

# Growing into a Bigger Dryer

OHIO BROTHERS INVEST IN A NEW MC TOWER DRYER



Back in the 1980s, when **VanTilburg Farms' (VTF)** on-farm grain storage facility strictly handled corn and soybeans from a few hundred acres on the family farm in western Ohio, two small MC dryers were sufficient. The farm operated MC Models 750 and 690 dryers, for a combined capacity of about 1,300 bph at five points of moisture removal.

In 2014, the 700,000-bushel facility northeast of Celina, OH (419-586-3077), now has a grain dealers license from the state of Ohio, and about half of the nearly 1 million bushels of grain that move through the steel elevator come from other farms, with the rest from VTF's 4,500 farmed acres.

"They were 25 years old, and we had outgrown the dryers," says **Luke VanTilburg**, VTF co-owner along with brothers Matt and Kyle, the fourth generation of the family to operate the company.

"Our volume had gotten to the point where we were having to cool grain in the bin," he says. "We were getting condensation problems, because the grain was too hot to ship."

When it came time to replace the two dryers in 2014, the family was happy enough with their performance to stick with the same manufacturer, **Mathews Company**, Crystal Lake, IL (800-323-7045). They selected an MC Model 12-24-125 modular tower dryer rated at 2,400 bph at five points of removal. VanTilburg says that model is the second largest dryer Mathews makes that doesn't require a vaporizer for its propane fuel.

## Modular Design

"We really liked MC's modular concept," VanTilburg explains. "It arrived on three trucks, and all it took was a crane and a few bolts to put it together."

In addition, the VanTilburgs liked the dryer's automation features, with a touch control panel and remote monitoring via the Internet. "If there's a problem, the system sends you a text or e-mail alert," he notes. "We can turn it on at the end of the day, and it empties our 40,000-bushel wet bin, then turns itself off."

VanTilburg reports that that the elevator on Celina-Mendon Road handled approximately 900,000 bushels of corn during the 2014 harvest, and 90% of was dried. "We've been very happy with the dryer so far," he says.



*Luke VanTilburg*

*Ed Zdrojewski, editor*

*The new MC Model 12-24-125 modular tower dryer rated at 2,400 bph capacity at five points of moisture removal at a licensed grain elevator operated by VanTilburg Farms, Celina, OH. Photos by Emily High, High Five Photography, St. Marys, OH.*