From its earliest days, MGP has experienced a record of ongoing development. The following list provides a summary of the Company’s major historical events:

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1995 Expansion of Pekin’s alcohol production capacity by 70% completed.
2001 Kansas City, Kansas facility purchased for textured proteins and resin production. Facility sold eight years later.
2002 Company name changed to MGP Ingredients, Inc. to reflect focus on increased growth and positioning as innovative provider of value-added ingredient solutions.
2003 New state-of-the-art distillery constructed at Atchison, Kansas facility.
2005 Onaga, Kansas facility purchased for production of plant-based bioplastic products. Facility sold eight years later.
2007 New corporate office and technical innovation center complex constructed in Atchison.
2008 New initiatives for value creation begun through extensive restructuring process and increased focus on product innovation and commercialization.
2009 Fuel grade alcohol business exited in February with increased focus placed on the production and commercialization of food grade alcohol.
2010 Joint venture arrangement completed to form Illinois Corn Processing, LLC at MGP’s former Pekin facility in November.
2011 Lawrenceburg, Indiana facility purchased, increasing MGP’s leadership role in the beverage alcohol market with expanded gin and grain neutral spirits capacity and addition of premium bourbon and whiskeys to product portfolio.
2012 MGP is organized as a multi-faceted enterprise comprising the MGP Ingredients, Inc. family of companies.
2013 Added corn oil to lines of distillery co-products.

Through innovation in grain and plant science, MGP continues to extend its legacy of serving customers with high quality products derived from natural sources.
MGP Historical Profile

The founding of MGP in the early 1940s was preceded by a series of events marked by varying degrees of historical significance.

In 1908, the Bailor Plow Company was started at the corner of 13th and Main Streets in Atchison, Kansas. Its founder, S.E. Bailor, was an inventor and the creator of the first two-row cultivator in the United States. His new business was begun for the purpose of manufacturing and marketing the new implement. Ten years later, he introduced the first successful motor-driven cultivator to the market. By 1922, however, the business was suffering. It was reorganized as the Bailor Cultivator Company and returned to better times under the leadership of W.C. O’Brien and W.C. Thomas.

O’Brien and Thomas added a gray iron foundry and a sheet metal division for the manufacture of store fronts, bathroom and shower partitions, and medicine cabinets. In subsequent years, the company also manufactured a variety of farm implements, including disc harrows, corn listers, bean harvesters, beet cultivators and wagon boxes.

Effects of the stock market crash in 1929 ended some of the markets on which O’Brien and Thomas had heavily relied. In 1934, the company was leased to the Chemical Foundation of New York, which operated it for a little longer than that first year, initially as the Chemical Foundation of Kansas, and later as the Atchison Agrol Company. The business experimented in producing a premium motor fuel by blending grain-based alcohol with low grade gasoline. However, a rise in grain prices in 1938 coupled with a glut of inexpensive petroleum made the experimental product uneconomical. As a result, doors to the plant were closed that year and were not reopened until three years later when Cloud L. Cray, Sr., unlocked them with a combination of enterprise and foresight.

Though its operations were dormant, the potential of the Atchison Agrol Company’s viability was very much alive in the summer and fall of 1941. Having failed in its efforts to produce marketable ethyl alcohol from surplus grain three years earlier, interest in the company was undergoing renewal.

In November 2009, MGP entered into a joint venture agreement to reactivate distillery operations at the Pekin facility. As the result of this agreement, the facility is owned and operated by a separate entity called Illinois Corn Processing, LLC.

In late December 2011, MGP’s beverage alcohol production and service capabilities were further strengthened with the acquisition of facilities owned by Lawrenceburg Distillers Indiana, LLC (LDI). Assets included in this purchase included LDI’s distillation operations, bulk barrel warehousing, tank farm and grain storage facilities. The acquisition not only increased the Company’s production capacity for distilled gins and grain neutral spirits, but also made possible the addition of premium bourbon and corn and rye whiskeys to MGP’s lines of world class beverage alcohol products. As a result, and combined with MGP’s pre-existing capacity, the purchase has positioned the Company as the leading U.S. producer of white goods (gin and grain neutral spirits) in the U.S., as well as the sole multi-line producer in the domestic beverage alcohol industry. This positioning not only aligns with, but is strongly indicative of MGP’s strategic focus on being a preeminent supplier of naturally-derived, grain-based solutions that uniquely add value to customer innovations in the branded packaged goods industry.

In July 2014, Gus Griffin replaced Tim Newkirk as President and CEO of the Company. Gus possesses a wealth of marketing and management leadership qualifications gained through nearly 30 years of experience in the beverage alcohol industry.

From its relatively modest beginnings, MGP has evolved over the decades to become a multi-faceted provider of premium distilled spirits and value-added ingredient solutions derived from grain. Today, the Company is the largest U.S. producer of specialty wheat proteins and starches and one of the country’s largest and most established producers of natural food grade alcohol.

In each of the markets it serves, MGP continues its legacy of creating a successful formula for effectively and efficiently supplying its customer partners with high quality products.
The Company held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new corporate office and technical innovation center complex in January 2006. The two-building complex in Atchison was completed in early 2007 and provided Company scientists and innovators with increased capabilities to move the Company forward in the ingredient solutions and high quality alcohol markets.

In 2008, while maintaining his role as Chairman of the Board, Ladd selected Tim Newkirk to replace him as Chief Executive Officer. Ladd retired as Board Chairman in 2009 and was succeeded in this position by John Speirs. In 2013, Cloud Cray, Jr. once again assumed this role.

In an effort to lay new foundations for value creation, the Company went through an extensive business transformation process in 2008 and early 2009. This process initially led to the closure of the Atchison flour mill in October 2008 and the ceasing of protein and starch manufacturing in Pekin one month later. As the result of this measure, the Company essentially exited the commodity protein and starch areas of its business, consolidating the production of specialty proteins and starches to the Atchison facility. These and subsequent moves allowed MGP to intensify its focus on production innovation and commercialization of value-added products.

In August 2009, the Company executed the sale of its Kansas City facility to Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc. The sale included all equipment used for the production and packaging of pet-related products, which principally included edible plant-based resins and finished pet treats. However, MGP continued to oversee production of the company’s unique textured wheat proteins, which are sold for use in meat enhancement and vegetarian product applications, at other off-site facilities. Production of this ingredient line had occurred in a separate section of the Kansas City facility.

Just prior to the divestiture of the Kansas City facility, the Company implemented its decision to discontinue supplying commodity type proteins and starches to the personal care industry. This action represented yet another means of applying increased resources toward serving customers in the food industry whose demand for ingredients that provide both nutritional and functional benefits has increased over time. Put another way, it was one more step to strengthen the Company’s focus on core areas of its business where MGP has developed the greatest amount of expertise and can truly bring more value to the marketplace.

Preceding the departure from its longstanding role as a leading supplier of commodity wheat gluten and commodity wheat starch, the Company also made a significant exit from the historically volatile fuel grade alcohol market with the ceasing of fuel grade alcohol production in Pekin in February 2009. This step allowed MGP to concentrate the focus of its distillery operations on the production of high quality food grade alcohol production for both beverage and industrial applications, the latter consisting in part of pharmaceutical, personal hygiene, detergents and other household products.

The business was renamed Midwest Solvents Company, Inc., and its first contract was with the Defense Supplies Corporation. The Company began with a workforce of 40 employees, and measures were immediately implemented to make production quality and efficiency the top priorities.

Numerous improvements were made to the plant shortly after it was put back into operation. These included the construction of a new building to house the plant’s alcohol receiving and denaturing rooms, the installation of a water pipeline stretching across the Missouri River to wells in Winthrop (East Atchison), Missouri, and the addition of equipment for more efficient recovery and handling of soluble feeds, a co-product of the distillation process.

In addition to producing its own alcohol, the Company also assisted other distilleries whose technologies were incapable of producing alcohol proof levels required by wartime munitions and synthetic rubber manufacturers. Midwest Solvents re-distilled other firms’ lower-grade products, upgrading them to acceptable standards.

The Company’s total production output in 1943 surpassed 5 million gallons of alcohol, four times greater than the amount produced the previous year. By early 1945, daily production averaged 25,000 gallons. This resulted in Midwest Solvents being recognized as the most efficient company of 131 businesses then engaged in the production of industrial alcohol for wartime purposes.

Just as monumental as the start-up and fine-tuning of its operations, between 1941 and 1945, there were several events that transpired at the Company in the years immediately following World War II.

Production and marketing emphasis shifted to beverage alcohol, concentrating first on serving large suppliers and bottlers, and later to meeting the needs of smaller firms around the country as well. The pursuit of this strategy was preceded by the installation of new fermenter tanks in December 1945, which represented a crucial first step toward producing a more diversified line of products. By this time, the Company’s workforce had doubled, and a year later the Kansas Legislature authorized the licensing of Midwest Solvents as a manufacturer of beverage alcohol.

This special legislative enactment paved the way for new opportunities for the Company, as did the repeal of the State’s prohibition amendment in 1949.
During the 1950s, Midwest Solvents embarked on an aggressive program to broaden its customer base. It was during this decade, too, that Cloud L. Cray, Jr., and Richard B. Cray, sons of company founder Cloud L. Cray, Sr., became increasingly involved in the management of the burgeoning business. Cloud, Jr., eventually was named President. Later he became Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Richard held the post of Vice President, and later served several years as President of McCormick Distilling Company in Weston, Missouri, which Midwest Solvents acquired in 1950.

The installation of a small plant which utilized wheat for recovering wheat gluten, the protein portion of the grain, set the stage for eventual major product diversification at the Atchison plant. In 1953, equipment was added for producing devitalized wheat gluten that was then used in making monosodium glutamate. Production later was switched to vital wheat gluten, which retains its elastic and cohesive properties and adds a desired texture to breads and other bakery products. Demand for this product resulted in substantial growth of production facilities and the establishment of a gluten division in 1959. By 1967, this operation had become one of the largest of its type in the world.

Wheat processing gained additional significance with the Company’s establishment of a wheat starch division in 1965. Initially, wheat paste was separated from wheat slurry, dried and turned into a powder form for making wallpaper paste. Later, wheat starch, the carbohydrate component of wheat flour, was developed into a multifunctional product used extensively in the baking and prepared foods industries and also for various industrial applications. Vital wheat gluten and wheat starch grew to become leading products of the Company. Meanwhile, a new distillation unit which doubled the plant’s alcohol production capacity was constructed in 1968. A short time later, a plant was built to capture and store carbon dioxide produced during the distillation process for use in making carbonated beverages, aerosol sprays, refrigerants and other chemical agents.

Occurrences in the 1950s, 60s and 70s also set the stage for numerous other important events, including the Company’s entrance into the fuel grade alcohol market in 1978. The quota limits were circumvented by certain European Union (E.U.) producers, leading to a two-year adjustment program which provided funds to support U.S. gluten and starch manufacturers in developing, producing and marketing value-added wheat proteins and starches. During this time, the Company focused on accelerating efforts to create and commercialize a more diverse portfolio of specialty proteins and starches to counteract the effects of greatly increased imports of low priced gluten from the E.U. and other foreign producers. As part of this initiative, the Company was able to make a number of technological improvements to its specialty protein and starch manufacturing capabilities.

In 1998, Midwest Grain Products added the first generation of wheat-based bioplastics to its growing portfolio of product lines. Just prior to that, the U.S. International Trade Commission approved a three-year quota on imported wheat gluten. The quota limits were circumvented by certain European Union (E.U.) producers, leading to a two-year adjustment program which provided funds to support U.S. gluten and starch manufacturers in developing, producing and marketing value-added wheat proteins and starches. During this time, the Company focused on accelerating efforts to create and commercialize a more diverse portfolio of specialty proteins and starches to counteract the effects of greatly increased imports of low priced gluten from the E.U. and other foreign producers. As part of this initiative, the Company was able to make a number of technological improvements to its specialty protein and starch manufacturing capabilities.

In 1999, Midwest Grain Products made major improvements at the Atchison distillery to increase production of its alcohol products. A short time later, the Company made additional upgrades to its Pekin facility to increase alcohol production. The Company also purchased a facility in Kansas City, Kansas for the production of natural resins, as well as its wheat-based bioplastics and newly developed textured protein lines.

In 2006, Ladd stepped down as President and passed the position to Tim Newkirk. Tim started his career with MGP in 1991 as a distillery shift manager before moving up the ranks to manager of the Pekin facility in 1997. He was then named director of operations in 2005 and at which time Ladd succeeded Cloud Cray, Jr., as Chairman of the Board.
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In September 2002, an explosion at the Atchison distillery occurred, limiting alcohol production capabilities for several months. The damaged distillery was replaced by a state-of-the-art facility that enables the Company to produce what is considered to be among some of the highest quality, high purity food grade alcohol in the world for use in both beverage and industrial applications.

In October 2002, Midwest Grain Products changed its name to MGP Ingredients, Inc. to reflect the Company’s shift in focus and commitment to successfully position itself as a premier supplier of ingredient solutions to the marketplace. This name subsequently came to represent a multi-faceted enterprise consisting of individual entities under the MGP Ingredients, Inc. family of companies.

In 2005, MGP purchased a manufacturing facility in Onaga, Kansas to facilitate further development and production of the eco-friendly bioplastic composites. At that time, this purchase made the Onaga facility the fourth company-owned site. To focus efforts and resources on its long-established core businesses – distillery products and food ingredients – the Company sold the Onaga facility and other bioplastics-related assets in 2013.

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Though its operations were dormant, the potential of the Atchison Agrol Company’s viability was very much alive in the summer and fall of 1941. Having failed in its efforts to produce marketable ethyl alcohol from surplus grain three years earlier, interest in the company was undergoing renewal. Demand for industrial alcohol had risen sharply since 1938, largely because of the war spreading throughout Europe and its threat to engulf the United States. Among those who realized the Agrol plant’s new possibilities was Cloud L. Cray, Sr., who was then President of Cray-McFawn and Company, a Detroit investment banking firm.

Cray arrived in Atchison in September 1941 to inspect the plant with the intention of having its equipment dismantled and reconstructed in Michigan. His fondness for the Kansas town, enthusiasm of local community leaders, and the plant’s location in the heart of America’s grain belt, however, persuaded him not to move the facility. Instead, he decided to purchase and revive the plant at its present site.

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