

County Agent News
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Check Stored Grain

Producers know very well that grain needs to be dry for long term storage but too often weather conditions make harvesting wet grain a necessity or markets dictate that short term storage turns into long term storage. If you have binned harvested crop at greater than ideal storage moisture you need to monitor that crop regularly. Oilseed crops like canola, flax, and sunflowers are especially prone to heating up very quickly. While the ideal storage monitoring is to have temperature probes in the bins or use a portable temperature probe along with visual inspections frosty mornings can be a quick shortcut. If a drive-by visual inspection on a frosty morning reveals that one bin out of a group has no frost on it, You need to check that bin! Heat generated by a spoiling crop can keep that steel roof from cooling enough to condense and freeze the moisture in the night air. If you are a little later in the morning and the frost is melted from the morning sun look carefully to see if one bin roof is dry while others are still wet.



Source: ag.ndsu.edu



Grain bags also need to be checked. I've heard of several producers who have had this seasons bags already damaged by wildlife. I know some sales people say you can store crop at higher moisture levels in bags and there is some truth to that if you follow the guidelines that bags are intended only for short term storage. However these bags often turn into longer term storage and I've seen bagged grain that was a total loss when place too wet and warm into a bag. The crop may not be worth much today but don't take a chance on it becoming worthless regardless of the markets.