

Off-Site Server

ILLINOIS COOP PAYS A MONTHLY FEE FOR A SERVER THAT HOSTS ITS DATABASE

Gerald Jenkins, general manager of Ursa Farmers Cooperative (UFC), has worked in the grain business for 36 years.

"We took a company that was using typewriters and grain posting machines almost as big as a piano and, in 1987, we brought in an IBM system 32 main-frame and teamed up with Udenberg Software, now AgVantage," Jenkins recalled. "That was our entry into the world of electronics."

In 2002, Udenberg became AgVantage, and the company brought a new focus on customer service and software enhancements to go with its new name, Jenkins said.

"They offer a complete package of grain and feed software programs, which eliminates the need to seek other programs," Jenkins said.

Located in west central Illinois, UFC has six locations, including two river terminals with annual sales of \$150 million.

According to Controller Karen Voss, each of UFC's six locations is hooked



*Ursa Farmers Cooperative Controller
Karen Voss.*

into the AgVantage system, located in the company's Rochester, MN headquarters. By utilizing the Internet, each location can access information.

No Server in the Office

Voss said this setup means there is no server in UFC's office. "We pay a monthly fee to

AgVantage for use of their server through a program called Application Service Provider (ASP)," she said. "They host our AgVantage database system on this server. This is what we access when customers go to our web page. They can log in and access their account information.

"It also gives our managers the ability to log into the system from the web page and run reports or look up customer information," Voss said. "This can be done from any computer that has an Internet connection and does not require special software."

Jenkins said that AgVantage saves UFC time because, "all updates are installed, all backups are provided and disaster recovery is included."

Jenkins said AgVantage's customer support is excellent.

"Several years ago, UFC had a dispute with Illinois state grain regulators," Jenkins said. "Michelle Blomberg, president of AgVantage, came to Ursa from Rochester on 24 hours notice and resolved the issue within a day."

Grain Company

Ursa Farmers Cooperative
Ursa, IL • 217-964-2111

Gerald Jenkins, general manager
Karen Voss, controller

Established: 1920

Storage: 8.2 million bushels storage capacity.

Annual volume: 25 million bushels

Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, and soft red winter wheat.

Voting members: 2,450

Number of employees: 53 full-time.

Software Vendor

AgVantage[®]
Software

Rochester, MN

877-282-6353 • www.agvantage.com

Michelle Blomberg, President
Chuck Bohanon, Senior Sales and Service Analyst
Paul Hawes, CFO

Accounting software: AgVantage software

Operating systems: Windows XP, i5/QS

Software options: Grain Accounting, Grain Scale, Management Accounting, Point-of-Sale, Agronomy, Energy Management, eBusiness, and Patronage.