



News

CIE adds storage to facility *Expansion is a \$2.5 million investment*

By Maribeth Vaughn
mvaughn@chronicle-tribune.com

Published: Thursday, September 9, 2010 1:08 AM EDT

Central Indiana Ethanol is expanding for what officials say will mean more convenience for farmers and better storage capacity for the company.

CIE is adding a 750,000-bushel corn bin. The addition has been a year in the making, said Gary Drook, chief executive officer. Last week, cranes lifted a conveyor to the top of the bin, and company officials hope to be using the new bin by the end of this week.

Drook said the addition means more storage capacity. While farmers are busy certain times of the year and can't bring corn in, the additional storage will mean they can bring it in when they can and put it in storage.

"Farmers don't necessarily want to haul corn every day, and we need corn every day," Drook said.

The company will still produce the same amount of ethanol a year, which Drook said is 50 million gallons. But the company needs to be able to survive because at times they go four to six weeks without deliveries.

"It's at the ideal time, because farmers are just starting to move into the field," he said.

Jeff Knutsen, CIE plant manager, said the addition will mean four storage bins at the facility, which can store a total of 1.9 million bushels of corn. When the plant opened in 2007, there was a 400,000-bushel storage capacity, and in 2008 they added a 750,000-bushel bin. The new addition puts their storage capacity at 1.9 million bushels.

Knutsen said a major reason for the addition is to help farmers who supply corn to the facility.

Drook said it's important that the company be able to service the farmers when they are able to bring in the crop. The new storage also allows the company to serve them more quickly, so if there are several trucks that come at once they will not have to wait in line.

Drook said the facility needs 50,000 bushels of corn a day for its ethanol production, and the storage capacity will allow the facility to operate up to a month with no new corn being delivered.

Drook said the project was a \$2.5 million investment, and CIE continues to be successful in the community. In addition to the expansion, they added three employees in the last year, making the total employment at about 50.

"We've been very pleased with the business and we're fortunate that the plant has been profitable

Print Page



3 September 2010 -- Workers install new corn bins Friday at the Central Indiana Ethanol plant. Photo/Jeff Morehead

since we started," Drook said.

Copyright © 2010 - Chronicle-Tribune

[x] Close Window