Women in Agriculture Conference Sept. 15–16

"Making the Critical Difference" is the theme of the 21st Nebraska Women In Agriculture Conference being held Sept. 15-16 at the Kearney Holiday Inn in Kearney.

Keynote speakers and topics for the event include:

- Dr. JoAnne Owens-Nauslar — "Secure Your Own Make First"
- Blenda Keylon — "Can You Hear Me Now?"
- R. P. Smith — "Ruminations from a Rhyming Rancher-Chewing on Whatever Comes Up"
- Christine M. Burton, "Women's Voices: New Directions in Rural Development from American To Zambia"

The conference includes 24 workshops and three informal group sessions. Workshops include:

- Rural Women, Rural Businesses
- The Kitchen Board Room
- Marketing 101: What You Need to get Started
- Farm Analysis Solution Tools Software
- Women's Voices: Changing the Direction of Your Community

Conference fee is $75 if paid before Sept. 5, $85 after that. Fee includes workshop materials, registration, breaks, lunch and dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday.

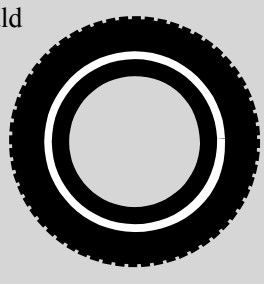
For more information or to register, call 1-800-535-3456. Conference presented by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources – Department of Agricultural Economics and UNL Extension.

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Scrap Tire Collection Sept. 24 & 25

Individuals will have an opportunity to get rid of scrap tires that may have accumulated around your place. Tires (without the wheels) will be accepted Sept. 24 & 25 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Shoemakers Truck Stop, 48th and West O Street, Lincoln. Please have a count of the number of tires you are dropping off. Sorry, this opportunity is open to individuals only — the grant specially prohibits tire dealers.

This program is funded through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and hosted by the Emerald Sanitary Improvement District Number 6. For more information, call 476-3590.



Harvest Safety Reminders

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

Harvest will soon be underway and we will be into one of the busiest times of the year for farmers. Long hours and dangerous working conditions are accepted as a normal part of the life of a farmer but no one should become a statistic for the sake of getting done a day or two earlier.

Some Safety Tips for Farmers

- **Stay alert.** Take breaks — get out of the cab and walk around every few hours.
- **Shut down before working on a machine.** If the combine becomes clogged, shut off the motor, not just the header, before attempting to unplug it by hand.
- **Know where your co-workers are.** Visibility is poor around large machinery. Many deaths are the result of bystanders being run over or crushed between machines.
- **Never trust hydraulic systems when working under a machine.** Always use a safety prop if you must work under a header or other heavy machinery.
- **Never step over a rotating PTO.** A few extra steps to walk around the tractor isn't worth losing your life over.
- **Never stand on grain that is being moved.** Every year people "drown" in grain carts and grain bins that are being emptied.
- **Keep grain auger grates and shields in place.**
- **If you must move machinery on a roadway after dark**, have working headlights and flashing front and rear warning lights.

Safety Tips for Rural Residents

- **Remember to be watchful on county roads during harvest.** A car going 50 mph coming up behind a farm implement moving at 15 mph closes at a rate of over 50 feet per second.
- **Don't pull out in front of farm vehicles.** Heavily loaded trucks and grain trailers can't stop as quickly as a passenger car.
- **Watch out!** Trucks and farm equipment may be entering the roadway from field lanes in places where you wouldn't normally expect them.
- **Give them room.** Eight-row headers are over 25 feet wide and take up nearly all of a roadway. When overtaking a combine, give the farmer time to see you and to find a place where he/she can pull over and make room for you to pass. Never try to pass a combine or other implement on the shoulder of the road and never attempt to pass until the driver is aware of your presence.
- **Harvest activity can disturb deer causing them to be on the move** during times of the day they are usually lying down. Be especially alert for deer during harvest.

Prepare Bins Before Harvest to Maintain Grain Quality and Value

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

With harvest quickly approaching, it's time to prepare your grain bins and equipment to limit insect problems and potential loss of crop value in storage. Grain harvested in Nebraska is essentially insect-free, but can become infested by storage insects, which originate in or around the bin or in contaminated equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Cleaning and preparing bins now can help ensure grain insects don't diminish the value of your harvest.

Since stored grain insects can invade new grain from infested harvesting and handling equipment (combines, augers, etc.), it's essential this equipment be well cleaned. Carefully remove all traces of old grain from combines, truck beds, grain carts, augers and any other equipment used for harvesting, transporting and handling grain. Even small amounts of moldy or insect-infested grain left in equipment can contaminate a bin of new grain. Then clean grain bins thoroughly, disposing of spilled, cracked and broken grain and grain flour, along with the insects feeding on such material. A simple broom and shop vacuum are essential pieces of equipment in cleaning grain bins.

Remove old equipment, junk and clutter around bins where insects and rodents can hide. Make sure the bin is insect- and rodent-proofed by plugging holes, sealing bins, caulking and making general repairs. Grain spilled near the bin attracts insects and draws mice and rats. Clean up and dispose of any spilled grain several weeks before harvest. If rats have tunneled under foundations, use baits or traps to reduce or eliminate them.

Tall weeds can harbor insects and provide cover for rodents. Mow around the bin site to remove tall grass and weeds to reduce the potential for insect and rodent infestation. If necessary, re-grade the site so water readily drains away from bin foundations. One cannot always wait for the soil to dry before loading or unloading grain from bin sites. Make certain travel lanes have enough rock or gravel to bear the weight of heavy trucks or grain carts.

Landscaping should be maintained well away from grain storage facilities. Leave a four-foot wide strip of bare gravel around the perimeter of storage bins.

If you carry over or buy old crop grain to mix with newly harvested grain for livestock feed, be sure to watch for insects in the incoming grain. If infested grain is purchased, store it away from the new crop and feed it as soon as possible.

It is important to store sound, clean, dry grain. It may be advisable to screen out broken kernals, trash and fines to increase the quality of the final storage product. Eliminating trash will enhance fumigation, should this procedure be required later.

Stored grain insects cannot live on extremely dry grain (less than 10% moisture), however, it is impractical to reduce grain moisture much below minimum moisture levels necessary for long-term storage. Insect activity and reproduction are favored, by high grain moisture (14 percent or more), especially when condensation and molds occur and fermentation raises temperature in the grain mass.

A bin of 19% moisture corn with a starting temperature of 75 F can lose a full market grade in about five days if the aeration system shuts down, allowing the grain to heat and deteriorate. Electrical system maintenance before harvest can prevent costly downtime. Wiring for fans and other electrical components should be inspected for corrosion and cracked, frayed or broken insulation. Exposed wiring should be run through waterproof, dust-tight conduit. Avoid kinking the conduit, and make sure all connections are secure.

Mice often nest in control boxes where they are protected from predators. They can strip insulation from wires for nest material and their urine sometimes causes corrosion on relays and other electrical components. If rodent damage is found, clean and repair or replace damaged wiring, relays and other electrical equipment. Open knockouts in control boxes provide easy access for mice. Snap-in knock-out plugs can be purchased at hardware and home supply stores.

Grain temperature can be manipulated by managing the aeration system. Grain cooling can be particularly important in reducing insect reproduction since insects are cold-blooded and not active much below 55 F. Condensation of moisture in the grain mass is prevented by slow cooling and gradual reduction of the gradient between the grain mass temperature and the outside (ambient) temperature.

Fans, heaters and ducts should be checked for corrosion and other damage prior to use. Remove any accumulated dust and dirt that may reduce operating efficiency and be sure all connections are tight to prevent air leaks that can reduce operating efficiency.

Once empty bins have been thoroughly cleaned, a residual treatment may be applied to bin surfaces to protect incoming grain from insect infestation. Follow label instructions carefully. The following materials can be applied as residual sprays to bin surfaces: Cyfluthrin and Chlorpyrifos methyl (Storcide), Cyfluthrin (Tempo SC Ultra), premium-grade malathion EC, Diatomaceous Earth (many brand names) or (S)-Methoprene (Diacon II).

Note: Malathion is not effective for some stored grain insects due to resistance. Methoxychlor is no longer labeled as a residual spray in stored grain facilities in Nebraska.

For bins with false floors, which are inaccessible for cleaning, Chloropicrin (Chlor-O-Pic) and Aluminum phosphide (Fumiphos, Fumitoxin, Phosfume, Phostoxin, Weevilcide and others) can be used as "clean-out" fumigants prior to binning the grain. Other fumigants could be used on empty bins include magnesium phosphide and methyl bromide.

Caution! Fumigants are dangerous, restricted-use pesticides and may require gas monitoring devices and respirator protection for the applicator. It is highly recommended fumigation be done by a commercial pesticide applicator who has been trained and certified by the Environmental Protection Agency and Nebraska Department of Agriculture in safe fumigant handling and application techniques. New in 2005: A written fumigation plan must be on file before fumigating. Call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (402-471-2394) for more information. Refer to current labels for specific details and instructions.