A Well-Balanced Program

VERTICAL SOFTWARE HELPS WAREHOUSE FIRM BOOST OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

Since February 2009, Coastal Warehouse Ltd., Wharton, TX, has been using Vertical Software Inc. (VSI) grain accounting programs to help improve overall efficiencies, track costs better, and provide better service to its producer customers.

Besides its facility in Wharton, Coastal Warehouse Ltd. also owns and operates six other grain warehouse locations in Fort Bend, Jackson, and Wharton counties (west of Houston, TX). The firm handles corn, sorghum, and some soybeans and uses truck transportation for receiving and shipping

In addition to grain, Coastal Warehouse Ltd. last September started selling Prolix liquid animal livestock feeds and deer feed in 50-pound bags. This fairly new enterprise has already sold more than 100,000 bags of deer feed to distributors throughout the state.

"With the various commodities that we handle, it was really important to use a software program package that offered a cost-effective and efficient way to track incoming and outgoing grain shipments, handle scale tickets, and become well integrated into the account-

Coastal Warehouse Ltd. Controller and General Partner William Loocke.

ing system," said Controller and General Partner William Loocke.

Loocke, who already had utilized VSI at another Texas warehouse company during the 1980s, said that he was familiar with VSI's good service and customized programs.

Good Integration Capabilities

Coastal Warehouse Ltd. uses three bundled VSI programs: ScaleTrac (scale tickets), GrainTrac (grain accounting software), and TurningPoint (financial management).

"With ScaleTrac, truck weight, moisture, customer identification, and time and date stamp are posted right on the ticket," said Loocke. "The grain clerk can easily view the tickets from all locations right at her desk and attach them to the producers' contracts."

ScaleTrac eliminated the tedious and sometimes inaccurate task of handwritten tickets, according to Loocke.

ScaleTrac also can be configured to include discounts, gross and net bushels, prices, disposition information, gross and net dollar values, and contract balances. Numerous tickets also can be in the queue with tare weights and then used to calculate final net weights of outgoing truckloads.

With GrainTrac, the customers can access their accounts 24/7, according to Loocke. The information gathered and held securely includes contract balances, storage balances, warehouse receipts, and delivery history, to mention a few. "Our customers also like it, because the settlements can be processed more quickly," he explained.

TurningPoint handles the general ledger, accounts receivables/payables, business inventories, ordering management, and payroll. ∎