

Cleaning of combine harvester

Thoroughly cleaning of machinery including the combine harvester is vital to avoid spreading of weed seeds between fields. It is essential to spend time on cleaning when harvest is completed in one field, before entering another field.

DID YOU KNOW?
Machinery carry weeds between fields.

Readiness for use: 

Efficacy: 

How it works

In principle a combine harvester is 'self-cleaning' and discards chaff and straw on the soil after separation from the grains. But still an amount of chaff, straw bits and especially weed seeds remains in the interior of the machine. Most combine harvesters have an automatic cleaning program which should be run before exiting a harvested field.

- An automatic cleaning program shakes the machine and runs procedures to loosen what is trapped in the machine
- The loosened plant material will be discarded from both front and back of the combine
- Before starting the cleaning program make sure that sieves, screens and stone traps are open or removed
- The cleaning program demonstrated on fig. 1. removed roughly 2/3 of what should be cleaned away, and it comes easily to +100 kg of material.
- The last 1/3 should be removed with an air wand / compressor both inside and outside the combine
- Open all panels, lids and doors with access, and blow plant materials away
- The air wand should be used from top to bottom, and from front to back to insure that cleaned parts stay clean
- If you harvest a field with high weed pressure or even resistant weeds it is optional to run the full cleaning procedure
- If you aren't familiar with the use of the cleaning program, or don't know about all the corners with cleaning needs on the combine, then contact to your machinery sales company, they will certainly give you guidance



Figure 1. Automatic cleaning program running on a combine harvester

Photos: SEGES Innovation, Denmark



Figure 2. Cleaning with air wand on the outside

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