Shipments of all sorts to and from farmers are still most commonly executed and verified by a **paper scale ticket.** Farm deliveries of grain from the farm to an elevator or processor, as well as input products delivered to the farm such as bulk feed or fertilizer, are documented using paper tickets resulting in manually linking shipment information to invoices, settlements, and bills of lading.
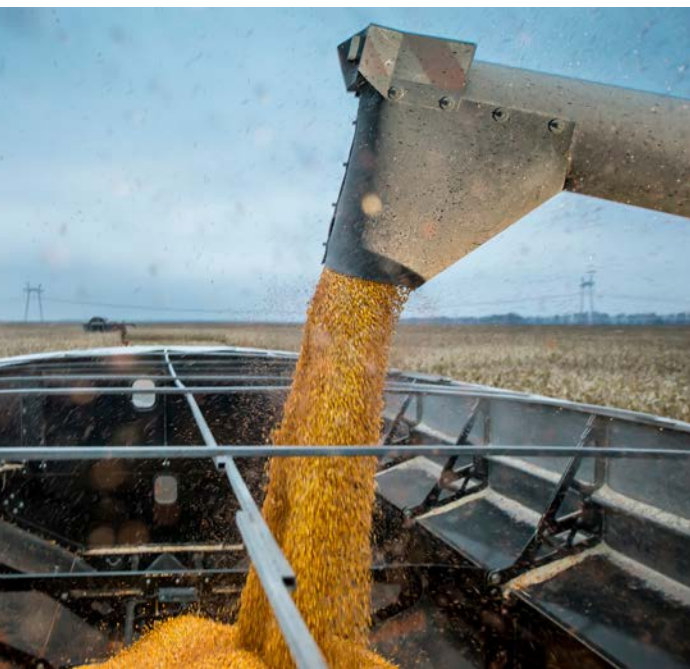

Relying on antiquated, non-digitized methods for tracking critical scale ticket data is becoming more problematic for a number of reasons:

- **Paper tickets often result in a time consuming, manual process** to link the tickets to the farms and fields they came from and contracts the commodity was sold under.

- **Farmers need information from scale tickets** to post-calibrate yield maps, create accurate profit maps, and report actual production for insurance or governmental requirements.

- **Ticket information on the quantity and quality of feed delivered is important for inventory management** as well as tracking herd performance.

- **Similarly bulk fertilizer or other inputs need to be tracked** for inventory purposes but also for accurately allocating costs to different fields.

- **Sustainability and traceability programs that require this information will be able to track the steps more accurately** and automatically from harvester to elevator, know how much of a commodity was delivered, and provide a better means to link attributes to the shipments (such as carbon footprint).

Ultimately, a more modern and standardized interface will make the information more collectible, compatible, and shareable. Replacing the current paper-based manual processes with a standardized digital interface will result in improved accuracy and reduced time verifying paper.

AgGateway is currently spearheading an industry initiative through its member Working Groups to develop an API specification for digitized scale tickets, and is seeking broad industry participation in the process and adoption once complete.

The initial stage of work focused on what members have indicated is the most significant scale ticket challenge – over the road delivery of grain from farm to elevator or processor.

Now, the expectation is it can be built upon to provide other benefits to the industry that would not be feasible without the standardized digital interaction in place. For example, improvements in logistics and operational efficiencies could be realized if the scale ticket API is built on to enable advanced ship notices from the farm.

Adoption of the Standard

Much of the adoption of the standard will ultimately be driven by Allied Providers. We recognize that there are a growing number of proprietary, one-off APIs available in the industry. But considering that there are a growing number of parties interested in the data, connecting to every system in a different manner to share the same information is time consuming and inefficient.

Action Items

The first version of the API specification was made available during the AgGateway Mid-Year Meeting in June. ERP providers should begin reviewing the open API specification to plan implementation, since their systems are generally the tool connected to the scale head or in the scale shed where the information is captured from a shipment.

Other companies that need to consume scale ticket information should also be reviewing the specification and making plans to implement the API.

What about AgXML?

Messages written in AgXML format are preferred for rail, barge, and over water vessel shipments farther up the supply chain, but Working Groups chose to use a simplified OpenAPI Scale Ticket message that more closely reflects the structure of the current paper ticket examples reviewed by the Working Group.

For more information on how AgGateway can improve your business, please contact Member Services at Member.Services@AgGateway.org

www.AgGateway.org