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MERCHANDISING ISSUE

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Upgrade after Acquisition

STEEL ANNEX ADDED AT ELEVATOR NEXT TO THE BIG SIOUX RIVER



Central Valley Ag
York, NE • 402-362-0246

Founded: 2003
Storage capacity: 88 million bushels at 52 locations
Annual volume: 130 million bushels
Annual revenues: \$1.1 billion
Number of members: 10,000+
Number of employees: 673
Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, hard red winter wheat, sorghum, oats
Services: Grain handling and merchandising, feed, agronomy, energy, marketing services

Key personnel at Akron:

- Kyle Sitzmann, regional manager
- Rick Krier, location manager
- Stachia Heydon, customer service
- Thomas Oren, sales
- Kelly Saathoff, sales/operations
- Terry KJose, operations
- Jason Madden, operations
- Carlos Mendoza, operations
- Tristin Golden, operations

Supplier List

Aeration fans.....Rolfes@Boone
Bin sweeps Behlen Mfg. Co.
Bucket elevatorSchlagel Inc.
Catwalks LeMar Industries Corp.
Concrete foundations ...Longfellow Foundations
Contractor/millwright.....LandMarc Construction Inc.
ConveyorsSchlagel Inc.
Distributor.....Schlagel Inc.
Electrical contractor..... Thomson Electric
Elevator buckets Tapco Inc.
Engineering NOHR Wortmann Engineering
Grain temp system ..Tri-States Grain Conditioning Inc.
Steel storage..... Behlen Mfg. Co.
Steel tank erectionDagel Steel Construction Inc.
Tower support system LeMar Industries Corp.



Aerial view of Central Valley Ag's branch elevator in Akron, IA, with a new 1.2-million-bushel steel annex featured prominently. Photos by JH Photography, Spencer, IA.

When Nebraska-based Central Valley Ag purchased a branch elevator at Akron, IA (712-568-2426), from Farmers Cooperative Co. in 2015, the facility alongside the Big Sioux River in northwest Iowa clearly needed some work.

“It was getting run down,” says Location Manager Rick Krier, who came to Akron in January 2017 from NEW Cooperative and who served as 2010-11 international president of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS).

He noted that some of the existing receiving legs were running at 3,000 or 5,000 bph. “We hoped to bring back customers with faster equipment and more storage space.”

Steel Annex

Central Valley did this in 2016 by adding a 1.2-million-bushel steel annex with 15,000 bph receiving capacity next to an existing 579,386-bushel rectangular temporary stor-



*Location Manager
Rick Krier*

age system. The project included running new overhead conveyors out to the 298-foot-x-129-foot pile.

The cooperative hired Land-Marc Construction Inc., Hawarden, IA (712-552-1200), as general contractor on the \$4.3 million project. “They’re just 10 miles up the road, and they’ve done work for Farmers Coop in the past,” Krier says.

Other contractors involved in the project include:

- NOHR Wortmann Engineering, Yankton, SD (605-665-1214), engineered the tank foundations.
- Dagel Steel Construction Inc., Florence, SD (605-886-3796), erected the corrugated steel tanks.
- Thomson Electric Co., Sioux City, IA (712-252-4221), was the electrical contractor and provided automation systems.
- Longfellow Foundations, Hutchinson,

KS (620-662-1228), provided the auger cast pilings for the foundations.

The project broke ground in May 2016 and was completed by September.

Storage

New storage for the annex consists of two Behlen 602,000-bushel corrugated steel tanks. Because of their location on a 100-year flood plain of the Big Sioux River, the tanks were designed with eight-foot stemwalls, and each tank is supported by 214 16-inch auger cast pilings 65 feet deep to make up for any soil instability.

The two Behlen tanks stand 92 feet in diameter, 98-1/2 feet tall at the eaves, and 124 feet tall at the peak. They feature outside stiffeners, flat floors, 12-inch Behlen Omega zero-entry sweep augers, and 18-cable TSGC grain temperature monitoring systems.

The tanks differ on aeration, however. The east tank, intended for soybean storage, features four 30-hp Rolfes@Boone centrifugal fans and eight roof exhausters delivering 1/10 cfm per bushel. The west tank has a



Ground view showing 15,000-bph Schlagel receiving leg in a 16-foot-x-16-foot LeMar tower, six-hole Schlagel rotary distributor, and two 4,000-bushel Meridian surge tanks.

stronger aeration system, since at this time, no grain dryers are available at Akron. It has four 75-hp centrifugal fans and 11 roof exhausters delivering 1/7 cfm per bushel.

Handling

The annex has a single mechanical re-

ceiving pit holding 1,250 bushels. The pit feeds a 15,000-bph Schlagel leg outfitted with a single row of Tapco heavy-duty 20x8 buckets on 10-inch centers mounted on a 22-inch Goodyear belt.

The leg is housed inside a 16-foot-x-16-foot LeMar support tower with switchback stairs. The tower has enough space to add wet and dry legs for a dryer in the future.

The leg deposits grain into a six-hole Schlagel rotary distributor. From there, grain travels via overhead 20,000-bph Schlagel drag conveyors to storage or out to the existing temporary pile or via ceramic-lined spout into a pair of Meridian 4,000-bushel surge tanks for truck loading.

The tanks empty onto 20,000-bph above-ground Schlagel reclaim drags running back to the receiving leg.

Krier notes that the site has plenty of space for years of construction projects. Future plans include a grain dryer, wet and dry legs to serve the dryer, and a wet tank.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor

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