

Weekly Article

Grain Bin Safety Week

2-23-2021

Hello, my Name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension, Ag and Natural Resource Educator and Community Development Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the public of the latest news in the world of Agriculture. As we head into the end of February the weather is starting to improve, with the next couple of days possibly reaching daytime temperatures of mid 50's much of the snow will be gone by this up coming weekend. One side of me cannot wait for the snow to melt, but the other side of me knows what comes next, MUD SEASON! As the weather improves farmer will most likely be taking advantage of the weather to haul some grain from their grain storage bin. February 21st to February 27th is recognized as Grain Bin Safety week. Grain Bins serve as one of many hazards on the farm but just as the old saying goes an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Here are some clips of an article I wrote for the OSU Ag Safety Team, addressing proper clothing while working around storage structures and moving equipment.

During this time of year producers will most likely be wearing multiple layers of clothing in the cold weather conditions. Winter clothing such as hooded sweaters also called hoodies have become very popular on the farm due to being comfortable and the ability to easily take on and off. Hooded sweaters contain drawstrings that are used to tighten the hood around the wearers face and neck. Most producers don't think about these strings being a hazard, but they can cause severe injury or even death if entangled or caught in moving augers, PTO shafts, or other moving equipment.

Danger Zones around the Grain Bin

The grain storage structure has many danger zones or areas that can serve as high risk to one's health and wellbeing. Loose hanging strings, baggy clothing, or other loose clothing such as necklaces or wallet chains can easily become entangled in loading augers, unloading augers, PTO shafts, and exposed belts/chains.

Maintain Equipment Shields

Shields and safety signage are placed on equipment for your safety, never remove shields unless for service or repair. NEVER lean over or step over moving PTO shafts or augers.

Educate the Next Generation

Young adults working on the farm need to be educated on areas to avoid when working around the grain bin. Never let young children play inside or outside of the grain bin structure. Remember that it is a hazardous work area and accidents can happen fast.

Ways to Avoid Entanglement

- Remove strings from hooded sweaters.
- Cut strings from tattered or torn jeans, and other clothing.
- Always wear tight-fitted clothing
- Take necklaces, wrist bands, or other loose forms of other clothing off before working around grain bins.
- Disengage all operating equipment and allow time for all moving parts to stop before servicing and or repairing.

Some other details to go over:

- Planning for Profit for Beef Cow/Calf operations March 2nd at 7:00 pm located at Seaman Community Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 63 Broadway St Seaman, Ohio 45679. There is a \$5 dollar fee and space are limited to 20 people so please call the office at (937) 544 2339 to reserve a spot.
- 2021 Fertilizer/Pesticide Private Applicators in person course is planned for March 9th at the Cherry Fork Community Center (gym) 5:00pm – 9:00pm. If you need recertified, you should get an invitation in the mail. (due to covid19 date is tentative and susceptible to change)
- For producer who still have not yet elected a 2021 crop safety net program, there will be a in-person meeting at the Ohio valley Career and technical center February 24th, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will discuss ARC/PLC options. To register go to <https://go.osu.edu/2021farmbill> or call the office at (937) 544 2339.
- CRP Grasslands signup will begin March 15th, 2021 and conclude April 23rd, 2021. Contact the Farm Service Agency for assistance in signing up for these programs.
- March 15th is the deadline to purchase Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) coverage through the local Farm Service Agency (FSA). This covers losses from natural disasters for crops not covered by federal crop insurance. This includes spring planted specialty crops grown for food use. Contact the FSA office at (937) 544 -2033 opt 2 for details.