

BEST PRACTICES FOR HOT-WEATHER GRAIN STORAGE



1. Keep bags dry and off concrete

- Store bags on sound pallets, not directly on the floor
- Concrete can wick moisture and create condensation under bags
- Avoid areas where roof leaks, sweating walls, or floor drains can add moisture



2. Store in a cool, shaded, well-ventilated area

- Keep pallets out of direct sun
- Use fans or natural airflow if possible, but avoid blowing humid air directly into grain/feed during very damp conditions
- A clean, enclosed feed room or barn bay is better than an open shed exposed to wind-driven rain



3. Do not trap heat and moisture

- If pallets arrive shrink-wrapped, remove or loosen wrap once indoors if it is safe to do so
- Plastic wrap can trap condensation and heat, especially in humid weather
- Leave space between pallets and walls for airflow



4. Practice FIFO — first in, first out

- Use older product first. Refer to the lot numbers
- In summer, avoid over-ordering if turnover is slow
- Try to use bagged feed within a reasonable window, especially feeds with higher fat content, molasses, or added oils, which can go rancid faster in heat





5. Watch for signs of spoilage

Check bags regularly for and do not sell if you experience any of the following:

WARNING SIGN	WHAT IT MAY MEAN
Musty or sour smell	Mold or heating
Clumping or caking	Moister exposure
Warm bags or “hot spots”	Microbial activity or spoilage
Webbing, beetles, moths	Insect infestation
Sweating inside plastic or condensation	Humidity problem
Discoloration or visible mold	Do not feed



6. Control rodents and insects

- Sweep up spilled grain immediately
- Keep pallets away from walls when possible
- Use a pest-control program around the storage area
- Don't store old, broken, or partial bags in corners



7. Protect from rain and humidity during unloading

- Don't leave pallets outside, even briefly, during hot humid weather or storms
- If bags get wet, separate them immediately and inspect closely
- Wet grain/feed can mold quickly in summer
- Be sure to inform customers of the potential issues of transporting grain in the rain



Quick rule of thumb

Cool, dry, clean, ventilated, and fast-moving is the goal.

For summer storage, it's better to keep smaller quantities moving quickly than to stockpile large amounts that sit through heat and humidity.

