

A SALUTE TO AN RMS CUSTOMER

QUAD COUNTY CORN PROCESSORS

Northwest Iowa facility turns area grain into fuel and feed products



Rex Rimmer,
Maintenance Manager

When a group of investors formed Quad County Corn Processors in 2000, their plan was to build an ethanol plant in northwest Iowa that would produce 18 million gallons of the corn-based fuel each year. Their goal was met quickly and today the Galva, Iowa, facility has nearly doubled its intentional capacity, producing more than 30 million gallons a year.

Quad County Corn Processors was born from an idea of six individuals who saw a 100-acre-plus tract of land along Highway 20 as a strategic and convenient location. The plant is located near where four county corners — Cherokee, Buena Vista, Ida and Sac — come together. As Quad County Corn Processors has grown, the site has become an industrial park with a dry-ice business already working and a new soy diesel plant being constructed now.

“This is an excellent location for us,” said Maintenance Manager Rex Rimmer. “That was taken into account when the plans were in the works for the plant. There’s a lot of farmland within about a 45-mile radius, which is a

major source of corn; plus, there are several elevators, including Galva Holstein Ag, which is a shareholder in Quad County. The location right along Highway 20 is convenient for trucks to get in and out as well.”

The original six individuals who founded Quad County began fundraising to build the facility in late 2000, and within two months had more than 420 Iowa residents who invested and became part of the member-owned company. Within two years, the plant began production and shipment of its first loads of product.

Many of Quad County’s shareholders are area farmers, who together are the largest supplier of the 11 million bushels of corn processed each year in the company’s facility. The area has rich farmland with a large and steady supply of the corn needed for Quad County Corn Processors to use in making ethanol and other products. Ethanol is the company’s top product offering, including E85 — a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline — which it wholesales to retailers in Iowa.

Diverse product offerings

Working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Quad County Corn Processors produces 90,000 gallons of ethanol a day. In addition to making ethanol, the company produces premium feed co-products used in beef and swine rations. More than 246,000 tons of feed products were produced last year and marketed under the name Golden Bran.

“Our process is very efficient in many ways,” explained Rimmer. “Every bit of the corn that’s brought in here is used in some capacity; there’s no waste. We put it through a process that, in the end, produces four

Quad County Corn Processors is conveniently located along Highway 20 in Galva, Iowa. The facility began sending products out in 2002 and currently produces 30 million gallons of ethanol per year.





Production Manager Charlie Voss tests alcohol made from corn at Quad County Corn Processors' lab. "We believe that details like testing ensure quality products, so we're very stringent in our processing and standards," said Maintenance Manager Rex Rimmer.

products: liquid, wet and dry feed for livestock and alcohol that's marketed to blending facilities that will turn it into fuel."

Thorough product testing is ongoing in Quad County Corn Processors' lab.

"We believe that details like testing ensure quality products, so we're very stringent in our processing and standards," said Rimmer. "We conduct regular day-to-day testing and we also do a final test before we ship product out. Quality control is one of our top priorities.

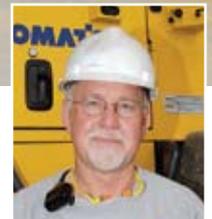
"Energy efficiency is another of our priorities," Rimmer added. "For example, we recapture all the water that's used in processing and reuse it. We're always looking for ways to make our products with less energy and we're doing it. Plants like ours have taken a bad rap for being wasteful, but that's not true. It's a zero-waste facility and we're very proud of that."

Another source of pride for Quad County Corn Processors is the benefit it's produced for the local economy. Not only is it a source of jobs, but it helps outside individuals and companies as well.

"We're a source of revenue for individuals and elevators who want to sell product, and we contract with individuals and trucking companies to haul our products out," Rimmer said. "It's been a real boon for the economy."



Using a Komatsu WA250-5 wheel loader, Operator Jon Heitmann loads feed onto a truck for transport. "The new WA250 has sped up our loading time by three to five minutes per truck, which means we can get product out faster," said Maintenance Manager Rex Rimmer.



A nearly steady stream of trucks brings corn to Quad County Corn Processors' facility where it's turned into products such as E85 fuel and livestock feed.

Around-the-clock production

Keeping production high requires 31 dedicated employees who came to Quad County Corn Processors from a variety of backgrounds. The facility runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is overseen by General Manager Mike Jerke. The Board of Directors consists of President Brian Friedrichsen, Vice President Alan Bennett and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Galvin, along with Randy Hustedt, Delayne Johnson, Harold Peyton and Douglas Clausen.

"Everyone who works here is key to our success," said Rimmer. "There are several employees who had agriculture backgrounds before starting here, but we also have many employees who worked in other trades. In

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Productive equipment enhances efficiency

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many ways, that diversity has helped us grow. Because of them, we're able to produce at a high volume. We can't credit them enough for their hard work."

Komatsu loader speeds up loading

Rimmer also credits Quad County Corn Processors' Komatsu WA250-5 wheel loader with speeding up the loading of trucks that haul feed products out. Quad County purchased the loader, equipped with a Teledyne scale, from Road Machinery & Supplies last summer, replacing an older WA250 that had 22,000 hours.

"We have nearly a steady stream of trucks coming in, so we need equipment that will keep up and not cost us in downtime," said Rimmer, who noted that Quad County demo'd several brands and the Komatsu stood out. "The new WA250 has sped up our loading time by three to five minutes per truck, which is very

significant. That faster cycle time means we can get product out faster. That's partially because it has a very tight turn radius, so the operator can dig into the pile and get the bucketload to the truck with minimal movement.

"The other major factor that speeds up cycle time is the hydrostatic transmission," he added. "It's especially useful in loading feed out because the wet feed tends to create a very slippery surface in the storage area. With the hydrostat, we can drive up to the pile, get a bucketful, turn and get back to the truck without slippage. It saves time, but it also saves money because if the machine isn't slipping, the tires last longer. That's a really big benefit."

Another major benefit is the service Quad County Corn Processors receives from Road Machinery & Supplies. The company worked with Territory Sales Manager Doug Miller on its latest purchase and uses Road Machinery & Supplies for parts and service work, including oil sampling.

"Dealer service is as important to us as the machine we purchase," said Rimmer. "In fact, our final decision came down to service. Even though we didn't buy our original Komatsu loader from Road Machinery, they still took care of us by doing warranty work and service on it. Doug worked with us to set that up, so when it came time to purchase a new loader, he and Road Machinery were at the top of our list. From a daily maintenance standpoint, our guys are happy because the WA250 is easy to service. Anything beyond that, Road Machinery takes care of. We contact Service Manager Pete Limoges and he sets it up at a time that's convenient to us so we have minimal downtime."

Increasing efficiency

Keeping that downtime to a minimum will continue to be important as Quad County Corn Processors continues to work at maximum production.

"We've really grown faster than anyone expected, and we're at about maximum capacity right now," said Rimmer. "Our focus going forward is how to be even more efficient than we are and get more out of the corn. We believe we'll be able to do that." ■

Road Machinery & Supplies Territory Sales Manager Doug Miller (left) works with Quad County Corn Processors Maintenance Manager Rex Rimmer. "Doug and the Road Machinery team are excellent to work with. They respond to any need we have right away and service our machine at a time that's convenient to us."



Operator Jon Heitmann digs into a pile of feed using a Komatsu WA250-5 before loading it into a hopper where it will be moved into a truck.

