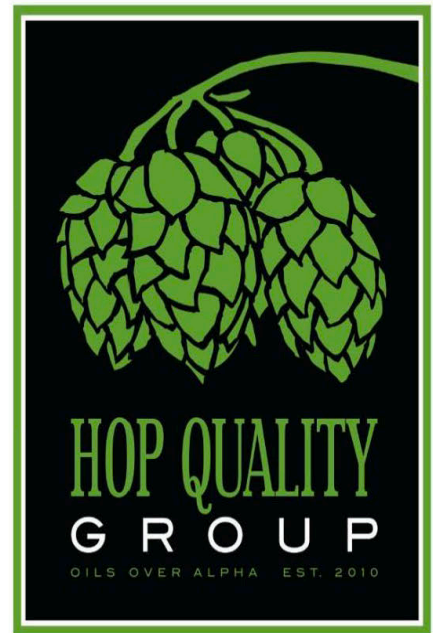


HQG Visit Date:	06/09/2021
Farm/Facility:	Colorado Hop Company
Picker Name & Grower Number(s):	
Grower Name & Phone:	Scott Ziebel / John Rademacher
Physical Address of Farm/Facility:	5200 County Road 34, Platteville, Colorado 80651
Email Address:	info@coloradohopcompany.com
Picker Type(s) & Description:	Wolf 150/Wolf 170
Merchant Partners/Direct/Both?	Both

HQG Attendee & Brewery	
Eli Kolodny	Odell Brewing Co.
Scott Dorsch	Odell Brewing Co.



Operations Description:

Colorado Hop Company (CHC) is a farm and pellet mill in Platteville Colorado serving the non-traditional growing region of Colorado. They currently have a 4 acre trellised hop farm, and pelletize those hops, but also accept bales from other local farmers who otherwise have no output for their crop. CHC has been around since 2016, and have been thoughtfully adding to their business ever since. Their newest addition is a processing facility building where they can store their pellet mill, drying equipment, vacuum sealer, and cold storage right on the farm. They expect to process about 2500-5000lbs of pellets during CY2021. The facility was very clean, with no signs of pests or birds, or exposed belts/conveyors/motors, and ample cold storage for their current needs, with plenty of well thought out "farm engineering" additions. They upgraded their hammer mill with a 20hp motor (factory is 10hp) and doubled the hammer "fingers" to increase output. It is no longer their bottle neck. They use liquid nitrogen to cool the die during running. For picking equipment, CHC has a Wolf 150 (that has been modified to be equivalent to a Wolf 170) and a Wolf 170. Corn is used to store the pellet die when not in use. Farm has 4 acres of 2nd year cashmere plants, some cascade and are putting in comet, neomex "multihead", "neo1", and possibly centennial.

Pics:



Pic 1: CHC aerial view



Pic 2: Accumulation table, hammer mill, and pellet mill. Vacuum sealer is behind the pellet mill.



Pic 3: Wolf 170 foreground light blue, background wolf 150 modified to be equivalent to Wolf 170



Pic 4: Hard vacuum pack example of pellets.



Pic 5: Drying bins and remainder of processing facility.

Areas of Concern:

For a facility of their size and intention, no major concerns were noted. Scott Z and John R seemed interested in hearing more about food safety and sustainable farm practices. We got positive feedback from the HQG Best Practices sheet, stressing that the information in it is not one size fits all, but can provide a guiding light. A point for further discussion could be a more thorough discussion around the batch tracing process.

Improvements since last HQG visit (if applicable):

This was the first HQG Pellet Mill Visit, so this section is N/A.

Recommendations:

Current recommendations are minimal and more just to keep the facility as clean as we saw it! Some observations from the HQG Pellet Mill Committee are to look at enclosing/adding bird netting to the Wolf equipment, adding magnets to the infeed on the pellet mill (in addition to the existing magnet on the outfeed of the hammer mill), and investigate blending equipment to help create homogenous lots.

Pellet Mill Checklist:

1. Primary Owner/Operator: **Scott Z and John R of Colorado Hop Company**
2. Manufacturer of Hammer Mill: **CME**
3. Date of manufacture or installation:
 - Motor Size in HP: **20**
 - Manufacturer of Pellet Mill: **CME**
 - Date of manufacture or installation: **2016**
4. Manufacturer of Pellet Mill.
 - Date of manufacture or installation: **[CME R30](#) / 2015**
 - Motor size in KW or HP: **30HP**
5. Blending capacity.
 - Bale breaker bin capacity. **They hammer mill from the cooling floor, and can fit ~100lb on the accumulation table**
 - Powder tank capacity? **N/A**
 - Blender type (Ribbon or Conical)? **N/A**
6. Throughput capacity (per 24 hours): **500lbs / hour, temperature and variety (oil content driven) dependent**
7. Magnet locations: **Hammer mill inlet**
8. Pellet diameter and number of die sizes owned: **5mm (16/64th)**
9. Target temperature of pellet and cooling method: **Target 100°F for pellets coming off the die**

10. Vacuum hard pack or soft pack? **Vacuum sealed hard pack**
 - flush gas type? **Nitrogen flushed**
11. Quality Test performed: **Moisture on incoming bales, visual on bales and oxidation (olfactory) testing. Send to 3rd party for oil composition.**
12. Laminate foil integrity tests performed and frequency of tests: **Can hear leaking packs in cooler, visually they are easy to identify.**
13. Standard label information: **Variety, alpha acid, year**
14. Cold & Frozen storage capacity, if applicable: **Cold storage for bales and finished pellets**
15. Any third-party certification: **None yet.**