

Never Enough Space

OHIO TERMINAL ADDS MILLION-BUSHEL TANK, ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT



Sunrise Cooperative Inc.
Fremont, OH • 419-332-6468

Founded: 1990
Storage capacity: 21 million bushels at 10 locations
Annual volume: 60 million bushels
Annual revenues: \$500 million
Number of members: 2,500
Number of employees: 180
Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, soft red winter wheat
Services: Grain handling and merchandising, feed, energy, agronomy

Key personnel at Crestline:

- Mike Oehlhof, branch manager
- J.C. Ehmann, superintendent
- Shelley Kniseley, office manager
- Chuck Jones, weighmaster/grain grader

Supplier List

Aeration fans.....Rolfes@Boone
Bin sweep.....GSI Group, LLC
Bucket elevator..Hawthorne-Seving Inc.
Contractor.....Elevator Services & Storage Inc.
Conveyors (belt).....Hi Roller Conveyors
Conveyors (drag)..GSI Group, LLC
Dust collection system..Hawthorne Systems Inc.
Dust filters.....Donaldson Torit
Elevator buckets.....Maxi-Lift Inc.
Grain temperature system..Rolfes@Boone
Level indicators.....Monitor Technologies LLC
Liner.....Tandem Products Inc.
Motion sensors.....PPI
Steel storage.....Behlen Mfg. Co.
Tower support system.....LeMar Industries Corp.
Truck probe.....Intersystems
Truck scale.....Rice Lake Weighing Systems



Sunrise Cooperative Inc.'s 3.7-million-bushel rail terminal near Crestline, OH, with a new 1-million-bushel Behlen tank at far right and the concrete foundation for one of two more million-bushel tanks under construction to the right of that. Aerial photo by Focal Plane Photography, South Euclid, OH.

Sunrise Cooperative Inc.'s rail terminal on the CSX west of Crestline, OH (419-683-4600), has been growing almost continuously since it opened for business in 2004, but there almost never has been enough space says Branch Manager Mike Oehlhof.

To begin with, explains Oehlhof, who has been at Crestline since 2004, the elevator is a delivery point for soft red winter (SRW) wheat traded on the CME Group's Chicago Board of Trade. That guarantees a large volume year in and year out.

Then, the facility's rail access makes it a major shipping point for corn and soybeans headed to the southeastern feed markets. Ever-increasing yields contribute to the volume, as well.

"This year (2010), we're averaging 130 to 200 bushels per acre on corn," Oehlhof says. "Soybeans are above average, at 40 to 70 bushels. We have pretty good wheat, although the yields are not as good as 2009. Test weights

are down, but fortunately, we haven't had a lot of concern with scab."

Taking Charge

Sunrise's latest move to get a handle on the volume at Crestline has been the addition in 2010 of a huge million-bushel corrugated steel tank at the east end of the elevator's row of storage tanks.



Superintendent J.C. Ehmann (left) and Branch Manager Mike Oehlhof. Photos by Ed Zdrojewski.



Ground level view of new Behlen tank nearing completion in October 2010.

In addition, the \$15 million worth of capital expenditures at Crestline included the addition of a second receiving pit and leg, related grain handling equipment, and a new fertilizer plant.

Elevator Services & Storage Inc. (ESSI), Beavertown, OH (419-643-5111), built the original elevator six years ago, and the cooperative brought ESSI back for the latest addition.

“They do what they say they’re going to do, and they get done on time,” says Oehlhof.

Groundbreaking on the big tank took place in May, and it was ready to take in grain in time for the summer wheat harvest.

Storage Expansion

The ESSI crew constructed a 1-million-bushel Behlen steel tank standing 131-1/2 feet in diameter, 75 feet 8 inches tall at the eaves, and 110 feet 8 inches tall at the peak.

The flat-bottom tank includes outside stiffeners, 16-inch GSI sweep auger, and 35-cable Rolfes@Boone grain temperature monitoring system. A set of four 40-hp Rolfes@Boone centrifugal fans provide 1/10 cfm per bushel of aeration, while 12 roof exhausters work to keep the roof deck dry.

A 40,000-bph GSI overhead drag conveyor takes grain out to the new tank, which in turn, empties onto a 40,000-bph Hi Roller enclosed belt conveyor

housed in an above-ground tunnel that runs back to an existing leg.

A new leg, the facility’s third, rated at 20,000 bph, is fed by a 1,000-bushel mechanical receiving pit, located between two existing tanks. It is outfitted with two rows of Maxi-Lift 14x8 HD-MAX buckets mounted on a 31-inch Goodyear Pathfinder belt.

Apart from the storage and grain handling equipment, the coop also installed a new 70-foot Rice Lake platform scale

for weighing outbound trucks adjacent to an existing inbound scale. A new Intersystems truck probe was installed between the two scales.

All of the new equipment is controlled by a PLC-based automation system that CompuWeigh originally provided when the facility first was constructed. This is the third upgrade to the original control system and now includes three networked PLC control cabinets in two different motor control centers and four automation workstations including one at the new receiving pit.

Fertilizer Plant

As part of the overall construction plan, Sunrise Cooperative hired Clouse Construction Corp., Upper Sandusky, OH (419-209-0601), to construct a steel building housing a 40,000-ton fertilizer plant adjacent to the elevator.

The new building includes four 30,000-gal. anhydrous ammonia tanks and a seed and chemical warehouse.

Meanwhile, ESSI in the fall of 2010 broke ground on two more million-bushel tanks to the east of the first one. When *Grain Journal* visited Oct. 23, one concrete foundation was completed, and the tanks were scheduled to go into service some time in spring 2011.

Also under construction for completion in 2011 are a pair of 1.5-million-gal. welded steel tanks to hold 28% N liquid fertilizer.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor



Outbound truck is weighed on a new Rice Lake platform scale, while driver takes his scale ticket from a printer that is part of a CompuWeigh SmartTruck scale management system.