



**STERLING**  
SYSTEMS & CONTROLS, INC.  
Automation ~ Batching ~ Process ~ Systems

## CASE STUDY

### The Challenge

Provide an upgraded system, with requested manual control panel mounted switches, for an aging system with difficult to source spare hardware components

### The Solution

- Identified areas for improvements
- New Batching System
- Control panel added with new Allen Bradley PLC
- 2 new interface panels with specified manual switches
- Scaling station
- New personal computer
- Software Upgrade

### The Results

- Improved automation of the batching system
- Improved receiving process
- Increased efficiency

### System Valuation

An Automated Batching solution similar to the one featured here will typically range in price from \$70 - \$80 Thousand. The price is subject to change due to project requirements and selected options. Call for current prices.

# BATCHING SOLUTIONS FOR THE FEED INDUSTRY (AGRI-KING ANIMAL NUTRITION)



### OVERVIEW:

Agri-King, Inc. is an animal nutrition company committed to the success and profitability of livestock producers worldwide. Known for its precise feed analyses, highly fortified products, and knowledgeable staff, Agri-King strives to help livestock producers get the most out of each pound of feed and each head of livestock.

### THE CHALLENGE:

Agri-King had first utilized Sterling Systems in the early 1970's for their first automated system. While the original system was still very reliable, the age of the system was a concern, so in 1991 the decision to upgrade the system hardware was made. A software upgrade was made to the 1991 system in the mid 2000's, bringing the system software up to date, however, the control hardware was becoming obsolete and difficult to source spare components by 2013.

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## THE SOLUTION:

Sterling Systems and Controls' Sales and Engineering staffs did a thorough review of the application to identify any opportunities for improvements as well as changes to the process that should be considered while making the third generation upgrade. A Project Manager was assigned to manage the project from start to finish, making the upgrade seamless and smooth. The Project Manager supported the system wiring checkout and training and was at the disposal of Agri-King until the project was completed.

Within the scope of the project a new Batching System was supplied that included a control panel, with requested manual switches, that housed a new Allen Bradley PLC, two new plant operator interface panels to prompt the operator for hand add addition at the scaling location, a new personal computer and a software upgrade. The original control panels were replaced but the panel size was maintained to make the installation easier.

## THE RESULTS:

Upon system completion, Plant Manager, Charlie Letcher said of the system that it, "Looks good... works good". Charlie stated that the system was outstanding and that the Project Manager did a great job. Charlie also expressed that the Sterling Controls Representatives are, "Great at their jobs and have good communication skills that help with both the planning and implementation."

Mr. Letcher was impressed that Sterling applied these same batching systems to other industries, such as the food industry, and he feels that it makes Agri-King more up to date on the latest automation. The new system now automates many aspects of the system process and has improved the receiving process of the plant as well.

Sterling Systems & Controls offers full integration of raw material lot tracking and validation process of raw materials. Mr. Letcher plans to incorporate that new tracking technology and to draw on Sterling Systems & Control's expertise when he is ready to take the next step in automating his plant.

## ABOUT STERLING:

Sterling Systems and Controls, Inc. offers over fifty (50) years of experience in providing efficient and unique solutions for batching, applications, and providing micro, minor and bulk weighing systems. We utilize the latest technology in data management, raw material and production data tracking.

Call 1-815-384-0117 and we will recommend for you a custom solution based on your specific application.

*Permission to use company names has been granted in advance of publication.*



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