

BinTrac VMI

Herdstar LLC



BinTrac VMI serves as a Web-based bin-monitoring system. Weight-based BinTrac Pro sensors measure on-farm feed inventory and disappearance rates as a stand-alone system that may also be connected to the Web using Bintrac's VMI communication hardware. A farm's management offices and/or feedmills can then access near real-time information through a password-protected Web site.

An order desk interface clearly shows bin status and features smart alarms to allow remote feed ordering and order tracking, and indicates the status of pending orders. The BinTrac VMI system is an end-to-end solution because it provides all of the hardware and software needed, explains Bob Baarsch, CEO of Herdstar LLC. The Bintrac Pro loadcells and brackets are unique because the system allows installers to easily retrofit bins in an existing system, whether they are empty or full.

Data can be transmitted through locally hardwired equipment or sent up to 4 miles with wireless radio. One BinTrac Pro console displays the feed weight and level in up to four bins.

BinTrac VMI is an accurate and affordable system that allows remote monitoring of feed bins for multiple locations, Baarsch says.

Pork producers benefit because there are fewer livestock performance losses due to reduced out-of-feed events, and real-time consumption data helps improve management. Feedmills are able to reduce expedited orders. This in turn saves trucking costs and improves feedmill scheduling and throughput efficiencies by eliminating surge days.

BinTrac VMI can verify feed delivery information. Managers can find out when feed was delivered, how much was delivered, and verify which bin was filled.

Baarsch says having accurate feed usage information helps managers and consulting veterinarians with early disease detection. Usage information can also help predict within four days of when a feed bin will be empty. An intuitive Google Earth map relates a producer's entire system in red, yellow and green status conditions as to when a site/barn/bin is going to run empty.

The panel felt the BinTrac VMI's ability to tell when to order feed would be beneficial to producers.

There are two installation options. Producers can purchase the BinTrac Pro system for a stand-alone local solution to monitor bin weights and feed levels. A VMI communications option can be purchased at any time to connect the local information to Bintrac.com. The local-bin-only solutions prices start at \$770 per bin. The communication system varies, depending on the site and configuration. Communication hardware starts at less than \$1,000 for a simple dial-up, once-a-day solution to an always on cellular Internet situation. Monthly fees apply to both options.

Visit www.herdstar.com or call 612-756-3515 or 877-Bintrac (877-246-8722) for more information.