

# Pet Food Supplier

INDIANA COOP BUILDS AN ANNEX DESIGNED FOR FAST ORIGIN GRADES AND LOADOUT



**Harvest Land Cooperative**  
Richmond, IN • 765-962-1527

**Founded:** Late 1920s  
**Storage capacity:** 10 million bushels at 10 locations  
**Annual volume:** 10-12 million bushels  
**Annual revenues:** \$250 million  
**Number of members:** 7,500  
**Number of employees:** 400  
**Crops handled:** Corn, soybeans, soft red winter wheat, hay  
**Services:** Grain handling and merchandising, feed, petroleum, LP, agronomy, seed, country stores

**Key personnel:**

- Keith Appleget, CEO
- Stan Hicks, COO
- Steve Mittendorf, regional manager
- Ron Smith, merchandiser
- Butch Shiebla, Hagerstown manager
- Joe Bleill, operations manager

**Supplier List**

- Aeration fans** .. Brock Grain Systems
- Bin sweep** ... Brock Grain Systems
- Bucket elevator** ..... InterSystems
- Catwalk** ... LeMar Industries Corp.
- Cleaner** ..... InterSystems
- Contractor** ..... Rebsco Inc.
- Distributor** ..... Schlagel Inc.
- Elevator buckets** .... Maxi-Lift Inc.
- Gates** ..... Abel Mfg. Co. Inc.
- Grain temperature system** ..... Safe-Grain Inc.
- Leg belting** ..... Goodyear
- Level indicators** ..... Monitor Technologies LLC
- Magnets** .. Industrial Magnetism Inc.
- Manlift** ..... Sidney Mfg. Inc.
- Motion sensors** .. Maxi-Tronic, Inc.
- Samplers** ..... InterSystems
- Speed reducers** ..... Emerson Power Transmission
- Square bins** ... Baker-Rullman Inc.
- Steel storage** .... Brock Grain Systems
- Tower support system** ..... LeMar Industries Corp.



*New 735,000-bushel steel annex at the Harvest Land Cooperative elevator in Hagerstown, IN, including, from left, Brock grain storage tank, receiving and loadout shed with four 8,000-bushel plus one 1,500-bushel Baker Rullman square steel bins, and LeMar tower housing a 20,000-bph InterSystems leg, InterSystems gravity cleaner, and two Schlagel distributors. Photo by Ed Zdrojewski.*

For several years, the Harvest Land Cooperative grain elevator outside of Hagerstown, IN (765-489-4141), has been supplying corn to a Hills Pet Nutrition pet food processing plant in nearby Richmond, IN. Like most pet food producers, Hills is a demanding customer, with strict grade standards.

To make that job a little easier, Harvest Land spent about \$3.2 million in 2007 and 2008 to build a steel annex that includes some features more commonly associated with feed mills.

The annex includes a 735,000-bushel Brock corrugated steel tank and a truck receiving and loadout shed. The shed includes four 8,000-bushel and one 1,500-bushel overhead Baker-Rullman square steel bins.

After taking bids, Harvest Land awarded the construction project to Rebsco Inc., Greenville, OH (937-548-2246), which has done numerous projects for the cooperative in the past, according to Hagerstown Manager Butch Shiebla, a 20-year veteran

employee. Construction broke ground in May 2008, and the facility was ready in time for fall harvest.

### **The Annex**

The Brock tank stands 105 feet in diameter, 91 feet tall at the eaves, and 119 feet tall at the peak. The tank has outside stiffeners, flat bottom, 16-inch Brock Sweepmaster sweep auger, 24-cable Safe-Grain temperature monitoring system, and level indicators from Monitor Technologies.

A set of four 30-hp Brock centrifugal fans and 10 roof exhausters per tank provide 1/7 cfm per bushel of aeration through in-floor ducting in a 4-F pattern.

The receiving and loadout shed encloses a 650-bushel mechanical receiving pit, which is outfitted with magnets from Industrial Magnetics to remove metal, a must for supplying the pet food industry.

The pit feeds a 20,000-bph InterSystems leg equipped with 20x8 heavy-duty Maxi-Lift CC Max low-profile buckets mounted on a 21-inch

Goodyear PVC belt.

The leg towers more than 200 feet tall, which provides the LeMar tower enough space to enclose a 20,000-bph InterSystems gravity cleaner and two separate Schlagel electronic distributors. The higher of the two distributors is a six-hole swing type model, which can feed a 20,000-bph InterSystems drag conveyor running to the Brock tank or drop it into an eight-hole rotary distributor serving the loadout system.

The Brock tank empties onto a 10,000-bph InterSystems reclaim drag conveyor in a below-ground tunnel that runs back to the leg.

The loadout distributor feeds the four overhead loadout bins, which are equipped with Abel slide gates for on-the-go blending.

"It's made life a lot easier," Shiebla says of the new annex. "We can certify the grade and test corn samples for aflatoxin, then have it in the loadout bins ready to go first thing the next morning."

*Ed Zdrojewski, editor*

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