Wednesday – June 24, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Wednesday edition of Ag Talk. Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. It’s Wednesday, it’s another wheat Wednesday and talking about harvest today, Ed.

ED: We got harvest coming right up here, you know, in the next week or so, anywhere from not to the first part of July and we’re thinking about things we got to do for harvest, got to look at three things. We got to think about bin preparation, combine preparation, and field preparation. Most the farmers here take their wheat directly to the elevators so bin preparation is pretty easy. But if you’re going to store any wheat in the bin there’s some things you got to do to prepare them. You got to make sure all the old grain is out. One thing you don’t want to do is put new grain on old grain. You are just asking for trouble cause there will be issue with the old grain. It’s just going to move to the new grain and you want to get that bin completely cleaned inside and outside, get the weeds gone. Everything set up so when you bring in that fresh grain it’s going to have a good chance of not having any insects or other issues that can occur in that bin. And a lot of times we don’t think about this particularly if we got other things going on such as sidedressing corn. We need to prepare that combine for harvest time. We got to look at the cylinder, and the sieves, and the fans to make sure all those are set properly. Now I’ve had mixed reports this year how much head scab is out there but if we do have some head scab in the field that’s going to make the grain lighter and of course we don’t want that going to the elevator cause they may dock us or cause other problems. So we can set our blower and other things so we can blow out that lighter grain as we are doing the separation when we start shaking the heads and that. And so make sure those fans and everything are set properly you can blow that out and it won’t be part of the grain that you’re bringing to the elevator. Also, we need to look at our combine to see how much harvest lose we are getting. We never get all the grain in there but the farmer needs to keep in mind if they look behind the combine, just run a combine through this and measure the number of kernels per square foot that’s on the ground that didn’t get into the combine. Twenty kernel per square foot is basically equivalent to one bushel. So if you got 40 kernels out there you are losing 2 bushels per acre. So make sure that combine is set right so you minimize that lose of kernels. We recommend that you harvest the grain between 14 and 20 percent moisture. The better quality is going to approach 20, the elevator likes it a little lower than that so they may dock you. The other thing to keep in mind is if you wait until the moisture is below 14 percent we increase the amount of cracking and other damage to the kernels. So ideally we are probably shooting for 16-18 percent but we definitely want to be no lower than 14 percent when we take it in there. The elevator will dock us if we are too high or too low and so all these are things the farmers has got to get prepared for plans to combine the field before he harvests coming up here in a week or so.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.