

# *Questions and Answers*

## about the

# **CLEAN WHEAT PROGRAM**

Arranged by

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**1. What is the new clean wheat program?**

It is a part of an overall effort by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to reduce the amount of contamination in products used for human food.

**2. What agency will be in charge of the inspection and seizure proceedings?**

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has directed the U. S. Food and Drug Administration to start sampling cars of wheat and to institute legal action under the Federal Pure Food Law against lots of wheat contaminated by rodents or damaged by insects.

**3. Will wheat stored on farms or in country elevators be subject to seizure?**

No. The enforcement phase under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration will apply only to wheat shipped either by the government or private shippers in interstate commerce. Any shipment of wheat deemed to be in interstate commerce may be inspected and subject to seizure if it does not meet the standards established.

**4. What are the present standards for clean wheat?**

According to an announcement by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare on January 4, 1955, wheat will be judged contaminated:

(1) If it contains more than two rodent pellets per pint and/or

(2) if it contains 2 percent or more of insect damaged grain by weight.

*Food and Drug Administration spokesmen point out that the standards now in effect are only a starting point and that these standards may be tightened as experience in enforcement practice develops.*

**5. What about "treated" wheat?**

Grain that contains any poisonous material, such as chemicals used in treating seed, or in rodent or insect control, may be declared unfit for human or animal consumption. No "treated" wheat should be intermingled with food or feed wheat and such wheat should be used for seed purposes only.

**6. What will become of wheat that is seized?**

Wheat seized and found to be unfit for human consumption becomes involved in court proceedings. Representatives of the Food and Drug Administration may permit denaturing the grain or grinding it into mixed feed or converting it into alcohol, or other processing which will take it out of food channels, if it contains no poisonous treatments.

**7. Who is responsible for losses in case of seized grain?**

The shipper or owner of grain seized is responsible for its condition, according to present interpretations, and he is liable for costs involved in the seizure proceedings as well as the loss of value of the grain. In the end, the shipper receives a bill made up of lawyer fees, court costs, possible fines, expense of the Food and

Drug Administration in the case, demurrage, and loses the difference in the sales price of the grain as between food and feed wheat.

**8. What loss would be involved on a car of seized wheat?**

The actual dollar loss may vary considerably and will depend upon conditions involved with the particular shipment. However, it is reasonable to assume that the losses involved in the seizure of a car of wheat (1,800 bushels) may exceed \$1,500-2,000.

**9. How can farmers and elevator operators best protect themselves from losses?**

The best way to prevent losses under the seizure program is to do the best possible job of harvesting, storing and handling of wheat. This means that only clean dry wheat should be placed in storage and that the storage building be rodent and bird proof to prevent contamination. Damage from stored grain insects can be prevented by thorough bin cleaning and spraying with a good residual insecticide followed by fumigation after the grain is placed in storage. Stored wheat should be checked frequently to make certain it is not going out of condition and to see if stored grain insects are present. Wheat which does not meet the established standards is feed wheat and it should be disposed of in feed channels at a price in accordance with its value.

**10. Will the grain sanitation requirements be incorporated into the official grain standards?**

There has been much talk about this possibility, but no official action as yet.

**11. How do these regulations apply to the wheat price-support program?**

Under the new provisions:

(1) 1955-crop wheat must meet the Food and Drug Administration minimum sanitation requirements to be eligible for price-support loans.

(2) 1955-crop wheat under loan and resealed 1954-crop wheat must meet the minimum sanitation requirements (those in effect when the wheat went under loan) upon delivery to CCC at the end of the loan period. If it does not, the "settlement" value will be the price at which the wheat is sold by CCC to the highest bidder for feed, or for industrial uses other than food or beverages. Producers, of course, may redeem their loans if they wish.

(3) 1955-crop wheat which is covered by purchase agreements will not be eligible for delivery to CCC if it fails to meet the minimum sanitation requirements.

**12. Where can I obtain additional information about the "Clean Wheat Program?"**

Your County Extension Agent can give you additional information on bin spraying, grain fumigation and rodent control.