

Dryers and Temp Storage

TWO MAC ELEVATORS BOOST CAPACITY IN 2012 PROJECTS



Michigan Agricultural Commodities

Lansing, MI • 517-627-0200

Founded: 1976

Storage capacity: 40 million bushels at nine locations

Number of employees: 150

Crops handled: Corn, commercial and non-GMO soybeans, soft red and soft white winter wheat, rye, dry edible beans

Services: Grain handling and merchandising, agronomy

Key personnel at Breckenridge:

- Dave Marr, plant manager
- Dan Potter, operations manager
- Brad Geers, assistant operations manager
- Bob Coyle, plant superintendent

Key personnel at Newaygo:

- Adam Geers, plant manager
- Dan Gibson, operations manager
- Mitchell Murray, merchandiser

Supplier List

Aeration fans.....AIRLANCO,
Spread-All Mfg.

Bucket elevators.....The GSI Group

Catwalk..... LeMar Industries Corp.

Contractor ..Zook Farm Equipment

Conveyors Honeyville Metal Inc.,
LeMar Industries Corp.

Elevator buckets Maxi-Lift Inc.

Grain dryers..... The GSI Group,
Zimmerman Grain Dryers

Leg belting.....All-State Industries

Motors Baldor Dodge

Temporary storageLeMar

Industries Corp., Union Iron Works

Tower support systemLeMar
Industries Corp.



In the foreground is the newest and largest of four grain dryers at the Michigan Agricultural Commodities (MAC) elevator in Breckenridge, MI, a 10,000-bph Zimmerman model. Photos by Ed Zdrojewski.

“Business keeps picking up,” says Dave Marr, plant manager for the Michigan Agricultural Commodities (MAC) 15-million-bushel elevator at Breckenridge, MI (989-842-3104), following the 2012 harvest, “Yields are increasing, we had favorable weather, and new varieties. The Drought of 2012 didn’t reach here.”

That translates into higher volumes of grain at Breckenridge, where Marr has worked for 42 years. So in 2012, MAC added a new grain dryer, the facility’s fourth, and a 1.2-million-bushel temporary storage pad.

The story was much the same 70 miles to the west at MAC’s 3.8-million-bushel elevator at Newaygo, MI (231-652-6017), where the privately-held company also added a dryer and temporary storage.

“We needed additional storage for red wheat,” says Plant Manager Adam Geers, who came to Newaygo in 2007 from another MAC elevator in Middleton, MI. “Our corn receipts are also up over the last three years. Also, our draw area is moving north.

New 1.2-million-bushel temporary storage pile at Breckenridge features a LeMar center fill and aeration tower.





New 315,000-bushel Union Iron TempStor ground pile at the MAC elevator in Newaygo, MI.

We receive grain from as far north as Traverse City (MI).”

MAC also took the path of adding temporary storage and drying capacity at Newaygo, with a 315,000-bushel ground pile and 4,700-bph dryer.

General contractor and millwright on both of those projects was Zook Farm Equipment, Alto, MI (616-868-6195), named after a standard bidding procedure. The combined cost of the two projects is estimated at about \$3 million.

The Two Projects

At Breckenridge, Zook constructed a round LeMar storage pile with center fill tower. The 1.2-million-bushel pile is 280 feet in diameter, with an asphalt pad and 6-foot perforated steel sidewalls set atop a 10-foot-wide concrete ring.

Aeration for the pile is supplied by four 50-hp AIRLANCO centrifugal fans, which pull air up through the pile and hold an Integra tarp in place.

The pile was filled during harvest using a stationary radial stacker belt conveyor. As of early February, the pile was still full, but plans called for it to be emptied using a front-end loader.

MAC also added a 10,000-bph Zimmerman tower dryer, powered by natural gas from a main running along State Highway 46. It's the first dryer that large to be installed at an MAC facility.

The new dryer is served by a GSI 20,000-bph leg outfitted with two rows of Maxi-Lift CC-MAX 14x8 buckets mounted on a 30-inch belt from All-State Industries.

Marr says he doesn't have specific performance numbers for the new dryer, but during the 2012 harvest, the facility's four dryers processed about 7 million bushels of grain altogether. Between the four dryers, Breckenridge has a little over ►

20,000 bph worth of drying capacity.

At Newaygo, MAC added an oval-shaped, 315,000-bushel Union Iron TempStor pile 300 feet long by 90 feet wide. The unit is outfitted with a concrete floor, 6-foot-tall perforated steel sidewalls, four Spread-All 5-hp axial fans, and an Integra tarp.

Geers says the pile was filled prior to harvest using a portable Radial Stacker belt conveyor, and as of early February, the pile remained full. Plans call for retrieval of the grain to be done using a tractor-mounted unit attached to a John Deere 4430 tractor.

The new dryer is a natural gas-fired, 4,700-bph GSI tower dryer. Geers notes that The GSI Group manufactures both the GSI and Zimmerman brands, but he selected the GSI, because he likes the cone bottom for cleanout. Another pair of 7,000-bph GSI legs and Honeyville drag conveyors serve to load and unload the dryer.

Geers says the facility's two dryers processed about 2.3 million bushels of grain during and after the 2012 harvest.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor

MAC to Upgrade All of Its Grain Elevators

MAC in mid-March announced it will upgrade all of its elevators with additional storage, increased drying capacity, and faster grain handling in 2013. Projects were announced for facilities in Breckenridge, Middleton, Newaygo, Marlette, and Brown City, all in Michigan, and in Tupperville, ON, Canada.

