

Expanding Software

FARMERS COOPERATIVE COMPANY GROWS WITH AGTRAX TECHNOLOGIES

When Farmers Cooperative Company, Wolcott, IN, expanded its grain storage by 760,000 bushels in 2008 to reach a capacity of 2.185 million bushels, it needed to improve the way it tracked its increased grain volume.

Jack Buntin, who became general manager in January 2010, says the cooperative's board members knew that if the company was going to grow, it had to move from manually tracking grain to a computerized system.



Farmers Coop General Manager Jack Buntin uses AgTrax agribusiness software.

AgTrax Chosen

In May 2008, Farmers Coop installed agribusiness software from Hutchinson, KS-based AgTrax Technologies, which specializes in working with farm cooperatives and grain inspectors.

"We talked to several different elevators that were using different software programs," says Buntin. "The elevators that used AgTrax were very happy with it. That's what made up our mind."

Another reason that Farmers Coop chose AgTrax, Buntin says, was the company's training and support for its software programs.

Buntin, who has worked at the coop since 1987, was assistant general manager, when the decision was made to computerize.

Looking back at the conversion, Buntin says: "I don't know why we didn't do it years ago. I'd never be without it today."

Farmers Coop, which has 318 stockholder-members, uses the AgTrax commodity accounting module, the office module that includes general ledger, accounts receivable, purchasing/payables, and order entry, and the AgRemote™ Scale Interface.

The programs track the 1.6 million

bushels of corn and 700,000 bushels of soybeans that go over the coop's scales every year.

"Once the grain goes where it needs to go, the computer charges what needs to be charged," says Buntin. "With the AgTrax system, we can put in our storage rates and a drying charge automatically. If you put it in right, it does it right."

Time Saver

Buntin said the AgTrax software saves the coop's staff a lot of time.

"With our old manual system, it took almost all day to do what the AgTrax software can do in 10 minutes," Buntin says. "It saves us 8-12 hours a day, which means we can do other tasks. I'd say it's come pretty close to paying for itself, since we bought it."

Furthermore, customer support is available from AgTrax whenever needed, says Buntin.

"We're not computer geniuses and they are here when we need them," he says. "We're very, very happy with AgTrax."

Cooperative

Farmers Cooperative Company
Wolcott, IN • 219-279-2115
www.fccwolcott.com

Jack Buntin, General Manager
Bruce Schoon, Assistant General Manager
Darci Stoller, Secretary

Founded: 1914

Actual storage capacity: 2.185 million bushels

Annual grain volume: 2.3 million bushels

Annual sales: \$26 million

Crops handled: Corn and soybeans

Number of employees: 5 full-time, 2 seasonal

Software Vendor



Hutchinson, KS
620-662-0482
www.agtrax.com

Gary Hobbs, President
Gayle Lewis, Dir. of Operations

Grain accounting software: AgTrax

Operating systems: AIX, Windows

Software options: General ledger; accounts payable; accounts receivable; agronomy; order entry/point of sale; commodity accounting; payroll; perpetual inventory; production/feed blending; patronage/equity; PatronAccess; AgRemote scale interface; sales analysis; notes system.