

## Expanded Elemental Enzymes commercial team preparing for a new era in agriculture

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Agriculture is at a turning point and full of opportunity, with Elemental Enzymes well-placed to play an important role in this new era.

Elemental Enzymes' approach, products, and ethos are attracting high caliber people, including two new team members whose primary focus is on expanded product development and providing support to the company's commercial partners.

Elemental Enzymes CEO Brian Thompson attributed the company's fast growth to the recent announcement of two key commercial collaborations with Nutrien Ag Solutions and Corteva.

"Our new appointees bring a wealth of knowledge, bolstering the company's capacity and agility to respond and deliver a range of biotechnology products to commercial growers. The new commercial team members will facilitate the launch of new products and support the company's future growth."

**Jason Horne** joins Elemental Enzymes as Strategic Account Manager, supporting the commercial business and its licensed partners to bring EE technologies to market. He will support EE's peptide partnership with Nutrien Ag Solutions, and the launch of the Vismax peptide in Florida and nationwide for citrus growers who are battling devastating HLB Citrus Greening.

Jason was strongly attracted to Elemental Enzymes' innovation, scope, and scale in biotechnology, enabling them to identify a specific target and quickly leverage the power of an enzyme, peptide, or other biochemistries to solve the problem.



Jason Horne, Strategic Account Manager

After growing up in southwest Minnesota, Jason acquired a degree in Range and Plant Science from South Dakota State University. Jason brings to Elemental

Enzymes commercial agriculture experience in ag retail and seed, followed by 12 years in Biological Ag business, most recently with Bayer Crop Science.

"I've always been intrigued by plant interactions with the soil microbiome, and helping to improve plant performance through sustainable means. I came to Elemental Enzymes because of their success with innovation in the marketplace, and was excited about the future for their biotech pipeline.

"Elemental Enzymes can identify a specific target then leverage the power of enzymes, peptides and other biochemistries to solve the targeted problem.

"While large companies mainly focus on broad-scale solutions, Elemental Enzymes has the size, scope, and scale to also take on smaller, focused projects that can have real impact on solving particular complex problems.

"The most recent example of Elemental Enzymes' agility is the peptide solution Vismax for HLB Citrus Greening, which could help turn around the serious impact of this disease on the citrus industry."

**Bret Gygi** will lead the Elemental Enzymes' Technical Services team, trialling, validating and developing innovations from the field towards commercialization.

Bret is excited about Elemental Enzymes' potential to bring a step-wise change to agriculture, using biochemistry and developing products with well-



Bret Gygi, Technical Services Lead

understood modes of action to solve specific problems – plus the approach of using 'nature's own machinery' to solve big problems in nutrient availability, plant defences or new modes of pesticidal action.

Bret spent his foundational years in Wisconsin Rapids, near the Central

Sands processing-vegetable growing area. He studied horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the heart of US cranberry production, then focused on Landscape Horticulture at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Bret brings a wealth of experiences from working with EMD Crop BioScience, Novozymes, Monsanto and Bayer on seed treatments up and down the pipeline. His range of experience includes helping to develop bioassays and studying microbial seed-treatment interactions, plus working with distributors and growers to identify and provide tailored solutions to particular crop needs.

"I've thought for a long time there has to be a better way forward for agriculture. The biologicals industry has been searching for better microbes 'forever', but the reality is there really has not been a giant leap forward.

"At EE, I look forward to leading the Technical Services department, with a team of field and controlled-environment researchers, trialling new and existing biotechnology across a wide swathe of horticulture and agronomic crop systems. This team of talented

researchers are as passionate as any I've worked with. We will help the commercial teams at EE to launch new solutions and practices with our industry partners.

"EE technology will continue to have increasing value in a number of categories including pesticidal actives that detrimentally affect fungal cell walls or pest-egg masses; plant growth regulators to help crops grow under known or likely stressors, compensating by developing greater leaf area or root mass; plant defence stimulators like peptides applied to help citrus trees tolerate Citrus Greening; and enzymes that help crops access nutrients that are unavailable in the soil organic matter.

"Providing new, alternative and complementary solutions to the unique problems in a grower's fields, we will become a viable option in that grower's system.

"I believe the products and solutions that Elemental Enzymes is developing have greater potential for broad efficacy than what I've seen in the traditional microbial space. They are 'part of nature's machinery' at the molecular level."