

Chandler finds the seeds of a perfect solution.

What do you do when you have millions of tons of cottonseed and no place to put them? This was the dilemma facing Danny Turnage, general manager of the Stoneville® brand cotton seed site in Stoneville, Mississippi.

For 10 years, Stoneville seed was stored in a cold-storage rental unit, located 60 miles away from the production facility in Mississippi. In April 2004, another company bought the cold-storage units, which meant the Stoneville seed had to be moved quickly to a new storage site.

The ideal location

After researching what was available, Turnage found two building shells with approximately 20,000 square feet, which was enough space to warehouse the company's current and future seed. A major challenge for Turnage was to convert these 60 x 120 and 60 x 200-sq.-ft. shells into climate-controlled storage environments. Without proper regulation of temperature and humidity, the viability of the seed would be lost, especially with a hot Mississippi summer just around the corner.

The optimal climate

Given the need for a fast solution, Turnage decided to seek the help of Lee Gordon of Air Tech, a small local company with a great work reputation. Gordon realized immediately that the scope of the project would require him to get others involved, so he turned to Bud Martin at C.C. Dickson Co., a wholesaler and Chandler Refrigeration distributor in Memphis, Tennessee.

To maintain seed quality, Martin realized the temperature inside the large storage containers would have to fall somewhere between 55° and 60°F, with no hot spots, and moisture levels would also have to be precisely controlled. Other

vendors had told Turnage that this couldn't be done, but Martin was sure that, with all of his Chandler resources, a solution could be found.

The perfect solution

Martin contacted the Chandler manufacturing representative and engineers at Steve Lee & Associates. Together, they recommended an eight-system solution consisting of a combination of Chandler air handlers and condensing units.

“Bud and the Chandler team, with their refrigeration expertise and equipment, really helped us provide what was needed for storing the Stoneville brand seed,” Gordon said. “They didn't just come down to consult and then leave. They were very hands-on during the entire project and provided us with exactly what was necessary to get the job done.”

“This was a very positive experience for all of us. It was great to know we could count on Lee and Bud to answer questions we had and to work with our team to help fine-tune the project,” said Al Zeigler, Site Manager at the Stoneville facility. “They did everything we asked and more to make sure the units were installed in the proper locations and working at maximum capacity,” he continued. “With the heat and humidity of summer rapidly approaching, time was a major factor. We would never have been up and running so quickly without all the help we received from the folks at Air Tech, Chandler Refrigeration and C.C. Dickson Co. They really came to the rescue.”