

## Harvest Land Cooperative, Morgan, MN Est. 1904

Harvest Land Cooperative's founding companies were actually 2 former elevators, the Morgan Farmers Elevator, which was established in 1904 and the Springfield Farmers Elevator Company which was also established in 1904. In the early days these 2 locations collectively handled quite a variety of products from grain, fence posts, lumber, salt, twine, wire & farm implements to hard and soft coal, flour, feed, cement & rock salt, all of which were considered critical supplies needed by the cooperative's producer-owners.



Each location invested in equipment and facilities throughout the years. Morgan's first elevator was built in 1904 and Springfield's elevator was built a year later in 1905. Both facilities added to their holdings over time, through new construction of needed warehouse space, storage capacity, a feed mill at Morgan, and with equipment purchases like new scales, grain dryers and fertilizer application equipment.

In 1965, the Morgan location entered the aqua nitrogen and anhydrous ammonia business. In 1973 they got into the petroleum business, and a year later they added propane business to their list of services offered. In 1974, they built the Southern Seven Terminal at Springfield with 6 other cooperatives. Springfield sold their interest in the business 4 years later, in 1978, to the Morgan Farmers Elevator, who also bought out the other 5 cooperatives as well.

As is the nature sometimes in our industry, there are a few tragedies in the history books of both of these elevators. In 1972 in Springfield, a year after the east elevator was built, it was destroyed by fire. A grain dust explosion occurred at the Morgan Elevator in 1979. A year later they lost their Board President, Wes Nielsen, at the Annual Meeting. In 1981, an employee in Springfield died when the west elevator driveway collapsed. The driveway was rebuilt in 1982.

Despite these misfortunes and challenges, these locations persevered and on September 1, 1984 the Morgan Farmers Elevator and the Springfield Farmers Elevator Company merged to create what is now known as Harvest Land Cooperative. In 1991, Harvest Land Cooperative formed AgQuest Financial for the purpose of providing high quality and comprehensive financial products, insurance and services for producers. AgQuest consists of 13 cooperative and independent retailers throughout the United States. In 1996, Harvest Land entered the leasing business with Northland Capital located in St. Cloud. Through AgQuest and Northland Capital, LLC subsidiaries, they provide patrons with financing, insurance, and leasing options.

In the nearly 30 years since Harvest Land Cooperative came into existence, they've continued to thrive. Expansion into the turkey business, the addition of refined fuels to the cooperative mix, the continual expansion of storage capabilities, becoming a shuttle train loading facility and the addition of an in-house finance company, has positioned this cooperative for further success in the future. Today, Harvest Land Cooperative employs 86 people full time, handles 26 million bushels of grain annually, has a total storage capacity of 12.5 million bushels, produces 110,000 tons of feed annually and has 5 locations in the communities of Comfrey, Morton, Morgan, Springfield and Wabasso. Congratulations on over 100 years of success in the grain, feed and agribusiness industry!