

**SERVING YOU SINCE 1927** 



2016 Annual Report

September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016 www.crystalvalley.coop

#### PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DATA August 31, 2016

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	Term Expires	<u>Position</u>
Dan Jones	Lake Crystal, MN	2017	Chairman
Mark Christenson	Madelia, MN	2017	Vice-Chairman
Tim Lewer	New Richland, MN	2018	Secretary/Treasurer
Judd Hendrycks	North Mankato, MN	2017	Director
Brian Wallace	Garden City, MN	2018	Director
Bryon Christenson	LaSalle, MN	2018	Director
Dean Sonnabend	Vernon Center, MN	2019	Director
Tom Trahms	Janesville, MN	2019	Director

#### Roger Kienholz – General Manager

#### ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Date of Incorporation	January 27, 1927
Under Laws of State of	
Fiscal Year Ends	
Main Office	Lake Crystal, Minnesota
N.A.	ATURE OF BUSINESS

Nature of Business...... Farmers Cooperative Purchasing and Marketing Association

Products Handled......Agronomy, Feed, Grain, Petroleum and Other Farm Supplies



#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Board of Directors Crystal Valley Cooperative Lake Crystal, Minnesota

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Crystal Valley Cooperative, Lake Crystal, Minnesota, which comprise the balance sheets as of August 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of savings, members' equity and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Crystal Valley Cooperative, Lake Crystal, Minnesota, as of August 31, 2016 and 2015, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

November 30, 2016

Gardines Thomsen

#### BALANCE SHEETS August 31, 2016 and 2015

#### **ASSETS**

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 23,047,115	\$ 13,369,337
Marketable Securities	0	710,377
Receivables		
Trade – Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$250,000	6,257,505	7,082,168
Storage and Handling	19,107	6,207
Grain in Transit	204,546	3,191,076
Other	418,964	162,386
Inventories		
Grain	5,271,805	10,457,564
Agronomy	15,666,745	20,617,924
Feed	1,217,467	1,716,049
Petroleum	644,223	882,752
Propane	204,351	183,555
Miscellaneous	507,106	230,977
Prepaid Expenses	659,109	759,129
Prepaid Inventory	2,298,644	5,408,517
Deferred Tax Asset	153,068	166,384
Total Current Assets	56,569,755	64,944,402
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Land and Land Improvements	8,257,699	8,222,498
Buildings and Equipment	111,286,326	108,254,372
	119,544,025	116,476,870
Accumulated Depreciation	(60,538,441)	(54,793,748)
Undepreciated Cost	59,005,584	61,683,122
Construction in Process	362,203	21,127
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	59,367,787	61,704,249
INNESTMENTS		
INVESTMENTS  Equity in Other Organizations	14 010 760	12 521 027
Equity in Other Organizations Other Investments	14,018,769	13,531,937 406,819
	406,819	
Total Investments	14,425,588	13,938,756
TOTAL ASSETS	\$130,363,130	\$140,587,407

BALANCE SHEETS August 31, 2016 and 2015

#### LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

		2016	2015
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Checks Written in Excess of Bank Balance	\$	5,737,299	\$ 6,230,097
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt		3,296,379	3,429,202
Notes Payable – Operating		0	160,169
Patron Demand Notes		9,794,665	10,099,001
Payables			
Trade		7,318,511	10,616,289
Customer Credit Balances		4,124,484	3,166,429
Unpaid Grain		11,209,194	12,524,965
Margin Accounts		337,772	1,057,770
Other		307,420	331,671
Accrued Expenses			
Interest		101,586	131,191
Property Taxes		1,131,413	902,596
Payroll		1,636,671	1,094,114
Other		129,607	122,335
Patronage Dividends Payable		556,940	1,124,461
Total Current Liabilities		45,681,941	50,990,290
LONG TERM LIABILITIES N.A. & Comment M. America			
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES - Net of Current Maturitie	es	<i>6</i> 272 000	14 201 000
Notes Payable Patron Fixed Term Notes		6,273,000	14,281,000
		4,780,637	3,931,231
Total Long-Term Liabilities		11,053,637	18,212,231
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES		270 925	255 002
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES		369,835	255,883
MEMBERS' EQUITY			
Revolving Fund		24,226,202	25,297,892
Patronage Payable in Equities		835,411	1,686,691
Unallocated General Reserve		48,196,104	44,144,420
Total Members' Equity		73,257,717	71,129,003
Total Memoris Equity		10,201,111	71,127,003
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	<b>\$</b> 1	30,363,130	\$140,587,407

#### STATEMENTS OF SAVINGS Years Ended August 31, 2016 and 2015

		2016	2015
Sales	\$2	255,862,563	\$233,692,387
Cost of Goods Sold	2	226,668,114	205,804,496
Gross Savings on Sales		29,194,449	27,887,891
Other Operating Revenue		12,952,545	12,702,659
Total Gross Revenue		42,146,994	40,590,550
Operating Expenses, Including Interest		38,390,643	35,156,183
Operating Savings		3,756,351	5,434,367
Patronage Dividend Income		2,126,466	2,100,129
Loss on Sale of Marketable Securities		(24,511)	0
Savings Before Income Taxes		5,858,306	7,534,496
Income Taxes			
Current		317,241	439,162
Deferred		127,268	60,565
Net Savings	\$	5,413,797	\$ 7,034,769
DISTRIBUTION OF NET S	AVIN	IGS	
Patronage Dividends			
Cash – 40%	\$	556,940	\$ 1,124,461
Deferred – 60%		835,411	1,686,691
		1,392,351	2,811,152
Retained Savings		4,021,446	4,223,617
Total	\$	5,413,797	\$ 7,034,769

#### STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS' EQUITY Years Ended August 31, 2016 and 2015

			Patronage	Unallocated
		Revolving	Payable in	General
	Total	Fund	Equities	Reserve
Balance – August 31, 2014	\$67,887,971	\$25,207,123	\$ 2,677,707	\$40,003,141
Stock Redeemed	(2,635,256)	(2,635,451)	0	195
Distribution of Patronage Dividends	0	2,738,381	(2,738,381)	0
Under Accrual of Prior Year Patronage Dividends	(28,914)	0	60,674	(89,588)
Adjustments	(5,106)	(12,161)	0	7,055
Current Period Savings	7,034,769	0	0	7,034,769
Patronage Dividends				
Cash	(1,124,461)	0	0	(1,124,461)
Deferred	0	0	1,686,691	(1,686,691)
Balance – August 31, 2015	71,129,003	25,297,892	1,686,691	44,144,420
Stock Redeemed	(2,675,798)	(2,675,798)	0	0
Distribution of Patronage Dividends	0	1,668,550	(1,668,550)	0
Over Accrual of Prior Year Patronage Dividends	12,094	0	(18,141)	30,235
Adjustments	(64,439)	(64,442)	0	3
Current Period Savings	5,413,797	0	0	5,413,797
Patronage Dividends				
Cash	(556,940)	0	0	(556,940)
Deferred	0	0	835,411	(835,411)
Balance – August 31, 2016	\$73,257,717	\$24,226,202	\$ 835,411	\$48,196,104

#### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS Years Ended August 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Savings	\$ 5,413,797	\$ 7,034,769
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Savings to Net Cash		
Provided by Operating Activities		
Depreciation	7,323,498	6,285,418
Gain on Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	(335,279)	(535,039)
Bad Debt Expense (Income)	116,879	(198,303)
Loss on Sale of Marketable Securities	24,511	0
Patronage Dividends Received as Equity	(997,608)	(1,020,803)
Deferred Income Taxes	127,268	60,565
Change in Assets and Liabilities		
Decrease in Receivables	3,424,836	146,439
(Increase) Decrease in Inventories	10,577,124	(6,018,471)
Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	100,020	430,352
Decrease in Prepaid Inventory	3,109,873	16,162,637
Increase in Payables	(4,399,743)	(3,509,809)
Increase (Decrease) in Accrued Expenses	749,041	(309,127)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	25,234,217	18,528,628
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES  Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	454,795	766,581
Additions to Property, Plant and Equipment	(5,106,552)	(4,734,239)
Equity in Other Organizations Purchased	0	(418)
Proceeds from Sale of Marketable Securities	685,866	0
Redemption of Equity in Other Organizations	510,776	686,741
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(3,455,115)	(3,281,335)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES  Net Borrowings (Repayments) Under Line-of-Credit		
Agreement	(464,505)	1,540,335
Additional Borrowings of Long–Term Debt	716,583	702,307
Retirement of Long-Term Debt	(8,008,000)	(17,590,217)
Stock Redeemed	(2,675,798)	(2,635,256)
Allocated Patronage Paid	(1,112,367)	(1,814,052)
Equity Adjustments	(64,439)	(5,106)
Increase (Decrease) in Checks Written in Excess of		
Bank Balance	(492,798)	1,233,471
Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	(12,101,324)	(18,568,518)

#### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

	2016	2015
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	\$ 9,677,778	\$ (3,321,225)
Cash – Beginning of Year	13,369,337	16,690,562
Cash – End of Year	\$23,047,115	\$13,369,337
Cash Paid During the Year for: Interest	H FLOW INFORMATION \$ 1,390,274	\$ 1,453,853
Income Taxes	215,000	7,043
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF NON-CACTIVITIES	ASH INVESTING AND FINA	ANCING

#### **Notes to Financial Statements**

#### Note 1: Organization and Nature of Business

The Company was organized in 1927 under Minnesota Law and is operating as a cooperative for the mutual benefit of its members. The Company reorganized under Chapter 308B of the Minnesota statues on Jaunary 29, 2014. Voting membership is limited to agricultural producers on a one share—one vote premise. Net savings on business transacted by members is allocated to them on the books of the Corporation or paid to them through patronage dividends.

#### Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting practices and policies are summarized below.

#### NATURE OF OPERATION AND CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Company operates a licensed public grain warehouse; provides grain marketing and related services, sells feed, petroleum and agronomy products and services in and around Blue Earth, Nicollet, Waseca, Watonwan, Steele and LeSueur counties in Minnesota. Approximately 52% of the Company's total gross revenue is generated by agronomy sales and related services. In the normal course of business, the Company provides credit to its patrons under standard terms without collateral.

The Company maintains cash balances with local and national financial institutions, which may at times exceed the coverage of U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Company (FDIC). The coverage is up to \$250,000 for accounts at these institutions. At August 31, 2016 and 2015, cash balances exceeded FDIC coverage by \$20,357,146 and \$10,993,523, respectively.

The Company historically prepays or makes deposits on undelivered inventories. Concentration of credit risk with respect to inventory advances, are primarily with a few major suppliers of agricultural inputs. The Company purchases a large amount of its farm supply inventory from Land O'Lakes and CHS, Inc.

#### RECEIVABLES, NET

Receivables are shown on the balance sheet net of the allowance for doubtful accounts for book purposes. The amount of the allowance is based on historical bad debt experience and a current evaluation of the aging and collectibility of receivables. For tax purposes, uncollectible amounts are charged against current operations and no allowance for doubtful accounts is maintained.

Because of uncertainties inherent in the estimation process, management's estimate of credit losses inherent in the accounts receivable and the related allowance may change in the near term.

Trade receivables with credit balances have been included in the customer credit balances payable as a current liability.

#### Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **GRAIN IN TRANSIT**

In accordance with industry practice on contracts, subject to final grade and weight determination at the destination point, the Company consistently records a sale at the time grain is shipped.

#### HEDGING

The Company generally follows a policy of hedging its grain transactions to protect gains and minimize losses due to market fluctuations. Gains and losses from these hedge transactions are reflected in the margins of the respective commodity.

#### FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the *Financial Accounting Standards Board* (FASB) *Accounting Standards Codification* (ASC) defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability between market participants in the principal market or in the most advantageous market when no principal market exists. Market participants are assumed to be independent, knowledgeable, able and willing to transact an exchange and not under duress. Nonperformance or credit risk is considered when determining the fair value of liabilities. Considerable judgment may be required in interpreting market data used to develop the estimates of fair value. Accordingly, estimates of fair value presented herein are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that could be realized in a current or future market exchange.

#### **INVENTORIES**

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out) or market, with the exception of the grain inventories which are valued at market and are adjusted to reflect significant net gains and/or losses on open contracts. For tax purposes, certain operating expenses are capitalized.

#### PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Land and depreciable assets are valued at cost. For book purposes, depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method with an equal amount being expensed each year over the estimated lives of the individual assets ranging between three and fifty years. When fixed assets are sold or retired, any resulting gain or loss is reflected in current operations. For tax purposes, depreciation is calculated in accordance with an acceptable tax method.

Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Expenditures for new facilities and those which increase the useful lives of the buildings and equipment are capitalized.

Depreciation expense in the amount of \$7,323,498 and \$6,285,418 has been charged against operations for the year ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

#### Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### EOUITY IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/PATRONAGE DIVIDEND INCOME

Equities in other organizations are recorded at cost, plus unredeemed patronage dividends received in the form of capital stock and other equities. Cooperative stocks are not transferable, thereby precluding any market value, but they may be used as collateral in securing loans. Patronage dividends received are recognized as income and any impairment of equities is not recognized by the Company until formal notification is received or when there has been permanent impairment of the carrying volume of the investment. Redemption of these equities is at the discretion of the various organizations.

#### MEMBERS' EQUITY

The Company is organized without capital stock on a membership basis. A membership in the Company may be issued to agriculture producers who reside in the territory served by the Company who patronize the Company by doing not less than \$5,000 in business annually, and who have been approved by the Board of Directors.

Each member is entitled and restricted to only one vote in the affairs of the Company.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF NET SAVINGS

Net savings is allocated to patrons on a patronage basis, based on taxable income and in accordance with the articles and bylaws of the Company.

Patronage refunds to members of the cooperative may take the form of either qualified or nonqualified written notices of allocation. The terms qualified and nonqualified refer to the tax aspect of a refund. For a patronage refund to be qualified as an income tax deduction for the Company at least 20% of the refund must be paid in cash. A nonqualified refund then, is a refund where less than 20% of the refund is paid to the member in cash and does not qualify as a tax deduction for the Company.

Unallocated savings, after provision for income taxes, is accounted for as an addition to general reserve.

#### USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Company provides a wide variety of products and services, from production of agricultural inputs such as crop nutrients, fuels, livestock feeds and other farm supplies, to grain marketing, storage and drying services, agronomy spreading and spraying, transportation, and other agricultural related services. Sales are recorded upon transfer of title, which could occur at the time commodities are shipped or upon receipt by the customer, depending on the terms of the transaction. Service revenues are recorded once such services have been rendered.

#### INCOME TAXES

The Company, as a non-exempt cooperative, is taxed on non-patronage earnings and any patronage earnings not paid or allocated to patrons.

The Company evaluates uncertain tax benefits arising from tax positions taken or expected to be taken based upon the likelihood of being sustained upon examination by applicable tax authorities. If the Company determines that a tax position is more likely than not of being sustained, it recognizes the largest amount of the arising benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized upon settlement in the financial statements. Any tax positions taken or expected to be taken that do not pass the more likely than not test, the Company establishes reserves offsetting the benefits related to such positions. Interest and penalties, if any, are included in the current period provision for income taxes in the Company's statement of savings and are included as a current liability in the balance sheet.

#### **DEFERRED INCOME TAXES**

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. The principal temporary differences are due to the use of different financial reporting and income tax methods for depreciation, bad debts, inventory capitalization, grain quality and compensated absences. Deferred tax assets and liabilities may be reduced by a valuation allowance when, in the opinion of management, it is more likely than not that some portion of the deferred tax assets or liabilities will not be realized.

#### SALES TAXES

Various entities impose a sales tax on specific categories of the Company's sales. The Company collects the sales tax from patrons and remits the entire amount to the respective taxing authorities. The Company excludes the tax collected and remitted from sales and the cost of sales, respectively.

#### **LEASES**

Leases which meet certain criteria are classified as capital leases, and assets and liabilities are recorded at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased properties at the beginning of the respective lease terms. Such assets are amortized evenly over the related lease terms of their economic lives. Leases which do not meet such criteria are classified as operating leases and related rentals are charged to expense as incurred.

#### Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **ADVERTISING EXPENSES**

The Company's advertising expenses are charged against income during the year in which they are incurred. Total advertising costs charged to expense for the year ended August 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$120,588 and \$122,524, respectively.

#### DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company has only limited involvement with derivative instruments and does not use them for trading purposes. They are used to manage well-defined commodity price risks. The Company may use futures, forward, option and swap contracts to reduce the volatility of grain. These contracts permit final settlement by delivery of the specified commodity. These contracts are not designated as hedges as defined by the Derivative and Hedging Topic of the FASB ASC. These contracts are marked to market each month and the unrealized gains or losses are recognized in earnings.

#### OFF-BALANCE SHEET RISK - COMMODITY CONTRACTS

Realized and unrealized gains and losses from future sales and purchase contracts and commitments (grain and farm supply commodities) are included in gross savings. There is a possibility that future changes in market prices may make these contract and commitments more or less valuable, thereby subjecting them to market risk. Risk arises from changes in the value of these contracts and commitments and the potential inability of counterparties to perform under the terms of the contracts. There are numerous factors which may significantly influence the value of these contracts and commitments including market volatility.

#### Note 3: Related Party Transactions

The Company, organized on a cooperative basis, conducts a substantial portion of their operations with the members (owners) of the Company and has ownership interests in various regional cooperatives from whom they purchase products for resale or sell products to.

The Company sells to and purchases grain from the board of directors and certain employees. The aggregate of these transactions is not significant to the financial statements.

The Company had trade receivables due from directors and employees of \$106,152 and \$156,561 as of August 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The Company had customer credit balances from directors and employees of \$140,913 and \$168,185 as of August 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

#### Note 4: Marketable Securities

During the year ended August 31, 2016, CHS, Inc. converted \$254,220 of deferred patronage into 8,920 shares of Class B Series I Preferred Stock.

Realized gains and losses on the sale of marketable securities are based on original cost and are included in earnings. The Company sold 32,903 shares of CHS stock for \$940,086 with the Company realizing a loss of \$24,511 on the sale of the securities for the year ended August 31, 2016.

#### Note 5: Construction in Process

Construction in process is stated at cost. No provision for depreciation is made on construction in process until such time as the relevant assets are completed and put into service. Construction in process at August 31, 2016 consists of the following:

		Estimated
	Costs	Completion
2016	to Date	Cost
Corn Shed Control Software – Madelia	\$ 65,410	\$ 74,350
Grain Terminal Control Software – Madelia	146,826	150,000
Pole Shed Storage Building – Vernon Center	65,716	93,151
Kahler Liquid Automation System Upgrade – Nicollet	84,251	108,991
	\$362,203	\$426,492

Construction in process at August 31, 2015 that was completed during the year are as follows:

	Actual
2015	Completed Cost
Driveway Entrance – Janesville	\$167,008
PJ DS Step Deck 41' Trailer – Madelia	30,338
	\$197,346
	<del></del>

#### Note 6: Investments

At August 31, 2016 and 2015 the Company had equity in other organizations as follows:

	2016	2015
Equity in Other Organizations		_
CHS, Inc.	\$ 9,096,481	\$ 8,496,405
Land O'Lakes	2,993,348	3,178,792
CoBank, ACB	1,648,305	1,571,774
Renville Co-op Transport Association	119,255	119,255
Western Co-op Transport Association	79,294	79,294
Ag Processing, Inc.	29,507	28,297
Others	52,579	58,120
	\$14,018,769	\$13,531,937

#### Note 6: Investments (Continued)

At August 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company had investments in other companies as follows:

	2016	2015
Other Investments	·	
Pillar Insurance Limited	\$356,819	\$356,819
AgQuest Financial Services	50,000	50,000
	·	
	\$406,819	\$406,819

#### **Note 7: Financing Arrangements**

Financing arrangements as of August 31, 2016 and 2015 were as follows:

	Interest	Ba	lance	Repayment
Lender	Rate	2016	2015	Basis
CoBank, ACB RIZ237TO1H Variable	3.03%*	\$ 0	\$ 0	Quarterly commitment reductions of \$375,000 starting on 02-20-15 through 11-20-22. Balance due on 02-20-23.
RIZ237T02C Fixed	4.27%	4,281,000	5,289,000	(27) quarterly payments of \$252,000 starting 02-20-14 through 08-20-20. Final unpaid balance due on 11-20-20.
RIZ237T03B Variable	3.01%*	5,000,000	12,000,000	(39) quarterly payments of \$500,000 starting 02-20-15 with final payment due on 08-20-24.
Patron Fixed Term 3 Year Notes	3.00%	915,310	807,332	Principal and accrued interest due on maturity.
5 Year Notes	3.75%	4,153,706	3,545,101	Principal and accrued interest due on maturity.
Less: Current Maturities		14,350,016 3,296,379	21,641,433 3,429,202	
Long-Term Debt		\$11,053,637	\$18,212,231	<u> </u>

<sup>\* –</sup> Denotes continuously variable interest rate

#### Note 7: Financing Arrangements (Continued)

Seasonal borrowings in effect at August 31, 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	Interest	Ba	lance	Repayment
Lender	Rate	2016	2015	Basis
CoBank, ACB				
RIZ237SO1U				
Variable	2.53%*	\$0	\$160,169	Due 03-01-17.

<sup>\* –</sup> Denotes continuously variable interest rate

Loan Commitments in effect at August 31, 2016 and 2015 were as follows:

	2016	2015
Operating	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
Term		
T01H	9,750,000	11,250,000
T02C	4,281,000	5,289,000
T03B	5,000,000	12,000,000

Patron demand notes at August 31, 2016 and 2015 were \$9,794,665 and \$10,099,001, respectively and accrue an interest rate of 2.00%. These notes are due upon demand.

The CoBank, ACB notes are secured by a first mortgage lien on all real property owned by the Company and a security agreement covering all personal property, including inventory and accounts receivable arising from the sale thereof, subject only to first mortgages and security agreements for other contracts. The Company also has \$1,648,305 and \$1,571,774 of equity in the bank at August 31 2016 and 2015, respectively, which is held as additional collateral.

Restrictive covenants on the CoBank, ACB loan agreements provide, among other things, (1) maintaining minimum working capital during the year and at year end, (2) restrictions on incurring additional indebtedness, (3) maintaining a minimum amount of contingent liabilities, (4) maintaining a minimum net worth and other covenants as determined by the bank.

The patron fixed term and demand notes are unsecured.

#### Note 7: Financing Arrangements (Continued)

Aggregate annual maturities of the long-term debt outstanding at August 31, 2016 are as follows:

\$ 3,296,379
5,622,684
3,090,073
1,505,153
835,727
\$14,350,016

Interest expense charged to operations at August 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$1,360,669 and \$1,473,603, respectively.

#### Note 8: Unpaid Grain

Unpaid grain at August 31, 2016 and 2015 consisted of price later contracts, deferred payments contracts, priced not paid grain, and various other grain contracts. Price later contracts represent grain on which title has passed to the Company with the price to be fixed at a later date. Deferred payment contracts represent grain on which title has passed to the company and payment is deferred to a later date. Unpaid grain also includes minimum price, enhanced minimum price, and extended grain pricing contracts, of which title has transferred, minimum/advance payments have been made to seller with final price yet to be determined, based on a later pricing of a future position. These contracts are valued at the current bid net of any adjustment for unrealized gains or losses in relation to the corresponding future or option position. The contracts are summarized as follows:

	2016		2015	
	Bushels	Amount	Bushels	Amount
Price Later Contracts				
Corn	1,733,282	\$ 4,465,706	1,543,679	\$ 5,186,761
Soybeans	17,158	155,027	10,733	97,774
		4,620,733		5,284,535
Deferred Payment Contracts				
Corn	282,499	1,413,505	392,130	2,081,785
Soybeans	101,382	1,009,180	74,738	938,694
		2,422,685	_	3,020,479

**Note 8: Unpaid Grain** (Continued)

	2016		2015	
	Bushels	Amount	Bushels	Amount
Priced Not Paid Contracts				
Corn	1,101,762	\$ 3,816,133	926,623	\$ 3,537,766
Soybeans	70,256	729,179	55,819	692,019
		4,545,312		4,229,785
Less: Advances		379,536		9,834
		\$11,209,194		\$12,524,965

The Company merchandises grain utilizing hedge—to—arrive contracts (HTA). HTA contracts are forward type grain contracts, representing a commitment by the patrons to deliver grain in the future with the final pricing to be established by the delivery date. Under these contracts the patron has established a specific commodity's futures price and period to be used in the equation of the final pricing. The patron, upon final pricing, is obligated for the difference between their established commodity's future price and the current market value of the specified futures period. The Company has established positions on the commodity futures market to cover these contracts and protect themselves against future changes in market prices.

The Company is contingently at risk from various factors which may significantly influence the fair value of the HTA contract commitments. These factors include market volatility, the potential inability to deliver quantities relative to their annual production, and the patron's willingness to perform under the terms of the HTA contract agreements. Because of the uncertainties inherent in the estimate of the fair value of these contracts, management's estimate of the fair value of these contracts may change as future changes in the market prices make these contracts more or less valuable.

#### Note 9: Retirement Plan

The Company has a 401(k) retirement plan that covers substantially all full-time employees. Employer payments to the plan are equal to 100% of each participant's contribution to a maximum of 5% of each participant's regular compensation. Pension costs are funded as they are accrued. Employer contributions at August 31, 2016 and 2015 were \$395,830 and \$356,134, respectively.

#### Note 10: Members' Equity

#### Revolving Fund

The patrons' revolving fund account was established for the purpose of acquiring non-stock capital. The Company maintains a record of the holders of credits and the amount allocated to each holder. The principal source of additions to the patrons' equity are the capital contributions by each member of a portion of his share of the patrons' net margins. Patrons' equity credits may be retired at anytime at the discretion of the Board of Directors. During the year ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, \$2,675,798 and \$2,635,451, respectively, were retired. The Company holds a first lien on each patrons' equity credit for any indebtedness of the holder to the Company.

#### General Reserve

Total net margins less the patrons' net margins, as defined in the articles and bylaws of the Company, are designated as the Company's net margins. These margins are taxable to the Company and consist of patronage–sourced margins not allocated, as well as all non–patronage–sourced net margins.

#### Note 11: Income Taxes

Components of the provision for income tax expense for the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

	2016	2015
Federal Income Tax	\$ 0	\$ 52,868
State Income Tax	300,000	377,586
Under Accrual of Prior Years	17,241	8,708
		_
	\$317,241	\$439,162
Deferred Tax Expense	\$127,268	\$ 60,565

Total income tax expense for the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, was less than the normal amount computed by applying the U.S. federal income tax rate to savings before income taxes primarily because of allocated patronage dividends, the surtax exemption, permanent timing differences, and temporary timing differences creating deferred income taxes.

The Company has excluded allocated patronage dividends from its taxable income for the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, as provided under Section 1382 of the Internal Revenue Code. In order to utilize this exclusion, at least 20% of the patronage dividends amounting to \$278,470 and \$562,230 in 2016 and 2015, respectively, must be or were paid in cash by May 15, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The Company has elected to pay 40% in cash, which amounted to \$556,940 and \$1,124,461 for the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

#### Note 11: Income Taxes (Continued)

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. Deferred taxes are classified as current or non-current, depending on the classification of the assets and liabilities to which they relate. Deferred taxes arising from timing differences that are not related to an asset or liability as current or non-current depending on the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse.

Amounts for deferred tax assets and liabilities at August 31, 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	2016	2015
Deferred Tax Asset – Current		
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Compensated Absences	83,910	81,299
Inventory Capitalization	39,158	55,085
	\$ 153,068	\$ 166,384
Deferred Tax Liability – Non–Current		
Depreciation – Book/Tax Difference	\$(369,835)	\$(255,883)
	·	

The Company recognizes any uncertain tax benefits if such benefits are a result of a tax position that is more likely than not sustainable upon examination by Federal or State tax authorities. When an uncertain benefit is determined to be more likely than not sustained, the Company values the position, for financial statement purposes, of the largest amount of the tax benefit that is more than 50% likely of being realized upon resolution of the benefit. For any tax positions taken that do not meet the more likely than not criteria, the Company establishes a tax reserve for 100% of the position taken.

As of August 31, 2016, no significant amounts of unrecognized tax benefits existed nor does the Company anticipate any significant changes in unrecognized tax benefits to occur within the next year, other than tax settlements.

The Company files tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Minnesota. As of August 31, 2016, the Company is no longer subject to examinations by relevant tax authorities for the fiscal years prior to August 31, 2013.

#### Note 12: Operating Leases

The Company has various cancelable and noncancelable operating leases and rental agreements on property and various types of equipment.

#### Note 12: Operating Leases (Continued)

The following is a schedule of approximate minimum rental payments required under the operating leases that have initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of August 31, 2016.

Maturity Date	
Year Ending	
August 31	
2017	\$ 795,926
2018	795,926
2019	592,149
2020	412,567
2021	300,910
Thereafter	150,455
	\$3,047,933

Rental expense for the year ended August 31, 2016 and 2015 amounted to \$1,259,787 and \$1,109,113, respectively.

#### Note 13: Fair Value Measurements

The Company determines the fair value of certain inventories of agricultural commodities, derivative contracts, and marketable securities based on the fair value definition and hierarchy levels as established below:

Level 1	Values are based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. These assets or liabilities include commodity derivative contracts on the Chicago Board of Trade.
Level 2	Values are based on quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities exchanged in inactive markets.
Level 3	Values are based on unobservable inputs reflecting management's own assumptions and best estimates that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

#### Note 13: Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The carrying value of the Company's other assets and liabilities, consisting principally of trade receivables, accounts payable, lines of credit and other obligations, approximates fair value due to the short–term maturity of these instruments. The carrying value of long–term borrowings approximates fair value as the interest the Company could obtain on similar debt instruments approximate the interest rates of current debt obligations. The Company's investments in other cooperatives are stated at cost. There is no established market for these investments, and it is not otherwise practical to determine the fair value of investments in cooperatives.

The following table sets forth the level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Company's assets and liabilities at fair value as of August 31, 2016 and 2015:

	Fair Values as of August 31, 2016			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				_
Grain Inventories	\$ 0	\$ 6,788,246	\$0	\$ 6,788,246
Futures Grain Contracts	1,822,663	0	0	1,822,663
				_
	\$1,822,663	\$ 6,788,246	\$0	\$ 8,610,909
Liabilities				
Forward Grain Contracts	\$ 0	\$ 3,339,104	\$0	\$ 3,339,104
	Fa	air Values as of	August 31, 2	2015
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Grain Inventories	\$ 0	\$11,633,609	\$0	\$11,633,609
Futures Grain Contracts	2,516,613	0	0	2,516,613
				_
	\$2,516,613	\$11,633,609	\$0	\$14,150,222
Liabilities				
Forward Grain Contracts	Φ 0	A 2 602 650	Φ.Ο.	Φ 2 (02 (50
Torward Grain Contracts	\$ 0	\$ 3,692,658	\$0	\$ 3,692,658

Grain inventories are measured at fair value based on exchange quoted prices adjusted for differences in local markets, and as such are categorized as Level 2. Commodity derivative futures contracts are measured at fair value based on quoted prices on active exchanges and as such are categorized as Level 1. Commodity derivative forward contracts are measured at fair value based on exchange quoted prices and/or recent market bids, adjusted for location specific inputs and as such are categorized as Level 2. The Company had no Level 3 measurements as of August 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

#### Note 14: Derivative Instruments

The Company's purpose for entering into derivatives and its overall risk management strategies are discussed in Note 2.

#### Note 14: Derivative Instruments (Continued)

The fair value of derivatives is located in inventories on the balance sheets. The fair value of commodity derivatives (future contracts and options) is as follows at August 31:

	2016	2015
Derivative Assets		
Commodity Futures Contracts	\$1,822,663	\$2,516,613

Gains and losses on commodity derivatives are located in Gross Savings on Sales on the Statement of Savings. Net gains on futures contracts for the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, were \$5,937,615 and \$5,566,552, respectively.

#### Note 15: Commitments and Contingencies

a. The Company is contingently liable for any weight or grade deficiencies that may occur at time of delivery on 538,088 bushels of grain in storage under warehouse receipts or awaiting disposition at August 31, 2016.

Daily Position Record (DPR)	Corn	Soybeans	Oats
Open Storage	310,885	25,464	0
Warehouse Receipts			
Grain Bank	201,739	0	0
Storage Obligation	512,624	25,464	0
Company Owned – Unpaid	3,117,544	188,796	0
Company Owned – Paid	(492,464)	(138,278)	4,408
Total Company Owned	2,625,080	50,518	4,408
Total Obligations Per DPR	3,137,704	75,982	4,408

b. The Company has entered into an agreement with Partners in Production where the Partners in Production will provide input financing to certain company patrons. The Company agrees to perform services regarding the origination, servicing, and collection of completed documents from patrons and related parties. The Company will guarantee 0% to 100% of the total non-collectible producer loan amounts, as well as 0% to 100% of any expenses incurred by the Partners in Production in the collection or attempted collection of any patron loan. Total Patron note balance and the outstanding balances as of August 31, 2016 is as follows:

Company Recourse Limit	\$2,000,000
Total Producer Loan Commitment	60,100
Outstanding Principal Balance	54,369
Maximum Potential Liability	0

#### Note 15: Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

- c. The Company is a guarantor of loan obligations held by AgQuest Financial Services, Inc. The loan guarantee pool which is not to exceed \$1,500,000, is given to induce AgQuest to make loans to the Company's patrons to promote production of agriculture in the trade area. Actual guarantees at August 31, 2016 was \$704,318.
- d. The Company is subject to various federal and state regulations regarding the care, delivery and containment of products which the Company handles and has handled. The Company is contingently liable for any associated costs which could arise from the handling, delivery and containment of these products.
- e. The Company is a member of a group of other agricultural cooperatives in the Access Insurance Association Workers Compensation Self Insurance Group. The Company pays an annual premium to the plan to cover administrative, group co–insurance and reinsurance costs. Assessments are possible for each member depending on their incurred losses for the calendar plan year if the Company's losses exceed 50% of their premium with a maximum assessment not to exceed their annual premium. The assessment, if applicable, is payable in two equal installments the following year. The Company's annual premium for 2016 and 2015 was \$263,860 and \$225,173, respectively.

#### Note 16: Subsequent Event

The Company has considered the effect, if any, that events occurring after the balance sheet date and up to November 30, 2016 have on the financial statements as presented. This date coincides with the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

OPERATING STATEMENT						
	2016	2015	2014	2013		
Sales	\$255,862,563	\$233,692,387	\$270,197,343	\$373,321,493		
Cost of Goods Sold	226,668,114	205,804,496	242,639,579	343,897,981		
Gross Margin	29,194,449	27,887,891	27,557,764	29,423,512		
Percent of Sales	11.41%	11.93%	10.20%	7.88%		
Operating Revenue	12,952,545	12,702,659	12,686,486	11,579,276		
Total Gross Revenue	42,146,994	40,590,550	40,244,250	41,002,788		
Operating Expenses	38,390,643	35,156,183	33,307,503	32,998,412		
Operating Savings (Local Net)	3,756,351	5,434,367	6,936,747	8,004,376		
Percent of Sales	1.47%	2.33%	2.57%	2.14%		
Patronage Dividend Income	2,126,466	2,100,129	2,134,632	3,417,379		
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Marketable Securities	(24,511)	0	0	0		
Savings Before Income Taxes	5,858,306	7,534,496	9,071,379	11,421,755		
Income Taxes	444,509	499,727	(46,771)	732,904		
Net Savings	5,413,797	\$7,034,769	\$9,118,150	\$10,688,851		
DI	STRIBUTION	OF NET SAV	INGS			
Patronage Dividends						
Cash – 40%	\$556,940	\$1,124,461	\$1,785,138	\$2,128,727		
Deferred – 60%	835,411	1,686,691	2,677,707	3,193,091		
Total Dividends	1,392,351	2,811,152	4,462,845	5,321,818		
Retained Savings	4,021,446	4,223,617	4,655,305	5,367,033		
Total	5,413,797	\$7,034,769	\$9,118,150	\$10,688,851		

OPERATING STATEMENT						
2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	
\$345,478,281	\$305,851,530	\$199,227,649	\$239,063,002	\$222,668,968	\$162,525,854	
318,287,412	280,653,476	179,721,850	218,087,621	201,905,318	144,436,386	
27,190,869	25,198,054	19,505,799	20,975,381	20,763,650	18,089,468	
7.87%	8.24%	9.79%	8.77%	9.32%	11.13%	
10,687,931	10,861,271	11,850,328	10,957,893	8,160,710	7,297,160	
37,878,800	36,059,325	31,356,127	31,933,274	28,924,360	25,386,628	
31,937,530	31,339,433	26,738,950	27,379,474	24,974,126	22,536,979	
5,941,270	4,719,892	4,617,177	4,553,800	3,950,234	2,849,649	
1.72%	1.54%	2.32%	1.90%	1.77%	1.75%	
3,638,112	2,015,070	1,321,097	3,102,865	2,614,453	1,711,270	
0	69,774	920	-1,857	1,414,887	141,604	
9,579,382	6,804,736	5,939,194	7,654,808	7,979,574	4,702,523	
841,277	374,565	214,506	1,100,805	722,232	1,133,009	
\$8,738,105	\$6,430,171	\$5,724,688	\$6,554,003	\$7,257,342	\$3,569,514	
DISTRIBUTION OF NET SAVINGS						
\$1,636,484	\$1,491,850	\$1,471,222	\$1,524,258	\$1,238,628	\$766,212	
2,454,727	2,237,776	2,206,834	2,286,388	1,857,941	1,149,317	
4,091,211	3,729,626	3,678,056	3,810,646	3,096,569	1,915,529	
4,646,894	2,700,545	2,046,632	2,743,357	4,160,773	1,653,985	
\$8,738,105	\$6,430,171	\$5,724,688	\$6,554,003	\$7,257,342	\$3,569,514	

	BALANCE	E SHEET		
	2016	2015	2014	2013
ASSETS				
Current Assets	\$56,569,755	\$64,944,402	\$78,775,412	\$73,774,906
Property, Plant & Equipment	59,367,787	61,704,249	63,486,970	42,073,891
Other Assets	0	0	0	0
Investments/ Equity in other Organizations	14,425,588	13,938,756	13,604,276	14,133,644
TOTAL ASSETS	\$130,363,130	\$140,587,407	\$155,866,658	\$129,982,441
Current Liabilities	45,681,941	50,990,290	53,774,986	57,432,967
Long Term Debt	11,053,637	18,212,231	34,021,342	9,388,085
Deferred Income Tax	369,835	255,883	182,359	169,172
Total Members' Equity	73,257,717	71,129,003	67,887,971	62,992,217
TOTAL LIABILITIES & MEMBERS' EQUITY	\$130,363,130	\$140,587,407	\$155,866,658	\$129,982,441
Working Capital	\$10,887,814	\$13,954,112	\$25,000,426	\$16,341,939
	FIXED A	SSETS		
	2016	2015	2014	2013
Fixed Asset Expenditures	\$5,106,552	\$4,734,239	\$26,790,356	\$11,615,116
	EQUITY REV	OLVEMENT		
	2016	2015	2014	2013
Equity Revolvement	\$2,675,798	\$2,635,256	\$2,466,620	\$2,448,549

BALANCE SHEET						
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
\$46,385,174	\$94,566,777	\$52,608,631	\$58,744,434	\$124,848,816	\$113,171,766	
23,266,239	23,974,700	24,274,593	32,098,028	39,992,648	36,110,553	
173,368	0	0	0	0	0	
15,433,106	15,773,754	15,811,070	15,695,027	16,341,846	15,140,285	
\$85,257,887	\$134,315,231	\$92,694,294	\$106,537,489	\$181,183,310	\$164,422,604	
38,706,321	85,089,887	42,828,787	50,541,601	109,974,162	91,879,377	
3,261,429	2,645,033	1,111,254	5,557,692	18,432,623	15,490,000	
184,603	168,191	206,881	279,888	226,871	182,228	
43,105,534	46,412,120	48,547,372	50,158,308	52,549,654	56,870,999	
\$85,257,887	\$134,315,231	\$92,694,294	\$106,537,489	\$181,183,310	\$164,422,604	
\$7,678,853	\$9,476,890	\$9,779,844	\$8,202,833	\$14,874,654	\$21,292,389	
FIXED ASSETS						
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
\$3,974,396	\$4,829,466	\$4,970,861	\$12,045,134	\$13,214,947	\$1,666,954	
EQUITY REVOLVEMENT						
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
\$1,690,659	\$2,120,645	\$2,710,728	\$2,665,067	\$2,473,873	\$2,835,084	





# Crystal Valley



www.crystalvalley.coop

## Employees

Tim Arndt Rae Barbknecht Aaron Barnard Dean Barott Tom Basmoen Chris Baumgard Jake Beckius Nick Beckius Harlan Bergeleen Sam Bethke Tom Bishop Terry Bloomquist Nate Boomgarden Dave Borchardt Garv Bose Dale Botten Ryan Brandts Nick Bredeson Travis Brekken Amanda Britton Josh Bruns Rose Burgess **Brendon Caraway** Shawn Clausen Matt Conway Bill Coonradt Josh Cov Jim Cutler Arvin Dahl David Dahl Tim Danberry **Brian Davis** Adam Edwards Luke Eichberger Tony Elg Steve Enderle Cory Engen Don Epper Dave Fast Mike FitzSimmons Trent Flom

Dave Frantum

Jim Friedrichs LeRoy Gappa Mitchell Gilman John Graham Serena Groskreutz Derek Hagene Cindy Haler Sean Hansen Tom Hansen Jeff Harriman Jim Harriman Courtney Hennis Steve Hubly Gary Hulke Randy Hulke Josh Iverson **Tony Jacobs** Kevin Jeurissen Craig Johnson Jim Johnson Sheri Johnson Jim Juna Lee Kachelmeier Jerrick Kalis Terry Kalis Jamie Kantack Russell Keniston II Roger Kienholz Lucas Kietzer Ben Kitzmiller Cole Kottke Tony Krogman Kvle Kurth Jolene Kuster Aaron Lachmiller Bill Landin Amber Lang Jon Langland Matt Lange Paul Lange

Grea Lassas

**Bruce Lauver** 

Jason Leary Dan Leiding Ashley Leivermann Tim Lewis Dave Limoges Julie Lorentz Jason Melzer Brent Meshke Joe Michaelis Steve Michels **Doris Miller** Paul Miller **Matt Missling** Kevin Monahan Nathan Monroe Dean Morrison Kevin Moulder Kodv Moulder Eric Nelson Joyce Nelson Jesse Nikoley Justin Nilson Creia Noren Mark Norell Ryan Osborn Samantha Paap **Brvan Paulson** Marlene Peters Tammy Petterson Mike Pioske Susan Piper Jeff Pluym Chris Priem James Prince **Bob Raue** Corey Raygor Brian Reid Mitch Rettke **Chad Riley** Kevin Roeker Nathan Rolling

**Taylor Rudenick** 

Nik Samuelson Ritchie Schaefer Mike Scheibel Duane Schlieman Jav Schlomann Justin Schlaffman Matt Schoper Mike Schwanke Mike Scott Shane Shumski Mike Silverthorn Terri Sittia **Todd Sittig** Ann Smith Scott Snow Gary Spence Jeff Spence Jeff Stauffer Tim Steinborn Al Stokes **Rachel Stokes** John Thomas Dan Thorn John Tierney Stan Timmerman Jemie Tollefson **Drew Tolzmann** Matt Trcka Dan Trullinger Jayme Underwood LeRoy Urban Julie Voight Trent Wadd Darrick Wegner Chris Whitehead Todd Wihlm Joe Williams Gina Windschitl Gayle Wolf Katie Wolle Ben Youngerberg