

# Luckey's Latest Steel Tank

COOP BOOSTS STORAGE AT ANOTHER BRANCH LOCATION IN NORTHWEST OHIO



Luckey Farmers Inc.  
Woodville, OH  
419-849-2711

**Founded:** 1919  
**Storage capacity:** 6.38 million bushels at nine locations  
**Annual volume:** 12-13 million bushels  
**Annual revenues:** \$70 million  
**Number of members:** 5,000  
**Number of employees:** 120  
**Crops handled:** Corn, soybeans, soft red winter wheat  
**Services:** Grain handling and merchandising, agronomy, feed, seed processing, trucking, petroleum

#### Key personnel:

- Dan Walski, general manager
- Jim Swartz, grain manager
- Mike Hartman, location manager

#### Supplier List

**Aeration fans** ..... Rolfes@Boone  
**Bin sweep** ..... The GSI Group  
**Bucket elevator** ..... Hawthorne Systems, Inc.  
**Catwalk** ..... Elevator Services & Storage Inc. (ESSI)  
**Contractor** ..... ESSI  
**Elevator buckets** ..... Maxi-Lift  
**Engineering** ..... ESSI  
**Fill conveyor (drag)** ..... The Esmueller Co.  
**Grain temp. system** ... Boone Cable Works  
**Leg belting** ..... Goodyear Conveyor Belting  
**Millwright** ..... ESSI  
**Reclaim conveyor (screw)** ..... Hawthorne Systems  
**Steel storage** ..... The GSI Group



*Luckey Farmers Inc. has expanded its grain storage at three locations in the past three years. The latest addition was a 376,000-bushel GSI steel tank (far right) at the Sugar Ridge, OH location. Photos by Josh Flint.*

In the past three years, Luckey Farmers Inc. has built additional grain storage at three of its locations in northwest Ohio.

In 2005, the Woodville, OH-based cooperative added a new 500,000-bushel steel tank in Lindsay. In 2006, the coop added two, 248,000-bushel steel tanks at Graytown.

The most recent expansion was completed in 2007 at the coop's Sugar Ridge, OH elevator, where a 360,842-bushel steel tank was added. The location now has a total storage capacity of 900,000 bushels.

Location Manager Mike Hartman said the main reason behind the recent expansions is simple—bigger corn harvests.

“Two years ago, we had a throughput of 650,000 bushels of corn,” Hartman said.

“In 2007, with the new bin being com-

pleted in September, we saw a throughput of 700,000 bushels of corn.”

So, even though we hadn't had it very long, we were able to greatly increase the amount of corn we handled.”

**Sugar Ridge history.** The Sugar Ridge location was started by a small coop called Sugar Ridge Grain in the late 1960s. It began as a cluster of four 30,000-bushel concrete tanks.

In the 1970s, the coop expanded the elevator by adding three jumpform concrete tanks.

Hartman began working at the elevator as an intern in 1976. He said he has enjoyed working for the local growers and Luckey Farmers over the years.

#### 2007 Expansion

Luckey Farmers is definitely comfortable working with Elevator Services & Storage Inc. (ESSI), Beaverdam, OH (419-643-5111). ESSI has performed



*Side draws were moved to the west side of the existing tanks to reconfigure the traffic flow at the elevator.*

each of the three expansions.

For the Sugar Ridge expansion, ESSI installed a 72-foot diameter GSI steel tank—98-foot to the eave and 118-foot to the peak—with outside stiffeners.

Construction on the project began in mid-July 2007 and wrapped up in late September.

The new tank is equipped with 24 Boone Cable Works' temperature cables. Air is supplied at a rate of 1/10 cfm with two 40-hp Rolfes@Boone fans, which work in conjunction with five 2-hp roof exhausters.

Hartman said that along with adding the steel tank, the elevator reconfigured its traffic flow and installed steel bands around two concrete storage tanks.

"On our existing tanks, we moved some sidedraws to the opposite side," Hartman says. "This will eliminate a lot of truck congestion in the middle area of the elevator."

By moving the sidedraws, trucks are able to dump grain and make a

loop back to the scale. Therefore, grain receiving is handled on the east side of the elevator, while truck loading is handled on the west side.

A 7,500-bph Essmueller drag conveyor carries grain out to the new tank from existing grain handling equipment.

Reclaim is handled by a Hawthorne Systems Inc. (ESSI's manufacturing and fabrication division) 6,500-bph screw conveyor, which feeds a 7,000-bph Hawthorne jump leg.

For final cleanout, the bin is equipped with a 10-inch GSI sweep auger.

### **Utilizing the New Tank**

Hartman said that the new tank was completely filled with corn 10 days after construction was completed.

"The new tank and the receiving upgrades have already made a big difference," Hartman said. "Our customers are much happier with the increased speed in grain handling."

*Josh Flint, associate editor*