



SELECTING THE RIGHT BUILDING MAY INCREASE YOUR QUALITY.

Darrell Henkenius is the operations manager for the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company (FAC), the largest member-owned feed mill in Western Iowa. Located in Arcadia, FAC provides many services to the farming community, the largest of which include grain, feed and farm-supply needs. Other operations include agronomy services, lumber, steel and gas stations.



Pro-Advantage Series 120 ft. by 450 ft. and 188 ft. by 450 ft.

A need for corn and soybean storage as the largest member-owned feed mill in Western Iowa presented a challenge and a need for a suitable structure. They already had a concrete pad in place and were looking for a building to erect on the existing foundation. After considering their options, FAC selected Accu-Steel to fulfill their storage needs. “Accu-Steel created a custom design to fit our pad, with a low profile at an affordable cost,” Henkenius explains.

Accu-Steel’s knowledge in the commodities and co-op business helped meet the needs of FAC. In 2002 a Pro-Advantage Series 120 ft. by 450 ft. building was constructed. Today, FAC has two additional Pro Advantage Series buildings — 188 ft. by 450 ft. and 100ft. by 300 ft. buildings.

Most feed mills use a steel bin or concrete elevator system to store their grain. “Knowing this building would be more useful to

us throughout the year was a big selling point,” says Henkenius. “Once we get the grain out of it, we store motor equipment, lumber and steel to keep them dry and out of the elements.”

Quality is very important to FAC, so the traditional method of tarping — which exposes the entire accumulation of grain to the elements — was not an option. Simply adding tarps reduces the length of time the grain stays in condition before it moves through the mill, thereby reducing the overall quality. In addition, advances in technology have increased annual yields, resulting in vastly reduced storage capabilities for FAC. These two factors led them to a fabric covered building solution and, consequently, to Accu-Steel.

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Since the installation of their buildings, FAC has increased the amount of time they have from placement of the grain into the fabric covered buildings until it goes to the mill. “Even in the summer we don’t have grain that’s getting wet or hot,” Henkenius adds. The results mean the company is now realizing an increase in the overall quality of their feed — a critical component to the continued success of their business.