

65. GRAIN AND HAY GRADING

We support:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to improve standards for grain which will reflect storability and highest potential use.
2. Moisture as a measurement of quantity, not quality.
3. The development and funding of a voluntary certification process for identity-preserved grain.
4. Maintaining close liaison with USDA to ensure proposed grade changes are in the best interests of farmers with particular attention to the proper role for grade factors such as test weight, foreign material, and other quality factors such as breakability.
5. Working with the American Farm Bureau Federation to increase farmer representation on the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Act (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.
6. An effective grain discount schedule that is determined at the time of contract instead of at the time of delivery.
7. Working with the USDA, private agencies and the State Department of Agriculture to develop and adopt more accurate equipment and procedures for testing moisture percentage and test weights in grain.
8. The State of Illinois and USDA to continue testing, developing grading standards, and identifying various qualities of hay and grain.
9. Changes in grain grading standards to compensate farmers for high quality products.
10. Research that identifies the advantages and disadvantages of selling grain on a value-based or component-pricing basis.
11. Efforts to maintain grain quality in transit.
12. Efforts to standardize and certify testing equipment and operators for all grain toxins.
13. Changes to have processors and elevators show documented economic justification, including actual cost of correction, for all discount rates concerning grain quality degradation, i.e., test weight, off-color, odor, or moisture.
14. Basing moisture and drying schedules for grain based on one-tenth increments of actual moisture recorded over the allowable moisture content instead of the current practice of rounding up to the nearest one-half point.
15. 15 percent grain moisture for corn to be recognized as the industry standard for all disposition excluding storage.