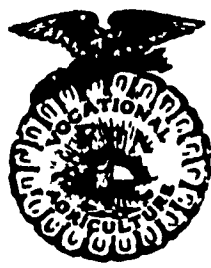


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



You and the Combine
By Glenn Spangler
Manheim Central

By the time you read this article, much of the barley will be harvested and some wheat will be ready to combine. But before the combine moves into your next field, I want you to ask yourself a question. Are you and is the combine doing the best possible job to get the most grain into your grain bins economically?

Whether you combine your own grain or have it cut by a custom operator, determining the time to harvest is a major management decision. Grain moisture should be the determining factor. If the moisture is too high; the grain will not be threshed completely from the heads. Also the chance of the grain heating and spoiling in the bins is increased. On the other hand, if the grain is left in the field longer than needed, the chance of the straw lodging and grain lost to head shattering is greatly increased.

The correct moisture to harvest and to store small grains are: Barley: Harvest when the grain is 14 percent or less in moisture content. Store when the grain is 13 percent or less in moisture content. Wheat: Harvest when grain is 14 percent or less in moisture content. Store when the grain is 13 percent or less in moisture content. Oats: Harvest when grain is 14 percent or less in moisture content. Store when the grain is 12 percent or less in moisture content.

The combine can be adjusted and operated to eliminate almost all grain loss, but this is impractical. One thing you should remember: (forward speed in the most important factor

in optimizing the performance of the combine.) In general as your ground speed increases, your losses increase.

There are basically five types of losses: shatter loss, cutter bar loss, cylinder loss, separating loss, and cleaning loss. Your job as a manager is to reduce these losses, yet be timely in harvesting.

Shatter loss was mentioned above. It is the grain which is on the ground which can't be reached by the cutter bar. The machine is not responsible for this loss.

Cutter bar loss is the grain lost due to the rough or poor adjustment of the cutter bar or reel. Losses are caused by the cutter bar being set too high, causing grain heads to pass under the head. (This is especially a heavy loss with soybeans.) More of the loss occurs from improper reel adjustment. In general the reel should be 6 to 10 inches in front of the knives in standing grain and the bats just below the lowest heads. When grain is down, the reel should be lowered and moved forward. The reel speed should be between 1/4 to 1 1/2 times the ground speed.

Cylinder loss is the grain lost over the straw rack in the form of unthreshed heads. Cylinder losses should be less than 1 percent. Damage to the grain limits the severity of threshing. Severity of threshing increases with increasing cylinder speeds and decreasing the concave clearance. The smaller the grain the faster the cylinder. The concave clearance should be increased with the larger seeds and the more straw going through the combine. More straw cushions the seed without increasing cylinder loss;

however more grain will be lost in separation.

Separating loss is the threshed grain lost out the rear of the combine. This comes from two areas. The one is grain lost over the rack, which is caused by grain not being able to work its way through the straw. This loss is reduced by decreasing the amount of straw over the rack. (Either raise the cutter bar or decrease ground speed.) The second area is shoe sieve losses, which are caused by overloading or sieve plugging. Without overloading and proper airflow, the only loss should be light grains blown out the rear.

Cleaning losses are not a loss of grain, but a decrease in crop value due to foreign matter. Your clue to cleaning will be the grain and foreign material in the grain tank. Problems are usually caused by over-threshing at the cylinder which breaks up the straw and weeds into small pieces. Secondly the shoe sieve or chaffer sieve may be open too far allowing materials to fall through.

The combine operator should check the ground

The hills of northern Berks County will ring with music on Sunday, July 20 when the Lehigh Valley Folksong Society presents an Old Time Fiddler's Picnic. The festivities to be held at the Kempton Community Center, Kempton, Pa. will begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue into the evening. This picnic is designed to give all musicians an opportunity to exhibit their talents in bluegrass, folk and traditional music with an emphasis on fiddling. The only featured group will be

the Shimerville Sheiks who will play several times throughout the day. Otherwise, the music will be provided by interested musicians.

Along with the music will be craftspeople making and selling their wares. The crafts will range from cornhusk dolls and stained glass to jewelry and woodworking. Several times during the day the film, "Stones to the Weather," depicting Pennsylvania Dutch bank barns and early farming practices will be

shown. Music for this film was supplied by members of the Lehigh Valley Folksong Society. The narrator, Howard Geisinger, runs the Kempton Farm Museum adjacent to the Community Center grounds. The Farm Museum and WK&S Railroad will be available to gain a full round of folk culture during the day.

Refreshments and camping in the rough will be available on the grounds. Donation for the day is \$2.00 per person, stage performers free. Anyone interested in exhibiting crafts of desiring more information please contact Lucy Trexler, Kempton, R2, Pa. 19529 or 215-756-4251.

TRY A CLASSIFIED

behind the combine. Look for the types and amounts of losses. Losses will change as the moisture content of the grain and straw changes. The tailings are another indication of the quality of threshing. There should always be tailings and their content should be about:

One half threshed grain - Shows the sieves are not open too far.

One fourth unthreshed grain - cylinder and concaves are not over threshing.

One fourth chaff - air flow is not too great.

The good operator will check for signs of loss and problems often during the day. For your combine check your operator's manual and have a good harvest.

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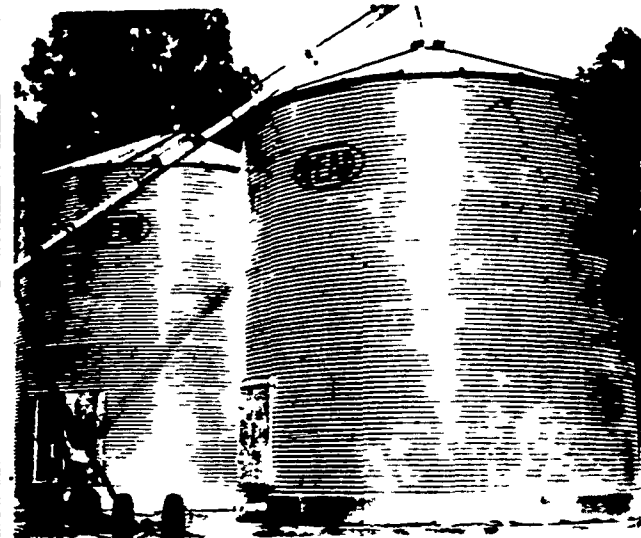
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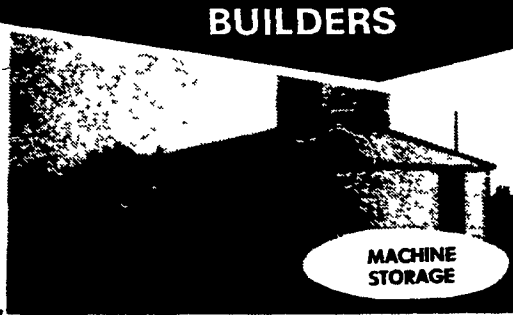
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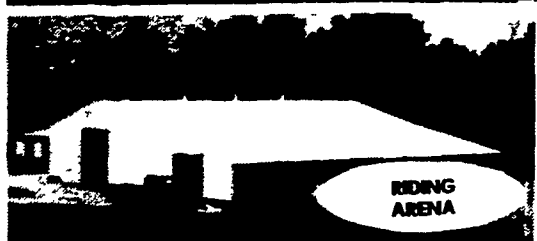
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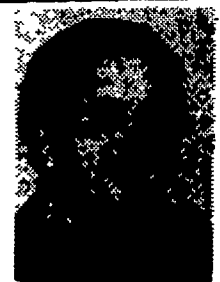
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