

# American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR)

## IBM z Platform and Luminex Testimonial



# An overview of American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR)

- American Farmers and Ranchers (AFR) has been proudly serving Oklahoma families for over 100 years.
- AFR is a Property & Casualty insurance company that protects families' property (farm, ranch and home) along with auto in all 77 counties of Oklahoma.

# The importance of the IBM Z platform and z/OS to AFR

- For many years, IBM has been and continues to be a key strategic partner of AFR
- AFR currently depends on an IBM zBC12 and the Luminex virtual tape solution for our mainframe tape processing requirements
- IBM Z Platform offers exceptional performance and resilience
- Luminex's solution allowed us the ability to leverage the maturity of our existing mainframe processes

# The business/operational challenges faced by AFR prior to installing the IBM zBC12/Luminex solution

- Physical tape drive reliability
- Physical tape quality condition/issues
- Storing, handling, transporting and managing of physical tapes
- Elongated and sometimes cumbersome disaster recovery tests
- Inconsistent and slow tape restores/recovery
- Significant manual involvement and cost

# The benefits of the IBM z Platform/Luminex solution to AFR

- With the Luminex application we were able to stop using tapes/drives which greatly reduced our operational cost/expense
- Luminex also allows us the luxury to have quick tape restores/recovery
- With the Gateway management GUI, can easily manage 2 devices from a single browser window by selecting the appropriate tab on the display; can see a volume created on the production environment and verify it was replicated to the DR environment in a very short timeframe
- With the reporting feature, can track data replication with granularity from 15 minute to 24 hour intervals and export data in .csv format for monthly reporting

# The benefits of the IBM z Platform/Luminex solution to AFR

## The Luminex Push Button DR feature:

*"I have been doing disaster recovery tests for 20+ years and the process available with the Luminex devices is the best, by far, that I have ever been involved with.*

*Disaster Recovery testing is built in. Select the DRSTART option and you are ready to start loading down your recovery data, IPL and testing. Any output TAPES are created in a 'separate' area of the Luminex and will not impact/affect your production tape environment. Replication continues but does not impact your DR environment.*

*From the GUI, I can mount tapes (remotely) that are needed during the IPL of my mainframe, eliminating the need for onsite operations support.*

*To end your DR testing scenario, select the DRSTOP option and the DR environment is cleaned up automatically and you return to a primary / secondary environment."*

AFR Lead Systems Programmer

# The benefits of the IBM z Platform/Luminex solution to AFR

- “With the IBM z Platform and Luminex in our shop, tape management and Disaster Recovery replication/testing are under control” – AFR Lead Systems Programmer
- “With the support of the IBM zBC12 and Luminex virtual tape solution we have been able to continue to grow our business and cut our operational cost” – AFR System and Infrastructure Manager