

VantagePoint

E-NEWSLETTER



MONTHLY UPDATES FROM AGVANTAGE SOFTWARE - YOUR PARTNER IN AGRIBUSINESS

November 2022

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The Rules of Life

By Michelle Blomberg, President/CEO - michelleb@agvantage.com

Happy November 2022 AgVantage Customers and Business Partners and with that, Happy Thanksgiving month – my favorite month of the year! Most that know me think it’s because it’s also my birthday month as I have been known to have some pretty awesome birthday celebrations. And maybe that is part of it (who doesn’t love a good party?!), but it’s mostly something that is embedded deep within me related to a presence of gratitude that I feel almost all of the time. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect back on the year and overall life and within that, bring to the top all of the amazing things that bless our lives.

Looking back over this past year, the employees of AgVantage read the book “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse.” And then after, an activity from me where they picked a few sayings from within that simple book and reflected on it within their own lives. It was, by far, my favorite activity I’ve had them do over my 26 years, as it allowed me to see so much deeper into each of them and what makes them tick. The best part for me was to see how they shared their stories, which were nothing close to simple, and then took the complex things in their lives and full circled them back to being simple.

So in that same spirit, the spirit of life being both complicated and simple, I wanted to spend this newsletter revealing the seven “Rules of Life” and to inject a little of my own perspectives within. Here they are. Enjoy!

“What do you believe is the 8th rule of life?”

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Make peace with your past so it won't disturb your present.

We can't change the people we once were, but we can make peace with them. Reconcile the conflicts you have. Otherwise, the past will forever be pulling you down. Life is a series of moments, one forever chasing the next. The only place where you can make a difference is the present. Today.



Don't waste your time on what other people think of you.

Most of our scars come from wounds inflicted by other people. Words can hurt us more than weapons. But it's not important to imagine what people might think of you. It's a waste of your time and there is no added life value.



Time heals almost everything, so give it time.

Sometimes we can get it in our head to just fix everything and move on, but if you stitch a wound poorly, it'll get worse down the road. So take time. Take care of yourself. Your health. Your broken heart and broken parts. Sometimes, even what heals, leaves a scar. Those will be with us forever. The least we can do is let them mend properly.

No one is in charge of your happiness, except you.

At the end of the day, what you desire most in life, only you can give to yourself. You already have everything right inside of you. The outside world is only as good as what you do with everything that happens in it. Cherish all of your experiences – good and bad – as they are what make you, you.

Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them.

We have no idea what anyone's story is like up to the page on which we meet them. Mark Twain said, "Comparison is the death of joy." The less you compare, the bigger your capacity for empathy. People are who they are and to try and put their lives in a place of comparison to your own is a waste of time. Let others be who they are while you be strong in who you are.

Stop thinking too much.

If you're not supposed to think about others, nor what they think, what *are* you supposed to mull over? Actually, it's fine to not think so much at all. Sometimes it's OK to live in the silence (see newsletter from November 2020). Answers often come to you when you least expect it once you clear out all the stuff that clutters your mind.

This single act of finding your comfortable silence is important for optimizing our mental toughness. No amount of knowledge or talent can make up for the frenzy and confusion that can happen if we lack



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reflection, wisdom and ultimately, peace. Take the time to ponder, reflect backwards, learn from our mistakes, and stay true to yourself. Finding that comfortable silence is where clarity happens.

And who knows, maybe you'll start making different choices and try something you always wanted to do. Choosing a different fork in the road may lead you to the best part of your life still to come.

Smile.

Haley Harbottle has Moebius syndrome. She's 22 and has never smiled in her life. Haley was supposed to have "smile surgery," but her anesthetist made a mistake and she almost died. Soon, she'll try it again, hoping to smile for the first time. There is someone on this planet literally dying to smile. Yet here we are, walking around, often choosing not to extend this simple, near-automatic gesture to uplift our fellow human beings. Whatever problems plague you in your day-to-day life, chances are, they're not all that important in the grand scheme of things. We each have our own challenges, but as long as you can smile, **CHOOSE** that. Who knows who you'll infect.



AgVantage Team "Choosing" to Smile!

Question: What do you believe is the 8th Rule of Life?

Please write me your answer at michelleb@agvantage.com

In our 46th 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[®] Software as your Agri-Business System Solutions.






AgVantage Legacy Connectivity

By Brad Belcher, System Administrator - bradb@agvantage.com

While many of you are making the switch to Edge, there are still a lot of users of our Legacy products and the 5250 connectivity. For many years, everyone used IBM i Access, or Client Access, to make the connection to AgVantage. Then IBM made a change to a product called IBM ACS, or Access Client Solutions. With that change, IBM set an End of Support for IBM i Access for April 30, 2019. So, anything other than IBM ACS has been out of support for over 3 years.

With IBM ACS, IBM has been making enhancements and fixes about two times a year since it was introduced. With the latest release, 1.1.9.1, IBM has brought some enhancements and an important security fix. The security issue revolves around a DLL hijacking vulnerability (**CVE-2022-40746**).

While this vulnerability can be fairly involved, it is something that can be fixed by installing the latest version of IBM ACS. For those that are part of our hosted solution, those new versions are included as part of your support agreement. We have a couple of ways that the update can be sent/released, and we want to make sure we are getting those updates out to you. The best way to get started is to **contact AgVantage Support** and start a support ticket. We can then get you the update.

 If you are still using the older, unsupported, IBM i Access or Client Access, we need to get you **upgraded to the IBM ACS product ASAP**. The older product has been out of support for over 3 years and has several exposed vulnerabilities. The new IBM ACS will also allow us to setup your sessions to use Secure Telnet. This will encrypt the 5250 communications between your computer and the AgVantage System. This will also allow us to close unnecessary ports on our firewalls, which is a requirement of our cyber insurance renewal.

If you are on your own system, and are current on IBM Support, we can help you get the new version of IBM ACS. If you have your own computers that are still running an older product, I highly recommend you get them upgraded to IBM ACS. It's a fairly easy install but does require a version of Java.

IBM has been making many enhancements to the ACS product, and if you have been to the AgVantage User Conference in the last 3 years, you could have seen my presentation on the product. I have been doing a class on IBM ACS for at least 4 years, and each year there are new features.

In addition to getting current on IBM ACS, we should also talk about being current on Windows versions. As we have started helping some customers install IBM ACS, we have found customers still running Windows XP and Windows 7. Windows XP went out of support in 2014, over 8 years ago, and has several security vulnerabilities that are not being fixed. Windows 7 went out of support January 2020, and Windows 8 went out January 2016 (8.1 goes out January 2023). With the large amounts of vulnerabilities, we need to be assured that everyone is running supported versions of Windows and are keeping updates applied. With that, as of **January 1, 2023**, if you are using either **Windows XP, or Windows 7**, **we will not allow you to connect to the hosted systems**. This is necessary as it is too big of a security risk for our company and our hosted environment.



To wrap up, we are requiring all our hosted customers to be on IBM ACS so that we can take another step to secure our network and close unnecessary ports and get everyone switched to using secure communications. If you are on your own system, I would highly recommend that you also get all your computers upgraded to IBM ACS and the latest version, 1.1.9.1. Plus, we need to have you make sure all of your computers that connect to our hosted environment, either for Legacy or Edge, are not running Windows XP or Windows 7. Our Systems Team is here to help if you have any questions about this.

Brad Belcher
System Administrator



AgVantage Pacific Northwest Conference Recap

By Dennis Boccardi, Customer Services Manager - dennisb@agvantage.com

Thanks to all of our customers who attended! We had two full days of covering AgVantage Edge, everything from getting started with the item and customer portals, to wrapping up the second day with Agronomy and Energy classes.

The first day we really covered the accounting side of the software, from setting up your customers to getting them invoiced in Edge Invoicing. As the day ended, we wrapped up with Inventory and all of the processes to get your products accounted for.

The Second day we started with Grain, and covered what we've gotten done this year, and many things to come in that program. We were even able to have Mike Thronson from our programming department there to help answer questions, and get a chance to meet some of our customers. The day continued with Edge Seed, and we were able to wrap up with Edge Agronomy and Edge Energy.

Make sure you check out the upcoming trainings in Ohio and Indiana!

We appreciate the opportunity to see you in person, and get your feedback to help us make the program better.

Happy Holidays

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, 11/24 | Closed |
| Day after Thanksgiving | Friday, 11/25 | Open 8-3 CST |
| Christmas Day (Observed) | Monday, 12/26 | Closed |
| New Year's Day (Observed) | Friday, 12/30 | Open 8-5 CST (Reduced Staff) |
| New Year's Day (Observed) | Monday, 1/2/23 | Open 8-5 CST (Reduced Staff) |

Other Upcoming AgVantage Events

The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) will celebrate its 30th anniversary at the 2022 Conference & Expo in San Diego from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. We are happy to be attending so please come see us at our booth!

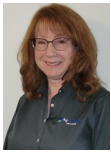


We are a sponsor and will be hosting a drawing at the NGFA CEC Conference in St. Louis MO Dec 6-8, 2022. If you are attending, hopefully you will be a lucky winner!!

Our **Ohio Regional Training Conference** will be Jan 11-12, 2023 at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris Hotel near Columbus Ohio.

If you have special requests for conversations you want to have, let lisas@agvantage.com know. Registration will be on our website soon.





Info on 1099s PATR, INT, & DIV

By Karen Tidd, Customer Services Specialist - karent@agvantage.com

1099 PATR, INT & DIV

Important Due Dates:

Recipients Copy: Jan. 31, 2023

Electronic Filing: Mar. 31, 2023

Review of the calculations of last year's new 1099 PATR boxes:

Box 6 Section 199A(g) deduction. Our EDGE Patronage product will calculate these figures.

Box 7 Qualified payments (Section 199A(b)(7)). This can be calculated differently if the cooperative's 199A (g) deduction was limited by wages. Check with your auditors on how this should be calculated. Place a support call and we can populate it for you otherwise it will usually be the sum of Boxes 1 and 3 for most cooperatives.

Box 8 Section 199A(a) qual. items is the sum of Boxes 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Box 9 Section 199A(a) SSTB (Specified Service Trade or Business) for most cooperatives and will be 0 however we recommend you verify this with your auditors.

Box 13 Specified Coop should be checked for most cooperatives but again, we recommend you verify this with your auditors.

Our recommendation is to verify the amounts in these boxes with your auditors.



EDGE Patronage:

Check out the EDGE Patronage product for an easy way to calculate the Section 199A(g) Deduction under the Government Reporting tab!

Just enter the percentages and verify the report numbers by running a report or dropping the information into Excel.

Then use the option to Update the Tax file and Create the Excel file for the letters to your patrons.

It's that easy!



Upcoming eTraining Class Schedule

By Elise Musall, Customer Services Specialist - elisem@agvantage.com

Hello everyone!

Here is an overview of our upcoming month's eTraining class schedule **. Please take a moment to view our eTraining calendar via the link below and follow directions to register for any of our eTraining classes*.

https://www.supersaas.com/schedule/agvantage/AgVantage_E-Training_Schedule

Please email elisem@agvantage.com or support@agvantage.com for any questions or concerns about eTraining.

Wednesday 12/14

10am—12pm CST

Payroll End of Year

2pm—4pm CST

Patronage Distribution

Thursday 12/15

2pm—4pm CST

**Grain End of Year &
Deferred Payments**

Wednesday 12/21

10am—12pm CST

**Payroll Electronic Filing of
W2's (No Charge)**

Thursday 12/22

10am—12pm CST

**1099s Patronage & AP
Payroll End of Year**

*eTraining fees may apply. Please see the Training section via the link below for single class rates or to sign up for company wide monthly/annual subscription options.

<https://www.agvantage.com/Services.html>

**Classes are subject to time and date changes. Anyone already registered for a class will be notified on a time or date change.



Update on New Software Releases

By Tim Underwood, VP Development - timu@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.

Edge Agronomy

Add location field to operator file to filter operators in dispatch (500906)

Edge Accounts Payable

Validate data in AP crossover (558522)

Add quick lookup/drop down to vendor, reorder item and general ledger number (573420)

AP edit invoice, add vendor name to drop down box (579457)

Edge Accounts Receivable

Add option to Email invoices from balance and invoices screen (447315)

Interest on credit balances on end of month menu (510055)

Customer number setup maintenance (510075)

When contract attributes are changed, screen resets when the process is completed (550097)

Customer selection codes option relocated to AR operations customer drop down (580269)

Edge Energy Dispatch

Add description for fuel, delivery and tank type to the email, pdf and call screens (526241)

Add "Bill To" on the pin hover on the dispatching maps (558458)

Turn by turn will now display 24 stops instead of ten (576997)

Edge Energy

Add all tanks from a tank group to the call file (489443)

Route Optimization - Turn by turn - add one stop display for more than 24 stops (549622)

Add more audit tracking fields (551111)

Add discount code to tank and pass to call and PCEnergy (572661)

Edge Feed

Feed orders select a mixer type and export for automation (557335)

Apply a ship to on a feed order (561667)

Create setup screen for animal ID and add color column (575064)

Create maintenance page for feed texture file (575067)

Create a file for feed dispatch weight range setup (575082)

Add PDF button on cost plus screen when saving orders (577626)

Edge Feed Dispatch

Feed mapping zone maintenance (561676)

Color pins by animal, texture, or weights & display mapping zones (580412)

Edge General Ledger

Detail and inquiry - add total amount to bottom of PDF (573103)

Correct calendar drop down box in journal entry (580605)

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Edge Payroll

Create employee paystub email maintenance (559650)

Edge Seed

Seed discount report now shows plan detail and sort by salesman (482047)

Prevent GPOS from being sent if GLN/Bayer ID is missing (533106)

Save and process order button on plan creation (544876)

Always display the products in error even if zero quantity (560151)

Rewrite ordering - combine ordering and grower to grower transfers (570063)

Grain

Print lot production report after discount by lot (577533)

Interfaces

Advance Trading - send customer number, name, and COD code (580235)

REST API - Include only merged invoices in invoices request (580406)

PC Energy

Item portal - Wisconsin fuel tax exemption for delivery over 100 gallons (413235)

Add memo lines 2 & 3 to the tank tab (533330)

Dialog box for completion notice to hold for 30 seconds after tickets sent. (556591)

Validate customer is set up for ACH (560394)

SSL connection for PC Energy laptops (562312)

Add no term code check box on money down on discounts and contracts settings tab (563226)

Price levels can now be cents or margin over or under retail (569842)

Pass discount code from call file to PCEnergy (572658)

Add beginning percentage full (572807)

PCGrain Scale

Option to run multiple loads by lot report by customer and date (527529)

Prevent use of inactivated crops (556182)

Kahler Streamline integration to handle multiple antennas (577601)

PC Invoicing

Option to print work orders to laser printer (539826)

Remember to check your PULSE for more details on these Edge product enhancements.

