

By Laurie Bedord, Advanced Technology Editor



GRAIN GAUGE TECHNOLOGY ENSURES ACCURATE, REPEATABLE RESULTS WHEN LOADING GRAIN INTO ANY TRAILER.

The challenges of monitoring grain in dusty, dirty, and dark conditions are a reality Shawn Gengerke has had to deal with for far too long. “When I’m loading grain, I can’t see it in the truck until it’s within a couple feet of the sidewall because of the dust,” says the fourth-generation farmer. “By the time I do see it and try to move the truck, grain is flying everywhere.”

Installing an extra set of eyes wasn’t much help, either. “Cameras were really the only technology we had available,” he says. “But if you can’t see it with your own eyes, how can a camera see through the dust? A camera just doesn’t work well under those conditions.”

It was clear to the Groton, South Dakotan that this traditional two-person job needed an upgrade. “One person had to stay in the dirty conditions and wave the driver forward at the correct time,” recalls Gengerke. “I just got tired of it.”

His solution was the Load Judge.



HOW IT WORKS

The patent-pending technology compiles information received from six sensors, as well as a moisture sensor, placed inside the grain trailer.

“The system takes the

reference points of the grain’s proximity, calculates the shape and size of the incoming load, and then an algorithm converts it to a graphic,” he explains.

The graphic is then instantly sent to a free app on your smartphone or tablet. “Because it’s in real time, it draws the exact curve of the pile and how it’s flowing,” says Gengerke.

Data can be tailored to accommodate different trailer makes and models. The app will display specific commodity configuration graphics for a specific trailer being loaded.

A bushel estimator provides estimates on bushel quantities throughout the loading process. A pile-peak adjustment feature accounts for differences in piling wet

or dry commodities to allow you to customize it to your operation.

“Wet grain flows differently than dry grain,” says Gengerke. “It will sense that, and you can make adjustments for that.”

Load levels can be set and saved for varied conditions, which makes the process repeatable.

ACCURATE LOADS

By monitoring proper grain distribution on the trailer axles as loading occurs, you are assured your load weight is highly accurate.


“This helps avoid both costly traffic tickets from being overloaded and lost transport efficiency when traveling with a load that is too light,” he notes.

Since the load is properly distributed across the axles from the beginning, there’s no dealing with time-consuming adjustments later.

Because the Load Judge operates off the existing trailer clearance lighting system, there’s no need to run a new electrical system through the trailer or to make upgrades.

The system, which is adaptable to any grain type, includes six sensors, a moisture sensor, WiFi box, quick-attach plug, cable, and mounting accessories. It is also covered by a two-year warranty.

“It’s like having a transparent wall on the side of your grain trailer,” he says.

Gengerke estimates the system will range from \$6,000 to \$6,500. 

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