

Attn: Ortonville patrons

This is an update on the fall operations for the Ortonville grain elevator. It is becoming more ominous each day that the Chinese tariffs on U.S. beans will not be taken off prior to soybean harvest. These tariffs have caused the PNW bean market to go to no bid. The elevators on the West Coast have no one to ship their beans to. Western Minnesota and Eastern South Dakota are very dependent on rail shipments of soybeans to the PNW. Poor prices and lack of an export market could overwhelm the need for soybean storage in this area.

Because of this lack of liquidity in the soybean market West-Con must prepare to store as many beans as possible. We are anticipating needing all of the room we have in Ortonville to store soybeans. Once this space is tied up with beans we will not be in a position to receive corn as we normally would. We apologize for this inconvenience, but it is the best strategy we have available at this time.

We are fully prepared to handle corn and soybeans at any of our three shuttle loading elevators in Twin Brooks, SD, Holloway, MN, and Appleton, MN.

We need to make everyone aware of this. This should allow everyone to plan accordingly. Double handling of grain and transportation costs make it a difficult environment to operate in. We would welcome and questions and comments about this situation. Please call 320-394-2171 or 605-432-4531