

After the Windstorm

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE REBUILDS TANKS, EQUIPMENT AT TWO LOCATIONS



Cooperative Producers Inc.
Hastings, NE • 402-463-5148

Founded: 1906
Storage capacity: 87 million bushels at 27 locations
Annual volume: 110 million bushels
Annual revenues: \$650-700 million
Number of members: 6,000
Number of employees: 535
Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, hard red winter wheat, sorghum
Services: Grain handling and merchandising, agronomy, energy, convenience store

Key personnel:

- Steve Domm, CEO
- Dan Olson, COO
- Becky Kindschuh, western regional superintendent
- Brian Karr, Campbell location manager
- Mark Randall, Ragan location manager

Supplier List

- Bin sweeps** Prairie Land Millwright Inc.
- Bucket elevators**..... InterSystems
- Catwalk**..... InterSystems
- Contractor** J & D Construction Inc.
- Control system**... Guarantee Electric Co.
- Conveyors** InterSystems
- Demolition** ABC Crane Co.
- Distributor**..... InterSystems
- Elevator buckets** Maxi-Lift Inc.
- Grain temperature system** .. Rolfes@Boone
- Insurance** Nationwide
- Millwright**... J & D Construction Inc.
- Steel storage**..... Behlen Mfg. Co.
- Steel tank erection** Dagle Steel Construction Inc., D&W Steel Erectors



CPI's elevator at Campbell, NE. The large Behlen tank at left was a replacement for a tank destroyed in a windstorm June 14, 2014. Photos by Ed Zdrojewski.

The severe windstorm that blew across south central Nebraska on Father's Day, June 14, 2014, did relatively little damage to the towns of Ragan and Campbell, despite winds clocked at 118 mph. Fortunately, only minor injuries to residents were reported.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the case in the countryside, where farmers lost farm buildings, and 850 center pivots were destroyed, says Dan Olson, chief operating officer at Cooperative Producers Inc. (CPI) based in Hastings, NE.

And the storm didn't spare the two CPI locations at Campbell (402-756-8291) and Ragan (308-567-2241). At both locations, the storm destroyed a 105-foot-diameter, 750,000-bushel steel tank. Olson notes that the tanks were empty at the time, which made them more vulnerable to the wind.

Also at Ragan, the storm damaged a second 105-foot tank and destroyed a support tower, leg, and some overhead conveyors.

Overall, says Olson, Nationwide, the cooperative's insurance carrier, estimated total damage at the two sites at \$4 million. (In fact, the cooperative suffered roughly \$12 million

CPI's grain elevator at Ragan, NE. The large tank at far left is a replacement for a tank destroyed in the storm.





Post-storm construction at Ragan includes a 15,000-bph InterSystems leg with tower, six-duct InterSystems distributor, and a series of 15,000-bph InterSystems overhead conveyors.

in damages at six locations, according to Nationwide, over the course of two storms in May and June 2014. Everything was repaired by harvest.)

CPI contacted several contractors about rebuilding at the two locations and selected J & D Construction, Inc., Montevideo, MN (800-279-6447), a Behlen dealer, as general contractor and millwright on the project.

“They were the only contractor that indicated they could get the job done in time for harvest,” Olson says. “I can’t say enough good about J & D and Behlen. Behlen began rolling steel for the new sidewalls the Monday after the storm.”

Also heavily involved in the rebuild were:

- Dagle Steel Construction Inc., Florence, SD (605-886-3796), which erected the replacement tank at Ragan and D&W Steel Erectors, Revillo, SD (605-623-4515), which erected the replacement tank at Campbell.

- ABC Crane Co., Rockwell City, IA (712-297-8500), which did demolition work and repairs on the damaged tank at Ragan.

- Guarantee Electric Co., Hastings (402-643-4586), handled the electrical systems.

The project was completed in 14 weeks after the storm, in time for fall harvest.

Campbell Project

The new Behlen tank stands 105 feet in diameter, 88 feet 9 inches tall at the eave, and 117 feet tall at the eaves holding 722,000 bushels. Olson notes that at both locations, the tank roofs have 50,000 lbs. load capacity and are designed to withstand winds up to 110 mph. Both also have access doors two rings up from the concrete foundation.

The replacement tank also has flat floors, a 12-inch BinGator sweep auger from Prairieland Millwright, and 24-cable Rolfes@Boone grain temperature monitoring system. The coop was able to salvage the four 60-hp Caldwell fans

from the destroyed tank, which supply 1/5 cfm per bushel of aeration.

A new 15,000-bph InterSystems overhead drag conveyor fills the tank. This conveyor and an existing leg are supported by a new InterSystems 12-foot-x-14-foot-x-110-foot tower and 6-foot-wide catwalk. CPI salvaged a 15,000-bph reclaim conveyor that was in a below-ground tunnel and has an incline at the end for truck loading.

Ragan Project

The new Behlen tank at Ragan is identical to the tank at Campbell.

In addition, however, J & D constructed a new 12-foot-x-12-foot-x-100-foot InterSystems support tower. The tower encloses a 15,000-bph InterSystems leg equipped with a single row of 16x8 Maxi-Lift Tiger-Tuff buckets mounted on an 18-inch belt.

The replacement leg feeds a 6-duct InterSystems rotary distributor, which deposits grain onto a new overhead InterSystems 15,000-bph enclosed belt conveyor running to the new storage. J & D also replaced three of four existing catwalks with new 7-foot-wide InterSystems catwalks.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor