

# VantagePoint

## E-NEWSLETTER



MONTHLY UPDATES FROM AGVANTAGE SOFTWARE - YOUR PARTNER IN AGRIBUSINESS

November 2020

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**“The ultimate value of life depends upon awareness and the power of contemplation rather than upon mere survival.”**  
—Aristotle



## Good or Bad at Silence?

By Michelle Blomberg, President/CEO - [michelleb@agvantage.com](mailto:michelleb@agvantage.com)

A few months ago, I wrote an article titled “Good or Bad at Social Distancing” and I don’t think it shocked anyone that, shown by my examples over the summer, I was not very good at it. However, since then, I’ve gotten much better, mostly because I NEED to, as this pandemic doesn’t seem to be going away anytime soon. With that, I decided to write about something that I hope can bring a little comfort to life in a pandemic.

I believe staying positive, being active, listening to experts, keeping my mind effective are all critical to surviving this time. But with this article, I want to write about something I’ve never written about, something that, as I’ve gotten older, am realizing is very important. The question I am working to answer is how to keep my soul inspired, be OK being alone without it being lonely. And in a time where we find ourselves with A LOT of alone time, one way of doing this is to find peace in silence.

This month is my birthday month. On my birthday, I try to do three things no matter where I am physically and emotionally, and no matter if it’s 30 degrees below zero here in Minnesota (see FB post from 2014 : ). The three things are to go for a run, go to a church and light candles for my parents (and brother), and lastly, take a bath.

In my childhood and even young adulthood life, I’m positive these were not the things I did, nor valued. The only thing I can remember caring about was getting to pick the food for the birthday meal, which with 9 brothers and sisters and me being number 7, is a REALLY big deal. And just in case you’re wondering, I picked tuna and noodle casserole covered in stale potato chips and homemade bread donuts coated in sugar via a paper bag. : )

As I got older, I began to realize the value in living life to its fullest, take no relationship for granted and to find comfort in silence – another thing there was not very much of with 9 brothers and sisters. : ) And now as I write this, I realize I do this

pretty well with all three of my birthday rituals. When I run, I do not take any music or other distractions with me so it's just me, my aging body that doesn't run as fast as it used to, and my thoughts. About halfway through, something happens and I feel a mental calmness. At that moment, I also feel very happy. Now I know many of you are like "YOU'RE CRAZY if you think running makes very many of us happy, Michelle". And, trust me, I'm not writing to get you all to be runners, but I am hoping you find that "something" that gets you to that point of clarity, stillness and ultimate at peace with your life and yourself.

From there, I go find a church and light three candles to honor my parents, brother Dave and all the others that have gone before me and helped me become who I am today. I also find myself so, SO thankful for my life. I know there are people that have mental illnesses and physical pain that make living life in a happy state very difficult. I hope that I am always there to help people with any thing that ails their life and have an open mind to make their life better.

And finally, the bath (mostly because I ran three miles and probably stink : ) feels like a continuance of that inner calm. Back to when I was a kid and the other siblings, getting a bath with your own clean water was something of a gift. My two sisters were older so they got their own water. Before them was one boy and then after them, it was three boys, then Michelle, then three more boys. I'm 100% positive the older brothers all shared water, the sisters got clean water, then more boys and finally, I usually got my own clean water. Spoiled in a way that many may not think counts as spoiled, but I sure did. You can only imagine what 7 boys do in bath water? (sorry....)

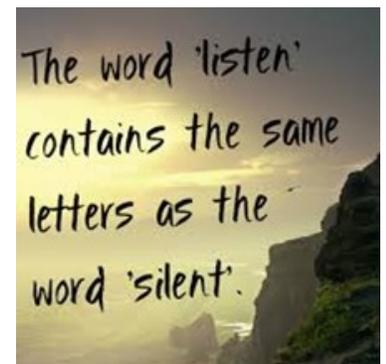
And to end the birthday, now after being blessed with 57 years on this earth, after all of this calmness, (in non-covid times), I have a big party with my family and friends and drink beer. So much for calm and silence. : ) Bring on the fun!

I know. I know. There is nothing even remotely unique about this. For centuries people have understood the importance of being comfortable with silence, and there are many that are very good at this act of silence. Aristotle wrote, "The ultimate value of life depends upon awareness and the power of contemplation rather than upon mere survival." And yet we don't do it very well, which is what makes all of this so amazing.

We, as humans, have never been so easily distracted, occupied and entertained with information. Contrary to popular belief, the root of this problem isn't that we have access to information all the time. Information itself is a good thing. The real issue is that we no longer know how to hang out with ourselves in silence. And with smartphones that have found their way into our pockets, it's not that we have too much to distract us, but maybe we have come to prefer those distractions to being alone with our thoughts.



*Birthday run of 2018*



This single act of finding your comfortable silence is important for optimizing our mental toughness. It is ironic that with all the data and information available to us, we've become smarter but less wise. We tend to lack thoughtfulness and reflection when using that information, and because of this, our businesses can suffer. No amount of knowledge or talent can make up for the frenzy and confusion that can happen if we lack reflection, wisdom and ultimately, peace. Creating and maintaining a great culture means making sure to take the time to ponder, reflect backwards, learn from our mistakes, and stay true to yourself. Finding that comfortable silence is where clarity happens.

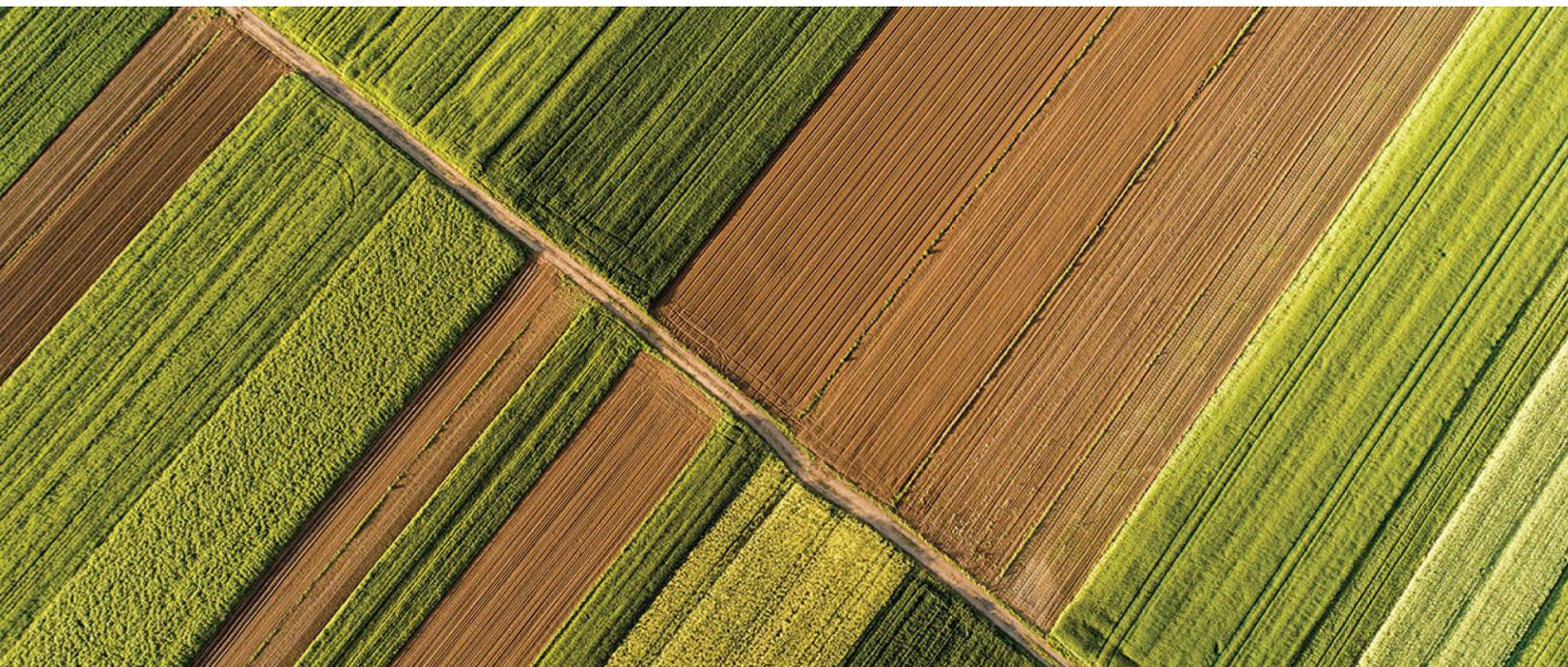
So what is the answer? The only solution lies in every person's simple discipline and willingness to change. Try, at least once each day, to find that silence. Sit alone with everything shut off and in complete silence for five minutes. Ten minutes. Or while exercising or laying in bed awake or driving alone in the car. Hopefully by finding that comfortable silent place, even for small amounts of time each day, the most important outcome will be learning to listen to others better, inner peace and the ultimate calm.

**Thank you for your continued business. In our 44<sup>th</sup> year of 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<sup>®</sup> Software as your Agri-Business Accounting system.**

**AgVantage Software Holiday Schedule**

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

|                        |                 |                |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Thanksgiving           | Thursday, 11/26 | Closed         |
| Day after Thanksgiving | Friday, 11/27   | Open 8-3 (CST) |
| Christmas Eve          | Thursday, 12/24 | Open 8-Noon    |
| Christmas              | Friday, 12/25   | Closed         |
| New Year's Eve         | Thursday, 12/31 | Open 8-3 (CST) |
| New Year's Day         | Friday, 1/1     | Closed         |





## Updates to Upcoming Events

By Lisa Sick, VP Marketing & Conferences - [lisas@agvantage.com](mailto:lisas@agvantage.com)



## NGFA reschedules 125th annual convention to June 2021

In the news from the National Grain and Feed Association:

“Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions on public gatherings, NGFA has rescheduled its 125th annual convention to **June 2-4 at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, Calif.** This decision was made with the health of NGFA members and guests, staff, speakers and exhibitors as the top priority.”

Therefore, **AgVantage Software Executive Conference** will be rescheduled to a new date and location also. We will keep you updated when this new date is released. We are very sorry to pull the rug out from under this great trip we would all like to be looking forward to, we will work on other creative ways to share information while getting through this pandemic together. Stay tuned!



The **Wisconsin Regional Training event** scheduled for Jan. 12-14, 2021 will be cancelled as an in-person event and changed to a virtual event. There are so many great software enhancements being released at AgVantage right now, and we are excited to share them with you. We would like to continue to schedule the Regional Training Events, but on a virtual platform. This will keep you informed, allow us all to share ideas that apply to your area of the country, and keep us working together through this pandemic. We will keep you posted via our website as we get them scheduled.

Visit [www.agvantage.com/news&events](http://www.agvantage.com/news&events) for more information as it is released.

Stay safe and healthy my friends...

Lisa

**CEC 2020**  
COUNTRY ELEVATOR CONFERENCE

ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS

DECEMBER 8-10



VIRTUAL EVENT

Visit us at the 49th annual NGFA Country Elevator Conference and Tradeshow Virtual Event Dec 8-10th. For more information, go to <https://imis.ngfa.org/cec>

## Sheri Boyken

My husband, Arvid, and I live on, and farm, our small family farm in rural Buffalo Center located in north central Iowa. I recently joined the AgVantage team after 12 years of being an AgVantage user. I previously worked for an energy coop, so learning about grain gives me a new appreciation about what goes on in the software to produce that scale ticket and the rest of the grain processes! I have bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Business Administration from Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, IA.

We have 5 children, all married, along with 11 grandkids currently aged 3 – 16. Thankfully, most of them live within 30 minutes of us but we do have one son in Waseca, MN and one near Dallas, TX. I love spending time with our family and attending the grandkids' activities but find time to bowl, read, do Sudoku puzzles, and am a huge fan of the Minnesota Vikings and the Iowa Hawkeyes.



## Bradley Haze

Hello, my name is Brad Haze. I am from Pine Island Minnesota, so I grew up around the Rochester area. I recently graduated from UW-Stout with a degree in Computer Science that focused on game design and development. I also have a second degree in Applied Mathematics which focused on software development. I spend my free time either at the gym or programming games in Unity.



## Getting Ready for New 1099-NEC

By Valerie Ahlers, Customer Services Rep. - [valeriea@agvantage.com](mailto:valeriea@agvantage.com)

Accounts Payable will present some new “opportunities” to review your 1099 vendors. This year, the government has created a 1099-NEC (Non-Employee Compensation) that replaces Box 7 on 1099-MISC, and puts it in Box 1 on the new 1099-NEC forms. Program changes are being done to the Vendor Master to add a field for NEC vendor and changes will need to be made for the Box Number. There will be new forms and letters for both 1099-NEC and 1099-MISC. You will be able to use the letter format and electronic filing for both. If you choose to use paper forms, you will need to order those from Quality Resource Group. The deadline continues to be Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> (but extended this year to Feb. 1 because it falls on a Sunday) to get 1099-NEC and 1099-MISC to your vendors (just those that are reportable and you paid over \$600—the system will help you with that). 1099-NEC electronic or paper file for the government has the same deadline. The 1099-MISC deadline is Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> for paper file and March 31<sup>st</sup> for electronic file. There will be eTraining classes explaining more details. When the program changes are ready, PTF’s will be available. Watch for more details on Message Board, in December’s newsletter, and in classes.

One way to prepare for this would be to get a list of your vendors (through a query) that are marked as “Print 1099 (Y/N)” and see what is listed for a box. 1099-NEC will be Box 1 for Non-Employee Compensation. For 1099-Misc, Box 1 will continue to be Rent, Box 2 will be Royalties, Box 3 will be Other Income, Box 6 will be Medical and Health Care Payments. Gross Proceeds Paid to an Attorney changed from Box 14 to Box 10.

Some are finding that all of their vendors fall in the “Non-Employee Compensation” category so will not even be needing 1099-MISC.

If you use the letter format and electronically file, you will not need to order forms. Give us a call if you have any questions. It won’t be long before it will be time to create 1099’s, so hopefully this helps you with your planning.

Stay safe and healthy and count your blessings. We need to look for the positives wherever we can find them. We are thankful to have you as customers!

### Important Dates: Send to Vendors by 2/1/21

**1099-NEC Submit**  
Paper file—2/1/21  
Electronic file—2/1/21

**1099-MISC Submit**  
Paper file—2/28/21  
Electronic file—3/31/21



## Update on New Software Releases

By Dave Hammond, VP Programming - [daveh@agvantage.com](mailto:daveh@agvantage.com)

AgVantage strives to meet your agribusiness needs by updating our software platforms on a regular basis. The following is a list of the various AgVantage software platforms and the many new software releases.

### Admin Edge

Add PDF/Excel option to Edge Admin (490322)  
Need to be able to filter based on package (496444)

### Agronomy Edge

Add checkbox to workorder to denote special instructions/comments (497462)  
Add customer contact information to new workorder screen (499231)

### AGV Mobile

Change login screen to say Account ID (503097)

### Accounts Payable Edge

Hold the last VNO & due date when in AP invoice entry (475989) – **v8.1 Only**  
Allow user to define column sort on Vendor to Pay and C (494980) – **v8.1 Only**

### Accounts Receivable

Need ability to limit Pay Types in invoicing platforms (493177) – **v8.1 Only**  
Statement discount (502443)

### Accounts Receivable Edge

Connecting Customer Accounts Together for BI & Others (435924)  
Inventory View Changes (452417) – **v8.1 Only**  
Convert Seed Plan to a Contract (484343)  
Import Agronomy Workorder - with Restricted Item (485183)  
U4STMT - Opt 3 - Statement Group Code (494099)  
U4STMT - Opt 12 - Change statement group (494101)  
Validate item created in U4ITMMR/U4ITMBL simultaneously (494313)  
Inventory View - Add Approved Agronomy Plans heading (502924) – **v8.1 Only**  
Update Product Description to what it's set to in Seed Cross Reference (505879)

### Container Tracking Edge

Add Container Types file maintenance in Edge Ag (504379) – **v8.1 Only**  
Container tracking - add new/edit container (504389) – **v8.1 Only**  
New IBMi file for v8.1 Container Tracking - activity status (504465)

*(continued on page 8)*

### Edge

Edge Authorities Redesign (421894)  
Expand data queue result size (487127)  
Edge Logo and header rebranding (498005)  
Add option in EDGE to get to Commodity DPR (499052)  
Edge Favicon, meta icons & busy height (499457)  
Edge Print Spool add "are you sure" when selecting to delete (500778)  
Make sure Edge License works on V8.1 server lib (503121)  
Add Container Tracking under Authorities - Agronomy (505255)

### Energy Dispatch Map Edge

Display the account balance in the call and populate the balance (491864) – **v8.1 Only**  
Add button to VIEW/EDIT TANK from map. (500797) – **v8.1 Only**  
Would like a way to default email to driver to unchecked (502557)

### Energy Edge

Edge dispatch needs a detail report of calls-reports that can wrap (396469)  
Update u7ctg4 to also calculate remaining gallons (478000) – **v8.1 Only**  
Update tank lease batch program to use new tank lease tax code (491856) – **v8.1 Only**  
Tank Portal - Add look up on item-v8 and v8.1 (499523)  
Add a menu option for them to change a route or a driver number (503825)

### Energy PC

Add pay type class for pay type download to PC (458756) – **v8.1 Only**  
Add flag for Sniff test box - Regulatory (464236)  
Hold XML inf so you don't have to relog on / connection is established (478003) – **v8.1 Only**  
Fields added to driver grid-Fix Days, Tank Grp, K-fac, Tank Size (479317) – **v8.1 Only**  
Encrypting sensitive fields in the settings files (492040)  
Add dot tank check to tank check screen (493089) – **v8.1 Only**

### Feed Edge

Change a delivery date on a open/mixed feed order -not closed (448569)  
Name on License Tab of Order (453951)  
Bill Separate Items on a ration setup (463306)  
Printing a ration - add the blend id to the report (464603)

### General Ledger

Updated FY status to 20th century when FY over 50 (496461) – **v8.1 Only**

### General Ledger Edge

Create Report to be Ran for Chart of Acct Listing (490578)  
Add option to delete batch of GL Inv Adj. (500629)  
Detail Inquiry change periods from drop down (502386)

*(continued on page 9)*

## Grain

Disable options going to the tape (463495)  
Mark Grain contracts PC18 as signed status=S, Inactive=I  
U5PCG9C (505451)

## Interfaces

Bushel - upgrade Version on JSON being sent in BUSEND  
program (500890)  
BUSEND2 – Update to use new v1.1 specs and other misc.  
(502982)  
BUSEND2 - Add split group to ticket addendums and make  
default program (505116)

## Inventory

Croplan IR's include lower case letters - can't edit entry  
(427994)

## Inventory Edge

Item portal inv reports maintenance inventory cost  
(407382)  
U8MEN1-4 add menu option with enhancements (456457)  
U8MEN1.11 an option to close multiple lots at one time  
(457089) – **v8.1 Only**  
Inventory Invoice Lookup (468049) – **v8.1 Only**  
Add U8MEN1-14 remove unmerged batch of inventory  
(490679)  
Add Menu Option U8MEN3-14 Lot Tracking Report  
(491045) – **v8.1 Only**  
Summary Inventory Report by G/L to CSV file (496554)  
– **v8.1 Only**  
PI Adj do not allow lot number if item is not set to lot track  
(504654)

## Invoicing Edge

Payment on account adjustment lines (485148)  
Do not generate Haz Mat Ship Doc on Tran 8 or 5  
(485173)  
Print Loading Slip (485177)  
Import Agronomy/Seed need ability to change customer  
# (495248)  
Show Original Qty and Billable Qty when Importing Blend  
Order (497406)  
Add check box on Pricing tab to hold prices in Ed  
(502859)  
Target too small to hold result message - 13 long Blend #  
(504335)

## Invoicing PC

Inventory lookup does not display inactive items  
(491054)

## Payroll

W-2 needs for OR electronic file and label for printed  
W-2 (482481)

## Payroll Edge

U3MEN4-12 reprint payroll stub (462318)

## Seed Edge

Needs lookup option for Product Availability (474626)  
Setup default seed population for a company (492307)  
– **v8.1 Only**  
Add Split Group Numeric Report to Seed menu (500985)



## Sheetcake Pancakes

By Valerie Ahlers

### Whisk together:

2 C. Flour  
¼ C. Brown Sugar  
1 T. Baking Powder  
¼ tsp. Salt

### Add and mix until smooth:

2 Eggs  
1 ¾ C. Milk  
¼ C. Butter, melted  
1 tsp. Vanilla  
Mix in 1 C. Berries



Spray 9 x 13 pan with Pam or line with parchment paper. Bake 15-18 min at 425. Can lightly spread butter on top when it comes out of oven. Have used strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries or fruit of taste. (You can use pancake batter mix - follow directions)

Please make note that our fax number has changed.

You may send faxes to our new number:

**1-507-216-4331**