

# Next-Gen Fertilizer Warehouse

Southern FS West End Fertilizer Facility  
Thompsonville, Ill.



## 5 REASONS TO LOVE THIS FACILITY

**1 CENTRALLY LOCATED**  
This is the first of a three-stage plan that combines dry fertilizer storage at Marion, Macedonia and Eldorado locations (each 1,000 tons) with the larger warehouse (7,400 tons) with a service radius of 30 miles.

**2 PREPARATION PAID OFF**  
After a multiyear planning process, dirt work began in the fall of 2023, and the project was operational by August 2024.

**3 INTENTIONAL DESIGN**  
In planning, the team considered customer need, delivery points and facility location. The result prioritized volume, speed and maintenance.

**4 CONSOLIDATED THROUGHPUT**  
Doug Fox, operations manager, says previous load times were 30 minutes to 1.5 hours, whereas at the new site, tenders are loaded in eight minutes.

**5 PROJECT PARTNERS**  
Key vendors: Stueve Construction LLC, Doyle MFG/Riverview Manufacturing Inc., Murray Equipment, Growmark Inc., Growmark New Tech Engineering & Environmental, Clinton Electric LLC, MAKKA Excavating, Accurate Superior Scale, and Baltzell Plumbing.



### FASTER OUTBOUND

Two systems rated at 200 tons per hour: an auto-batch system with two 13-ton hoppers, a 13-ton rotary blender and a loadout conveyor; and a declining weight blending system with six 12-ton hoppers, two 2-ton microbins, a blending auger and a loadout conveyor. Both can introduce nitrogen stabilizers and are automated with Murray Equipment.

### DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

Perhaps a nontraditional choice for this type of building, the team put the elevated office to the outside and center of the loadout area to give the manager a better visual of the entire operation. The office is 12' above where outbound trucks would load and makes for an excellent observation point; the on-site team can see inbound and outbound traffic.

### MAINTENANCE FOCUS

There's a stairwell at each end of the building for access to the load-in leg and conveyor and there are catwalks on both sides of the load-in conveyor for personnel to service equipment safely in the peak of the building.

### EYES ON THE WORK

For visibility and ease of operation, the operational area is elevated 5' above the loadout area, so the fertilizer hoppers are at eye level for the loader operator.

### SHRINK CONTROL

To combat fertilizer inventory shrinkage, a monitored heat floor was installed in the operational area and the loadout area; it also helps with overall cleanliness. All bins have vertical-feet measurements painted on side walls for more accurate measurements because the bins are so large it is difficult to enter and measure.

### SPEEDY INBOUND

The receiving equipment is rated at 200 tons per hour which consists of an elevated drive over pit to accommodate dump and hopper trucks, 24"x 44' conveyor, bucket elevator and a 145' tri-slide conveyor.



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PHOTOS: STUEVE CONSTRUCTION