

The Upgrade Continues

RICE HANDLER ADDS MORE STORAGE SEPARATIONS, DRYING, HANDLING CAPACITY



Tubbs Rice and Grain
Pioneer, LA • 318-428-2439

Founded: 1988
Storage capacity: 4 million bushels at two locations
Annual volume: 7 million bushels
Number of employees: 25
Crops handled: Rice, corn, soybeans, soft red winter wheat, sorghum
Services: Grain handling and merchandising

Key personnel:

- Larry Tubbs, owner/president
- Kevin Tubbs, vice president
- Steve Henderson, general manager
- Mike Christian, operations
- Carlos Spann, maintenance supervisor
- Donna Shoemaker, office manager

Supplier List

Aeration fans.....The GSI Group
AspiratorsLMC Industrial Corp.
Bearing sensors4B Components
Bucket elevators.....The GSI Group
CatwalksWarrior Mfg. LLC
Concrete ..Rawlinson/Hayes Supply
Contractorin-house
ConveyorsThe GSI Group
Cushion boxesPremier Components Inc.
Distributor.....The Essmueller Co.
Electrical.....Knight Electric
Elevator bucketsMaxi-Lift Inc.
EngineeringNohr Engineering
Grain dryerShanzer Grain Dryer
Level indicators.....BinMaster Level Controls
Linners.....Premier Components Inc.
Millwright.....K.T. Tanks
Motion sensors4B Components Ltd.
Scale designConceptual Design
Steel storage.....The GSI Group
Steel tank erectionHayes Mechanical Contractor
Tower support system....Warrior Mfg.



Four of six new 50,000-bushel GSI steel hopper tanks visible provide more separations for both wet and dry rice during and after harvest. Photos by Ed Zdrojewski.

When Tubbs Rice and Grain in 2009 replaced a 500,000-bushel tank that had been lost in a fire with a 750,000-bushel steel tank and new pit and leg, that was just the start of the improvements at the rice dryer location southeast of Mer Rouge, LA (318-647-3730). (See the May/June 2010 issue of Grain Journal for an account of that project.)

Improvements at the site in 2011 include the addition of 300,000 bushels worth of additional steel storage, a second 10,000-bph dryer, a second receiving pit, four new legs with related conveying equipment, and a new aspirator for rice cleaning.

“We’re always trying to improve our service to customers,” says Steve Henderson, an ex-farmer who has been general manager at Tubbs Rice since 2007. “Their combine



Steve Henderson

capacity has increased to the point where the farmers could throw grain at us faster than we could dry or handle it.”

This time, rather than hiring a general contractor for the project, Tubbs Rice opted to act as its own contractor. Hayes Mechanical Inc., Eudora, AR (870-355-4577), which had been the general contractor in 2009, returned to erect the new steel storage and construct the tunnels.

The cost of the continuing project remains confidential.

New for 2011

When *Grain Journal* visited the Mer Rouge location early in August, the construction project was nearing completion. The only major component not already on site was the aspirator.



Natural gas-fired, 10,000-bph Shanzer rice dryer is the second rice dryer on the property.



Two new 7,500-bph LMC aspirators remove light fractions from rice.



Four 15,000-bph GSI legs, two for receiving plus wet and dry legs for the new dryer, are encased in a Warrior support tower.

Among the additions in 2011:

- Hayes Mechanical constructed six 50,000-bushel GSI steel hopper tanks standing 36 feet in diameter, 79 feet tall at the eaves, and 89 feet tall at the peaks. The tanks are equipped with outside stiffeners. A pair of 3-hp GSI axial fans provide 1/10 cfm per bushel worth of aeration. Henderson notes that the six new tanks provide

New construction at Mer Rouge includes GSI legs for receiving and wet and dry legs for grain drying, plus a new Essmueller four-hole rotary distributor and Warrior tower with switchback staircase.



“intermediate storage” for wet grain awaiting drying or dry grain coming out of the dryer, as well as new separations for various grades of rice. In addition, two of the six tanks have sidedraws for loading trucks.

- A new 500-bushel mechanical receiving pit feeds a new 15,000-bph GSI leg, the fourth receiving pit at Mer Rouge. In addition to the receiving leg, Tubbs Rice installed three more 15,000-bph legs to serve as wet leg and dry legs for the new dryer and to feed the new aspirator. The legs are outfitted with 20x8 Maxi-Lift CC-MAX buckets mounted on 22-inch Scandura belts.

- The receiving and dry legs feed into a four-hole Essmueller rotary distributor, which can reach existing storage or the new hopper tanks via overhead 25,000-bph GSI drag conveyors. These conveyors were matched in capacity to an existing leg. Premier Components Inc. supplied the transition and spouting for the new construction and liner for wear surfaces inside the distributor and elsewhere around the new construction.

- The second dryer is an 10,000-bph Shanzer model

standing 98 feet tall and fired by natural gas. Henderson said the new dryer is similar to one at the company’s Pioneer,

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-Steve Henderson, Tubbs Rice and Grain

LA location that has proven to be easy to operate and easily reaching its rated capacity. “We typically dry rice in two passes, at a temperature ranging from 100 to 140 degrees, depending on the initial moisture and other factors,” he says, adding that the dryer can be used for corn, as well.

- A pair of new LMC aspirators, not installed until fall 2011, remove light fractions from rice at a capacity rated up to 7,500 bph each.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor