

Efficient Operations

ETHANOL PLANT LIKES GRAINTRAC'S EASE OF USE, SCALE INTERFACE, AND WEB ACCESS

Coming from the grain industry, Steve Dietz knew he needed some type of grain accounting software for his new job as commodity manager at the Golden Grain Energy LLC ethanol plant.

After some research, Dietz found that Vertical Software's GrainTrac and ScaleTrac had everything he needed. The ethanol plant started using the program in January 2005, just a few weeks after production began.

"The biggest thing I wanted was efficiency. You can put anybody in front of ScaleTrac and in a day and a half, he or she will be able to run it," Dietz says. "I also wanted something that would be in real time."

"It's user-friendly. If someone tells you the wrong customer, you can back a ticket out and reapply it; it doesn't take an act of God."

Benefits

Scale interface. The one feature Dietz likes the most is the scale inter-



Golden Grain Energy LLC 40-million-gallon ethanol plant in Mason City, IA.

face available with ScaleTrac. The ethanol and distillers grains that comes out of the plant on trucks has a load number, which can be entered in the system ahead of time. Then, when a driver comes to the plant, all that has to be entered are the tare and gross weights.

"The system generates a bill of lading, and we can use it to produce invoices," Dietz says. "It automates the process. If we didn't have it, we would be doing double entries."

Custom reports. Dietz likes that reports can be customized, so they

show the information he needs. All of the plant's ethanol is sold through a marketer. At the end of the month, the plant has to balance with the marketer.

Vertical was able to customize a report that lets the plant complete this task quickly.

"It was taking half a day to do it. Now, if the report matches (with the marketer's), it's a five minute deal," Dietz says. "If not, we have benchmarks to look at and see where we are off."

Web access. The plant is in the process of implementing Vertical's new GrainTrac PASS, which will give customers access to their account information via the internet.

Customers will be able to open contracts, see what they've delivered, and access settlements and tickets.

"When we get it implemented, it will save us time," Dietz says. "Right now, we are scanning all the tickets and e-mailing it to our customers. We're trying to take it the next step and have them get it for themselves."

Grain Company

Golden Grain Energy LLC

Mason City, IA • 888-443-2676

Walt Wendland, President/CEO
Steve Dietz, Commodity Manager
Chad Kuhlers, Plant Manager

Number of employees: 32

Founded: December 2004.

Products: 40 million gallons of ethanol per year and distillers grain.

Corn usage: 15 million bushels per year.

Software Vendor



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Patrick Gilroy, President
Dave Markley, Manager
Installation Services

Ron Kimbrell, Manager Information Services
Cynthia Williams, Manager Software Support Services

Grain accounting software: GrainTrac.

Operating systems: Windows XP Pro, Windows 2003 Server, and Windows Terminal Services.

Software options: GrainTrac for Windows, ScaleTrac for Windows, TurningPoint Accounting, AgPoint, ScalePoint and MixPoint, and GrainTrac PASS.