



Changing the Soybean Processing Landscape

North Dakota farmers now have another option to market their soybeans. The North Dakota Soybean Processors (NDSP) facility in Casselton is currently buying soybeans for delivery in the last half of July, with the crushing plant expected to begin processing beans in August or September.

The NDSP is a joint venture that was formed by CGB Enterprises, Inc. and Minnesota Soybean Processors.

NDSP Commercial Manager Bill McBee says that construction of the new facility benefited from mild winter weather and that the building process is on schedule. The plant will have the capacity to process 125,000 bushels per day, or approximately 42 million bushels a year.

McBee states that the NDSP is getting a lot of inquiries about the soybean bids from farmers.

“The process we have in place

now is people need to call in and establish an account,” McBee explains. “Once we have that account established, we have an app that they can download on their computer or their phone. Once they get set up on the app, then they can get access to our bids.”

According to McBee, the NDSP plant is likely to draw soybeans from farmers in North Dakota, Minnesota and possibly Canada, depending on the soybean crop’s size and the time of year. Having a processing plant at their disposal is a game changer for many farmers because it offers a wider window for them to market their soybeans than had previously existed.

“It’s a year-round market,” McBee contends. “As most people know, the Pacific Northwest (PNW) market is pretty much over by February. So, one of our challenges is convincing farmers that it’s a good idea to store soybeans instead of just corn.

That idea is definitely something that we’re trying to promote and encourage because we’ll need soybeans in the summer months, too. It’s a year-round market because we plan on running the plant year-round.”

The NDSP will be the second-largest processing plant to open in North Dakota, joining Green Bison Soybean Processing in Spiritwood. McBee asserts that it’s exciting to be part of the changing landscape for North Dakota’s soybean industry.

“We keep telling farmers that we get the opportunity to keep the beans here in North Dakota instead of sending them overseas, and that’s a good thing,” McBee says.

The NDSP plant will produce soybean meal and oil. McBee states that the soybean meal could be headed for a number of locations, depending upon which destinations provide the best option. Some meal will be sent to the PNW for overseas shipment

while other meal supplies could be sent to Mexico by rail. Meal might also travel via barge to the Gulf of Mexico for export. McBee is hopeful that domestic meal markets will also expand.

“On the oil side, we’ll have a full refinery to make food-grade oil, so we’ll be marketing to the food companies,” McBee explains, “but we’ll also be selling into the renewable diesel market.”

The NDSP is planning an open house and ribbon cutting in early August for people to see the plant and to meet members of the NDSP team.

Farmers who are interested in establishing an account with the NDSP to receive bids can call 701-895-1010 and select 1 to be connected to a merchandiser.

—Story and photo
by Daniel Lemke