oneWeigh™ Scale Automation Systems

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Scale-to-Pit Efficiency
Simplified communication with oneWeigh automation

With the oneWeigh scale automation system and the pit monitor tool, James Valley Grain enjoys simplified communication at the pit with easy transmission of load information for improved accuracy and efficiency.

For James Valley Grain LLC of Oakes, North Dakota, the oneWeigh Pit Monitor has helped solve communication issues they used to have between the scale and receiving pit. With the oneWeigh pit monitor, load information is automatically transferred from the oneWeigh system at the scale house to any type or size of monitor in the receiving pit area, or another area in the facility where load information needs to be conveyed, in a clear, easy-to-read grid format. The system can be configured to show what

information to display such as vehicle ID, commodity description, pit number, grade, and comments. Summary operational information can also be shown at the bottom of the screen to further maximize communication of relevant data to staff.

Jamie Mattson, Operations Manager with James Valley Grain, played a large role in helping to validate the need for the oneWeigh pit monitor feature. As Steve Day, oneWeigh product manager, had some communications ideas brewing, an inquiry from Mattson was timely. "I called Steve and asked if there was anything we could do remotely at the pit to see what they at the scale house see when they are actually weighing the trucks, but I didn't want to have any user involvement," Mattson recalls. "We started talking about it more, and the idea rolled along and got refined to what the pit monitor feature is now, which is just what we needed."

Easier Information Sharing
Mattson shares how much smoother things run now that ineffective paper trails and time wasting user interaction are a thing of the past. "We used to have a printer at the pit, and when the truck was weighed, it would print one line showing grade factors, color of truck, and commodity," notes Mattson. "But we never knew what trucks were actually at the pit. We would have to look at the piece of paper and try to figure out which truck it was, then go outside and tell the customer which pit. Now we know that only the trucks that are on the screen are waiting to be dumped. We know exactly which trucks are actually in the system."

Saving Time and Manpower
The simplified communication between the scale and pit has saved time and improved efficiency for James Valley Grain by reducing operator involvement. "There's no user interaction at all that has to take place," says Mattson. "Once the truck is weighed, we get the information we need. Now it's all automatic. That's what I like about it. We can just look through the window at the monitor, and there's no more running around."

Practical oneWeigh solutions fit James Valley Grain's setup and level of automation needs to improve shipping and receiving operations.

James Valley Grain values faster weighing, grading, and unloading with oneWeigh automation for improved customer satisfaction and reduced operational costs.

Mattson recalls how another previous method - using radio communications to the pit - also proved to be ineffective and carried the risk of misunderstandings and mistakes. "We had started using the printer system when we got rid of the radio because it was so hectic trying to keep track of information and remember everything over the radio," says Mattson. "With the pit monitor, there's nothing to remember. The information is right there for you to see. You don't have to try to keep in your head which truck is which or what truck is coming. They're all in order."

"If a truck shows up that is not on the screen, we know not to dump it because it hasn't been weighed," adds Mattson. "That's happened a few times. A truck shows up at the pit, and we don't have a grade for it. That's when we find out that someone at the scale house forgot to hit the weigh button."

For James Valley Grain, the pit monitor feature is one aspect of overall oneWeigh automation that has proven to be beneficial in improving communication, accuracy, customer service, and

efficiency. "We are pleased with the oneWeigh system – which came about after we replaced a system we were previously using that didn't work for us," notes Mattson. "During harvest we handle about 500 trucks a day. We'd like to automate even more with oneWeigh unattended loadout and tools such as RFID and message boards to reduce staffing at harvest time."

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The oneWeigh system is part of the AGRIS Product Suite from Cultura Technologies Inc.
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