Is your farm a haven for grain pests

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia
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IS YOUR FARM A HAVEN FOR GRAIN PESTS?

Overseas markets insist that the grain they buy must be in sound condition and free of insect pests.

All grain is treated with a protectant before export, but occasional heavy infestations in bulk grain can involve additional costly fumigation—and this cost is passed on to the farmer.

The primary source of such infestations is usually somebody's farm—the result of carelessness which has allowed weevils or other pests of stored grain to breed up and infest bulk wheat delivered to the handling authority.

Farm hygiene is our first line of defence against insect pests of stored grain. Any unprotected grain lying around the farm or in farm machinery is a potential source of infestation—and it's up to you to remove it.

Keep your farm free of stored grain pests and you will help to protect our export markets and reduce the cost of treatment that you and your neighbours will bear. Ignore them and you expose the State's harvest to the risk of extra infestation and your own farm-stored grain to severe insect damage. You also risk having your grain rejected at the siding.

Here are the Australian Wheat Board's recommendations for pest control on the farm:

CLEAN all loose grain from storages, surrounds and machinery. Make sure you have no insect carryover by cleaning BEFORE and AFTER harvesting.

PROTECT your grain with a protectant. Use 6 lb. of Malathion per 100 bushels of wheat (3 ozs. per bag) or use Pyrethrum dusts. For protecting wheat against moths dust the surface with 0.5 per cent. Pyrethrum powder applied at the rate of 4-5 lb. per 1,000 square feet. Follow manufacturer's recommendations strictly.

If infestation is found,

FUMIGATE your stored grain to kill all stages of insects present. For successful fumigation:

A. Make gas-tight the plastic sheet covering bulk and bagged wheat to be fumigated.
B. Use the correct dosage of the fumigant.
C. Leave under fumigation for the correct time.

FUMIGANTS

1. Phosphine, which is a gas produced from Phostoxin tablets. Distribute the tablets throughout bagged wheat at the rate of 10 tablets per 100 cubic feet; cover with plastic sheets and keep sealed for at least 15 days. Ventilate well after removing plastic sheets. For bulk wheat distribute evenly, 4 to 6 tablets per ton and do not move grain for 15 days at least.

2. Carbon tetrachloride, Ethylene dichloride and Ethylene dibromide mixture—sometimes known as No. 1 GRAIN FUMIGANT. Pour 3 gallons per 1,000 bushels on bulk wheat in vertical farm storages and leave for 24-48 hours.

3. Methyl bromide—an odourless gas dangerous to man. Application at the rate of 1 1/2 lb. per 1,000 cubic feet with exposure for 24 hours should be made by an expert operator. Other fumigants are also available.

ALL FUMIGANTS ARE TOXIC TO MAN

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS STRICTLY

*For further information, contact the Australian Wheat Board, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., or the Department of Agriculture.