

High-Yield Oasis

MINNESOTA COOP BOOSTS STORAGE, HANDLING, DRYING CAPACITY AT BRANCH ELEVATOR



All American Cooperative
Stewartville, MN • 507-533-4222

Founded: 1908
Storage capacity: 8.1 million bushels at five locations
Annual volume: 9 million bushels
Annual revenue: \$100 million
Number of members: 3,000
Number of employees: 65
Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, oats
Services: Grain handling and merchandising, feed, agronomy

Key personnel:

- Glenn Lutteke, general manager
- Todd Stockdale, Eastern grain operations manager
- Dale Himmer, Elgin location manager
- Todd Vehrenkamp, office manager
- Rodney Hahn, outside foreman

Supplier List

Aeration fans.....Rolfes@Boone
Bearing sensors..... 4B Components Ltd.
Bin sweepsThe GSI Group
Bucket elevators.. S-M Enterprises Inc.
CatwalksWarrior Mfg. LLC
ContractorCEEC Inc.
Conveyors S-M Enterprises Inc., Hi Roller Conveyors
Distributor.....Schlagel Inc.
Elevator buckets Maxi-Lift Inc.
Engineering VAA LLC
Grain dryer Zimmerman Grain Dryers
Grain temperature systemTSGC Inc.
Millwright.....CEEC Inc.
Motion sensors 4B Components
Steel storage.....The GSI Group, Meridian Mfg. Group
Tower support system...Warrior Mfg.
Truck probe Gamet Mfg. Inc.
Truck scale.....VandenBerg Scales



All American Cooperative's elevator at Elgin, MN with a brand new annex in right half of photo featuring a 1-million-bushel storage tank, 143,000-bushel wet tank, two 20,000-bph receiving legs, and 7,000-bph grain dryer. Photos by Ed Zdrojewski.

The region of southeastern Minnesota has an unusual distinction in 2012. As of late August, it was one of the few areas of the Midwest anticipating above-average grain yields, while most of the rest of the middle of the country was ravaged by drought.

That is making Todd Stockdale, regional operations manager for All American Cooperative, very glad to have a brand new million-bushel corrugated steel tank at the company's Elgin, MN site (507-876-2222). The new GSI tank is part of a larger project that also included construction of a 140,000-bushel GSI wet tank, 7,000-bph Zimmerman grain dryer, and two new receiving pits feeding a pair of 20,000-bph S-M legs.

The country around Elgin traditionally has been devoted to dairy farming, but over the last

25 years, producers gradually have gotten out of dairying and devoted their acreage to row crops, says Stockdale. (He rejoined All American in 2009, after leaving in 1997 and spending nearly a decade working for Rabobank, an international lender specializing in agriculture.)

"This site was already originating enough grain each harvest to fill the new construction. We had been needing to move out almost 1 million bushels during the harvest rush," he says.

To make room for an expansion at the in-town site, the cooperative had to acquire and tear down an old fertilizer plant, three storage sheds, and a lumberyard building. Wabasha County even rerouted a bicycle trail for the project. "The community was totally supportive," Stockdale says. "Not every town would be that accommodating."



New million-bushel GSI corrugated steel tank nears completion about a week before the cooperative's open house in September 2012.

The cooperative hired VAA, LLC, Plymouth, MN (888-583-3527), for some of the design work, to solicit bids, and perform final engineering work. After reviewing those bids, All American awarded the general contract to CEEC Inc., Wabasso, MN (507-342-2383). Knobelsdorff Electric, Goodhue, MN (651-923-4970), while Cross Country Construction, Elbow Lake, MN (218-685-6410), erected the steel tanks.

Construction got underway around Feb. 1, thanks to a mild winter. It was finishing up about the time *Grain Journal* visited in August, with an open house scheduled for the following week.

New Construction

The big tank stands 135 feet in diameter, 72 feet tall at the eave, and 108 feet tall at the peak. It comes equipped with outside stiffeners, 12-inch GSI power sweep, and 34-cable TSGC grain temperature monitoring system. A set of six 30-hp Rolfes@Boone centrifugal fans provide a minimum of 1/9.2 cfm per bushel of aeration through extensive in-floor ducting.

The GSI wet tank stands 48 feet in diameter, 86 feet tall at the eave, and 99 feet tall at the peak. This tank also has outside stiffeners, a GSI power sweep, and seven TSGC grain temperature monitoring cables. A set of two 30-hp Rolfes@Boone fans provide 1/7 cfm per bushel of aeration.

All American in August was completing a remodel of its office building, which included the installation of a new 80-foot Vandenberg truck scale adjacent to the building and an Apollo truck probe.

From the scale, trucks proceed to a pair of enclosed 1,000-bushel mechanical

receiving pits that feed a pair of S-M 20,000-bph legs encased in a 16-foot-x-18-foot-x-190-foot-tall Warrior tower with a switchback staircase. The legs are outfitted with a single row each of Maxi-Lift 18x8 HD-MAX elevator buckets mounted on a 19-inch belt.

The legs feed into a six-hole Schlagel swing-type double distributor. This can send grain via ceramic-lined gravity spouts to the wet bin, or a 5,000-bushel Meridian truck loadout tank, or via a overhead 55,000-bph Hi Roller enclosed

belt conveyor to the million-bushel tank.

The new tanks empty onto 10,000-bph S-M drag conveyors in an above ground tunnel.

All American already had a 3,000-bph Zimmerman dryer at Elgin, and no decision has been made on whether to continue using it or moving it to another location.

The new dryer runs on natural gas from a six-inch main. The dryer is served by a 15,000-bph wet leg. Dry grain is sent back to one of the two new receiving legs.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor