



ENSURING YOUR GRAIN IS MARKET READY

South Australia has an excellent reputation for providing clean, premium agricultural products and working closely with trading partners to ensure their needs are met. By continuing to uphold high grain hygiene standards, South Australian grain growers will continue to have access to a large range of markets across the world.

SPRAYING

When spraying, you must observe all label guidelines and permitted use patterns. This includes adhering to withholding periods, label instructions, application rates and safe operating procedures of the product being used. It is critical to only use registered/permitted chemicals on crops and any chemicals applied must be appropriately declared when delivering grain.

It is mandatory to make and retain accurate and detailed records when applying certain crop protection products in SA, e.g. when using Group I herbicides. In fact, it is good farming practice to keep detailed spray records of all chemical applications. These records should be kept for at least two years, depending on state regulations and label requirements. Details to record include:

- Location of paddock sprayed;
- Crop/situation and weed/pest;
- Application date, including start and finish times;
- Full name of the product, active ingredient and loading and product batch number;
- Product application rate per hectare, water volume, and number of hectares treated;
- Weather information including wind speed and direction, air temperature, relative humidity and cloud cover during application;
- Nozzle type, spray angle and spray pressure during application;
- Name and address of person applying the product;
- Personal protective equipment used; and
- Any additional information required as directed by the label or permit.

WITHHOLDING PERIODS

According to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), a withholding period (WHP) in relation to the use of a chemical product means the minimum period that needs to elapse between the last use of the product in a crop or pasture; and the harvesting or cutting of, or the grazing of animals on, the crop or pasture. WHPs are designed to ensure maximum residue limits in grain, fodder and straw are not breached.

Failure to observe and adhere to product withholding periods and registered application timings could compromise future access to domestic or international grain markets.

SNAIL MANAGEMENT

Snail population build-up is often a result of high rainfall corresponding with increased stubble loads and bumper crops. Some tips on snail management include:

- Combining cultural and chemical methods will provide optimal snail control.
- Cultural control methods including cabling, rolling, slashing and grazing are all effective for round snails. Undertake these activities on hot sunny days when the temperature is at least 35°C (preferably 40°C) for maximum efficacy, but be aware of the fire risk when working in paddocks at high temperatures.
- Burning is very effective for round snails. If summer weeds are controlled prior to burning and rocks are dislodged by

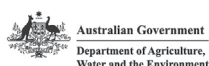
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cabing or similar, nearly 100 per cent snail kill has been achieved in trials.

- Bait when snails are actively feeding and before egg-laying. This may occur after rainfall in late summer or early March.
- In summer a relative humidity of 90 per cent is likely to result in snail activity, whereas in the cooler months, 80 per cent humidity is enough to expect snail movement.
- Baits differ in terms of longevity and effectiveness so consider this when making a decision.

RODENT MANAGEMENT

Mice populations can swell as a result of grain on the ground or around farms over summer. It is important growers reduce the amount of food available for mice and closely monitor numbers and activity. In particular, keep storage areas clear of weeds, debris and grain spills to minimise shelters and feed for mice. This also reduces the potential for carcase or faecal contamination in grain stored for later delivery.

GRAIN STORAGE

If you store grain on-farm, it is essential to have adequate infrastructure and a plan to manage pests. Different storage options have variances in their effectiveness over the short- and long-term, or may require additional fumigation or protectants, which need to be taken into consideration.

The use of grain protectants and fumigants is critical to ensure that grain can be safely stored and presented to customers in a clean, uninfested condition. It is critical you regularly monitor and follow all instructions carefully when fumigating or treating grain stored on farm to ensure it can be accepted into the bulk handling system and accepted for sale by domestic or international customers. If you have grain stored on farm and want to know if your grain can be delivered into the bulk handling system, contact your local bulk handler.

All participants in the grains industry need to continue to keep our grain clean, ensuring all grain meets market requirements and is within physical, chemical and biological tolerance limits. All domestic and export markets require adherence to maximum residue limits, which in some cases may be very low or nil.

There is a zero tolerance for the following contaminants:

- fertiliser
- pickled/treated grain/artificial colouring
- live stored grain insects
- any chemical NOT approved
- rodent/snail bait
- glass and brittle plastic
- live or dead rodents
- toxic and corrosive materials

GOOD HYGIENE

Ensuring compliance to good biosecurity practices around hygiene and grain movement is simple and can effectively safeguard all involved. Prevention is better than cure and growers should always use a “keep it clean” policy:

- Thoroughly clean all equipment to ensure it is ready for use, including headers, augers, chaser bins, on-farm storage, field bins, trailers, delivery trucks and grain handling equipment;
- Keep ground around storage areas free from weeds or potential contaminants;
- Immediately clean up any grain spills, particularly around storage areas;
- Regularly monitor on-farm grain storages; and
- Prevent grain from mixing with fertiliser or other contaminants. This is particularly important if fertiliser is being transported to your farm and then back-loaded with grain.

WHY?

Globally, the grain production environment is becoming increasingly competitive. Australia competes against countries who often have a much lower cost of production and current shipping costs often negate historical advantages relating to close proximity to markets.

All domestic and export markets for Australian grain have low to nil tolerance levels for chemical residues and contaminants. That's why growers are asked to ensure they are following approved practices to minimise the presence of contaminants by cleaning their equipment, applying chemicals as per approved label rates and maintaining effective treatment programs for insects, pests and weed seeds. By continuing to uphold high grain hygiene standards throughout the growing season, South Australia's premium grain will be Market Ready.

All participants in the grain industry have a role to play in keeping our grain clean, ensuring it meets market requirements and is within physical, chemical and biological tolerance limits.

Apply industry best practice in managing grain hygiene on-farm

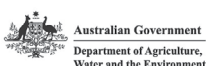
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