

THE LEADING EDGE

www.yetterco.com · Yetter Manufacturing Inc · [E-mail:info@yetterco.com](mailto:info@yetterco.com)

A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING YIELD POTENTIAL

Bulk up your operation with efficient bulk seed handling

Many agriculture operations today are adding acres. Mother Nature, however, has no sympathy for producers faced with planting more fields. The same two-week window applies, whether you are planting 500 acres or 5,000.

Filling planter units bag by bag is cumbersome and time-consuming. Producers are investing in efficient seed-handling solutions at a steadily increasing rate as they look for solutions to help them get seed in the ground during that optimal planting period.

David Thompson, director of sales for Stine Seeds, said packaging has changed dramatically since 2001. "Our soybean business has gone from 60 percent bags to 26 percent in nine years (now 74 percent bulk), while corn has gone from 87 percent bags to 42 percent (now 58 percent bulk). This change is largely due to the fact that everyone's gaining efficiencies, all across the supply chain and down to the farm."

Syngenta says its bulk soybean sales have reached 90 percent or higher in some markets.

"I would never go back to bags, especially running two planters," said Curtis Smith, who plants 6,000 acres of corn and soybeans in northeast Missouri with his cousin David Bannoy. It once took the pair 30 to 40 minutes to fill

their Kinze planter with bagged seed. With a bulk-fill system, they've cut that time in half. Smith and Bannoy reported planting 50 or more acres of soybeans in a day.ⁱⁱⁱ

Beyond efficiency, bulk seed handling offers other benefits:

- There is less chance of back injury from handling bags.
- The person handling the seed may have less exposure to the chemicals used to treat the seed.
- There is less waste of materials and fewer disposal problems for reusable bulk bags compared with smaller disposable seed bags.

It's clear that replacing cumbersome seed bags with bulk seed handling equipment is a sure way to save time and effort. The right equipment to do the job makes transitioning to bulk seed practices easy and also ensures a quick return on investment.

Today's seed handling systems are designed to be incredibly versatile and are proven to be effective across all types of production agriculture operations. Bulk seed handling equipment is readily available to work successfully with soybeans, corn, wheat, edible beans, rice, and cottonseed.

Good seed handling systems are designed so producers can choose the specific elements needed and make additions as their operation demands evolve.



The Seed Jet II™ is the heart of the SystemsOne™ bulk seed setup from Yetter.

Yetter Farm Equipment offers a bulk seed handling solution called the SystemsOne™ Seed Jet II™.

The Seed Jet II can be mounted on a gravity wagon, grain truck, or semi. This system quickly fills up planters or grain drills. It moves grain through a stainless steel hose at a rate of 6 to 8 bushels per minute.

To keep big planters rolling, a bulk seed handling system should also include options that combine the main handling mechanism with a cart, conveyor, or trailer for use with bulk seed boxes, large seed bags, and poly tanks, or other self-contained bulk seed transport, storage, and retrieval systems.

The Maximizer™ conveyor from Yetter can be placed on a 16-foot car trailer to be easily transported from field to field. It has a 180-degree telescoping spout that can fill the planter from the front, side, or back of the unit. It requires only one person to operate, reducing the spring labor crunch. The conveyor can be used with central-fill systems and individual row-unit boxes.



The Maximizer conveyor takes seed handling to the max.

With the Maximizer, seed gently speeds along the conveyor belt, making seed refills extremely efficient. This setup will fill a planter at rate of 13 to 15 bushels per minute.

Producers who operate large farms or are looking to lighten the burden of seed bags will certainly benefit from the right handling system. Consider an investment in bulk seed handling equipment in time to incorporate it with this spring's planting season.

i. [Kurt Lawton, "Less Pain, More Gain with Bulk Seed," Progressive Farmer, September 22, 2010, accessed on February 19, 2011.](#)

ii. Ibid.

iii. Ibid.

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Yetter Manufacturing Co., Inc.
109 S. McDonough
Colchester, Illinois 62326
Phone: 800-447-5777
FAX: 309-776-3222



www.yetterco.com
[E-mail:info@yetterco.com](mailto:info@yetterco.com)

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