

County Agent News
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Prevent Insect Problems in Grain Bins – Stored grain insects caused some problems in this area last year. According to Janet Knodel, NDSU Extension Service Entomologist, the key to good grain storage is anticipating and preventing potential problems before they state through good bin management. The first step in good bin management is to make sure that the bins are free of insect-infested grain. Leftover grain should be removed from the bin, and the walls should be swept and vacuumed. All grain handling equipment including augers, combines, trucks and wagons should be thoroughly cleaned and grain residues removed before harvest.



Source: NDSU

A residual bin spray, such as Malathion, Tempo, Diacon or a combination of chemicals should then be applied to all interior bin surface areas 2 to 3 weeks before new grain is placed in the bin. The treatment will kill insects emerging from their hiding places (cracks, crevices, under floors and in aeration systems). Also, insects crawling or flying in from the outside will be killed. Apply the spray to as many surfaces as possible, especially joints, seams, cracks, ledges and corners. Spray the ceiling, walls and floors to the point of runoff. Use a coarse spray at a pressure of more than 30 lbs. per square inch and aim for the cracks and crevices. Spray beneath the bin, its supports, and a 6 foot border around the outside foundation. Treat the outside surface, especially cracks and ledges near doors and fans.



Source: NDSU

The increased use of metal bins with perforated floors for grain drying and aeration has helped produce a serious insect problem in farm-stored grain. Grain dockage (broken kernels, grain dust, and chaff) sifts through the floor perforations and collects in the subfloor plenum creating a favorable environment for insect development. Unfortunately, the floors are usually difficult to remove, making inspection, cleaning and insecticide spraying in the plenum difficult if not impractical. The infested plenum may be disinfected with an approved fumigant, such as chloropicrin.

For more information on insecticides registered in stored grains and as residual bin sprays, please see the 2015 North Dakota Field Crop Insect Management Guide, which can be found online at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/landing-pages/crops/field-crop-insect-management-guide-e-1143>