

Manager's Report

By: Chet McWhorter

CCPD
Cuming
County

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit....” of excuses? What’s wrong with this picture? Is that what Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence?

I believe we all face times when we fail to deliver either what we expected to deliver or what was expected of us. This is the point where a choice is made; give an excuse, give a reason, or take the lumps. In my case, I have learned to take my lumps, maybe give a reason, but rarely make an excuse. I have learned that no one cares about my excuses, they only care about results and effort. That’s reasonable. It’s understandable. It sounds logic.

At CCPPD, we talk about this a lot. There are expectations that the customer-owners, Board of Directors, industry partners, etc. have of us. The question always is; are we delivering to the level expected? If not, is there a reason? Or just another lame excuse?

When it comes to system reliability, CCPPD maintains 99.99% reliability. This is a great number unless you are part of the 0.01% who lose their electricity for some period. We have a choice at that point; deliver on expectations and fix the outage and report the reason for the outage or make an excuse as to why we can’t fix the outage and just go home. You know that we aren’t going to just go home!

In terms of safety for the public and for the employees of CCPPD, the number we hold as expected is zero. Zero accidents, zero incidents, zero excuses. It is a lofty and worthwhile goal. Every incident or accident that occurs on CCPPDs system is a tragedy. It is my goal to see a day when the public does not come into contact with our poles, lines, or equipment. The safety

of the public and the employees of CCPPD is my number one priority and the main core value that we hold dear. Please hold us accountable to the standard of zero accidents or incidents.

We have developed within our culture here the desire to treat all aspects of our performance with the same level of no excuses, get it done, tenacity as we do power outages. This way we deliver the expected result to the customer-owners and all who deal with CCPPD. If we hold ourselves accountable to this level of expectations, we believe that we can offer a great experience to all who have reason to encounter any of the employees or directors of CCPPD. Your expectations are our accountabilities.

A man was driving his grandfather down a rough country road. His inexperience in handling Grandpa's four-wheel-drive vehicle made for a particularly bouncy ride. Embarrassed, the man offered a lame excuse, "The sun shadows through the trees make it hard for me to see all the potholes." "Don't you worry," Grandpa said. "You're gettin' most of 'em." Grandpa is very helpful, isn't he? There's always someone willing to lend a hand to point out how lame my excuses are. Seems to be the case most of the time, doesn't it? Good or bad, excuses are never reason enough to not deliver what's expected. If we aren't meeting your expectations in any way, let me know. You can reach me at the office 402-372-2463, on my email cmcwhorter@ccppd.com or cell phone 402-380-0146. Thank you for taking time out of your day to read our magazine!



Stay Safe During Harvest

Stay safe when you have a huge amount of work and a very short window to do it.

During harvest, you have a huge amount of work to do within a very short window of time. That urgency is likely what causes accidents and damage.

We want you to accomplish everything you need to do on time, but we want you to do it safely. Start with these harvest safety tips.

GET ORGANIZED

Tools and Equipment

 Collect owner and operator manuals for all of your harvesting equipment.

 Review the operational information and maintenance schedules to determine if specific calibrations, service or preventive maintenance needs to be completed.

 Make sure regularly-scheduled equipment maintenance is being completed throughout the harvest season. Create a written maintenance/servicing checklist.

 Perform operational checks on fans, augers, conveyors and other mechanical equipment.

 Find and organize parts, tools and equipment needed to facilitate immediate servicing, maintenance or repairs to all harvesting or handling equipment.

 Consider purchasing spare parts or additional maintenance/servicing tools for critical pieces of equipment.

Basic safety walk-through

✓ Check and repair slip, trip and fall hazards, such as loose ladders, platforms, handrails and steps. Get rid of protruding objects that could cause injury from a trip or fall.

✓ Clean up debris, weeds

or other obstructions that can cause potential injury or impede your ability to work without hindrance.

✓ Check for loose or missing safety covers and access panels on your equipment and structures.

✓ Inspect and test LP or natural gas lines, connections or fittings.

✓ Install warning signs and safety locks at each of your sites.

✓ Make sure each of your sites has a first aid kit.

Facilities electrical check

✓ Make sure electrical boxes and connections are weatherproof, water-tight and properly grounded.

✓ Check for open conduit or exposed wiring.

✓ Make sure panels and switches are operational.

✓ Inspect the overhead wiring.

Safety training for employees and family members

• Make sure everyone knows when to get help to prevent bodily injury or damage to equipment.

• Familiarize everyone with new or substitute equipment.

• Restrict access to your handling and storage location. These structures and the equipment associated with them can be a visual attraction, especially to young children.

FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

Grain-receiving equipment

• Make sure augers are in good working condition, including the auger flighting. “Saw-toothed” flighting not only costs you efficiency while moving grain, but can also cause kernel damage. The more damaged kernels you have, the more chance there is for stored grain to be damaged by mold and micro-organisms.

• Inspect the bucket elevator’s cups, belt and drive pulley for wear. Replace any components that are damaged or worn.

• Make sure your bucket elevator is functioning properly and that the belt runs straight and true within the casing.

• Ensure that the discharge baffle is not worn out or out of ad-

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

Harvest Safety Tips Continued...

justment. Preventing grain back-flow helps avoid the possibility of plugging the elevator and doing additional damage to the equipment.

- Make sure the elevator boot section is clean and free of debris.

Bin aeration floor

- Remove dust and debris.
- Check your bin roof vents to determine their condition. Replace rusted or damaged vents. Remove any bird nests. Also check areas around the vents for potential places where moisture could enter the bin.

- Check permanently-installed bin reclaim systems or conveying equipment for sound operation and for any damage to the auger fighting.

- Make sure floor gates and sumps are clear of any debris, and open easily.

Grain dryer

- Make sure the fill and discharge systems are in good condition. A poorly-maintained or damaged discharge auger can cost you time and money. It can also cause additional damage to your grain and equipment.

- Check the igniter.
- Check and clean the burner. Look for plugged or rusted openings. Consider replacing the burner if you see any cracks or other damage.

- Make sure there are no leaks in the gas lines that feed the burner.

- Run the fan to make sure it operates correctly. Fix or replace any internal or external screens that show excessive wear, rust or damage.

KNOW YOUR CROP

Quantity and quality

- ✓ Identify fields that should be harvested earlier or more quickly than others, for both good and bad reasons.

- ✓ Pay attention to

stand-ability. It can be a significant problem if not identified and dealt with early with the proper crop-protection products.

- ✓ Recognize that disease can be accelerated because of cool or damp conditions. And that high winds will have the most severe effect on poorer stands.

Local grain elevators

- ✓ Stay in touch with the local elevators for early grain-marketing opportunities. Especially opportunities to move high-moisture (25-30%) corn to grain terminals, without being discounted.

- ✓ Waiting too long to shell corn can cause excessive kernel damage during the harvesting process and can lead to other problems during storage.

Drying your corn

- Don't attempt to dry corn that you're not set up to dry.

- If you don't have the right size and type of equipment, move your high-moisture corn to a grain elevator. Or consider replacing your dryer.

- Don't create a bottleneck in your harvest by trying to dry excessively high-moisture corn when your equipment won't keep up with your combine.

- Avoid having a bin full of moldy corn that could be docked even more.

- Greatly reduce the risk of injury or death from entrapment or engulfment associated with entering a grain bin.

Combines

Check fields for areas of possible erosion or washouts. Write down the locations and tell anyone else that may be operating harvest equipment.

- Evaluate field loss frequently. A properly-calibrated combine should keep corn kernel loss to 1%

or less per acre. Much of the loss can happen when full ears bounce to the side of the head.

- Drive fast enough to load your machine, but not so fast you reduce separation efficiency.

- Always refuel your equipment after it has cooled. Fuel vapors can easily ignite on hot engines. Refuelling accidents are a major cause of combine fires.

- Keep and maintain a suitable fire extinguisher on each of your combines. Make sure they're accessible from the ground.

- Grease and complete routine maintenance in the morning when you're more focused on the task at hand.

- Drive your combine only when you're alert. Schedule breaks, change jobs with someone and move combines from field to field during daylight.

- Keep your distance from other vehicles and machines. Always be aware of the location of other equipment.

- Blow dirt, chaff, leaves and other debris from the machine as often as possible. Check bearings, shafts, belts and other moving parts for wrapped plant material.

STAY SAFE ON PUBLIC ROADS
Harvest season means more farm vehicles will be sharing the roadways with other vehicles. That includes combines and other harvesting equipment moving from one field to another, as well as trucks and tractors transporting other products as well.



Always be aware. Safety is #1.



Always use caution when you see one of these signs. Many workers are so close to the edge of roadways. Being alert could help save a life!



Gene Cihacek, his wife Linda, Kinzey Doggett & Nicki White helped with the Harvest Fest parade in Bancroft.

CCPPD BOARD



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Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the office.

Notice of times and date changes are published monthly.



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Brian Throener (in bucket) and Austin Koehlmoos (below) dropping power lines for a customer.

All in a day's work...