

Iowa feed company upgrades facility

■ By CHARLES HOUSE

Feedstuffs Staff Editor

Valley Ag, a feed company based in New Albin, Iowa, has recently completed a plant project that will enable the firm to expand production.

Wayne Meyer, a co-owner with Dan Bulman, said the nucleus of the project is a new rotating-drum mixer, with an attached bagging system and a 50-ft. ingredient leg or bucket elevator.

The equipment will permit bagging directly from the mixer. It also will permit large-scale use of liquid ingredients, such as molasses or animal fats, Meyer said. As much as 20-25% of a ration could be in liquid ingredients, he said. A belt-feeder has also been added to provide consistent flow — largely of texturized feeds — to the bagging system.

Valley Ag works closely on feed composition with Carl S. Akey, Inc., Lewisburg, Ohio.

"They supply us with nutritional background and formulations and we do private labeling," Meyer said.

Valley Ag, which has been in existence as a partnership for about six years, offers base mixes, minerals, supplements and complete feeds in various product lines for swine, beef and dairy operations.

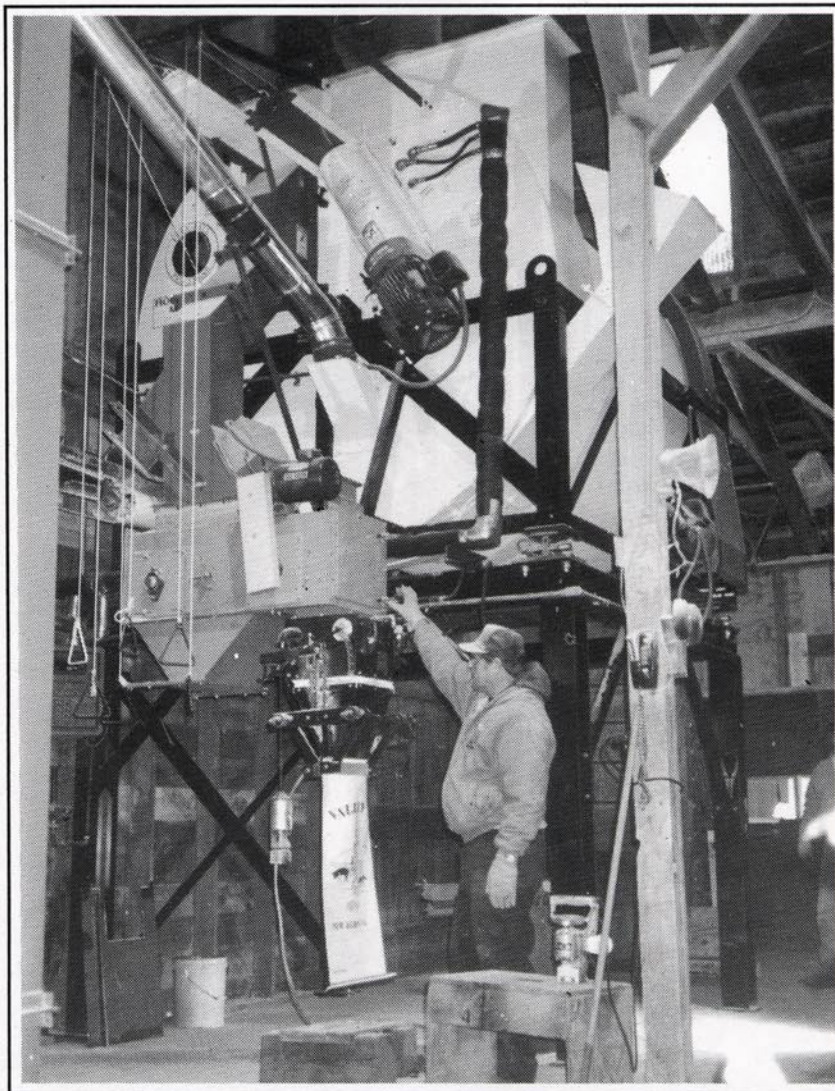
It also provides custom formulations.

"We have a wide range of products available," he said.

Meyer said the three-ton mixer system, from Continental Products, Milwaukee, Wis., is capable of performing all mixing requirements.

"We're using one system, rather than having a mineral mixer off to the side," he said.

Production capability increases, mixing time is reduced, and dust, which previously caused some problems, is held to a minimum.



Linus Ott of Valley Ag fills a bag with feed mixed in the company's new Rollo-Mixer Mark VI from Continental Products Corp., Milwaukee, Wis.

In addition, Meyer said, mixing accuracy is improved.

However, a main benefit of the system is improved flexibility, the partners said.

"We're making all aspects of the feed

industry's needs," said Bulman.

Bulman's father, Robert, who is now retired, owned the business previously.

The company serves a 30-mile radius in northeastern Iowa. ■