

Producers - Check Your Stored Grain!

What's In the Bin?



Your work isn't necessarily done once the grain is "in the bin" after harvest!

With overall initial quality issues that faced much of the 2009 Ontario grain and oilseed crop, producers should be aware that a combination of factors, including immaturity, light test weights, high harvest moistures, stress cracking, foreign material, broken kernels, moisture 'bounce-back', storage molds, etc. may be at work in your grain bin today. Add into this list, a milder than normal winter, and it is important that you keep a close eye on your grain in storage.

Check Bins Regularly

It is suggested that stored grain should be checked weekly during the winter months. Probe the storage at multiple locations in the bin to determine if any hard spots are forming. Look for signs of moisture such as crusting on the top of the grain, or condensation/frost on the bin roof. Smell the grain – a musty or moldy odour may indicate the beginning of a storage problem. A fermented or sour smell indicates that you have a serious problem.

Measure grain temperature on a regular schedule to make sure there are no 'hot spots'. It is important that you keep records of your temperature monitoring program. If the temperature of the grain is increasing, you may need to turn on aeration fans to drive out moisture and cool the grain.

As spring approaches and outside temperatures begin to increase, be prepared to increase monitoring of your stored grain and start checking your grain at more frequent intervals. External warming of the grain from higher daily temperatures will normally be limited to a couple of feet near the bin wall and a few feet at the top of the bin. If you have the ability to remove some grain at this time, it will provide a good indication if problems are starting.



***Don't simply assume that what you put into your farm bin is what is there today!
Check your grain storage regularly to ensure that your grain and oilseeds are safe!***



**Maintaining Grain Storage Quality
Is Your Responsibility!**

