

BE PREPARED FOR HARVEST

Protecting grain quality starts before the combines start rolling. Here are some harvest prep tips:

- Remove all traces of old grain from combines, combine heads, truck beds, grain carts, augers, grain pits, grain driers and bins. Small amounts of moldy or insect infested grain can contaminate a bin of new grain.
- Sweep out bins paying close attention to cracks, crevices, ledges over doors & anywhere grain may be trapped.
- Brush down bin walls
- Inspect for leaks & holes in bin through which rain or snow can blow or drip in onto grain
- Test aeration fans.
- Inspect drier. Test fuel lines for possible leaks.
- Check belts, bearings & gear boxes for wear & proper lubrication
- Check electrical systems for corroded connections, fraying wires and possible mice damage. You may find mice inside electrical boxes where they strip insulation from wires and cause corrosion from their urine.
- Inspect bin foundations for cracks and other signs of deterioration.
- Make sure guards & safety shields are in place over belts, chains and intakes.
- Once thoroughly clean, spray empty bin with proper insecticide at least 24 hours before loading grain into it. As insecticide labels change frequently, be sure to follow label instructions carefully.
- Spray insecticide around the base of bin on the outside. Remove any vegetation growing up against the outside of the bin. Insects & rodents harbor in vegetation.
- **DON'T FORGET SAFETY:** Anyone working around bins & grain handling equipment should know where to find shut-off switches, fire extinguishers & emergency phone numbers. Review all your safety procedures for working around flowing grain, grain harvesting and handling equipment.
- Being prepared will reduce RISK! Both safety risks as well as grain deterioration risk.

HAVE A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.