



# TIPS FOR FEED HANDLING

Feed can be a source of weed seeds, disease organisms and food for pests such as rodents and insects. It is important to handle and store feed properly to minimize the chance of contamination. The following tips can help to identify potential issues before they become a major problem on the farm.

## PURCHASING FEED

- **Inspect purchased feed for weed seeds, soil, or pests**
- **Know the expiry date of purchased feed and ensure it is used well before that date**

## FEED STORAGE AND USE

- **The feed storage area should be clean and dry**
  - » Protected from the elements
  - » Secure from pests
- **Feed troughs or bunks should be cleaned regularly to avoid contamination by manure and pathogens**
- **Old or contaminated feed should be disposed of away from livestock and potential pests**

## FEED PRODUCED ON-FARM

- **Have feed produced on farm tested for disease and vomitoxins to ensure they are safe for livestock consumption**
- **Keep records of disease or weed pressures in fields, and use integrated pest management practices to address them**

Other helpful resources include **Tips for Biosecure Combine Use** and **Tips for Grain Storage**.

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