

Prepare those bins for grain storage

NEWARK, Del. — In another month area farmers will be harvesting their wheat and barley. Many producers store this grain on the farm, so it's a good idea to prepare the bins ahead of time, says University of Delaware extension county agent Dean Belt.

"Before tackling the job, take steps to protect yourself," the agent advises. "Don't go into a grain bin without a good particle or dust respirator. The dust — especially mold spores — poses a serious health hazard." Also provide as much air circulation through the area as possible while cleaning.

Thoroughly clean all ceilings, ledges and walls, removing dust, dirt and old grain. Clean the outside storage area, removing any spilled grain and trash. This will help discourage rodents. "Don't forget to remove old grain left in the combine and grain-hauling

equipment," Belt says, "though hopefully you've already done this."

Next take the necessary repairs to waterproof and rodent-proof the bins. You should now be ready to spray.

Spray walls, ceilings, ledges and other surfaces using one of the following treatments:

* Methoxychlor 50% WP — 1 pound in 3 gallons of water (treats 500 square feet).

* Methoxychlor 25% EC — 1 quart in 3 gallons of water (treats 500 square feet).

* Malathion (premium grade) — 1 pint in 3 gallons of water (treats 500 square feet).

* Pyrethrins 6% EC plus piperonyl butoxide 60% - in 1 pint in 7 gallons of water (treats 700 square feet). Read the label, follow directions carefully and use an approved chemical respirator

while mixing and applying any of these materials.

The bins are now ready to be filled, but to protect new grain from insects during storage, Belt also recommends using a grain protectant applied as the grain enters the auger. The only product labeled for direct application to grain is premium grade malathion 57% EC at the rate of 1 pint in 2 to 5 gallons of water per 1,000 bushels

of grain.

When the bin is full, spray 1 to 2 gallons of this mixture on the surface to protect the top layer. Repeat whenever the surface is disturbed.

"A few precautions taken early can save you from many problems later," Belt concludes. "Sanitation before filling is a must. Store grain at the proper moisture level, and store only clean grain. If you apply

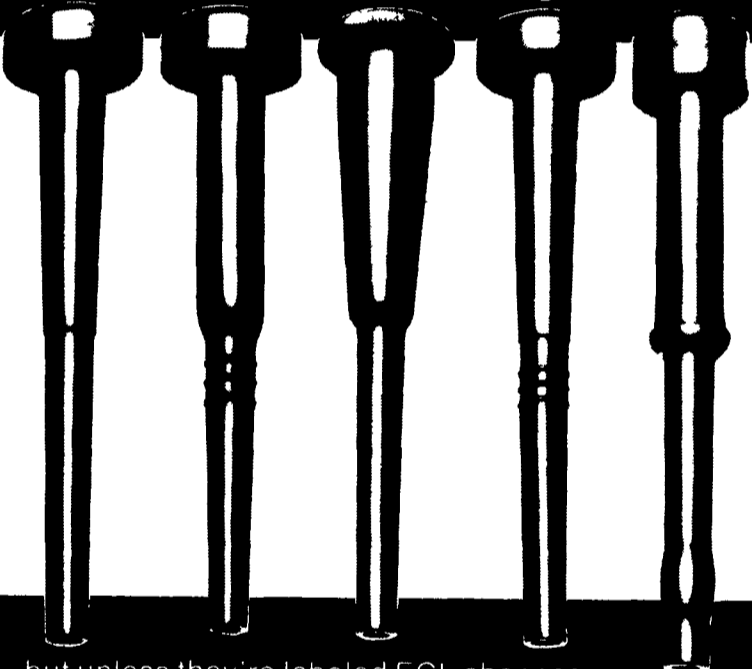
insecticides, use only labeled products. And wear recommended safety equipment. If you do all this, you and your grain should be in good shape."

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has published a new fact sheet, "Controlling Stored Grain Pests," available at county extension offices in Newark (451-2506), Dover (736-1448) and Georgetown (856-5250).



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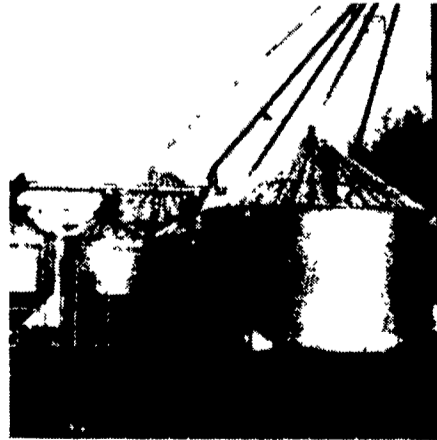
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