

FARM PRACTICE

GRAIN HANDLING

Description

A large infrastructure has been developed over many years in British Columbia and in Canada to store, condition, and transport grain from farms to markets for export. Grains include cereals, oilseeds, and forage seeds. Because B.C.'s grain industry is centered in the Peace River region, much of the province's related infrastructure is located in the northeast. Additional handling, transportation and storage facilities and equipment exists at and en route to the ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

Grain destined for the export market must meet certain quality criteria. Producers employ specific management techniques to ensure these standards are met. The temperature and moisture content of each product must be kept below prescribed limits to reduce the potential for spoilage. Portable and stationary heated air dryers, grain aeration fans, and conveyors are used on farms and at central handling sites to condition and handle grain to ensure quality is not adversely affected. Bulk transport trucks, trailers and railway cars are used to transport grain to export position or to other markets.

Nuisance Concerns

The three primary disturbances mentioned in the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* are odour, noise and dust. All three are of potential concern in the grain industry.

Odour

Grain operations generally generate few odour complaints but objectionable odours may result if grain at higher than recommended moisture content begins to decompose. This can happen if a producer stores or piles grain outdoors to accommodate unexpected peaks in production output or if there are bottlenecks in the grain delivery and transportation system. Such conditions are particularly prone if grain is harvested with high moisture content or if moisture is introduced from precipitation during or after storage.

See Nuisance Reference: [Odour](#)

Noise

Grain farmers engage in a variety of activities that require the use of grain handling and drying equipment. Most equipment generates some noise. Noise is defined as any sound that is audible but judged to be an unwanted, irregular or erratic disturbance. Noise levels vary and may rise when equipment is run at higher speeds. Noise may be generated continuously or intermittently.

See Nuisance Reference: [Noise](#)

Dust

Dust is defined as fine-grained suspended particulate in air. The degree to which individuals perceive dust to be a nuisance will depend on the frequency, intensity and duration of a dust-generating event.

Farmers engage in a variety of activities that require the use of equipment or practices that will create dust. Most grain handling operations generate some dust. Dust may also be generated as fugitive dust when fine particulates are lifted from fields, roads, buildings and yards via air turbulence.

See also Nuisance Reference: [Dust](#)

Activities and Operations

On-Farm Processing

Farmers may carry out additional processing or packaging of raw products.

See also Farm Practice: [Product Processing](#)

Machinery Operation

Farmers may clean and condition grain by drying and cooling to improve its marketability and to prevent spoilage. Screw, paddle, bucket, belt and pneumatic conveyors are all used for grain handling. Grain handling equipment may be operated day and night.

See also Farm Practice: [Mobile Equipment](#)
[Stationary Equipment](#)

Storage

Farmers may construct temporary grain storage facilities or pile grain outdoors to accommodate unexpected peaks in production output or if there are bottlenecks in the grain delivery and transportation system. Farmers may also store fertilizers temporarily in coated hopper grain bins. These must be cleaned out prior to being used again for grain storage.

See also Farm Practice: [Storage of Farm Supplies and Products](#)

Transportation

Farmers and custom operators may haul grain to elevators, processing plants or other market delivery points during the day or night. Farmers must supply adequate vehicle turning and parking areas on the farm property to handle the volume, movement and parking of trucks and other traffic related to the activities and production of the farm.

See also Farm Practice: [Transportation](#)

Legislation

Information on federal and provincial legislation can be found in Appendices B and C. Acts, regulations and bylaws that regulate or may affect grain handling practices include, but are not limited to, the following.

Federal Legislation

The *Canada Agricultural Products Act* regulates the marketing of products.

The *Canadian Wheat Board Act* regulates the marketing and transport of grain.

The *Feeds Act* controls and regulates the sale of animal feeds.

The *Seeds Act* covers the testing, inspection, quality and sale of seeds.

Provincial Legislation

The *Commercial Transport Act* regulates the registration, licensing, and operation of commercial vehicles.

The *Motor Vehicle Act* regulates the movement of farm vehicles and equipment.

The *Passenger Transportation Act* regulates motor carrier operators who offer themselves for hire.

Publications

Publications that provide further information on grain handling include, but are not limited to, the following. Refer to Appendix D for details.

Grain Drying in the Peace River Region
Heated Air Grain Dryers