

December 3rd, 2018

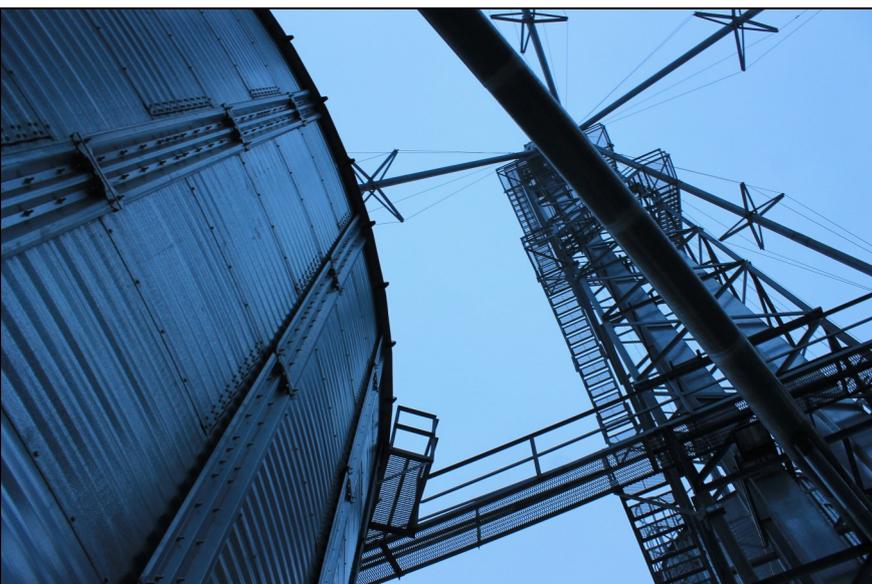
“Accessing Innovation”

Managing Farm-Stored Grain: Brian Winkler

If you haven't done so a few times already, you need to be checking the tops of your grain bins for quality & storage issues. Just image that your bin is full of cash, so as to check it weekly, especially if you suspect an issue. The following tips are a few ways you can effectively check the quality of your grain... When you first open the hatch on top of the grain bin, pay attention to the air. Does it feel warm or damp to your face? Also, is there a musty or sour odor? By paying close attention to the air space in the tops of your farm bins, you can get a good idea if your grain is being stored properly. Additionally, look at the surface of the grain to see if there is a crust beginning to form. If a crust does form, it prevents the natural air ventilation to allow the bin & grain to breathe properly while maintaining good grain quality.

If you suspect a problem with the grain mass, another good idea is to get a handle on the temperature of the grain. Taking temperature can be done with something as simple as a piece of metal conduit inserted into the grain, left in place for several minutes, and then sensing the temperature of the conduit with your hand as you remove it.

It is highly discouraged from ever entering the tops of grain bins, especially if there has been any grain removed after it has been filled. Even if the grain hasn't moved from the bin, there are still dangers including air quality, especially if there is a crust or sprouting grain. Once again, always use extreme caution around grain bins!



Safety Tip:
Always communicate with family or others when working in and around the elevator. That way someone can check on you if you're working alone, especially if you lose service or don't have access to call for help.

Seed Agronomy Update: Drew Steinlage

With another harvest in the books, purchases are being made for the 2019 cropping year. While all inputs are important to raise a crop, one of the most important and costly inputs a farmer purchases is seed. As agronomists at Ag Partners, we spend a great deal of time throughout the year attending plot days as well as evaluating both corn hybrids and soybean varieties on a farm-by-farm basis. In other words, we take the time to find products that work best on all soil types for multiple producers rather than a “one size fits all” approach.

Furthermore, with tough commodity prices, farmers must maximize yields to increase their bottom lines. Cheap seed is not always the best choice for your operation. We understand one brand is not always the best for everyone, as referenced earlier, therefore, we offer several brands including **Asgrow, Croplan, Dekalb, Mycogen, NK, and Stine**, to fit your specific needs. While most seed has already been purchased by now, there is still the chance to capitalize on some early pay discounts as well as some great financing offers!

For more information on finance opportunities, or questions concerning any new or consistent product line-ups, don't hesitate to contact your local agronomist and ask, discuss, or compare ideas for your farm plan.

**Click here to
view Grain Bids!**

Click here to check out our website!

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