| HQG Pellet Mill Visit Date: | 06-24-2021 |
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| Primary Owner/Operator: | Michigan Hop Alliance <br> Brian Tennis |
| Physical Address of Facility: | 5790 N Omena Rise, Omena <br> MI 49670 |
| Pellet Mill Contact: | Brian Tennis |
| Contact's Email Address: | brian@hopalliance.com |
| Contact's Email Phone: | $616-403-6880$ |


| HQG Attendee \& Brewery |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Alec Mull-Founders | Jason Vrosh-Founders |
| Chris Boggess-3 Floyds |  |
| Matt Gallagher-Half Acre |  |
| Derek Stepanski-Bells |  |
| Geoff Wenzel-Industrial Arts |  |



## Operations Description:

Facilities are in midst of an expansion to be completed prior to 21 harvest. Medium size pellet mill operation with intention to transition to "harvest fresh" pellets, straight from conditioning and skipping the bales. No bale breaker. HQG visited this mill in 2016 during installation and it has been taken apart and moved for the expansion to be completed and will be rebuilt prior to 21 harvest. In addition to the expansion, the intake area will be paved as well. Additional building perimeter drainage has been installed.
Two primary buildings for facilities. One for picking and pelletizing and one purpose-built building for chemical and equipment storage. New purpose-built $30 \times 50$ pellet mill building planned for 22 harvest.
New nitrogen purge and vacuum sealer for pellets (see photo).

## Areas of Concern:

Magnets are always beneficial and should be employed at key areas of transition. One magnet exists prior to pellet mill which is a critical spot, but one immediately prior to bagging would help ensure metal free product.

## Improvements since last HQG visit (if applicable):

New Nitrogen purge bag sealer. Drainage installed around perimeter; paving is planned at building entrance. New building for equipment and chemical storage complete.

## Thanks for your continued focus on food safety.

## Additional Comments about the operation?

Pursuing Global Gap.

## Recommendations:

Ensure processing areas are free from clutter and designated cabinets for lubrication and chemical storage are used. Additional PPE requirements are always helpful for food and worker safety and additional obvious signage is appreciated. Consider moving tables that could be used for employee breaks away from processing area. LED lighting is preferred for processing areas.
Magnets immediately prior to pellet bagging can be helpful.

## Hop Quality Group

## Hop Pellet Mill Survey

Facility Address- 5790 N Omena Rise, Omena MI 49670
Primary Owner/Operator- Brian Tennis
Manufacturer of Hammer Mill- Buskirk
Date of manufacture or installation- 6/26/2015
Motor size in KW or HP- 10 HP
Manufacturer of Pellet Mill- Buskirk
Date of manufacture or installation- $1 / 1 / 17$
Motor size in KW or HP- 10HP
Blending capacity
Bale breaker bin capacity- 125 pounds
Powder tank capacity- 150
Blender type (Ribbon or Conical)- ribbon
Throughput capacity (per 24 hours)- 4000 pounds Rated at 400 pounds per hour
Magnet locations- Pellet Mill entrance
Pellet diameter and number of die sizes owned-1 die • $12^{\prime \prime}$ diameter $\times 1.5^{\prime \prime}$ thick machined die plate, ( $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ pellet)
Target temperature of pellet and cooling method- 105-115
Vacuum hard pack or soft pack and flush gas type- soft pack, food grade nitrogen

Quality tests performed- All lots are sent to Alliance Analytical Laboratories and/or Advanced Analytical Research. We run the full comprehensive tests. Acids, HSI, Moisture, Dry matter, 30+ compounds in all.

Laminate foil integrity tests performed and frequency of tests-
Standard label information- Lot, variety, weight, acids, oil, HSI, contact information
Frozen storage capacity- 250,000 pounds offsite, 20,000 onsite, soon to be 40,000 onsite
Any third party certification- MDARD ad MEAP



