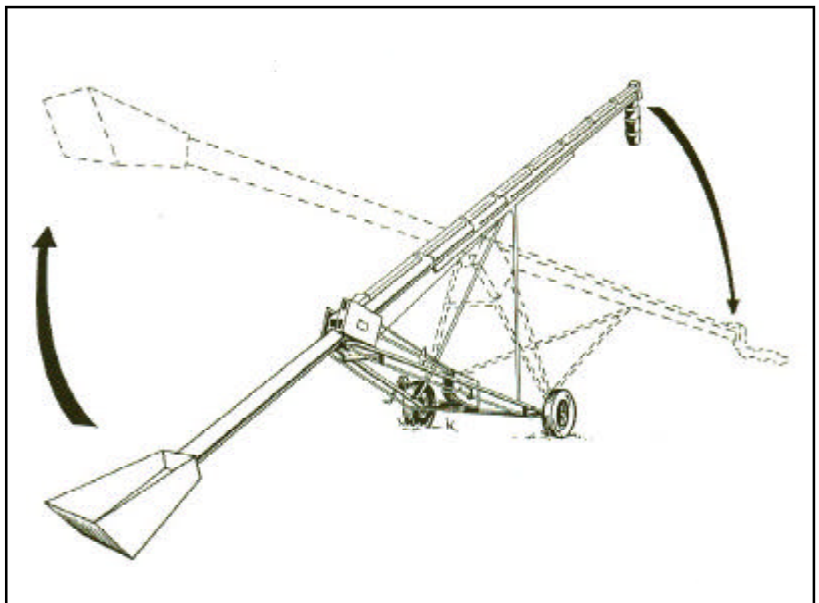


GRAIN AUGERS

The grain auger is one of the most dangerous pieces of equipment used on today's farms. There are 4 risk areas when using grain augers:

- ✓ **instability/upsets** – grain augers are most stable in their lowered position. In the lowered position, the auger is almost centered over its carriage, however as the auger is raised, 2 things happen: a) the centre of gravity is raised, making the auger less stable, b) the pivot point moves, making the auger very top heavy.
- ✓ **flight/drive entanglement** – effective systems are available to prevent contact with the auger flight and drive systems during normal operations. The most critical factor however, is that anyone operating or in the vicinity of the auger must be familiar with all the entanglement points.
- ✓ **overhead powerline contact** – before a grain auger is moved, the work area must be carefully assessed for overhead powerlines. If any powerlines are present, assume they are energized. (See bulletin #140.) Determine if there will be safe clearance - a minimum of 3m (10 ft) is required to safely raise the auger, trailer or truck box. Contact with a powerline can result in instantaneous death or very serious injuries.
- ✓ **hoisting mechanism failure** – augers are extremely heavy and have to be raised and lowered mechanically. The hoisting mechanism must be checked regularly to assure all clamps, locking pins and other fasteners are securely in place. In some cases, cable clamps have unexpectedly released winch cables causing the augers to collapse, crushing the unsuspecting person to death. Do not stand or permit anyone else to stand under a grain auger.



Remember!

- Do not move a grain auger that is operating
- Only move a grain auger enough to clear the bin before lowering or raising it
- Never stand or sit under a grain auger
- 'Look-up' for powerlines before moving the grain auger