

Safety Newsletter
Feb. 2010

January 2010 is now behind us, most of the crops are in, many bins are full and it won't be long until we might want to open up some bins. Winter months are difficult times to keep good watch on the grain to see how it's keeping. The bin ladders and roofs might be icy or slick and it's usually windy or cold. There are some *tell tale signs* to watch for through the winter months to see how well the grain is keeping. Some things to look for, which **DO NOT REQUIRE BIN ENTRY** are;

- Does the air smell ok around the fans? Any signs of odor?
- Is there water accumulating around the foundation although it hasn't been raining?
- Are the side walls sweating?
- Have the fans been running? Has snow or ice accumulated around the fans to block the air flow?
- When we turn the fans on, does someone go to each fan to make sure it is on?
- When the fans are on, is there any steam coming out of the bin? Hopefully not, as this could be a major problem.
- Do any side walls of the bin feel warm?
- After a heavy snow, does the snow melt off quickly?

These are all signs of possible problems. Checking the bins weekly during the winter months, from the ground, is always a good idea.

This could be a difficult year to store grain, so it would warrant a closer watch than most years. If it becomes necessary to draw some grain out of the bin, make sure the guards are in place and the electrical cords or conduit has not been damaged during the winter. Falling snow and ice can do damage around a bin.

Most importantly, remember to **NEVER** go into a bin alone, or while equipment is running. Proper bin entry procedures should always be followed. Never take chances. The life you save, maybe someone's, loved one.

Be Safe, Jim Rossman