

FARM PRACTICES

GRAIN HANDLING

Description

A large infrastructure has been developed to store, condition, and transport grain from farms to market or export position. (The term grain includes cereals, oilseeds, and forage seeds.) Because BC's grain industry is centered in the Peace River region, much of this infrastructure is located there. Additional infrastructure 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 reduced below prescribed limits to reduce the potential for spoilage. To ensure the grain's quality is not adversely affected, portable and stationary heated air dryers, grain aeration fans, and conveyors are used to condition and handle grain. Bulk transport trucks, trailers and railway cars are used to transport grain to export position or other markets.

Nuisance Concerns

The three main disturbances mentioned in the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* are odour, noise and dust. Of particular concern to grain handling are noise and dust.

Noise

Farmers engage in a variety of activities that generate noise. 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 high RPMs. Noise may be generated continuously or intermittently.

See Nuisance Reference: [Noise](#)

Dust

Farmers engage in a variety of activities that require the use of equipment or practices that will create dust. Dust may also be generated as 'fugitive dust' when fine particulate is lifted from fields, roads, buildings and yards by the stirring action of air. Most grain handling operations generate some dust. Dust in the air is defined as fine-grained suspended particulate. How people perceive dust (nuisance or not) will depend on the frequency, intensity and duration of the dust generating event.

See Nuisance Reference: [Dust](#)

Activities and Operations

On-Farm processing

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

See Farm Practice: [Product Processing](#)

Machinery Operation

Farmers may clean and condition (dry or cool) grain to improve its marketability and 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 Farm Practice: [Mobile Equipment](#)
[Stationary Equipment](#)

Storage

Farmers may construct temporary grain storage or pile grain outside to accommodate unexpected peaks in production output or bottlenecks in the grain delivery and transportation system. Farmers may store fertilizer in coated hopper grain bins for a portion of the year. These must be cleaned out prior to re-use for grain storage.

See 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 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 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

Seeds Act – covers testing, inspection, quality and sale of seeds

Canada Agricultural Products Act – regulates the marketing of products

Canadian Wheat Board Act – regulates the marketing and transport of grain

Feeds Act – controls and regulates the sale of animal feeds

Provincial

Commercial Transport Act – regulates the registration, licensing, and operation of commercial vehicles

Motor Carrier Act – regulates motor carrier operators who offer themselves for hire

Motor Vehicle Act – regulates the movement of farm vehicles and equipment

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