

Entry: Cybersecurity Ongoing Coverage

Including in package:

- Cover story from Progressive Farmer magazine from Oct. 1 2021 - "Cybercrime Takes Aim At America's Food Supply"
- Article from DTN website from Oct. 1 2021 - "Cyberattack on Iowa Cooperative Considered Terrorism"
- second story from magazine Dec. 1 2021 - "Malware Ties Up Supply Chains"

Comments on Cover Story on Cybersecurity:

Wow, what a ride this story has been. I proposed the story back in the summer of 2021. We had no way of knowing that just as we were going to press news of cyberattacks on major ag-related businesses would start. The story took weeks of research to understand all the issues, and while I found a lot of "off the record" sources, there were only a few people who would agree to have their names or their companies' names in the article. I think they were afraid that by drawing attention to themselves they would invite a cyberattacks. The story, once published, was so well received that I fielded numerous requests for interviews, moderated a national panel on the issue and did a couple of podcasts. The story had legs, and as more targets in ag were hit over the next few months we did updates. We wanted to do more than just scare people, so we included in the article tips on how to best protect your business and links to useful information when it comes to reporting an attack.

Comments on "Cyberattack on Iowa Cooperative Considered Terrorism", the first major follow-up story on cybersecurity:

Just days after the October cover story on cybersecurity rolled off the presses, we started to hear of another cyberattack, this one on a major cooperative in Iowa. The information coming out of the attack was limited, but I was able to quickly reach a cooperative member who reported on what had happened and how it affected him. The story was turned around in just hours. One of the things it brought out was that as a producer, the farmer we interviewed felt much reluctant to give businesses information for direct deposits to his accounts, but also disliked the drawback of waiting for a paper check in the mail.

Comments on "Malware Ties Up Supply Chains", the second follow-up story on cybersecurity:

We thought it was important to continue to let our readers know how a cyberattack could reach them—with a big picture view. This isn't just about someone hacking your bank account, but about what happens when your supply lines (in and out) get shut down for weeks. This story had FBI updates on the issue, guidance, as well as a first-person account of how

difficult it was to get a business going again after a cyberattack shut it down.