



Frenchman Valley Farmers Coop – Chappell, NE Multi-Hopper Automated Blend System



Project overview

Frenchman Valley Farmers Coop expanded their dry fertilizer operation with a new facility at their Chappell, Nebr., location using a Doyle Autobatch legal-for-trade multi-hopper automated blend system.

What they needed

Frenchman Valley needed to upgrade to a larger system to fulfill the intercompany demand within their agronomy division for five other locations. The company had outgrown their old 1,500-ton facility and needed to expand to a more efficient system without the use of scaling trucks. At the same time they wanted to have the same operation as another location to provide flexibility of operation between their sites.



What we designed

- System to accurately weigh and efficiently blend product
- Eliminated need for truck scales and streamlined the prior process bottlenecks
- Consistent operational interface across multiple locations
- Opportunity for flexible staffing with more internal knowledge and easy product training
- Streamlined business management & billing system
- Removed need for paper tickets by having tickets sent within software



Multi-hopper automated blend system features two swing hoppers, each with a 9-ton capacity.



Five major product bins have a 16-ton capacity each from the new 15,000-ton building.



Reclaim and loadout can be controlled from a loader tablet to maximize the operator's time.



Kahler system controls 16-ton rotary blender plus conveyors, scales, discharge gates & more.



Loadout without truck scales makes the process more efficient with fewer stops.



Transport info loaded into control room software maximizes capacity and efficiency.

What they had to say

Interview with
BJ Franken
Operation Manager
Frenchman Valley
Farmers Coop
Chappell, NE

Q: How does Kahler Automation help you achieve your business goals?

"It's really improved our efficiencies and our accuracy in mixing up dry, especially micro blends for VRT. ... We're achieving high accuracy."

Q: What was the reason you got Kahler Automation involved in this project?

"I believe it is fairly easy to train, easy to run, and it's a very good programmable system."

Q: How has productivity improved with your Kahler system?

"Our productivity is probably increased tenfold. When a truck pulls up, we're ready to go... where our old barn was probably 30-40 minutes to get that prepped, get that loaded, get it mixed, and get it up in the air to get it ready for the truck driver."

