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Tips of the Trade

► NON-GMO HARVEST TIPS

Illinois Grower Duane Westnedge offers these harvest tips:

- Be sure to clean and treat bins prior to harvest. Clearly mark the bin to avoid mixes
- Develop a harvest plan and inform all grain haulers of the importance of sweeping out every kernel/bean before hauling IP grains
- Clean and flush the following before handling IP grain—combine, wagon/truck, augers/dryers
- Harvest all non-GMO corn at the same time to keep cleanout to a minimum
- Harvest and sell as normal corn the 12 outside rows around the perimeter of non-gmo fields that are adjacent to or less than 660 feet from fields containing GMO corn hybrids
- Use a dedicated, separate grain cart for the non-GMO crop
- Optimize combine settings to produce the cleanest grain possible. Clean grain going into the bins makes it easier to manage in the bins
- Keep accurate records of harvesting and storage (date/variety/volume)

And before you fill that combine for the first time this fall, make sure you re-read your non-GMO contract. Then call your local Farm Marketer or Cargill office with any questions.

► MACHINERY CLEANOUT TIPS

Since a good, thorough cleanout of a combine takes about two hours, the fewer times you need to complete this during a harvest the better.

Thorough cleanout is critical, because the traditional operator practice of emptying the combine by operating the clean grain auger until “empty” leaves 60 to 120 pounds of grain or more in the machine. Two bushels of unwanted grain randomly co-mingled into subsequent product harvested represents an impurity level of 0.1% in 2,000 bushels.

Iowa State University Extension offers publications and videos to help with the cleanout process of a wide variety of equipment. Visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListItems.aspx?CategoryID=36>”



► NON-GMO GRAIN STORAGE TIPS

Being a Signature Grower, you're well aware of the value of proper long-term IP storage. These important tips can help ensure you'll get top premiums all winter and into 2008.

- Achieve proper stored moisture level, then aerate periodically (once a month or more) to get rid of any moisture buildup
- When aerating, be sure grain temperature doesn't go below 32°, as this will freeze corn and not allow air to move through it
- Check bins to ensure no crusting occurs. Keep temperature consistent
- When spring arrives, slowly warm grain back up until it reaches 55°
- Maintain constant 55° temperature by running fans on cool nights during summer months
- Do NOT directly treat corn or soybeans with insecticides after harvesting. Cargill recommends the use of INSECTO, a natural product, to control insects in on-farm storage. Information can be found at www.insecto.com