How to Sample Grain for Accurate Testing

Has your company established a sampling protocol? A sampling plan should start with these basic steps.

1) Obtain a representative sample



It is difficult to get a representative sample from a storage bin, so sample from the truck or railcar before placing in a bin. Always match probe size to the vessel being sampled (barge, railcar, truck, etc.). Sample EVERY TRUCK!

2) Use proper sampling technique

Probe all the way to the bottom. Use a 10% angle from vertical with slots closed and facing upward. Open probe when as deep as possible, using two quick up and down movements.

Collect a 2-3 lb. sample, depending on the vessel. The number of times you probe and the amount of locations that you probe will depend on the vessel as well. This example shows proper probing locations for a flat bottom truck or trailer containing grain greater than 4 feet deep or 8 filled probe compartments:

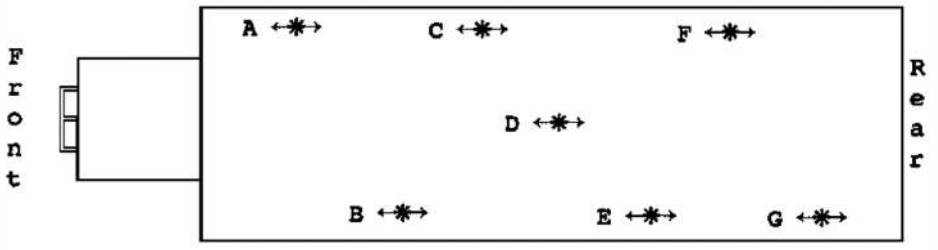


Figure 12. Flat Bottom Truck or Trailer

3) Randomize the subsample

Break the probe sample down to the desired testing size with a divider.



Helpful sites: USDA/GIPSA—ISO—GAFTA

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