

# Upright Silo Safety

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shortness of breath, discomfort in the lungs, and a tightness and/or pains in the chest.

The allergic reactions can either be acute or chronic. Acute attacks resemble the flu or pneumonia and, in extreme cases, the victim may go into shock. Chronic reactions resemble nagging chest colds. But by the time the person receives treatment, permanent damage is already done.

People with Farmer's Lung who do not avoid hay mold may get sicker and sicker until they are no longer able to do hard work and, after many years, may be unable to be active at all. People can die from Farmer's Lung. Permanent lung damage is only prevented by eliminating the exposure to mold dusts.

If you think you have Farmer's Lung, see your physician. Explain your symptoms. Some physicians may not be very familiar with the disease, so it may be necessary to refer you to a specialist. A blood test, a chest x-ray and a breathing capacity test are some of the tests used to diagnose Farmer's Lung. Other tests may be needed as well.

Toxic Organic Dust Syndrome (TODS) is caused by exposure to very large amounts of dust. TODS symptoms are identical to those resulting from an

acute Farmer's Lung attack. TODS is not an allergic reaction. Anyone can get TODS and can become very sick from this condition, but most people recover completely. Having TODS does not damage the lungs and does not increase the risk of getting TODS again.

## Mold

Spoiled hay and silage produces mold spores that can be inhaled through the nose and mouth. These spores irritate sensitive tissue in the mouth and nose. Sometimes this can cause severe reactions and hospitalization. Never work alone and unprotected in heavy mold dust. Always wear a respirator that can filter fine dust particles. Avoid unnecessary exposure to mold dust.

To prevent mold growth, follow proper filling and chopping guidelines for good fermentation. Use rocks, chains, tires, lime, or other weights, but never use silage to hold down plastic covers. If mold growth occurs, wet down the top layer of silage before removing it. This prevents moldy dust from becoming airborne.

This should be done even if the silage was covered with a plastic sheet, because the top layers still tend to mold. Handle dusty materials mechanically if this creates less dust or keeps you far enough away. Wear a close fitting mechanical filter respirator.

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\* Installers should contact Berg Customer Service. Price does not include clamp, head rail or mounting fixture.

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