

Bunker Radial Stacker

IOWA COOP HELPS ADAPT INDUSTRIAL CONVEYOR FOR GRAIN PILE SERVICE



MaxYield Cooperative semi truck positioned over drive-over receiving pit outside the company's 1.4-million-bushel temporary storage pile at Belmond. Photo by Ed Zdrojewski.

In 2007, **MaxYield Cooperative** was facing the challenge of a bumper crop in the field and a new 160-x-600-

foot, 1.4-million-bushel LeMar temporary storage pile at its Belmond, IA elevator (641-444-4004) to fill as cost-

effectively and efficiently as possible. That meant finding a heavy-duty portable belt conveyor, preferably with a drive-over truck receiving pit.

Don Haverman, construction and equipment coordinator for West Bend, IA-based MaxYield, says coop managers were attracted to a **radial stacker** recently introduced to the grain industry by **Allatoona Machinery Co.**, Acworth, GA (770-974-4401).

The coop found several features of the Allatoona conveyor particularly attractive:

- Extremely heavy-duty construction in a simple design, including an undercarriage built from 10x10 steel tubing.
- High capacity—rated at 15,000 bph.



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Cooperative personnel from left: Jason Wessels, radial stacker operator; Pat White, Belmond, IA location manager; and Don Haverman, construction and equipment coordinator. Photo and article by Ed Zdrojewski.

- A 230-degree double wrap on the pulley for extra tractive power.
- A soft start, for maximum equipment lifespan.
- A variable speed drive starting at 550 fpm, so the 120-foot-long conveyor can be set to drop grain straight down from the end of the belt or throw the grain stream out as far as 20 feet.

• Allatoona is developing a new wheel system for the Tazz Corn Hog to allow it to move more easily. The wheels will allow for sideways travel, for moving along the outside of a bunker wall, or forward-and-back travel

for filling inside a bunker or building. This wheel system is expected to be unveiled at GEAPS Exchange 2010 in February in Wichita, KS.

In addition to the radial stacker, MaxYield installed a **Tazz Corn Hog drive-over conveyor**, which collects grain from bottom-hopper trucks and delivers it to the radial stacker.

Performance

While the radial stacker was intended for use at the Belmond facility, MaxYield in 2007 used the new equipment initially at a smaller 500,000-bushel pile at its location in Algona, IA. Haverman notes that there was some carry in the market, so MaxYield chose



Tazz Corn Hog drive-over conveyor (lower right) delivers corn to a 15,000-bph Allatoona radial stacker. Photo courtesy of MaxYield Cooperative, West Bend, IA.

to pile some stable old crop grain there to test the new system.

With the 2008 harvest, MaxYield moved the radial stacker to Belmond. Haverman says he was “thrilled” with the system’s fast performance, ease of moving it, and overall efficiency, while operator Jason Wessels says he can unload a 1,100-bushel semi truck in about 4-1/2 minutes using the system.

Ed Zdrojewski, editor



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