

Growth for Customer Service

OHIO RAIL TERMINAL ELEVATOR ADDS STEEL STORAGE, HANDLING CAPACITY



Town & Country Cooperative
Ashland, OH • 419-281-9426

Founded: 2002
Storage capacity: 6 million bushels at seven locations
Annual volume: 14 million bushels
Annual revenues: \$XX million
Number of members: X,XXX
Number of employees: 150
Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, soft red winter wheat, oats
Services: Grain handling and merchandising, agronomy, propane, retail farm stores

Key personnel at Mansfield:

- Kevin Berger, operations manager
- Ernie Green, operations foreman
- Holly Cotter, office manager

Supplier List

Aeration system..... Rolfes@Boone
 Bin sweeps The GSI Group
 Bucket elevator The GSI Group
 Catwalk LeMar Industries Inc.
 Contractor Elevator Services & Storage Inc. (ESSI)
 Conveyors.....Hi Roller Conveyors
 Dust collection system.....
 Hawthorne-Seving Inc.
 Elevator buckets..... Maxi-Lift Inc.
 Grain temperature system ..Rolfes@Boone
 Millwright.....ESSI
 Motors Baldor Motors
 Speed reducers.....Dodge
 Steel storageBehlen Mfg. Co.
 Tower support systemLeMar Industries Inc.
 Truck probe..... Intersystems
 Truck scaleRice Lake Weighing Systems



Aerial view of the Town & Country Cooperative rail terminal in Mansfield, OH, with two newest corrugated steel tanks in foreground and a new receiving leg immediately to the left. Aerial photo by Focal Plane Photography, South Euclid, OH

It takes some effort to persuade farmers and grain haulers to truck grain to an elevator located in the middle of a hilly city of 50,000. Often enough, it takes more than just a good grain bid.

At Town & Country Cooperative's 2.75-million-bushel rail terminal in Mansfield, OH (419-524-9676), customer services is the name of the game. That translates into getting the truckers in and out of the property on North Main Street as quickly as possible, says Grain Operations Manager Kevin Berger, who came to Town & Country six years ago from a grain elevator in Shelby, OH.

Some 1.75 million of that bushel capacity is new in 2010. In a bid to avoid harvesttime



Kevin Berger

shutdowns due to a full elevator, grain piles that might annoy neighbors and city government, and long truck lines, Town & Country added two huge corrugated steel tanks, and a second receiving pit rated at 15,000 bph.

"The city was really cooperative with us," Berger says of the project. "We had a very good plan that we had developed with ESSI (Elevator Services & Storage, Beaverdam, OH/419-643-5111). And there was very little resistance – this is an older neighborhood, and not a lot of people live right here any longer."

ESSI has been doing projects at the Mansfield elevator for at least 20 years, he adds.

Construction on the \$X.X million project broke ground in September 2009, and every-

thing was complete by August 2010.

New Construction

Crews from ESSI constructed two large Behlen corrugated steel tanks along the west edge of the cooperative property along Lily Street rated at 1 million and 750,000 bushels, respectively.

The larger of the two tanks stands 131 feet in diameter, 76 feet tall at the eaves, and 111 feet tall at the peak. The smaller tank stands 105 feet in diameter, 92 feet tall at the eaves, and 121 feet tall at the peak.

Both tanks are outfitted with outside stiffeners, flat concrete bottoms with aeration ducting, and 16-inch GSI sweep augers. Both also are equipped with Rolfes@Boone grain temperature monitoring systems, 24 cables in the smaller tank and 35 in the larger.

Both tanks are aerated at 1/10 cfm per bushel on coarse grains, using four 40-hp Rolfes@Boone centrifugal fans on the 750,000-bushel tank and six of them on the million-bushel unit.

Incoming grain trucks are routed



Incoming truck is sampled with a new Intersystems probe prior to dumping at one of two receiving pits in the background. Photo by Ed Zdrojewski.

down a drive running between the new steel tanks and an older slipform concrete house, with a stop at a new Intersystems truck probe for grain sampling.

The newer of the two mechanical receiving pits at the Mansfield elevator holds approximately 1,000 bushels. It feeds into a new 15,000-bph GSI

receiving leg, which is outfitted with Maxi-Lift 16x8 heavy-duty CC-MAX buckets mounted on an 18-inch (brand name) belt. The new pit also is outfitted with an 80-foot dump-through Rice Lake truck scale, which allows full and tare weights to be taken without moving the truck.

At the top of the leg, new 30,000-bph Hi Roller enclosed belt conveyors run out to the new storage or to existing storage. Grain is routed from the leg through a two-way valve. Both of the receiving legs can be routed onto any of the overhead conveyors, in order to allow them to operate at capacity.

The new tanks empty onto another series of above-ground 30,000-bph Hi Roller enclosed belt conveyors, running back to the receiving pits.

"Everything is working very well," says Berger, who adds that the facility has dumped as many as 170 trucks in a single 10- or 12-hour day during the 2010 harvest.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor



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