as they always have with the grain business. Two members of Danvers current board of directors will join the board of United Prairie.

As with any change there are questions to answer. We will be having a question and answer session in the near future to address any concerns. We have added a question and answer sheet to this announcement to address some of the questions. We are also available anytime if you would like to talk personally.

The board and management of Danvers and United Prairie have worked diligently to assure this action is in the best interest of all our customers. We believe this merger will provide additional benefits and services to all our patrons.

The boards of directors of Danvers and United Prairie look forward to the benefits this merger will bring all the patrons and our cooperative owners. Should you have any questions after reading this letter and the attachments hereto please feel free to call us anytime.

Best Regards,

DANVERS FARMERS ELEVATOR AGRONOMY BUSINESS AND UNITED PRAIRIE LLC MERGER - QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Who is United Prairie?

United Prairie was formed in 1996, when Unity Grain and Grand Prairie Cooperative combined their crop production divisions in order to serve their customers more efficiently. In 1997, Monticello Grain added their crop production division to United Prairie. At that point, United Prairie operated four retail locations at Pierson, Ivesdale, White Heath, and Tolono. In 1998, Unity Grain, Bement Grain, and Cisco Co-op merged to form Topflight Grain. Then in 2009, Grand Prairie Cooperative merged with Jamaica Farmers Elevator and Fisher Farmers Grain & Coal to form Premier Cooperative. Topflight Grain and Premier Cooperative are owners of United Prairie. In 2015, CHS Cooperative invested their central Illinois assets and became part of the ownership group. Today, United Prairie operates eight retail locations throughout central Illinois.

Their Philosophy: From the beginning the focus at United Prairie has been on delivering the best possible service to its customers. Unlike many agricultural retailers, they are locally owned and managed, with a board of directors composed largely of area producers. As a result they operate under a philosophy that puts a priority on adapting and growing our business to meet the needs of our local grower.

Why become an owner of United Prairie?

First of all, as a cooperative focused on the success of our farmer owners, Danvers and U.P. share the same philosophy; to always put the grower success first in any decision we make. Second, we feel the combination will give customers access to new technologies, additional services and improved purchasing power.

Are you selling out?

No, not at all. In fact, we are becoming an owner of United Prairie and growing our footprint along with Premier, Topflight and CHS. Two members from the Danvers board will be joining the United Prairie board. The grain business is not a part of this transaction.

Will I still deal with the same people?

Yes, it is our intention for all of the agronomy employees to continue in their current role and nothing will be taken away. The intention of this merger is to add benefits and services.

What is the motivation for this change?

The driving force behind this partnership is the additional value it brings to the current patrons of Danvers today and in the future. We feel this will only enhance the value we can bring to growers.

Is this a change for the better?

Change isn't always better that's for sure. In this case we feel it is overwhelmingly positive for our company, our customers and our employees.