



September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Customers,

Every harvest has its challenges, and this year looks no different. You have likely seen pictures of the damage around the New Orleans area from Hurricane Ida. This hurricane will have a much larger impact on the grain industry as compared to Katrina. We have seen facilities with major structural damage, large areas without power, many sunken/damaged barges, and river shutdowns for extended periods. How will this impact harvest in the Ohio River Valley?

On Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, several barge lines began to send out Force Majeure letters to their customers (primarily companies with facilities along the river systems that depend on barges for grain movement). Similar to how many of our farm customers forward sell their crops, Owensboro Grain forward purchases barges to be provided throughout each week during harvest. By sending these Force Majeure letters, the barge lines are advising Owensboro Grain that we may not receive all of the barges that we have purchased in our weekly 7-day windows. This has the potential to cause significant logistical issues going into the peak harvest season, for not only Owensboro Grain but for the entire grain network up and down the river systems. We expect the ripple effects to be felt well into October. One major barge owner has indicated that this event will disrupt logistics for the next 60 days.

As a processor of soybeans, we feel confident in being able to handle the soybean harvest thanks to the additional storage we added over the previous 3 years. We are dependent upon barges to keep soybean meal and corn moving to our customers at the Gulf of Mexico. Without receiving the barges that we previously purchased, we expect to see challenges in our ability to ship corn, which means we may incur difficulties in handling corn harvest this season. We will work hard to keep the commodities moving to limit disruptions you may feel on your farm. However, some events may be out of our control. We are committed to keeping you informed as best we can. Please sign up for text messages, download our app (and enable notifications), and check our website for updates on receiving abilities and hours.

We value your business and appreciate that you allow Owensboro Grain to be your partner when merchandising your crops. There are few family-owned and operated, USA companies like Owensboro Grain remaining in the grain & oilseed industry. Our success is thanks to our customers like you!

Thanks,

**Anthony Jones**

Marketing Specialist

**Owensboro Grain Company**

[www.owensborograin.com](http://www.owensborograin.com)