

Less down time means more money

Tubbs' project will aid farmers

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Photos



Mark Rainwater

Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives Jim Tucker, left, and Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Dr. Mike Strain, right, joined Larry Tubbs, center, for a ceremony marking completion of a \$4 million expansion project at Tubbs Rice Dryers' Mer Rouge facility on Aug. 1, 2011.

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The name on the sprawling complex on the Collinston Road outside Mer Rouge reads "Tubbs Rice Dryers."

Larry Tubbs, though, is honest about who drives the success of his company.

“We’ve got some great employees. Without them, we couldn’t do what we do,” Tubbs said. “But the secret to our success is that the farmers are involved in everything we do.”

Tubbs’ statements came Monday prior to the company’s having a ribbon cutting ceremony for a \$4 million expansion project that will allow the company to unload, store and dry rice, grain and corn more quickly than before.

It’s that quick turnaround, Tubbs said, the farmer said was essential to improved profitability.

“They need to get trucks in and out of here as quickly as possible,” Tubbs said. “If they have a truck that’s spending time here waiting to unload, that means a combine in the field is sitting by waiting for the truck to get back.”

Improvements at the facility will allow trucks to unload 25,000 pounds of corn or grain “as quick as the hopper bottom on the trucks will open, maybe two or three minutes.

“And that time means they’ll be heading back to the field and then back here quicker,” Tubbs said.

Members of the area’s legislative delegation - Sen. Mike Walsworth and representatives Sam Little and Bubba Chaney - were joined in the ceremony by Dr. Mike Strain, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at the ceremony.

Little said reducing the down time for producers will be a huge benefit for producers.

“When you keep a truck tied up for five or six hours, that’s money,” Little said. “Getting them back on the road, back in the field and back to the dryer as quickly as possible will be good for the area’s economy.”

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