



Gold-Eagle's Cooperative Spirit Shines in Rural Iowa

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

The famous naturalist John Muir wasn't talking about farming when he made this statement, but the concept applies to Iowa agriculture. Just look at Gold-Eagle Cooperative, which proves the local foods movement isn't just for people.

"We help connect the dots," said Chris Boshart, Gold-Eagle's feed department manager in Eagle Grove. "We buy corn and soybeans from local farmers to produce feed for area livestock farms. The nutrients from those livestock farms help fertilize the soil that grows the next crop that will help local farmers raise the meat protein that feeds people around the world."

"IT TAKES A TEAM EFFORT TO KEEP AGRICULTURE AND THE PORK INDUSTRY STRONG. IT'S SATISFYING TO KNOW THAT WE'RE HELPING RURAL IOWA GROW AS WE HELP PRODUCE FOOD THAT PEOPLE ENJOY EVERY DAY."

-Chris Boshart

PROFILE

Gold-Eagle Cooperative

EAGLE GROVE, IOWA

Employees: 200

Iowa Select Farms partners with Gold-Eagle Cooperative to supply feed for local pig farms. Throughout the past 10 years, the co-op has delivered more than 158,000 semi loads of feed to 466 farms.



Rooted in rural Iowa

For more than 100 years, farmer-owned Gold-Eagle has been grounded in north-central Iowa, one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Gold-Eagle's history dates back to 1908, when a group of farmers created Farmers Elevator Cooperative in Goldfield to help local growers.

Through the years, Gold-Eagle has expanded to include locations in Eagle Grove, Renwick, Livermore, Corwith, Wesley, Titonka, Hardy and Thor. Today, the co-op specializes in feed, agronomy, grain and renewable energy, thanks to the CORN, LP ethanol plant in Goldfield.

"You can't overstate how important agriculture and the livestock industry are to Iowa," said Boshart, who noted that Iowa is the number-one pork-producing state in the nation. "They keep dollars circulating locally and help produce protein, which is essential for human health."

"We all prosper by helping each other"

Providing high-quality feed and excellent service are important to Gold-Eagle's feed team, which employs 45 people. It all starts with locally-grown grain, Boshart said. "We grind 45,000 bushels of corn each day at our feed mills. That's the equivalent of 236 acres of corn a day with yields of 190 bushels per acre."

Gold-Eagle is proud to serve Iowa's livestock industry, including pork producers like Iowa Select Farms. From its main feed mill in Eagle Grove and a second mill in Goldfield, Gold-Eagle supplies feed to swine producers, egg producers and cattle producers, primarily within a 60-mile radius of Eagle Grove.

Some customers rely on Gold-Eagle's swine starter feeds, which are mini pellets that look like Grape Nuts cereal. "This has become a niche for us," Boshart said.

Gold-Eagle has been supplying swine feed to Iowa Select Farms since the 1990s. "In the last 10 years, we've delivered more than 3.8 million tons of feed to their farms, that's about 158,000 semi loads," Boshart said. "Iowa Select Farms has always been a great customer, and we have a lot of respect for them as an industry leader."

Much like Iowa Select Farms, Gold-Eagle focuses on continuous improvement.

"Gold-Eagle is built on the philosophy that we all prosper by helping each other," continued Boshart. "It takes a team effort to keep agriculture and the pork industry strong. It's satisfying to know that we're helping rural Iowa grow as we help produce food that people enjoy every day."

