

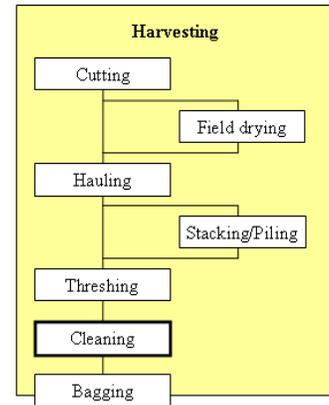
Cleaning

What is cleaning?

Cleaning is part of the harvesting process. Harvesting is the process of collecting the mature crop from the field and includes cutting, hauling, threshing, cleaning and optionally field drying and/or staking or piling.

Why is proper cleaning important?

Grain cleaning after harvest is important as it removes unwanted materials from the grain. Clean grain has a higher value than grain that is contaminated with straws, chaff, weed seeds, soil, rubbish, and other non-grain materials. Grain cleaning will improve the storability of grain, reduce dockage at time of milling, and improve milling output and quality. Seed cleaning will reduce damage by disease, and improve yields.



Cleaning methods

Winnowing: Lighter materials such as unfilled grains, chaff, weed seeds, and straw can be removed from the grain by using a blower, air fan, or by wind. Winnowing recovers only the heavier grains.



Screening/Sifting: Smaller materials such as weed seeds, soil particles and stones can be removed by sieving the grain through a smaller sized screen (1.4mm or less sieve opening).



Paddy cleaner with sieves and fan for winnowing

Seed cleaning: Malformed, discolored, germinated, broken or moldy grains in seed lots can severely impact seed quality, viability and vigor. Visually inspect the seed prior to storage and consider removing these grains from the seed lot.

Seed grading: For commercial seed processing, seed grains should have uniform size and weight. A variety of commercial equipment can be used to achieve uniformity in seed size and shape. These include gravity tables, rotary screens, indented cylinders, and length graders.

Seed purity: Maintain seed purity by preventing mixing with other varieties and contamination with other species.



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