High-Moisture Corn Facility

FEEDYARD REPLACES OLD GRINDING FACILITY WITH A BIGGER, MODERN ONE

New high-moisture corn grinding facility at Folken Feed Yards near Leigh, NE. Feedyard with maximum 10,000-head capacity visible in the background. Photos courtesy of EBM Construction Inc.

Folken Feed Yards
Leigh, NE • 402-276-0501

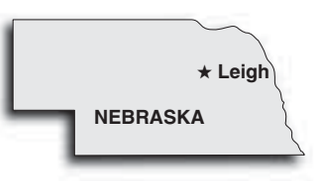
Founded: 1941
Cattle finishing: 8,500-9,000 head at any one time
Feed grinding: 2,500 bph
Finished feed storage: 600,000 bushels
Number of employees: 8-9

Key personnel:
- Chuck Folken, president
- Justin Folken, feedyard manager
- Jerrod McCullough, operations

Supplier List

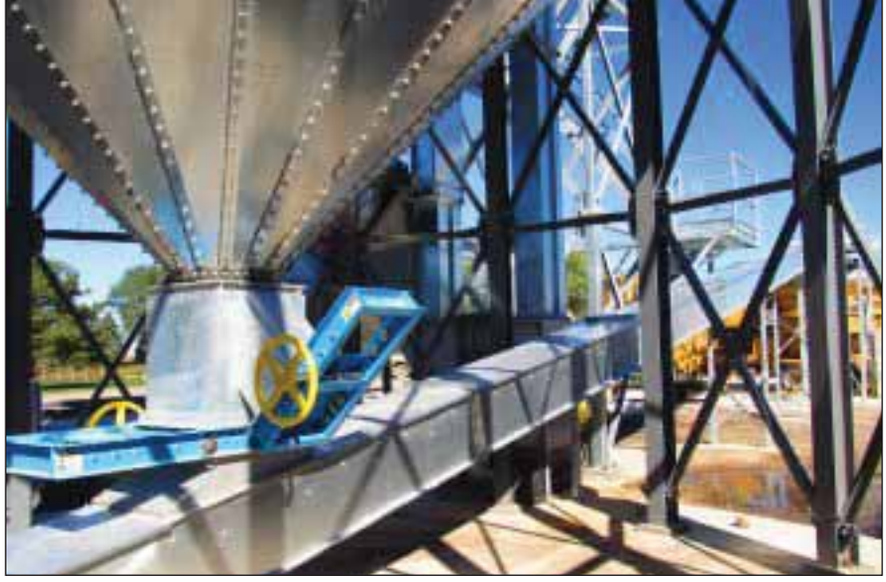
Bucket elevators..... Chief Agri
Contractor ... EBM Construction Inc.
Conveyors ..... Chief Agri
Elevator buckets.....Maxi-Lift Inc.
Engineering.. Lammers Engineering LLC
Gates/diverters .....Abel Mfg. Co. Inc.
Level indicators.....BinMaster Level Controls
Magnets ..... Bunting Magnetics Co.
Millwright.... EBM Construction Inc.
Motion sensors ..4B Components Ltd.
Screw feeders.....Norstar Industries
Square bins .....Lowry Mfg. Co.
Steel storage..... Chief Agri
Tower support system ..... Chief Agri

At Folken Feed Yards, a northeast Nebraska feedyard hosting 8,500 to 9,000 head of cattle at any given time, high-moisture ground corn is the name of the game.



"We grind at 25-30% moisture with a window of two weeks during harvest," says President Chuck Folken, who represents the third generation of Folkens to run the business. (His son, Justin, manages the feedyard, making him the fourth generation.)

"Then we put it up in a 600,000-bushel bunker," he continues. "We find the cattle perform significantly better on high-moisture corn than dry-rolled."



New Chief hopper tank empties onto a Chief 8,500-bph drag conveyor running out to a custom grinding station. Ground photos by Ed Zdrojewski.

The Folkens were feeding their cattle, however, with a rudimentary facility unchanged in more than 40 years. It consisted of an auger feeding a 10,000-bushel square bin mounted atop a steel-sided building containing a roller mill.

The cattle feeder hired EBM Construction Inc., Norfolk, NE (800-356-9782), to build a new $1 million corn grinding facility with state-of-the-art technology.

"I met (EBM President) Guy Ellsworth on a trip to Savannah, GA," Folken recalls. "EBM has the reputation of being the best millwright company in our area. They work long hours to make sure everything is right before they leave. I wanted a facility that would be around for my grandkids to use."

Contractors on the project in addition to EBM:

• Otte Electric, Columbus, NE (402-564-9996), did electrical and automation work.

• Aschoff Construction, Osmond, NE (402-798-3551), supplied concrete and built a new roller mill shed.

Construction got underway in May 2017 and took about eight weeks to complete.

Incoming wet corn travels up a Chief 15,000-bph receiving leg supported by a Chief tower.

Ready to Grind

The heart of the updated facility is a 15,000-bushel Chief corrugated steel hopper tank, 25 feet in diameter with a 32-foot sidewall and 45-degree steel hopper. This holds wet corn awaiting grinding.

Adjacent to the new tank is a portable drive-over receiving pit, which feeds a 15,000-bph Chief leg. The leg is equipped with Maxi-Lift red HD-Max 14x8 buckets mounted on a 16-inch belt and supported by a Chief tower with switchback staircase.

The leg deposits grain into an Abel two-way valve. One outlet goes via gravity to the new tank; the other goes to an existing 10,000-bushel tank serving the older roller mill building. That mill is still in use, but EBM installed two new 2,400-bushel Lowry square bins atop the old building serviced by a small jump leg.

The hopper tank empties onto an 8,500-bph Chief drag conveyor extending out approximately 100 feet. The conveyor ends with a spout used to feed a roller mill supplied as needed by a local custom grinding operation.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor