



BLANCHARD VALLEY FARMERS CO-OP, INC.

Feed • Seed • Fertilizer • Spray • Grain Marketing • Petroleum Products • Lawn & Pet Store • Farm Supplies

6566 C.R. 236 • FINDLAY, OHIO 45840-9769

July 22, 2011

Michelle,

It's hard to believe that it has been a month already since the User's Conference. There were so many times that I wanted to get an email sent to you, but with wheat harvest beginning shortly after we got back and trying to get caught up from that, I wasn't able to get one to you. It was on my to do list today, then your blog email came and I knew it was time to get it done.

I wanted to thank you so much for an awesome conference. Lori and your entire team do a wonderful job each year, but I have to say this was the best one yet. I was thinking back on the first conference I attended 13 years ago. On a side note, I pulled out the binder from that conference, yes, I still have it, and it began exactly 13 years ago today. That year I met the best group of people. There were so few of you at that time, and to see the growth in employees since then is a testament to an outstanding management team. I always leave the conference so inspired by your presentations. I never really thought about my potential since I began my career at Blanchard Valley Farmers. There was so much to learn when I first started, and honestly there still is, but I think we become stagnant when we have been in the same job for so long. We need to challenge ourselves, not just in our work environment but also our personal lives, to be better. I have thought about that a lot lately and I'm not sure I've come up with any revelations, but I know some day that "aha" moment will hit me and it will become clear to me. The challenges you give your employees, while they may groan about the skits, keep them motivated to always do their best and not become complacent.

You also always stress the value of making connections. This year I met, and got to know, 3 great employees of Heritage Co-op. On August 13th, I am having a little get together at my house with them. While we are probably "crossing enemy lines" by associating with those from a rival co-op, we would have never met without a little prodding from you. I thought you would be happy to know that we are continuing to keep that connection.

Thanks again,

Melissa Curtis
Blanchard Valley Farmers Cooperative

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