



Managing grain quality directly from the combine



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WHEN and where do farmers realise the value in their crop?

When they sell it.

However farmers are generally price takers rather than price makers.

The price for their crops is determined by a very complex market that includes futures exchanges and government subsidies.

Farmers can not affect the price

unless they were to form a cartel and control supply as is done in the oil industry.

Considering the diversity and fragmentation of the farming indus-

try, it is highly unlikely that farmers will ever take control over their industry.

As such, farmers need to become more sophisticated in how they store, market and sell their crops.

Tools are available to help farmers take back some degree of control over the marketing of their crops.

Onfarm storage is the first step towards farmers being able to regulate the timing for selling their crops.

By storing grains and oil seeds in silos onfarm, farmers can choose when to sell their crops to optimise their payments.

However, farmers need measurement systems and data management software to work out the quality of their crops and to segregate and store the crops to optimise the value that lies in the protein and oil content of the crops.

□ CropScan 3300H On Combine NIR Analyser.

Near Infrared (NIR) analysis is the technology that is used universally to measure protein, moisture and oil in grains and oil seeds.

An on-combine NIR analyser measures these parameters in grains and oil seeds in real-time as they are stripped from the field.

Samples are measured every 7-12 seconds or about every 15 metres down the row as the combine strips the grain.

The protein, moisture and oil data are displayed on the touch screen PC mounted inside the cabin.

The CropScan 3300H has been designed for use by farmers to segregate and blend grain in the field.

The onboard tablet displays the protein, moisture and oil results for each sample analysed using a selection of screens to display real-time data, bin data, truck data and field maps for protein, oil and moisture.

Recently, new features have been added to the CropScan 3300H software in order to control and direct the grains from the combine into chaser bins, field bins, trucks, silos and bags.

The logistics menu shows a virtual farm with all the available chaser bins, field bins, mother bins, trucks, bags, sheds, silos etc.

As grain is placed into each storage system, the running average for protein, moisture and oil are updated.

A complete record of the quantity and quality of the grain is available in the field or in the cloud for farmers and buyers to track on their smartphone, tablet or PC.

There is even a Blending Estimator to help calculate the protein as grain is blended from one storage system to another.

□ **More information: contact Mark Scope, Next Instruments, at mark.scope@nextinstruments.net or phone 0427 791 283.**

The CropScan 3300H On Combine Analyser is the most dramatic advance in farm technology in 20 years.

- Optimize Yield... Simplify VRF Nitrogen applications
- Increase Harvest Efficiency... Finish harvest earlier with more accurate moisture measurements
- Improve Grain Logistics... Manage Grain Quality directly from the combine
- Nutrient Management... Year on year improvements in soil nutrient management
- **Make an extra 10-20% profit per year**

NextInstruments For more information.
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