

AGI **GRAIN GUARD**

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Getting the most out of your grain

All is safely gathered in... or is it?

As we proceed through another growing season in which indications point towards another early harvest, plans should be set in motion early to protect your crop once it has been harvested. In our last article we talked about what bin monitoring systems can do for you, in this edition we will tell you some of the reasons why monitoring your bins is so important.

When harvesting grain in the heat of summer like most farmers did in 2017, it becomes very important to adequately cool your grain. Ensuring your grain is conditioned to safe storage levels for temperature and moisture content enables you to market your grain for top dollar. To achieve this it is imperative that you have the proper conditioning and monitoring equipment in place.

With a few simple keystrokes you can find safe storage charts online for almost any commodity you may want to store. Through the data in these charts you can formulate a plan for successfully storing your grain. In the chart below you will notice that grain binned at high temperatures needs to be very dry to be safely stored for any length of time. If you happen to harvest at high temperatures and high moisture levels immediate action to cool your grain is required to preserve your commodity. Through the use of a properly set up aeration system you are able to create the ideal environment to store your hard work.

For those farms that are looking for an automated system that provides the bin data to them on a regular basis, to anywhere in the world, the Guardian Remote Monitoring solution is the right choice. With the ability to communicate between yards up to 10 miles away (line of sight), to measure cables in bins up to a 6013, and monitor door switches along with the bin conditions, you can manage your grain, instead of just react to issues.

When coupling an aeration system with a monitoring system you are able to track the cooling process inside of your bin. Particularly when harvesting in hot conditions problems can pop up in what you may think is dry grain. This can occur if you happen to have some unripe kernels or if you have harvested some low spots that might even be just a few percentage points out of the acceptable range. When this happens, hot spots occur quickly and deteriorate the quality of the grain in and around the hot spot very rapidly. Another concern is that these hot spots create a perfect environment for insects. Insect infestations in a bin can be devastating and can lead to downgraded product. Ensuring that you have a functioning aeration and monitoring system in place can prevent the high risks associated with the storing of high temperature and/or moisture grain.



When storing grain for long periods of time it is of the utmost importance to keep the grain as cool as possible. It is also important to keep the overall temperature inside of the bin as uniform as possible. Through the use of monitoring equipment and making use of cooler ambient temperatures storing grain for long periods of time is not only possible, it is achievable.

