



TIPS FOR BIOSECURE COMBINE USE

Proper cleaning of the combine reduces the risk of contamination from old grain and weeds and the transfer of weed seeds between fields. A full clean out should be done at least at the end of every season, but there are many steps that can be taken between fields and between crops. Follow these tips for biosecure combine use.

- **Consider harvest order**
 - » IP or non-GMO crops may be rejected if they are contaminated, so these crops should be harvested when the combine is the cleanest
 - » Fields with a history of disease or heavy weed pressure should be harvested last to minimize transfer to cleaner fields
- **Useful tools include a vacuum, air compressor or leaf blower, pressure washer and broom**
 - » The vacuum should have a flexible hose and be able to get into the cracks and crevices of the combine
 - » An air compressor or leaf blower can be used to dislodge out of reach materials
 - » A mobile pressure washer would be beneficial for removing exterior soil and plant material between fields
 - » Use a broom or brush to sweep off the header before moving on to the next field
- **Consider a designated wash/clean out area**
- **Disinfect as needed**
 - » To be used when there is known or suspected soil borne disease issues in a particular field or area
 - » May be effective in reducing infection by pathogens such as clubroot, soybean cyst nematode, etc.
 - » Use a 1 to 2% bleach solution
 - » Remove soil before disinfection for maximum efficacy

The following resource outlines steps for a full combine clean out, which should be done at least once per year.
<https://agfaxweedsolutions.com/2018/11/06/post-season-combine-cleaning-a-guide-to-removing-resistant-weed-seeds-among-other-things/>

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