

Nick Friant
Food Safety, Quality, Regulatory Leader
Cargill
AgHorizons US

Nick grew up on a small, family grain farm in north-central Illinois. The main commodities are corn and soybeans. He attended Michigan State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 2000 and a Master of Science in 2002, both in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. His main area of study was grain quality, handling, storage, and drying. The focus of his Master's Degree was the development of an equation to model ear corn drying.

Nick joined Cargill in 2002 and his first assignment was as a Production Supervisor in Topeka, KS. His second assignment was as a Production Supervisor at the Terre Haute Marine Export Facility in Reserve, LA (New Orleans, LA). In October 2006, Nick assumed the role of Grain Handling Coordinator for Cargill's AgHorizons and Grain and Oilseed Supply Chain – North America business units. In January 2008, Nick's role was expanded to include leading Cargill's World Wide Grain Operations Grain Quality Center of Expertise. In June 2011, Nick's role was changed to support Food Safety, Quality, and Regulatory efforts across the Worldwide Grain Operations Function. In September 2014, the Worldwide Grain Operations Grain Quality COE was absorbed into the Cargill Agricultural Supply Chain Platform Food Safety, Quality, and Regulatory group. Nick is currently the business unit Food Safety Leader for the AgHorizons – US business unit and also supports the Grain and Oilseed Supply Chain North America grain export business.

The key responsibilities of his position are to provide technical and regulatory assistance to Operations and Merchandizing personnel on a wide range of issues related to grain quality, handling, and inventory control. Additionally, he is the chairman for the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Grain Grades and Weights Committee, and the co-chairman for North America Export Grain Association (NAEGA) Grain Grades and Inspections Committee. He also acts as a liaison to the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS), and the US Government (USDA FGIS & APHIS, US EPA, FDA) on these issues as well as International Sanitary and Phytosanitary (ISPS) Regulations. Nick served as a member of the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration Grain Inspection Advisory Committee from April 2007 to March 2010. Other responsibilities include: assisting in developing grain survey programs; collecting information on analytical testing practices/providers; research; answering biotech, grain quality, and ISPS questions; and providing training on grain quality, food safety, biotech, IP procedures, and inventory control.