

TECHNOLOGY

GRAIN DRYING GETS EASIER

New technologies will allow growers to monitor the drying process from anywhere.

by Kathy Huting

THE TAKEAWAY

- ➔ Remote monitoring of farm inputs is becoming commonplace.
- ➔ The grain drying industry is no exception, as evidenced at National Farm Machinery Show.
- ➔ Four companies offer remote monitoring technology for grain as it dries in real time.

Farm Industry News spotted a new trend among companies in the grain drying and storage industry at this year's National Farm Machinery Show. Many have developed solutions for monitoring grain while it dries from anywhere around the farm. Some systems even allow for controlling what's happening during the drying process from the comfort of your home on a mobile device or computer, eliminating late-night trips to the dryer, as well as inefficiencies.

Here are examples of a few of these technologies seen at the show. If you're looking to make the drying process easier this fall, consider these tools for your operation.

Three steps for storing, drying

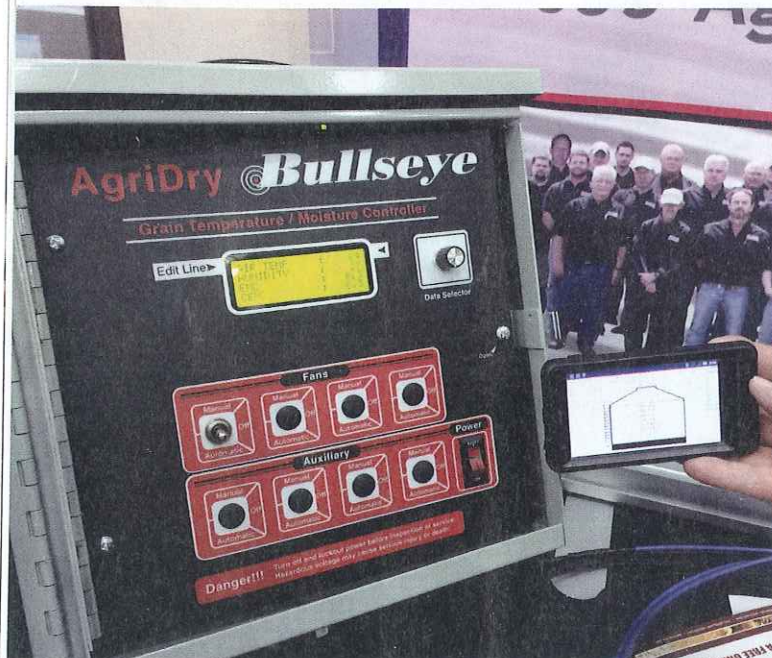
AgriDry LLC was at NFMS to talk about its grain control solution, which it describes as a three-step process. The system can be installed on any existing dryer or bin on your farm.

Step one involves installation of the AgriDry grain spreader in the bin to create uniform airflow within the bin or dryer. It also eliminates hazards such as hot spots, bridging, crusting and personal injury from bin entry.

Step two is operating the aeration system with the AgriDry Bullseye electronic controller, located outside of the bin. The monitor allows an operator to control grain temperature and moisture to allow for consistency throughout drying. And it eliminates inefficiencies such as shrinking, spoilage, wasted energy, stress cracks and condensation.

Step three is the management of the drying process through the ADLink remote monitoring system. An operator has 24/7 access to what's happening in the bin or dryer through a computer, or a mobile or tablet device. Settings can be changed remotely, and on-event status alerts keep the operator informed. Data is logged hourly, and multiple users can access that data. The result: fewer trips to the bin site, elimination of manual monitoring and assurance that grain is drying properly and efficiently. Visit agridryllc.com or circle 121.

PHOTOS: KATHY HUTING



AgriDry's three-step system can be installed on an existing bin or dryer and allows for 24/7 remote access to the grain drying process through a PC, mobile or tablet device.

Watch grain from afar

GSI has a dryer control and remote monitoring system that it says will make life easier when it's time to dry grain this fall.

The first component is the Vision network dryer control, which monitors just about everything that's happening during drying. A dryer status chart shows grain temperature, moisture in, moisture out and temperature out, and all that data is logged every minute. The Vision controller has a color touch-screen display, a 32-bit microprocessor, a log of all shutdowns, a safety disconnect, a low-voltage safety circuit and other features.

The second component is the WatchDog remote dryer monitor, an optional add-on. GSI says interest in the system has spiked dramatically over the past year as more growers use smartphones and tablets to farm more efficiently. The WatchDog system allows remote monitoring of several dryer functions on a mobile or tablet device. Moisture, temperature and dryer status can be controlled from home or anywhere on the farm. Visit www.grainsystems.com or circle 122.



Everything that happens on GSI's Vision controller can be monitored on a tablet or mobile device from anywhere.



M-C Trax from Mathews Co. brings grain drying monitoring right to your pocket as an option to add to an M-C dryer.

Tracking it all

Mathews Co., or M-C, which focuses primarily on grain drying equipment, is also on board the remote monitoring train. Its product, M-C Trax, allows an operator to monitor critical dryer data remotely, including all active alarms, discharge moisture percentage, discharge temperature, mid-grain average, all temperature readings, plenums and more. The information is easily scanned on either a home computer or mobile device.

M-C Trax pulls all that data from M-C's Pinnacle Lite AccuDry controller located on the dryer. The system has a full color touch-screen display where all information can be controlled. For the remote M-C Trax system to work, a wired Internet connection is needed.

The company is offering a risk-free trial of M-C Trax, and users can return the system within 30 days if unhappy with the product. Visit mathewscpany.com or circle 123.

Dryer status via text message

Sukup says the QuadraTouch control system for its tower dryers is rugged enough to withstand harsh environments and simple to operate for easy startup. Two options are available for monitoring a Sukup dryer remotely.

The first is a GSM phone modem that works with the QuadraTouch display and functions through the GSM cellphone service. A user receives a text message if the dryer shuts down, and can also send a text to receive the dryer's current status, moisture, unload speed and temperature in a return text. Moisture content, plenum temperature and unload speed can also be adjusted from your cellphone.

The second option is remote monitoring software, which can be installed on a laptop or PC. All data being collected through the QuadraTouch system can be monitored from home on your computer. As a safety precaution, the dryer cannot be started remotely. Visit sukup.com or circle 124.

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Sukup allows you to remotely monitor grain drying by text messages on your cellphone or through a software program for your laptop or PC.