



Tips to prepare for safe and efficient seed delivery

To save time and make spring planting easier and safer down the road, encourage your customers to follow these six tips to prepare for seed delivery.

1. **Plan for seed storage.** Make sure there is a readily accessible indoor area that is large enough to store the seed and still leave space to move equipment as needed. If there isn't adequate storage, arrange to leave seed at the dealership until it's needed for planting.
2. **Prepare facilities.** A clean, dry storage area is essential to maintain seed purity and quality. Here's a checklist:
 - Sweep out the on-farm seed storage area to eliminate sand or debris that could hamper forklift operations when moving pallets and bags.
 - Check for and repair roof or building leaks to keep seed from getting wet.
 - Prevent seed damage by controlling bird and mice populations.
 - Check facility ventilation and, if necessary, open doors to increase airflow.
 - Replace any burned-out light bulbs in the storage area so you can read seed tags easily.
3. **Determine field planting order.** It's important to know which varieties will be planted first, so the seed is put in the proper order in storage. A little preplanning can save time later. "In the rush of planting, you won't want the seed needed first to be stuck behind other varieties," Tim Borho, commercial agronomist with Dow Seeds says.
4. **Check seed tags.** After seed delivery, encourage customers to review bag tags or super box tags to be aware of management guidelines for seed treatments. "Knowing these requirements in advance helps prevent slowdowns during planting," Borho says.
5. **Maintain handling equipment.** Check to make sure tenders, conveyors and augers are in working order and ready for the season. Worn augers could damage seed and reduce germination.
6. **Stay safe.** "During this hectic time, make safety a priority," Borho says. He advises wearing personal protective equipment and long sleeves when handling seed to prevent contact with seed treatments should a bag or box break open. Also, avoid stacking pallets or bins more than four high and make sure seed containers are tied down adequately when transporting over the road.

Attention to these preparations and precautions will help minimize downtime and pave the way for a successful planting season.