




DID YOU KNOW?



Grain bin: used to store grains.




Bushel: a weight measurement (about 56 lbs of corn and about 60 lbs of soybeans).




Yield: a measurement for harvested grain



Implement: a piece of equipment.



Silo: a structure used for storing bulk materials.



Silage: corn, legumes, and grasses that have been chopped for animal feed.

TYPES OF STORAGE

Harvested grain is typically stored in grain bins or silos. Grain bins (above picture) are short, fat, metal cylinders that are silver. Silos (pictures on right) are tall, skinny cylinders that are usually made of concrete or steel panels and are either grayish or blue in color. The farmers will either feed these grains to their livestock or sell them throughout the year. It's important they are at the right moisture content so they don't get moldy while waiting to be used or sold. Grain bins have dryers attached to them that can be turned off and on to ensure the grains stay fresh. Since silos were previously used to store silage they don't have dryers attached to them. Silage is now stored in big plastic bags or in bunkers with plastic and tires on top to help compact.



STORAGE PROCESS



Being able to store corn and soybeans gives farmers more options on what to do with their crop after it is harvested. If the selling prices are low, storage allows the farmers to wait to sell until the prices go back up. If the farmers aren't selling their crop they are feeding it to their livestock. Keeping the crop in storage allows it to stay fresh longer with the help of the dryer. Dryers are used to keep the corn and soybeans from getting wet and moldy. Dryers are large fans that attach to the bin. They circulate air throughout the corn and soybeans to keep it from getting too hot inside of the bin and keep the crop from spoiling.

TOOLS: THEN & NOW

Before we had all of the machinery and tools we have now, farmers used to have to do almost everything by hand. This included cutting down the stalks, picking the ear off of the stalk, husking, and finally shelling the corn. Now we have combines to do all of those things at once, which is a lot more efficient. The picture on the top is of an antique corn dryer. The ears of corn would be hung out to dry until they measured at the right moisture percentage. Now we have dryers that are attached to the grain bins(bottom picture) and the farmers are able to turn them off and on as they see fit.



FUN FACTS

- Soybeans contain all 8 amino acids that are essential for our health.
- One acre is about the size of a football field.
- One bushel of corn can sweeten about 400 cans of soda.
- A bushel of soybeans yields about 11 pounds of oil.

JOKE OF THE DAY

Why shouldn't you keep a secret on a farm?

Because the corn has ears!

Brought to you by:



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