

2-1955

EC55-100 Questions and Answers about The Clean Wheat Program

Leslie F. Sheffield

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

Sheffield, Leslie F., "EC55-100 Questions and Answers about The Clean Wheat Program" (1955). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 3256.

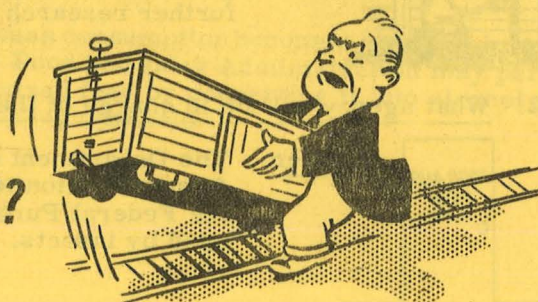
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/3256>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT The Clean Wheat Program

RECEIVED
4-11-55
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY

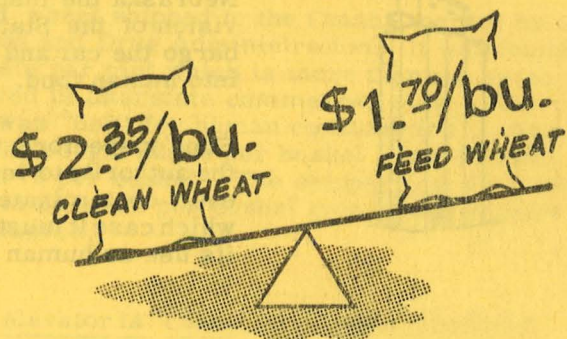
*Who Is Responsible
When Grain Is Seized?*



*Will Wheat Stored On
Farms Be Inspected?*



*How Much Is My
Wheat Worth?*



EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
W.V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR

E.C. #55-100

C.2

Questions And Answers About The Clean Wheat Program

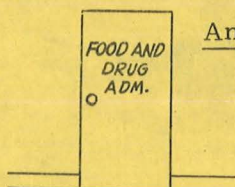
Leslie F. Sheffield
Extension Grain Marketing Specialist

1. What relation does the clean wheat program have to the grain sanitation program of 1952-53?



Answer: The clean wheat program placed in effect January 4, 1955, by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is a renewal of the seizure phase of the former grain sanitation program. Inspection and seizure of contaminated grain under the 1952-53 grain sanitation program were temporarily set aside on April 30, 1953 to allow for further research and study of grain contamination and standards for clean wheat.

2. What agency will be in charge of the inspection and seizure proceedings?



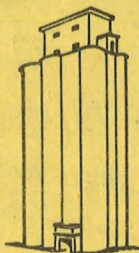
Answer: The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has directed the Food and Drug Administration to start sampling cars of wheat and to institute legal action under the Federal Pure Food Law against lots of wheat contaminated by rodents or damaged by insects.

3. Will wheat stored on farms or in country elevators be subject to seizure?



Answer: No, the enforcement phase under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration will apply to all wheat shipped either by the government or private shippers in interstate commerce. Any shipment of wheat deemed to be in interstate commerce may be inspected and subject to seizure provided it does not meet the standards established. In the case of contaminated wheat which is in intrastate commerce (shipment which does not cross state lines), the Food and Drug Administration will tag the car and call it to the attention of state authorities.

4. What procedure will Nebraska authorities follow in case of contaminated wheat in intrastate commerce?



Answer: Whenever a car of contaminated wheat is found to be in intrastate commerce by the Food and Drug Administration inspector, he notifies state authorities who may then take legal action against the car to prevent its being utilized in food channels. In Nebraska the inspector will notify the Dairy, Foods, and Weights and Measures Division of the State Department of Agriculture and Inspection. This office can embargo the car and declare it "off sale" in which case the wheat cannot be processed into human food.

Food inspectors with the State Department of Agriculture and Inspection also have the authority to inspect food grains in country and terminal elevator storage. Whenever contaminated wheat is found it can be embargoed and declared "off sale" in which case it must be diverted into livestock feed or otherwise disposed of to prevent its use as human food.


5. What are the present standards for clean wheat?

2. PELLETS



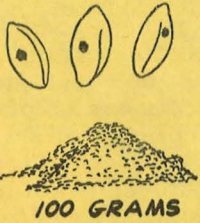
Answer: According to the announcement issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare on January 4, 1955, wheat will be judged contaminated as follows:

- (1) if it contains two rodent pellets or more per pint and/or
- (2) if it contains two per cent or more of insect damaged grain.

2% 

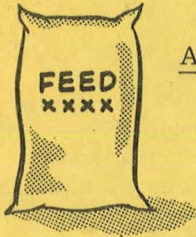
6. How do these standards compare with those of 1952-53?

Answer: The new standards are not as strict as those in effect during the 1952-53 program which declared wheat subject to seizure if it contained one or more rodent pellets per pint and/or three or more kernels with weevil exit holes in a 100 gram sample. (A 100 gram sample of wheat normally contains from 3800 to 4000 kernels.)



However, it should be kept in mind that Food and Drug Administration spokesmen have pointed out that the standards now in effect are only a starting point and that these standards may be tightened as experience in enforcement practice develops.

7. What will become of wheat that is seized?



Answer: Wheat seized and found to be unfit for human consumption becomes involved in court proceedings. The representative of the Food and Drug Administration may permit denaturing the grain or grinding it into mixed feed or converting it into alcohol, or other processing which will take it out of food channels.

8. Who is responsible for losses in case of seized grain?



Answer: The shipper or owner of grain seized is responsible for its condition according to present interpretations and he is liable for costs involved in the seizure proceeding as well as the loss of value of the grain. In the end, the shipper receives a bill made up of lawyer fees, court costs, possible fines, expense of the Food and Drug Administration in the case, demurrage, and loss of value of the grain.

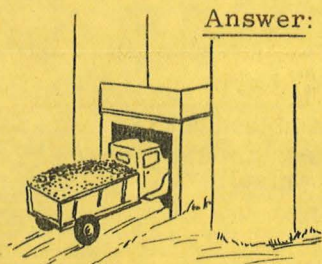
9. What loss would be involved on a car of seized wheat?

Answer: The actual dollar loss may vary considerably and will depend on conditions involved with the particular shipment. However, it is reasonable to assume that the losses involved in the seizure of a car of wheat (1800 bushels) may exceed \$1500-\$2000.



For example: In January, 1955, a car of wheat shipped to the Omaha market by a Nebraska shipper was inspected by the Food and Drug Administration. It was found to contain an average of 4.4 mouse pellets per pint which is more than the established limit. Since this car was not involved in interstate commerce, state authorities were notified that the car of wheat was "unfit for human consumption". As a result, this car of wheat which would have brought \$2.35 per bushel if not contaminated was sold for feed purposes at \$1.70 per bushel. The shipper lost 65 cents per bushel and would have lost from 15 to 25 cents per bushel more from seizure proceedings had it been in interstate commerce.

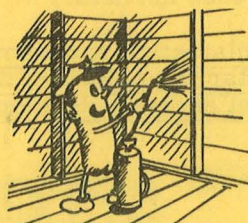
10. Who will decide whether a load of wheat sold by a farmer to an elevator is "Clean" or "Contaminated"?



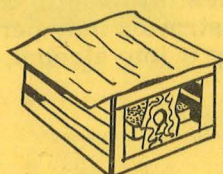
Answer: Since the shipper of grain is the one who is liable for its condition, it is only logical to assume that the country elevator operator who first buys the wheat from the farmer must decide whether a particular load of wheat is "clean" or "contaminated". This will mean a substantial discount for wheat which in the opinion of the buyer does not meet the established standards. To protect himself the country grain buyer must either discount wheat which he believes will not meet the sanitation standards and handle it separately as feed wheat or he will need to buy all his wheat on a wider margin to provide for possible losses in case of seizure.

11. How can farmers and elevator operators best protect themselves from losses?

Answer: The best way to prevent losses under the seizure program is to do the best possible job of harvesting, storing, and handling of wheat. This means that only clean dry wheat should be placed in storage and that the storage building must be rodent and bird proof to prevent contamination. Damage from stored grain insects can be prevented by thorough bin cleaning and spraying with a good residual insecticide followed by fumigation after grain is placed in storage. Stored wheat should be checked frequently to make certain it is not going out of condition and to see if stored grain insects are present. Wheat which does not meet the established standards is feed wheat and it should be disposed of in feed channels at a price in accordance with its value. In the case of stored grain, the old adage is certainly true that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".



SPRAY BINS



RAT POISON

Note: Before wheat is taken out of any storage building to which rodents have had access, the top 3-6 inches of grain should be skimmed off carefully and disposed of as feed. If this procedure were followed on all wheat in farm storage, much of the rodent contamination problem could be eliminated before wheat reaches the market.

12. Will the grain sanitation requirements be incorporated into the official grain standards?

Answer: There has been considerable talk about this possibility but no official action as yet. It is possible that the sanitation requirements could be incorporated into the federal grain grades by three different methods:

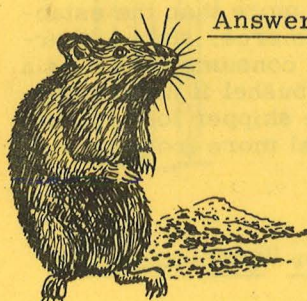
Official
GRAIN STANDARDS

Grade	Test weight per bushel, lbs.	Min. No. of spikes per bushel	Min. No. of spikes per bushel	Min. No. of spikes per bushel	Min. No. of spikes per bushel
1	60	2	0.1	0.5	1
2	58	1	0.1	0.5	1
3	56	1	0.1	0.5	1
4	54	1	0.1	0.5	1
5	52	1	0.1	0.5	1
6	50	1	0.1	0.5	1
7	48	1	0.1	0.5	1
8	46	1	0.1	0.5	1
9	44	1	0.1	0.5	1
10	42	1	0.1	0.5	1

- (1) immediate interpretation
- (2) by 30-day notice or
- (3) after formal field hearings to change the grain standards.

The Grain and Feed Dealers National Association has recommended the latter course of action to the USDA.

13. Will sanitation factors be included in the new wheat loan program?



Answer: There has been no official announcement from the USDA about the possibility of including sanitation requirements as a part of the new wheat loan program. However, it is reasonable to expect that some action along this line may be taken in an attempt to provide consumers with the cleanest possible food products. Most of the wheat produced in this country eventually is processed into food products and the government loan program constitutes one phase of the existing grain marketing establishment in the United States.

14. Where can I obtain additional information about the "Clean Wheat Program"?



Answer: See your County Extension Agent for the latest information available about the "Clean Wheat Program". Your County Extension Agent can also supply you with information and circulars on bin spraying, grain fumigation, and rodent control.