

Steps to prevent treated seed contamination

Written by Australian Business

WINNIPEG, Sept. 13, 2013 /CNW/ - Western Canadian grain producers are harvesting their crops, and some are planting winter wheat. Because producers may be handling seed and harvested grain at the same time, there is a risk that treated seed may contaminate harvested grain intended for delivery.

The Canadian Grain Commission reminds producers they can prevent treated seed contamination by following these precautions:

- When possible, store treated seed in separate bins.
- Clean all equipment and bins after seeding and before harvest.
- Visually inspect equipment and bins for treated seed:
 - Before harvest
 - Before transferring grain between bins
 - Before transferring grain to a truck or railcar for delivery

Limits and restrictions in grain handling Health Canada has set maximum residue limits for chemicals in Canadian grain. Any grain exceeding these limits can be condemned. This means that the grain cannot enter the food or feed system and is destroyed.

Under the *Canada Grain Act*, a licensed grain handling facility cannot receive grain that is contaminated and may refuse to accept delivery of any grain that is believed to be contaminated. As well, the *Canada Grain Act* prohibits delivery of grain that is contaminated.

If treated seed is found in a shipment at the terminal elevator, the shipment will be held until the Canadian Grain Commission completes a chemical analysis.

Any delays caused by treated seed can result in additional cost to grain handlers or producers. For example, if a producer car is contaminated, extra charges such as storage charges or costs related to potential contamination of other grain in the facility, resulting in loss of the grain's value, could be passed on to the producer.

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About the Canadian Grain Commission

The Canadian Grain Commission is the federal agency for establishing and maintaining Canada's grain quality standards. Its programs result in shipments of grain that consistently meet contract specifications for quality, safety and quantity. The Canadian Grain Commission regulates the grain industry to protect producers' rights and ensure the integrity of grain transactions.

SOURCE Canadian Grain Commission