

## Grainland storage silos go up northeast of Holyoke

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

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It has been a busy year for Grainland Co-op. After waiting nearly two years, BNSF and NKC Railroad finally reached an agreement allowing Grainland to start the shuttle loader project.

It is located near Grainland's crop production facility northeast of Holyoke, just off Highway 23 on County Road 41.

A major aspect of the project was the construction of eight concrete silos that will hold an additional 1.4 million bushels of Grainland commodities. Construction on the silos began in February with the intention of completing the project by the time the 2014 wheat harvest rolls around.



**Eight Grainland Co-op silos were recently constructed northeast of Holyoke as part of its shuttle loader project. The project is slated for completion in late summer of 2014.**

—Enterprise photo

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“We’re really happy we’re back on schedule,” Grainland general manager Rick Unrein said. “We got behind in the spring with the moisture setting us back. At one point we were behind by about 30 days. We have caught up since then, so we are very pleased with the progress.”

Unrein said he hopes the new silos help give Grainland a competitive advantage on the wheat side of things.

“Obviously we are going to be looking for volume,” Unrein said. “We’re going to need some volume to go through the facility in order to help pay for it, and we hope to get that volume through some competitive bidding.”

With the underground work being completed during the summer, the silos now stand 140 feet tall. Construction on the roof was slated to begin this week. From there, all of the grain-handling equipment will be installed and the electrical work will need to be completed. The facility will house state-of-the-art dust equipment.

With the new capabilities, Unrein said they will hire a maximum of three more people right now, but said he hopes they get busy enough where they will be able to bring in five new people.

“It’s a great feeling,” Unrein said. “We’re excited about the possibility of it. We won’t realize all that it can do for us until we get it up and get some experience with it. We’re going to be learning, too. We’ll need to get some experience with the equipment and all of the logistics that go along with having a train loader.”

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