



Leroy Van Ryswyck – Embro, Ontario

Success doesn't just come by coincidence; it comes from a well-thought out series of decisions.

Leroy Van Ryswyck of Embro provides proof of that. He has not only survived the highs and lows of the pork cycle since 1987, but in 2011 he won first prize for his shelled high moisture corn with the Oxford County Soil and Crop Improvement Association. "The award meant a lot to me, especially being judged by your peers."

The oxygen-limiting Breather Bag system in the Harvestore maintains his quality of feed, says Van Ryswyck. "My hogs first, and me second, get more out of every kernel of corn."

The Harvestore was installed in a decision that has turned out to be an important factor in other key areas of his operation as well.

Despite his family being in the concrete silo business, Van Ryswyck decided to go with a pre-owned 20 X 60 Harvestore when he started his farm. He was looking for a feed storage system with the ability to automate easily; in 1998 he extended the silo to 85 feet.



Pictured above, Leroy VanRyswyck (left) and Gary Folkema, Agricultural Sales

His foresight to automation really paid off when he was one of the first pork producers in Canada to lead the way by changing from floor-feeding to an ad-lib automated liquid feeding system with auto sorting technology in 2001. "There were no issues," says Van Ryswyck.

Twenty-five percent of all hogs marketed in Ontario are now liquid fed but not all with auto-sorting.

In 2010 Van Ryswyck had time to investigate a little bit of farm science and compare his high moisture corn-based liquid feeding system with a dry corn system used by one of his neighbours.

He reports substantial gains in dollars and cents with feeding his 23 percent dry matter "soup": the feed conversion factor penciled out to 2.58 kg feed per kg of meat produced versus 2.7kg per kg with his neighbour's mill-manufactured dry corn ration.

"I could feed dry corn, but it seemed a bit crazy for me," says Van Ryswyck. "Why dry the corn only to soak it with water to bring it back to the level of moisture it was in the fall?"

There have been further savings to using high moisture corn if you consider the money he hasn't spent on drying, trucking and elevation that come with using his own storage.

Over the years the familiar towering blue structure, "hasn't required a lot of TLC," reports Van Ryswyck, beyond regular annual maintenance and inspection.

Is he pleased with his decision to start his farm with a Harvestore over twenty years ago?

"Yes," says Van Ryswyck, "I wouldn't change a thing."