

Pioneer New Madrid Soybean Production Plant On Schedule To Process Spring Soybean Crop

Bengtson says, "All signs point to an on-time startup. Construction and staffing are on target."

REGINA LAROSE
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

NEW MADRID, MO.

Pioneer's soybean production plant in New Madrid, Mo. is on schedule to process the 2011 spring soybean crop. The \$55 million plant constructed on 129 acres is one of the largest production and construction projects that Pioneer has undertaken in recent years. Missouri's first Pioneer production plant will be at least the same size or larger than the com-

pany's largest soybean seed production facility in Brazil. The warehouse space alone is equal to five and one half football fields. Building such a structure in an area famous for earthquake activity was addressed in a recent interview. Nathan Bengtson, plant manager stated piers were used to support the structure. "There are about 7,000 of them 40 feet deep. They are designed to stabilize the soil and prevent liquefaction in the event of a quake."



Missouri's first Pioneer production plant at New Madrid, Mo., is being constructed on 129 acres at a cost of \$55 million.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

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Bengtson explained the water table was not an issue with the pier placement, "water table was not an issue with the piers but, did create some challenges with the pond we dug to borrow fill dirt." The new plant will use municipal potable water at the plant while wells support the landscape irrigation.

Expansion plans were discussed. "The facility is built to allow for future expansion as demand for top-performing Pioneer R brand soybean continues to increase," said Bengtson.

Growers expect quality seed from Pioneer. Bengtson gave some insight into Pioneer's quality control mission. "Quality is a huge part of our business. Our customers have come to expect Pioneer to be an industry-leader in seed quality. The New Madrid Soybean Production plant will carry on a long tradition of meeting and exceeding customer expectations."

quality standard. Our seed contract rewards growers who deliver the best possible quality to the production plant."

"Pioneer is ISO 9001:2000 certified. ISO is our quality management system and helps us ensure that our processes and inspections are aligned to deliver quality and respond to customer concerns," stated Bengtson.

Quality control has added advantages. "Before product leaves the facility we have ensured it meets our standards for germination, vigor, visual appearance etc. If a concern does arise, we have a high degree of traceability from the bag all the way back to the field it was grown in and even the seed that was planted the previous year. This helps us to be able to address any concerns a customer may have and to continue to improve our processes," said Bengtson.

The New Madrid Soybean Production plant will be processing Group IV and Group V soybeans in 50 lb paper bags, 50 unit jumbo bags, 50 unit ProBox R containers and the PRObulk R system. Bengtson said, "the plant will primarily service points south of the Missouri Bootheel. But products packaged at New Madrid could go anywhere in the U.S. that customers create demand and where we have a product to fit their need." Δ

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