

Acquisition Upgrade

GAVILON ADDS UPRIGHT, TEMP STORAGE, RAIL LOADING EQUIPMENT IN WISCONSIN



Gavilon

Omaha, NE • 492-889-4000

Founded: 2008

Storage capacity: 350 million bushels at 140 locations

Number of employees: 2,100

Crops handled: Corn, soybeans, wheat, sorghum, specialty grains

Services: Grain origination, storage, and handling; transportation and logistics; marketing and distribution; risk management

Key personnel at Avalon:

- Derek Reed, location manager
- Taylor Nordstrom, superintendent

Supplier List

Aeration fans	Sukup Mfg. Co., AIRLANCO
Bin sweeps	Springland Mfg.
Bucket elevators	Intersystems
Bulk weigh scale	Intersystems
Catwalks	Tri-Co Fabrication
Cleaner	Intersystems
Contractor	Buresh Building Systems Inc.
Distributor	Intersystems
Elevator buckets	Maxi-Lift Inc.
Fall protection	Tritech Fall Protection Systems Ltd.
Grain dryer	Sukup Mfg. Co.
Grain temperature system	Tri-States Grain Conditioning Inc.
Level indicators	BinMaster Level Controls
Millwright	Buresh Building Systems Inc.
Moisture meter ...	dickeyJohn Corp.
Samplers	Intersystems
Steel storage	Sukup Mfg. Co.
Temporary storage	LeMar Industries Corp.
Tower support system	Tri-Co Fabrication
Truck scale	Fairbanks Scales/Badger Scale Co.



A new 2-million-bushel temporary storage pile in the foreground is part of a major upgrade completed in October 2013 at Gavilon Grain's recently-acquired elevator at Avalon, WI, which also includes 1.2 million bushels of upright storage. Photos by Ed Zdrojewski.

The former Millard Grain was wanting to get out of the grain business and focus instead on fertilizer and agronomy. So the privately-held company sold its 1.2-million-bushel steel grain elevator in Avalon, WI (608-754-4673) to Gavilon Grain LLC in October 2011.

"We were looking for a way to have a presence in southern Wisconsin," says Gavilon Location Manager Derek Reed, who has been with the company for eight years, most recently at a barge-loading terminal in Catoosa, OK. "The site here is served by a short-line railroad and has good truck access. And this is a large corn-producing area."

Once it was in possession of the in-town property, Gavilon set out to make its new acquisition a more efficient operation.

The process began by tearing down a total of six structures, including the old office building, a wood feed mill, and some flat storage buildings. All of this provided more room for grain trucks to maneuver, says Superintendent Taylor Nordstrom, who came to Avalon from another Gavilon location in Rockport, MO.

The upgrade that followed the demolition included the addition of a 2-million-bushel temporary storage pile with its own receiving pit and leg, a new 160,000-bushel steel

wet tank, renovation of three existing tanks, two new a new receiving pits and legs for the elevator, a new tower dryer, and a bulk weigh loadout scale for 100-car trains.

As contractor and millwright, Gavilon hired Buresh Building Systems, Inc., Hampton, IA (641-456-5242). Reed notes that Buresh had done an upgrade project at another Gavilon location in Dubuque, IA, and the grain handler was impressed with its quality.

Construction began after the demolition was done in 2012, and everything was operational by October 2013.

Storage Additions

The new oval-shaped LeMar ground pile measures 650 feet by 150 feet. It includes a nine-foot perforated steel sidewall, concrete floor, and 18 AIRLANCO 10-hp axial fans.

A small bushel-capacity truck pit was installed adjacent to the ground pile to feed a 20,000-bph Intersystems receiving leg outfitted with 20x8 Maxi-Lift Tiger-Tuff buckets mounted on a 22-inch leg. The leg feeds an overhead 20,000-bph Intersystems enclosed belt conveyor running out to a center fill tower. Front-end loaders are used to recover the grain.

The new Sukup wet tank stands 60 feet in diameter, 80 feet tall at the eave, and 97 feet tall at the peak. The tank has a flat floor; outside stiffeners; 16-inch, 10,000-bph Springland sweep; seven-cable TSGC grain temperature monitoring system; and BinMaster level indicators. A pair of 30-hp Sukup centrifugal fans provide 1/5 cfm per bushel of aeration, along with four roof exhausters.

The new tank is filled with a 20,000-bph Intersystems overhead belt conveyor and empties onto a 48,000-bph belt in an above-ground tunnel.

The wet tank was necessary during the 2013 harvest, Nordstrom notes, when up to 80% of incoming bushels required drying. In addition to an existing 1,500-bph MC dryer, Gavilon utilized a new natural gas-fired 7,000-bph Sukup tower dryer to keep the grain moving. Buresh retrofitted an existing wet leg to bring its capacity up to 10,000-bph and added an Intersystems 10,000-bph dry leg to service the dryer.

Grain Movement

The company hired Gilbank Con-



An incoming grain truck is weighed on an 80-foot Fairbanks scale, one of two adjacent to the new office building constructed during the upgrade.

struction, Clinton (608-676-2261), to build a 35-foot-x-86-foot brick office building similar in design to offices at other Gavilon locations.

Adjacent to the building are a pair of 80-foot Fairbanks pitless inbound and outbound scales and a Gamet Apollo truck probe. Reed says the scales utilize an automation system developed by Gavilon, but the company is looking into switching to a Cultura Technologies system.

To speed the flow of grain through the facility, Buresh installed two new receiving pits and legs, including a 20,000-bph

truck receiving pit and 15,000-bph combination truck and rail pit and leg. Nordstrom says Gavilon takes in grain from other elevators located along the Wisconsin Southern branch line that serves Avalon.

Additional retrofits at Avalon include a new six-hole Intersystems rotary distributor and all new 20,000-bph Intersystems belt conveyors for filling tanks and 48,000-bph above-ground Intersystems belts for reclaim.

Rail loading is done with a new 60,000-bph Intersystems shipping leg that feeds a 70,000-bph Intersystems bulk weigh loadout scale with an Agris one-Weigh control system from Cultura. The operator has the option of running grain through a 40,000-bph Intersystems gravity screener mounted atop the bulk weigher. Railcars are loaded in a Behlen steel shed, and workers atop the railcars are protected by a 260-foot Tritech trolley-type fall protection system.

Nordstrom says it takes about eight hours to load a 100-car train utilizing Gavilon's own remote controlled switching locomotive.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor

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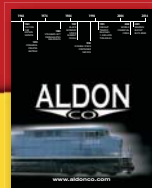



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