

New Fuel, New Dryer

WISCONSIN GRAIN HANDLER ADDS SECOND M-C DRYER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL GAS



M-C Model 4800 installed in 2012 at Northside Elevator Inc. in Loyal, WI rated at 4,800 bph at five points of moisture removal and the largest in Mathews Co.'s 18-foot series of tower dryers. Photo by Ed Zdrojewski.

For the first time in 2012, a local natural gas utility made the fuel available to **Northside Elevator Inc.** (715-255-8507), a privately-held, single-location grain elevator with 3.25 million bushels of storage in the northern Wisconsin town of Loyal. The company took advantage of the cheaper fuel to add a second grain dryer.

“We’ve had a fair number of dairy farmers switch over to cash cropping,” says **Dean Pieper**, a maintenance electrician at Northside. “Now, there are more people in cash cropping than there used to be, and we need to dry a larger volume of grain.”

Northside selected a model just introduced by **Mathews Company**, Crystal Lake, IL (815-459-2210), with a rated capacity up to 4,800 bph at five points of moisture removal. The **M-C Model 4800** is the largest in Mathews’ line of 18-foot commercial tower dryers.

Pieper notes that the facility’s older dryer, which is still in operation, also is an M-C dryer. “M-C has been good to work with, we have a dealer nearby, and we can maintain a consistent temperature of 210 degrees for a more consistent moisture level.”

That was particularly important for the wet 2013 harvest. “In 2012, most of our corn came in at 17% to 19%,” he comments. “This past year, it ran from 20% to 32%.”

Employees at Northside especially liked the M-C Pinnacle electric control panel, which was simple to learn and mounted conveniently in the elevator control room out of the harsh Wisconsin weather.

Other key features in the 18-foot commercial tower series include heavy-duty construction, standard sloped floors and sealed cooling floor for improved cleanliness, and a gas manifold with microprocessor to maintain even temperature .

Ed Zdrojewski, editor