



# In-Grain

Grain Elevator and Processing Society

The Knowledge Resource for the Grain Handling and Processing Industry

September/October 2020

Volume 40, No. 5

[www.geaps.com](http://www.geaps.com)



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**USPS Form 3526 Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation**

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GEAPS' vision is to be *The Knowledge Resource* by providing key information in these "core competencies":

- Grain Quality
- Facility Maintenance and Design
- General Operations
- Risk Management
- Human Resources

**GEAPS Staff**

- Steve Records MCGOM**, executive director
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- Whitney Bey**, conferences manager
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- Melissa Ferguson**, training programs manager
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# GEAPS Postpones Exchange 2021 in Columbus Until August

GEAPS International Board of Directors voted in September to postpone GEAPS Exchange 2021 due to continuing concerns about COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season. Originally scheduled for February of next year, the event will now take place at the Columbus Convention Center Aug. 6-9, 2021. Registration opens in May.

While disappointed to postpone the conference, GEAPS International President Jeff Jones, MKC, noted the importance of the show to the industry.

"Throughout the pandemic, agriculture has been deemed essential. Our farmers continue to produce commodities and we expect a heavy harvest in areas this fall," Jones said. "Our member facilities are running. Our operators need equipment. They need training to make sure they are following best practices for safety and efficiency. Exchange is a crucial tool for our industry. Hopefully with the new dates we can resume our normal operations."

Currently, the city of Columbus is not allowing gatherings of more than 300 people. GEAPS Executive Director Steve Records said the conference will only be held when it is safe to do so.

"Safety is the number one priority for our members, attendees, exhibitors, partners and staff," Records said. "We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely. We believe the extra six months will help ensure a safe and well-attended event."

## Important Dates for Exchange 2021

**Conference Dates:** Aug. 6-9, 2021

**Registration Opens:** May, 2021

**Booth Sales:** Currently open.  
Contact GEAPS sales team at [conferences@geaps.com](mailto:conferences@geaps.com) for more information.

**Sponsorship Program:** Spring 2021

## EPC Adjusts Education Schedule for Exchange 2021

The Exchange Education Programming Committee held a virtual meeting July 23 to plan education sessions for Exchange 2021 in Columbus. The International Board of Directors tasked the group with helping grow Exchange attendance and advancing the association's professional development programs as part of the organization's strategic plan.

The group had planned on using many sessions originally planned for this year's cancelled conference. They also discussed several new topic ideas, including sessions on COVID-19 and the impact it has had on the industry.

One of the big topics of discussion was the Opening Workshop. This event has the potential to deliver on both strategic objectives. A four-person task force had planned the workshop as a panel discussion on a commitment to safety.

To help increase attendance for the event, the EPC switched the time slot with the popular Idea Exchange. Both sessions will happen in the same room for Exchange 2021, with the Idea Exchange starting at 7:30 a.m. and the workshop following at 9 a.m.



**Registration for GEAPS Exchange 2021 opens in May,  
the conference is scheduled for Aug. 6-9**



## Affordable Grain Training On-Demand

### GEAPS/K-State Offer Hour-Long Crash Courses

It can be very challenging to find grain-specific training to fill in knowledge gaps on your team. A lot of companies don't have the time or resources to build out a comprehensive training program that covers all aspects of the industry. When training opportunities do come up, it can be tough to send your employees because there is so much to do at your facility.

It's critically important to have well-trained employees to move and store grain safely and efficiently. That's why GEAPS and Kansas State University teamed up to deliver Crash Courses – hour long lectures from their most popular courses, available anytime on demand. These courses can supplement your company's existing training programs.

Weston Carlisle, production supervisor at Ardent Mills, was one of the first people in the industry to take advantage of Crash Courses. He signed up for seven courses from the introduction to the industry. It was his first formal grain training. Most of what he knows about the industry he learned from his co-workers or was self-taught, and he was pleased to see many of Ardent Mills' core values reflected in the lessons.

"We stress safety very highly at Ardent Mills, and I see the same principles being taught in these classes," Carlisle said. "Managing a grain elevator is not just taking a truck full of wheat and dumping it in a pit and somehow it ends up in a bin. There is a lot of pre-planning prior to, and even after, the truck is unloaded. I think entry-level supervisors new to the industry and new elevator employees would benefit a lot from these courses."

It was also the first formal training on the industry for Jayme Stockton, district sales manager for Nord Gears Ltd.

"My role is to support some large grain customers and I wanted to get more familiar with how they use our product," Stockton said. "It was a nice general overview of grain storage, which was what I was looking for."

According to GEAPS International President Jeff Jones, MKC, crash courses are the first step towards the society making training programs more accessible to the grain industry.

"With all the challenges facing the industry this year, we prioritized getting resources into the hands of our members and the industry at large as easily as possible," Jones said. "Crash courses are just the first step. We are working on different types of on-demand programming and custom training that travel directly to our member facilities."

Matt Hanson, Maxi-Lift Inc., heads GEAPS education committee. He said the new format leverages existing resources from the GEAPS/K-State Distance Education Program to reach a wider audience.

"We have a really sound credential program for anyone who wants extensive training in different aspects of grain storage and milling," Hanson said. "Not everyone needs that level of training. Our Crash Courses give you an easy way to jump in and get up to speed on safety or pest identification. These courses will be a great tool for cross-training your team and for new and non-operations employees."

Courses fall into three categories: introduction to the industry, grain quality management and pest management.

GEAPS offers a number of online training programs, including in-depth distance education classes and webinars. GEAPS members get discounts on these programs and access to other resources. To learn more, visit [geaps.com/education](http://geaps.com/education).



### Crash Courses

Crash courses cost \$99 for GEAPS members and \$135 for non-members.

Each course is an hour long and available instantly on-demand.

### Introduction to the Industry

- Binning Procedures
- Facility Safety
- Fumigation Purposes and Procedures
- Fundamentals of Grain Storage and Drying
- Grain Dust Explosion Prevention and Housekeeping
- Grain Sampling and Testing Operations and Procedures
- Grain Shipping
- Inbound Grain Receiving Operations
- Maintenance and Record Keeping Programs

### Grain Quality Management

- Grain Quality Properties
- S.L.A.M. – Based Quality Management of Stored Grains and Oilseeds
- Storability and Deterioration of Grains and Oilseeds

### Pest Management

- Identification of Insect Pests and Vertebrates
- Preventive Control of Pests

**To learn more and register, visit [www.geaps.com/crash](http://www.geaps.com/crash).**



# Safety is Everyone's Job

## Entry-Level Safety Course from GEAPS/K-State Empowers Your Employees

One of your most important jobs as a manager is making sure your employees get home safe every day. As more employees join the industry without an ag background, it's important to make sure everyone at your company has a baseline of knowledge about the industry hazards.

GEAPS and Kansas State University are offering **GEAPS 540: Entry Level Safety** through their Distance Education Program this fall. This 10-hour course is a great way to teach new employees and non-operations staff about the industry. They'll learn about some of the biggest hazards in grain facilities and take part in discussion boards with their peers.

*"I took GEAPS 540 when I was new to the grain industry and needed to have a general idea of the important safety issues. It gave me a better understanding of what we have to deal with from a safety aspect, and how to balance safety with daily production."*

Corey Bumgardner, elevator superintendent, Ardent Mills

### Instructors

**Mark Daniels**, director of health and safety, CHS Inc.

**Kevin Danner**, corporate EHS manager, West Central

**Brandon Dills**, safety and compliance officer, Co-Mark Inc.

**Julie Waltz**, safety/regulatory consultant, RCI Safety

**Derek Farmer**, safety lead consultant, Olsson Associates

**Mary Carper**, corporate safety manager, Zeeland Farm Services Inc.

### Lectures

What are the Hazards? What are the Rules?

Personal Safety: The Fundamentals

An Impossible Task? Measuring the Value of Safety

Lockout/Tagout

Confined-Space Entry, Safe Bin Entry and the Hazards of Engulfment

Don't Fall!

Dust Explosions and Hazard Monitoring Systems

Electrical Safety, Chemical Safety

Mobile-Equipment Safety

Rail, Barge and Waterfront Safety



### Course Information

**Dates:** Oct. 27-Dec. 8

**Registration Closes:** Oct. 21

**Cost:** \$700 for GEAPS members, \$965 for non-members

Learn more and register at [www.geaps.com/distance](http://www.geaps.com/distance)

## GEAPS/GRAIN JOURNAL WEBINARS

### Design and Exclusion Principles for Pests of Stored Grain

**Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020 10 a.m. Central**

**Dr. Matt Frye**, Cornell University

Pest management practices protect the food supply from production and harvest to storage, distribution and sale. This presentation will cover relevant design and exclusion principles to address insect and rodent pest problems in grain storage facilities. Details about pest biology and conditions conducive to pest populations will set the stage for information on implementing a management program.

Dr. Matt Frye is an Extension Educator with the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University. He provides education and conducts research related to pest management in and around buildings. Matt received his Masters and Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Delaware and worked as an urban entomologist in the pest management industry before joining the IPM Program.

Learn more and register online at [www.geaps.com/webinars](http://www.geaps.com/webinars)



## GEAPS/K-State Plan In-Person Maintenance and Manager Training This Winter

Registration is now open for two in-person training programs at the IGP Institute. Both courses will take place on-site at Kansas State University if the situation with COVID-19 allows. Courses will follow COVID-19 safety procedures as outlined by K-State policy.

### Hands-On Training Program

**Dec. 1-3, 2020**  
**\$1,375 for GEAPS Members / \$1,725 for non-members**

This two-and-a-half day maintenance program has participants working in small groups to repair common grain conveying equipment in the Hal Ross Flour Mill at Kansas State University. After a safety orientation, participants break into six groups, working on modules on the following equipment:

- Bucket elevator
- Distributors
- Screw conveyors
- Bin sweep
- Chain conveyors
- Belt conveyors



Past participant Rhonda Knutson, CGOM, United Grain Corp, used the program to move from an office role to an operations position.

"I really enjoyed taking equipment apart and putting it back together," Knutson said. "Removing the tiling from the distributor and then putting it back together all by myself was a great experience. I am always around equipment like this, and I know the names of the major parts, but this training allowed me to see the inner workings to get a better understanding of what is happening at our facility when the employees go out to work on this or that."

Michael Leyva, Keen Project Solutions, took part in the program to see if it could supplement his company's in-house training. As quality control and millwright apprenticeship trainer, his duties

include training millwrights. He said the program is unlike anything else available to the industry today.

"We were trying to figure out how to do the training in-house without purchasing large pieces of equipment or having large areas to provide that training," Leyva said. "This training is a great opportunity for newer mechanics in the industry, and also for engineers. It's an opportunity to understand more than how to install equipment at your facility, but also how to design accessible areas for equipment."

Register online at [geaps.com](http://geaps.com). If a minimum number of attendees is not reached by Monday, Oct. 19, the program will be cancelled and attendees will be refunded registration fees. If the program is cancelled due to COVID-19, attendees will receive a full refund.



### Grain Elevator Managers Course

**Jan. 19-22, 2021**  
**\$670 for GEAPS Members / \$1,000 for non-members**

This four-day course helps facility managers build a broad skillset. It covers 18 topics ranging from safety to grain quality and personnel management. New managers will learn the information they need to correctly interpret the experiences they will have when managing grain quality, and the insight they will require when evaluating the practices used by their predecessors.

#### Topics include:

- Personnel management
- Grain elevator safety
- Grain quality characteristics
- Inventory management
- Aeration principles
- Hardware

The last time the GEM course was offered in January, it drew 43 attendees from 15 companies across 11 states and provinces.

For Jimmy Spitzer, location manager at Tempel Grain Elevator, it was his second time taking the course. He said the information on aeration, maintenance and people management were things he would bring back to his facility. Shayne Abele, elevator superintendent from Farmers Grain Company, attended from Pond Creek, Oklahoma.

"Our company is expanding and they recommend this course for management jobs and future advancement," Abele said.

"The aeration part was phenomenal. I'm running a newly acquired elevator and we've got a lot of aeration issues."

Register on the Kansas State University website. If the course is not able to take place in person due to COVID-19 it will move to a virtual format over the same dates.





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Allan Schmidt, Ag Dryer Service
- **How to Comply with NFPA 652/NFPA 61**  
Craig Froehling, Cargill, Inc.
- **Preventive Maintenance Strategy for Elevator Legs**  
Lucas Reed, ADM

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## Recognize Your Plant's Commitment to Safety

It's important to recognize all the hard work that goes into keeping your workers safe. GEAPS recognizes companies who participate in the Safety Awards Program for reaching two standards of excellence: going the entire year without any lost time accidents or injuries, or going the entire year without a recordable incident.

We recognize individual facilities for the accomplishments, as well as the five companies with the most cumulative hours worked while completing the programs, and the facilities that have completed the program in consecutive years.

There are two ways to enroll:

- **First time enrolling:** complete a paper application.
- **Past participants:** enroll online

We recognize companies that successfully complete the program on our website, in *In-Grain* and at GEAPS Exchange. You will also receive a plaque for your facility. For more information or to register contact Deb Most with GEAPS at [deb@geaps.com](mailto:deb@geaps.com).



### LAST YEAR'S TOP FACILITIES

#### Cumulative Hours

Fifth place, 1,079,384 hours **Cargill Inc**, Albion, NE  
Fourth place, 1,479,223 hours **Zen-Noh Grain Corp**, Convent, LA  
Third place, 1,546,738 hours **Bunge North America**, Council Bluffs, IA  
Second place, 1,561,204 hours **The Kelly Group**, Decatur, IL  
First place, 2,064,247 hours **Bunge North America**, Russell, MB

#### Cumulative Years

Fifth place, 25 years  
• **Bunge North America**, Albany, IL

Tied for Fourth place, 26 years  
• **Bunge North America**, Finley, TN  
• **Cargill Inc**, Lima, OH

Tie for Third place, 33 years  
• **Bunge North America**, Blytheville, AR  
• **Bunge North America**, Hickman, KY  
• **Bunge North America**, LaGrange, MO  
• **Bunge North America**, Yazoo City, MS

Second place, 37 years  
• **Bunge North America Fountain Bluff**, Grand Tower, IL

First place, 41 years  
• **Bunge North America DeSoto Landing**, Arkansas City, AR





# GEAPS Introduces First-Year Rate for New Members

GEAPS has a new introductory rate for new members to the organization. New members can join for \$250 for the first year, and will pay normal member dues for future years. The discount is automatically applied when a new member joins online. The new price is in effect immediately, and applies to memberships through June 30, 2021.

GEAPS International President Jeff Jones, MKC, hopes the new price will encourage grain companies to get more employees involved in GEAPS.

“At MKC, we have 13 members and we bring a number of non-members to chapter events based on the speaker,” Jones said. “My membership has been incredibly beneficial for my career. I was new to the industry when I joined. I have learned a lot about the best ways to store and move grain and my network has grown tremendously.”

GEAPS Executive Director Steve Records explained how removing pricing barriers ties back to GEAPS’ mission.

“As we work to expand our global network of agriculture professionals, we don’t want price to limit our potential,” Records said. “We know our members get tremendous benefits from the organization and we expect many of these new members to remain with us for years to come. We are working to make it as easy to become a part of the GEAPS network as possible.”

## Why Recruit Your Coworkers?

As a member, you know GEAPS will help you learn more about the industry. You are safer and more efficient because of your involvement.

- 85 percent of GEAPS members have personally benefited from their membership
- 87 percent say they learned something through GEAPS that has saved their company money
- GEAPS members are 33 percent less likely to be involved in a lost-time accident

**Connect your co-workers to the GEAPS network today! Send them to [geaps.com/join](https://geaps.com/join).**

## Chapter Leader Spotlight

# Wentworth Excited to Step Up as Mid-South President

A GEAPS member since 2017, Hank Wentworth, district manager for Ecolab, will be the *Mid-South Chapter* president for 2020-2021. He recently spoke with *In-Grain* about why he got involved, goals for the year and how his chapter is adjusting to life during COVID-19.

### How did you first get involved with GEAPS?

I’m an Associate member. I’ve been involved with GEAPS for about six and a half years. For Ecolab, GEAPS chapter meetings are a great way for us to connect with current and prospective customers. Being involved, as a member, helps keep me informed on what chapter members want to learn about. The training that I receive, the training we perform and the conversations we have as a group make chapter involvement invaluable.

### What led you to become a leader for your chapter?

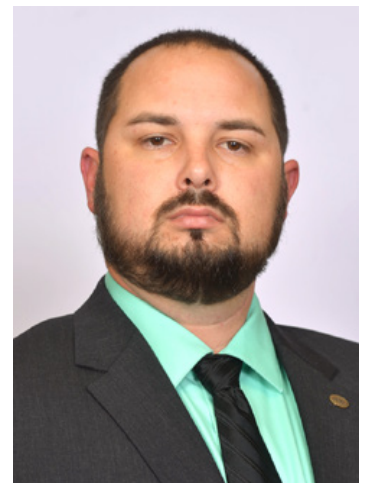
I wanted to. It’s my mentality - to be up front and to be with everybody. I am the district manager for my area. I was a volunteer firefighter. It’s my nature to stand up and take charge. I had a few ideas on new ways to do things and I believe the best way to do it was to be on the front lines.

### What goals do you have for your chapter in the coming year?

- To safely manage through COVID-19. I want to continue to keep chapter interactions high. Because our main goal is to protect everyone’s safety, we follow COVID-19 guidelines at all times.
- We plan to conduct SATRA high angle rescue training.
- I’d also like to grow the chapter by about 15 percent. We currently have about 100 members.

### How is your chapter adjusting to life in a COVID-19 world?

We are conducting more virtual meetings via Zoom and Microsoft Teams, rather than face-to-face. We are also learning to communicate virtually via email, instead of in-person. This is a skill I am working on as I prefer face-to-face interactions. As a fumigator I’m used to being in the field and hands on. This is all new to me.



## Membership Committee Recommends New Incentives

### Members Invited To Provide Feedback at Future Meetings

GEAPS Membership Committee researches and develops tactics for GEAPS' strategic plan. The group meets every month and invites all members to take part in the conversation.

In July, the committee met to view the overall strategic plan and put together a to-do list for the year. They decided to recommend several initiatives for the International Board of Directors to vote on in their July meeting:

- New member pricing: \$250 for the first year
- Chapter incentive program: \$20 per chapter for each new member
- Chapter retention initiative: cash prize for chapters retaining more than 73 percent of members

### New Recruitment Program

To encourage members to recruit more of their coworkers and peers, the committee approved a new recruitment program. For every member you recruit from January through March, you will get a \$20 discount off your membership dues for the coming year.

### Adjusting Plans for Student Day

At their July meeting the group discussed Student Day for Exchange 2021 in Columbus and decided to focus on evolutions of the industry, including how members are dealing with organics and GMOs. When the International Board voted to postpone Exchange, it fell on a window when school is not in session, which will make recruiting students for the event much more difficult.

The committee decided to stick with the event and keep the focus on the opportunities available in the industry. Student Day will start with roundtable discussions, followed by a tour of the Expo Hall and concluding with group presentations on what was learned in the hall.



## Upcoming Membership Committee Meetings

The Membership Committee meets monthly and welcomes your participation! All members are invited to attend a virtual meeting and join the conversation. The upcoming meeting schedule for the committee:

- Sept. 29:** Group Pricing - review current data and discuss benefits
- Oct. 27:** Group Pricing - types of pricing: company/facility
- Nov. 24:** Group Pricing - Associate focus
- Dec. 22:** Farmer Members - interests and barriers for farmers
- Jan. 26:** Farmer Members – how to attract farmers

Contact [deb@geaps.com](mailto:deb@geaps.com) for more information and a link to join!

## 2020-2021 Membership Committee Goals

- Research and develop recommendations on company/facility pricing
- Research and develop recommendations on farmer member program
- Develop a new recruiting program
- Develop Student Day for Exchange 2021



# Engaging Members and Setting Your Chapter Up for Future Success



## *Great Plains Chapter*

By: **Jeff Jones**, MKC, GEAPS International President

Chapters are an important part of the GEAPS experience. For me, chapter events have provided great opportunities for networking and interacting with industry leaders. My company and I have both benefitted from the knowledge and education opportunities. Getting your new members involved is an important way to set up future success.

It starts with welcoming new members. In the past our President Lonnie Glen sent a welcome email, it was a great gesture. I would then follow-up with an introductory email as well. We encourage new members to get involved by telling them about opportunities to serve on our planning, golf outing and scholarship committees.

We also encourage folks at our meetings to get engaged. We invite folks to get on a committee to learn the who, what, when and where of chapter operations. We ask for yearly volunteers for board positions if we have openings. We usually ask folks to come on as secretary and move up gradually.

I love being a part of our chapter. We are great people fostering a noble cause – we are working at feeding the world!



## *Cornbelt Chapter*

By: **Mark Avery**, Grain Journal

We've tried a couple things to engage new members:

- **Our meetings are free to all members and non-members:** There is no reason not to come due to cost.
- **We also try to call everyone who hasn't signed up for a meeting:** We reach out to members who haven't signed up for a meeting a couple days in advance to remind them of the meeting.

*"I love being a part of our chapter. We are great people fostering a noble cause – we are working at feeding the world!"*





## MEMBER PROFILE

*Ryan Yutzy*

### **Chapter and committees:**

Hoosier Chapter President, Great Lakes Regional Conference Planning Committee, Hoosier Chapter Secretary

### **Family:**

Wife Kristen, Son Lyle (born March 26, 2020)

### **Position and Company:**

Safety and Compliance Manager with FSS Inc.

### **Years with company:** 10

### **Years in Industry:** 10

### **Interesting or unique fact about your facility/company:**

Our company specializes in the eradication of stored food product pests. It isn't until I walk up and down the grocery store aisles that I am truly reminded of the scope of products that our company helps protect along its journey to the consumer. Many people just don't realize what various integrated pest management techniques have been implemented to ensure the quality and safety of the food products they use daily.

### **Past positions:**

I have held the same position since hired with FSS.

### **Education:**

Purdue University, Bachelor of Science

### **Biggest influence on your career:**

My professors while attending Purdue University were the biggest influence on my career. Professors Alan York and Gary Bennett always listened to my career path struggles and encouraged me along the way. They helped me realize that my primary academic focus was actually a secondary one. This ultimately led to where I work today and what my current role is. While now retired, they are still involved with current and future students at the university.

### **How has GEAPS helped your leadership skills?**

I believe the interaction between other influential and experienced GEAPS members is priceless and has ultimately sharpened my leadership skills. This not only includes the educational sessions presented by GEAPS members with innovative ideas but within my local chapter. What I personally find most beneficial about GEAPS is collaborating with people you would never otherwise gain insight from. The annual leadership conference put on by GEAPS was also very informative and offered many different perspectives that I had not thought about prior.

### **What are three of your favorite memories from GEAPS?**

1) Hoosier Chapter Night Out with Spouses. For many years now our chapter has offered this event around Valentine's Day. It is great to relax with other members and get away from the kids for a night. Previous years' festivities have offered events like dinner theatre shows, murder mystery dinners and bowling. This year our local chapter had the chance to go axe throwing.

2) Exchange in New Orleans offered a whole set of firsts for me. I had never been there and was blown away by how well the committee integrated the local culture into the conference. Exploring local cuisine was enjoyable but the authentic crawfish boil was particularly memorable.

3) Great Lakes Regional Conference in 2019 and 2020. While Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky offered a unique conference venue, renting out the water park to only our members proved to be a memorable experience.

**What is the best advice you have received from another GEAPS member?**

When I began attending GEAPS meetings in 2010 I always heard things like “Stay involved, especially if you hold an office or committee position” or “Membership is what you make it.” This is something that I believe many chapters need to reaffirm going forward. After all, the only way for our local chapters to survive is for current members to show up and participate while actively recruiting others.

**What is one industry-wide trend affecting your company right now?**

**How are you reacting to it?**

Many of our grain storage facility customers are eliminating our ability to complete fumigations using confined space entry techniques. While our company has the means and training to comply with this demand it has made our job a little more difficult and, in some cases, quadrupled the amount of time for completion. Nevertheless, FSS is on the front line of new alternative techniques and will continue to adhere to this growing trend.

**What is something unique about the grain industry in your region?**

Our company primarily services the corn belt region of the United States. I find it interesting how some states in this region are focused on bulk storage or export of corn while others invest all of their harvest into ethanol. This has required our company to acclimate to the grain protection and/or fumigation needs of one state while realizing the neighboring states have a whole new set of challenges.



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## Honor Your Chapter’s Most Influential Members

Chapters are the heart of GEAPS, and we want to make it easy to recognize the members who make your unit excel. There are two programs available to recognize your members who go above and beyond the call of duty:

- **Chapter Member of Distinction**
- **Membership Pins**

### Chapter Member of Distinction Award

Honor Individual members who have made notable efforts in leadership or service to their chapter with the Chapter Member of Distinction Award. Members must have been an active member for at least five of the last 10 years, and demonstrate excellent volunteer leadership or service to the chapter. There is no limit to the number of chapter members who can receive the award in a year.

**Last Year’s Honorees:**

- **Mark Hueftle**, Cooperative Producers Inc., *Greater Nebraska*
- **Colin McClure**, PMI Nebraska, *Greater Nebraska*
- **Lorraine Lego**, Alliance Grain Terminal Ltd, *Vancouver*

### Membership Pin Program

GEAPS also offers pins to recognize members who reach milestones for consecutive years of membership. Chapters can order five, 10, 15 and 20 year pins for members. GEAPS International Office awards the 25-year (silver), 40-year (bronze) and 50-year (gold) pins and mails them directly to the member.

Members can only receive pins the year they qualify; no pins are available retroactively or proactively. Membership years are calculated by consecutive years of membership, not total years. Chapter leaders will receive an email about how to order membership pins, along with a list of eligible members, in the coming month.



The **Great Plains chapter** scholarship committee met May 29 via Zoom to review applications and choose recipients. The committee scored each application on a set of criteria for contribution to agriculture, experience in their field of study and leadership activities. After review and discussion, the committee awarded four \$1,000 and four \$500 scholarships to students wishing to further their education in the agriculture field.

The **Great Plains chapter** met virtually on Aug. 24 for a business meeting with the chapter board to discuss and divvy up meeting planning tasks for the year.

The **Great River chapter** met Aug. 26 at the Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant in Davenport, Iowa. Hobie Stutt, River Valley Coop, chapter president, gave a presentation to five members on pre-harvest safety. Discussion included issues members are currently facing with harvest. The chapter also discussed future meeting events and dates.

The **Intermountain chapter** met Feb. 22 at the Hampton Inn in Jackson, Wyoming, to hold their annual elections. More than 20 members and guests attended to elect the chapter board and discuss the direction the chapter wants to go.

The **Kansas City chapter** met Aug. 25 at Botorff Trap Range in Kansas City, Missouri. The Kansas City Highway Patrol gave the attendees a safety update and covered topics such as road safety for young drivers, COVID-19 and the recent riots. Tim Kramer and his wife served up barbecue which included pulled pork sandwiches, beans, potato salad and cobbler and ice cream for dessert. Following the presentation and meal the group enjoyed three hours of trap shooting.



The **Minneapolis chapter** met Sept. 14 at Keller Golf Course in St. Paul, Minnesota for the 5th annual "Al Meier Spring Classic" after postponing the event from June due to COVID-19. There were 60 golfers and three members that joined for dinner. The group was happy to get together to network, socialize, and enjoy a nice day on the course!



The **Siouxland chapter** met July 23 at the Otter Creek Golf Course in George, Iowa, for their annual best ball golf tournament. More than 20 members and guests attended including GEAPS Executive Director Steve Records. The golfers enjoyed nine holes on a beautiful sunny day and a barbecue lunch sponsored by Thompson Electric. Other sponsors included Comco, Hi Roller, Tri-States Grain Conditioning and Interstates.



# New Members

Welcome these new members who joined GEAPS recently.  
Italics denote Student Members.

## **Cornbelt**

**Jayne Stockton**, Nord Gear Ltd

## **Golden Triangle**

**Anaelli Rodriguez**, Cargill Inc

## **Great Plains**

**Mike Beaver**, SonicAire

**Ryan Karr**, KRW Construction, Inc

**Steven Salzwedel**, KRW Construction, Inc

## **Greater Iowa**

**Scott Sylvester**, Todd & Sargent Inc

## **Gulf South**

**Christopher Bass**, Tennant Specs, Inc

**Bob McNeese**, Millcreek Engineering

## **Michigan/So Ontario**

**Joseph Rader**

## **Mid-America**

**Mark Schechinger**, Conductix Wampfler

## **Mid-Atlantic**

**Oliver Colvin**, Clemson University,  
*recruited by Scott Brittingham*

**Ross Evans**, Insurance Office of America,  
*recruited by AJ Manion*

**Benjamin Merritt**, Millwright Specialists Inc,  
*recruited by Scott Brittingham*

## **Mid-South**

**Nick Henick**, Ecolab, *recruited by Perry Nettles*

**Heath Key**, Tyson Foods Inc

**Mitchell Ponton**, The Industrial Fumigant Co LLC

**Auston Salazar**, Ecolab

## **Minneapolis**

**Matthew Renfro**, Electro-Sensors Inc,  
*recruited by Eric Roth*

## **Non-chapter**

**Jim Jeffers**, Applied Industrial Technologies

**Brent Norris**, Hideout Farms

## **Oregon Trail**

**Erik Pehoviack**, Hemingfor Farmer's Coop Elevator

**Larry Stockton**, 360 Rail Services

## **Seaway**

**Larry Hawkins**, The Mennel Milling Co

**Gerard Lynskey**, SSI Consulting LLC

## **Vancouver**

**Grant Vale**, Allied Track Services

**Brendon Viljoen**, FWS Group of Companies

## **New Lifetime Members**

**Ray Vrtiska**, Mid-America

## Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

DATE	TITLE	CITY	CONTACT	EMAIL
Sept. 29, 2020	Membership Committee	Virtual via Zoom	Deb Most	deb@geaps.com
Oct. 22, 2020	Membership Committee	Virtual via Zoom	Deb Most	deb@geaps.com
Oct. 27, 2020	Membership Committee	Virtual via Zoom	Deb Most	deb@geaps.com
Nov. 24, 2020	Membership Committee	Virtual via Zoom	Deb Most	deb@geaps.com
Dec. 22, 2020	Membership Committee	Virtual via Zoom	Deb Most	deb@geaps.com
Jan. 26, 2021	Membership Committee	Virtual via Zoom	Deb Most	deb@geaps.com



GEAPS *In-Grain* is printed on paper stock sourced through eco-friendly paper manufacturers.

# CALENDAR

*An extensive and up-to-date calendar can be found on the GEAPS website.*

## C H A P T E R S

### **GREATER IOWA**

#### **November 17, 2020**

Site Safety with Contractors  
*Virtual Meeting Via Zoom*  
1 p.m.

#### **February 2, 2021**

Annual Maintenance Day  
Ag Info Center  
8 a.m.  
Nevada, IA

#### **March 16, 2021**

HR Panel - Employee Recruitment  
and Retention  
*Virtual Meeting Via Zoom*  
1 p.m.

### **HOOSIER**

#### **November 19, 2020**

Trap Shoot Forty Sporting Clays  
11:30 a.m.  
Bourbon, IN

#### **December 8, 2020**

Maintenance  
The Anderson's  
Noon  
Delphi, IN

#### **February 5, 2021**

Axe Throwing  
Anarchy Axe Throwing  
7 p.m.  
Indianapolis, IN

#### **May 25, 2021**

Elections  
Chippendale Golf  
11 a.m.  
Kokomo, IN

### **KANSAS CITY**

#### **December 12, 2020**

Annual Spouses'  
Appreciation Night  
New Theater Restaurant  
5:15 p.m.  
Overland Park, KS

### **MINNEAPOLIS**

#### **November 4, 2020**

Industry Outlook  
Holiday Inn  
Noon  
Bloomington, MN

#### **January 6, 2021**

Vendor Show and Bean Bag Tournament  
Dan Patch American Legion  
Noon  
Savage, MN

#### **February 3, 2021**

Barge Loading Technology  
Holiday Inn  
Noon  
Bloomington, MN

#### **April 7, 2021**

Data Analytics  
Holiday Inn  
Noon  
Bloomington, MN

#### **May 5, 2021**

Rahr Malting Facility Tour  
Rahr Malting  
Noon  
Shakopee, MN

#### **June 7, 2021**

Al Meier Spring Classic Golf Tournament  
Keller Golf Club  
Noon  
St. Paul, MN

