

BREAKING GROUND

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WINTER 2017

Milling for a New Era: Hamstra Group Builds Pre-Mix Plant for Belstra



This expansion will greatly aid operations at Belstra, which annually produces more than 120,000 tons of complete feed, a million bushels of ground corn, and other agricultural products.

Belstra Milling Company, Inc. is a fixture in northwest Indiana. Founded in 1954, it has for decades served as the primary custom feed mixer for livestock and poultry producers in the region. Once the purveyor of Purina products, the DeMotte, Indiana firm later created proprietary “Action Feeds” and is today widely known for innovative ideas and its milling and mixing capabilities.

The Hamstra Group has a long history with Belstra and has helped it to expand operations over the years. The most recent project—a brand new pre-mix plant for the production of feed for local dairy farms—was proof that teamwork and trusting relationships are a recipe for success.

Construction of the new, bright blue pre-mix plant started in September, 2015. Despite winter’s cold and snow, work continued uninterrupted on the foundation. Large support piers and basement walls would be required for a main structure extending 137 feet in the air. The work was finished in late October, 2016. The 9,600-square-foot mill structure with attached 6,900-square-foot warehouse required 400-plus tons of structural iron and steel sheeting and more than 2,600 yards of concrete.

According to Hamstra project manager Kevin Vander Molen, the goal was to build the highest quality structures and complete them on time and within budget. Karl Whitaker, who served as on-site manager and has 47 years of construction experience with Hamstra, worked with construction foreman Ryon Klemp to coordinate the work of team members including Vita Builders and Complete Electric. Other Hamstra project staff included Pete Bahnerth, Kim Bonnell and Mike Wood.

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The 
HAMSTRA
Group, Inc

Pre-Mix Plant... *from page 1*

"It's always a pleasure to team up with Belstra Milling employees and staff," said Vander Molen. "Their knowledge of modern feed mill operations and Hamstra Group's construction experience makes every project we do with the company an unbeatable team effort."

The feeling is mutual between Hamstra and its client. "Belstra Milling both appreciates and enjoys working with The Hamstra Group," said president Malcolm DeKryger. "They brought it in on budget, finished it on time, and worked seamlessly with the other key contractors. We always recommend Hamstra without hesitation."

*Company founder Bud Belstra,
pictured in front of the original mill in the 1960s.*



Aerial view of the Belstra Milling Company plant in DeMotte, Indiana.



Construction of the massive foundation was designed to support a structure that is 137 feet tall.



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