

Vantage Point

DECEMBER, 2017

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

USDA from the Eyes of Two Small Town Girls



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"My philosophy of leadership is to surround myself with good people who have ability, judgment and knowledge, but above all, a passion for service."

Sonny Perdue –
US Secretary of Agriculture

This past month, Theresa Willems and I had a chance to go to Washington D.C for a variety of things and as we were planning the trip, decided to reach out to Sonny Perdue and see if he was available for a "drop in" from a couple of small town girls from Minnesota. Of course he said YES! Little did he know this was our first time to the giant USDA building headquarters in our nation's capital and then, to be able to go right to the top person's office was unbelievable. It's all about relationships, right?



We were scheduled to meet Secretary Perdue at 8:00 am so we got there early to scope it out and truly felt like two female country mice that went to the big city for the first time. (FYI if you wondered if there is a name for female mice vs male mice, it is Doe vs. Buck. At least that's what google told me! :) After getting through security, we waited to be beckoned to the big office. We took that chance to look around at all the pictures and a quick look into the Museum of Agriculture.

Finally, a young man came and asked if we were Theresa and Michelle from Minnesota and escorted us up the back stairs, which wound up to a second-floor separate waiting area. This area had four desks for administrative assistants, where we waited again, but now, really looking like two kids on Christmas morning. Within a few minutes, another young woman came and brought us through one office, through the "press" office used for pictures and whatnot and then into Sonny's inner office. And there he stood arms outstretched waiting for his Minnesota hug!

We spent 20 minutes with him, hearing about his hunting trip to South Dakota, his move to Washington D.C. with his wife Mary, his first 9 months in the big office, how many states and countries he has already visited, and finally about the big deer he shot while hunting. We looked at pictures and really got to feel this man who grew up on a farm in Bonaire, Georgia.

While talking and listening with Sonny, his team was right around him and engaged in the conversation, making Theresa and I feel like we were in their living room having coffee. Finally, after about 20 minutes, his right-hand guy said, "Secretary Perdue, we need to be in a meeting in 10 minutes and it's an 8 minute walk." Little did we know then that it was to the White House for the tax reform meeting, which Theresa saw later on Twitter. :))

We left his inner office, snapped these pictures going through the "press" office and then made our way back out. As we were checking back out, we looked over and there we saw the same team escorting Sonny down the back stairs. He looked over and gave Theresa and I a big wave. I can't speak for Theresa, but this visit was one that this 54 year old woman will never forget.

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Michelle Blomberg, Sonny Perdue, and Theresa Willemms

They say every American is within 4 relationships of the President of the U.S., so you really are never too far from making a difference. To be within one handshake from the top was amazing! Thank you Sonny and your team for making two small town girls feel very special for that day.

As Sonny's quote at the top of this article states, surround yourself with good, knowledgeable, caring people and keep the passion for good service. At AgVantage, we strive to do this every day. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a great kickoff into 2018!

I want to thank you all for your continued business. I realize you have many choices for software providers. I will do my best, each and every day, to assure your happiness in your choice of AgVantage® Software as your Agri-Business Accounting system.



AgVantage
Software



An Employee Owned Company

Save the Date!
June 20-22, 2018

AgVantage Software's 33rd Annual
National Conference & User Exchange
Mystic Lake Center, Minneapolis, MN

AgVantage Software Holiday Schedule:

We will be closed on the following dates to allow our employees to enjoy the holidays with their families.

Christmas Holiday	Monday, 12/25	Closed
New Year's Holiday	Monday, 1/1	Closed

December Bonus Party Recipe!

Cracker Snack Mix

by Valerie Ahlers, Customer Services Rep.

- 1 large bag Nacho Cheese flavored Bugles
- 6 C. miniature pretzels
- 11 oz. box Keebler buttery flavored miniature crackers
- 10 oz. box Wheat Thins
- 9 oz. box Cheez-its
- 6 oz. package Parmesan flavored Goldfish
- 1 bottle Orville Redenbacher's Popping & Topping Oil
- 2 envelopes ranch salad dressing mix (dry)



In a large bowl combine all crackers. In a small bowl, mix oil and salad dressing dry mix. Pour over crackers, toss and coat evenly. Transfer to four cake pans and spread out evenly. Bake at 250 degrees for 45 min, stirring every 15 min. Cool completely.

AgVantage Software, Inc. Fall/Winter Trade Show Schedule

MN Grain & Feed 111th Annual Convention & Trade Show
Mystic Lake Center, March 7-8
Prior Lake, MN

Save the Date!

June 20-22, 2018

AgVantage Software's 33rd Annual
National Conference & User Exchange
Mystic Lake Center, Minneapolis, MN

End of Year Updates for Payroll, Accounts Payable, Grain & Patronage



Karen Tidd & Valerie Ahlers
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Payroll End of Year

W-2 information is CHECK DATE DRIVEN—the date on your paycheck will determine what year the wages are reported to the SSA so be sure to look ahead on your calendar to plan your last Payroll (PR) for the year. Doing a test run using Accuwage is highly recommended. Last year Business Services Online offered a version that you could upload your file and run on their website or download the version to your computer. Many did the testing on BSO website and was very successful-saves you time and hassle.

Last year we made a change to the laser overlay to automatically change the YEAR on the W-2 to match the YEAR you are running the W-2 for. Please test one (your own) W-2 to verify. Be certain to watch the message board for the latest in procedures and PTF's. Even though you do not generate the W-2's until after you have saved off the files after the last PR for 2017, usually these PTF's need to be applied previously. Also, watch for **e-trainings** on the End of Year procedures as an update or review of procedures.

We will have the new Federal Withholding tables on the Message Board after we find out what it is, but it is your responsibility for your state and local tax tables. The government is still discussing changes to the tax laws so watch carefully- if you are notified of changes or see information on them, please let us know so we can pass them on. If you have questions, fax (507-288-7525) or email them to support@agvantage.com and we will help you with them. This also applies to local and school tax information.

As changes happen, PTF's may get updated so be sure to watch because there may be multiple messages on the Message Board and the list of PTF's may get updated. There will also be a checklist for the EOY procedures posted. Be sure if you have to "add" things in PR, such as reporting personal use of company vehicle, that you get that as part of the PR for 2017, before you do a 2018 PR.

**REMINDER: W2's need to be mailed to employees and electronically filed
by Jan 31, 2018.**



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1099 MISC

Important Due Dates:

Recipients Copy **Jan. 31, 2018**

Electronic Filing: **Jan. 31, 2018**

Formats:

F = Forms

G = Govt. **Mailed to IRS and shows full SS no.**

R = Regular printer

L = Laser printer **Mailed to recipient and masks SS no.**

L = Letter

Masks SS number

Tips:

The limit remains at \$600 so check your constant file to see if it contains that amount. Also check that your company phone number is there. This comes from the constant file.

Check through your list of vendors to see who is marked to receive 1099's. Be sure you have their Fed. ID or SSN. **You can do this now.**

- 1099's are determined by the CHECK DATE, not the date you merge or the invoice date so be sure you have all checks printed you want to be part of 1099's.
- We have added an IRS Name field in the Vendor Master to be populated IF the name on the Vendor account is different than the Federal ID or SSN. Companies have been getting notices from the IRS stating the name on the 1099 does not match the name on the SSN or Federal ID. *You may know the business as Tom's Lawn Care but the Name that is associated with the SSN is Tom Jones- then put that name on the IRS line.*
- When you run your 1099 report, the \$\$ will update the vendor master. If you need to make a correction, go to the vendor master and then enter the amount, however, do not run the report again.
- You can run test 1099's on plain paper to verify information and then rerun on the forms. There is also a letter format available now that can be run on company letterhead. Preprinted forms are still available in these formats -**Type G is government and has SSN listed** and **Type L is laser for the vendor and has masked SSN**. **R is for pin-fed forms.**

Watch the Message Board for program updates (PTF's)



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1099 PATR, INT & DIV

Important Due Dates:

Recipients Copy: Jan. 31, 2018

Electronic Filing: Mar. 31, 2018

IMPORTANT - New 1099 Info:

Combined Federal/State Filing program has added the state of Oklahoma (40) and removed the state of Virginia (51). If your state participates in this program, the state file used for reporting will need to reflect these changes by running from the AR menu, option 9. File setup and option 40. Refresh Data Functions and Indexes.

Customer information changes such as name, address or SS no. for 1099's should be made using 1. Add/Change PATR/DIV/INT Tax Information in the Patronage Government/Patron Reporting Menu. This will not affect the information in the Customer File.

Customer information changes such as name, address or SS no. for the next tax year should be made with the 2. Customer Information Maintenance. These changes will not affect the names on the current year 1099's.

Other Info:

FORM 4419 is available to apply for a Transmitter Control Code if you are a first-time filer. This allows your 1099 information to be sent electronically to the IRS.

For states participating in the Combined Federal/State Filing program a test file is only required for the first year, however it is highly recommended for the following years.

The Customer file contains an IRS name field which is used **ONLY** if the account name is different than the Social Security number or Federal ID used to file your taxes.

Example: Account name - Joe and Mary Smith
Tax ID: 123-56-6789 (Joe Smith's Social Security Number)
IRS Name – Smith Joe

Grain End of Year

Check the Message Board to attend e-Training Classes on Deferred Grain Checks.
Beat the rush and learn how to print the checks BEFORE the end of the year!

**If you have not ordered your End of Year forms, please contact
Kari Apenhorst at karia@agvantage.com**



AgVantage Software, Inc.
An Employee Owned Company

New Software Releases



Lori Bilderback
Senior Software Engineer
lorib@agvantage.com

AgVantage - Version 8 New Releases



Accounts Payable

- Added option for drafts to handle more than 100 (419819)

Accounts Receivable

- Now allows for more term selections on U4MEN2-7 (409952)

eAgVantage

- CDD 15 - New Cash Position Report added (181937)

EDGE Accounts Payable

- Miscellaneous Check Entry - added 1099 check box (419050)

EDGE Grain

- Added processing for large XML strings (418210)

General Ledger

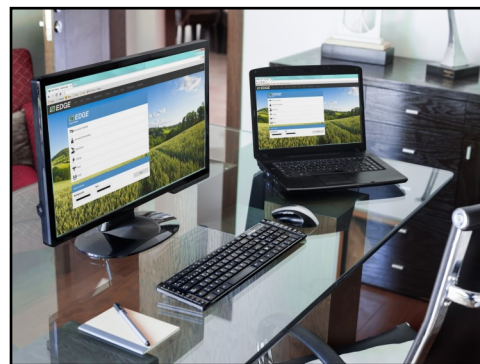
- Financial Statements—CPI 15 too small for format 5 (416194)

Grain

- Sales Contracts—Moved contract number down 1 line (418612)

Interfaces

- CFN—Taxes Menu, Added position on the CFN discount (414032)
- CFN—Enhancements to the Vehicle Report (416803)
- Cost Plus—Now applies price level S to a Feed Order (416333)
- Epicore—Interface for advanced receiving (412008)
- Mail Communications—Payment interface to scan in payment amounts (361353)



*Please see our
Message Board
for many product
enhancements continuously
available.*