

Figure 15. When checking grain previously dried in the bin, examine points near the surface to make sure all the grain has dried.

Stirring devices break up the drying zone so that the entire mass of grain tends to dry more uniformly, thereby reducing the problem near the surface of the grain. However, grain near the floor of the bin where the stirring auger cannot reach may be severely overdried. A sample taken from this "dead zone" area may lead to a faulty conclusion concerning average moisture content (Figure 16).

When bin floors are constructed, a layer of plastic should be placed under the concrete floor to serve as a vapor barrier to prevent water from condensing on the floor and wetting the grain. Likewise, sealing the side wall and roof and the bottom

ring on the concrete slab will prevent rain from wetting the grain. Spoilage will generally be found near any point where wetting occurs (Figure 17).

The unloading auger should be cleaned before grain is placed in a bin or after a partial unloading. Otherwise, when the grain is unloaded, the sample taken from the truck may indicate contamination by mold or insects at a level higher than that actually present inside the bin (Figure 18). Also, water may collect inside an auger and wet the grain left from a previous unloading.

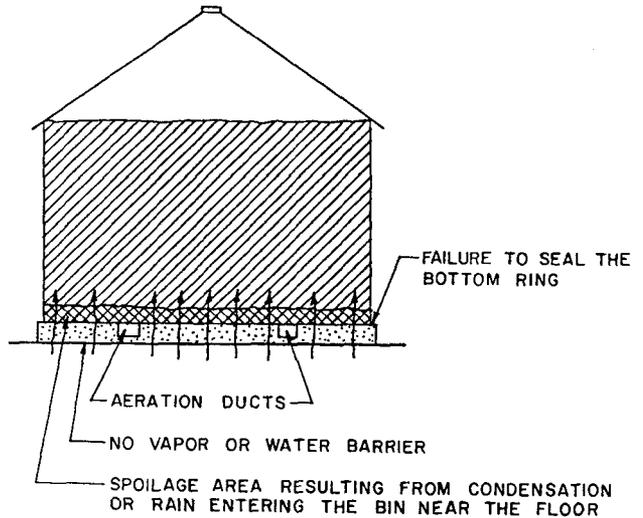


Figure 17. A sheet of plastic should be placed under the concrete floor during bin construction to serve as a vapor and water barrier and prevent the rewetting of grain.

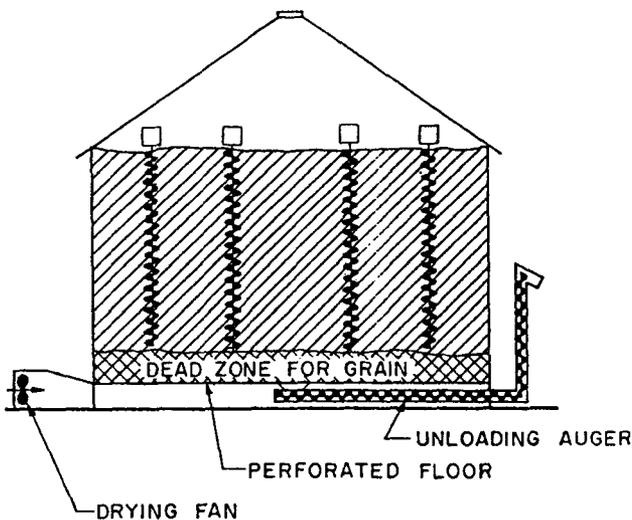


Figure 16. A "dead zone" may be found under the stirring augers which may lead to faulty conclusions concerning the average moisture content of grain in the bin.

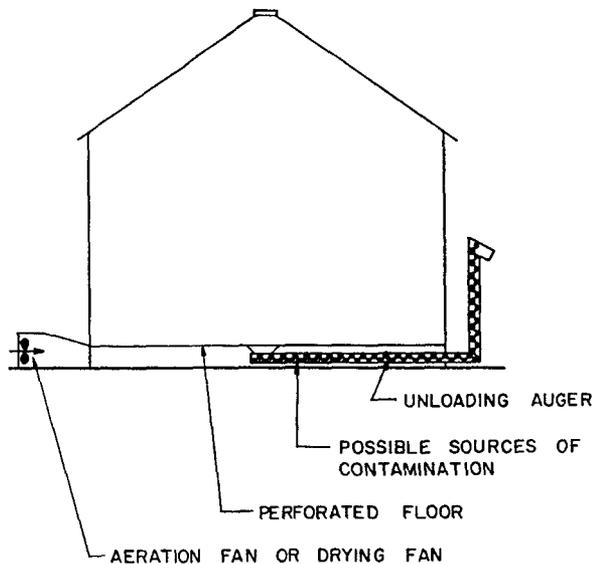


Figure 18. The unloading auger should be cleaned before the bin is filled to reduce chances of mold or insect infestation.