Awareness of Grain Quality Critical This Harvest

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MADISON – With the current forecast showing a stretch of dry weather for harvest across much of Wisconsin, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection reminds farmers and elevators to closely evaluate the quality of their grain this fall.

"Because of the challenging conditions this growing season, there is an increased likelihood of damaged or moldy grain," said DATCP Secretary Sheila Harsdorf. "If you suspect you may have a problem with your grain, consider having it tested prior to comingling or delivering it."

If there is a question of quality, farmers are encouraged to contact their crop insurance agents to understand options and be aware of any testing or reporting obligations. Grain quality is also critical for farmers who are considering applying for interim financing this fall. Lenders may require verification of quality before issuing loans.

Elevators should closely evaluate incoming grain and be upfront about their standards and what loads will be rejected. Elevators should have clear procedures in place for testing. If there are questions about grain quality between the farmer and the elevator, a third party test may be necessary.

With record or near record grain harvests expected to come in over the next several weeks and large amounts of grain already in storage, space may become an issue in Wisconsin. Elevators should understand requirements for storing grain. Farmers should make certain that their commercial storage facility is properly licensed. For information about temporary/emergency storage, how to increase licensed storage capacity, or to find a state-licensed grain warehouse, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/GrainWarehouseKeepers.aspx.

"This is a busy time," added Harsdorf. "Taking precautions and time for communication between parties is key and will lead to a more successful harvest for all of us."

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