

GRAIN JOURNAL

THE VOICE
OF THE
GRAIN AND
FEED INDUSTRY

January/February 2020
Volume 48, No. 1

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steel tanks add flexibility

FAC COOPERATIVE expansion helps provide storage for soybeans during harvest, while corn keeps coming for feed mills.

After Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company (FAC) added a new feed mill in 2016 at its headquarters location in Arcadia, IA, the coop needed more space to hold soybeans after harvest.

In 2019, the coop solved this problem, says Grain Division Manager Nate Fara (712-689-2296), by building two new steel tanks.

The mill grinds 1.1 million bushels of corn a month, Fara says, producing 550,000 annual tons of feed.

“We wanted to capture the carry after harvest on the soybeans,” he explains. “One less thing we have to do now is haul beans out of here to make room for corn.”

Bringing It All Together

To construct the \$5 million project, FAC hired LandMarc Construction Inc., Hawarden, IA (712-552-1200).

“They had the experience working with larger projects to line up the contract,” says Fara, who has been with FAC for 11 years, 10 as Grain Division manager.

At the heart of the project are two 91-feet-10-inch-diameter Behlen steel tanks. They are 105 feet tall at the eaves and 130 feet, 3 inches at the peak. Each tank holds 639,555 bushels.

Construction began in March 2019 with the excavation of the site, adjacent to the elevator’s 1 million bushels of concrete storage. Because

FAC COOPERATIVE

Arcadia, IA • 712.689.2296
faccooperative.com

Founded: 1937

Storage capacity: 7.4 million bushels at three locations

Annual volume: 15 million bushels

Annual revenues: \$140 million

Number of members: 1,000

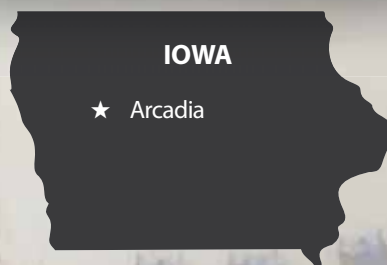
Number of employees: 85

Crops handled: Corn, soybeans

Services: Grain merchandising, agronomy, feed, lumber, petroleum

Key personnel at Arcadia:

- Dave Leiting, general manager
- Darrell Henkenius, operations manager
- Nate Fara, grain division manager
- Jim Vetter, grain superintendent





Two new 639,555-bushel Behlen Mfg. Co. steel tanks have been integrated into existing concrete storage at Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company in Arcadia, IA. Photo provided by LandMarc Construction.

ARCADIA SUPPLIER LIST

- **Aeration fans** • Rolfes@Boone
- **Auger cast pilings** • Longfellow Foundations
- **Bin sweeps** • Sioux Steel Co.
- **Bucket elevator** • Schlagel Inc.
- **Catwalks** • Warrior Mfg., LLC
- **Contractor/millwright** • LandMarc Construction, Inc.
- **Conveyors (drag)** • Schlagel Inc.
- **Electrical contractor** • Schoessler Inc.
- **Elevator buckets** • Maxi-Lift, Inc.
- **Engineering** • NOHR Wortmann Engineering
- **Excavation** • Weitz Dozing
- **Fall protection** • 3M
- **Grain temperature system** • TempuTech
- **Leg belting** • Continental
- **Loadout tank** • Lowry Mfg. Co.
- **Steel storage** • Behlen Mfg. Co.
- **Tower support system** • Warrior Mfg., LLC

of poor soil conditions, Fara says 432 16-inch cast pilings were set 45 feet in the ground for the tanks and four pilings were set for the tower.

To feed the new tanks, a 20-inch square spout was installed from the facility's bucket elevator to a new Schlagel 25,000-bph overhead drag conveyor supported by a Warrior 10-foot-x-10-foot-x-142-foot support tower.

Aeration on the flat-bottom tanks is provided by four 40-hp Rolfes@Boone centrifugal fans operating at 1/10 cfm. The steel tanks employ Daay 5,500-bph paddle sweeps for cleanout.

Grain is reclaimed from the steel tanks via 10,000-bph Schlagel drag conveyors in a 6-foot-4-inch tall-x-6-foot wide above-ground tunnel. The conveyor feeds a Schlagel 10,000-bph jump leg fitted with Maxi-Lift 16x8 red HD-Max buckets mounted on a 17-inch belt. The leg feeds a 3,800 bushel Lowry square loadout tank.

Fara says adding storage in 2019 was a natural progression for FAC.

"Just like everywhere, harvest is getting bigger, yields are increasing, and we needed storage,"

John Reidy, associate editor