

'STUDENT SERIES' CON'T FROM PAGE 1

She said she has learned so much through the years not just about horses but also has gained important life lessons.

“Being able to have the opportunities I have had has given me a different outlook on life,” Sophia said. “Realizing how lucky I am to live the life I live. To have that relationship with the animals, it is a very difficult but rewarding thing.”

She said she has been able to have so many experiences through the years and has also had the chance to grow with the animals.

“All the friendships I've made and the life lessons that come with it has been rewarding,” Sophia said. “There is a lot of heartbreak but a lot of rewards as well.”

Following her freshman year of high school, Sophia continued her education online and graduated early. She attended school in Drayton during her formidable years and spent seventh through ninth grade attending school in Pembina.

Her mother Des said Sophia always says learning to accept falling in the cracks is part of what makes them better riders and appreciate the times you pull a check.

“She has the attitude to 'be humble with yourself and your horse.' You won't win them all but you sure will learn something from the losses,” Des said. “I recently asked her how one rodeo went and she replied, 'Well mom it could have been better but it's hard to not be happy with every run because I am doing what I love.'”

She said what she loves most about working with her horses is the relationship she has with them.

“They can't talk but they do show you a lot in life,” Sophia said. “It is a journey to have a good relationship with my horses. It is something you learn over time and knowing that makes a big difference.”

Sophia worked full time throughout this past winter at her parents' gas station Halcrow's LLC in Drayton so she could spend the spring and summer months working with her horses. She said her greatest mentors have been her parents.

“My parents have done everything they can in their power to let me be able to do what I do and to grow up doing what I love,” she said. “I would never be where I am today without them and their support. They have been a crucial part of my experience.”

Through the years Sophia has earned more than 100 awards and ribbons. She said growing up on the farm, she started combining when she was the young age of nine years old. She continued helping on the farm throughout the years and started helping with harvest and rotabeeting at 14-years-old. The past few years, she has been doing a lot more on the farm as well.

“Watching my parents, they have worked for everything they have and that has been a big learning experience for me,” Sophia said. “Knowing that is how life works, you have to work for what you want. That has made a huge difference.”

'STORAGE' CON'T FROM PAGE 4

temperature of dry grain will follow the average outdoor temperature.

Hellevang provides additional bag storage tips:

- Select an elevated, well-drained site for the storage bags. Run the bags north and south so solar heating is similar on both sides. Sunshine on just one side heats that side, which can lead to moisture accumulation in the grain and spoilage on the cool side.
- Monitor the bags for damage. Wildlife can puncture the bags, allowing moisture in, which can lead to spoilage and the grain smell being released, which attracts more wildlife.
- Monitor the grain temperature at several places in the bags.
- Never enter a grain bag because it is a suffocation hazard. If unloading the bag with a pneumatic grain conveyor, the suction can “shrink wrap” a person.

Grain piles

Grain is frequently stored short-term in outdoor piles. However, precipitation is a severe problem for uncovered grain because grain is very porous. A 1-inch rain will increase the moisture content of a 1-foot layer of corn by 9%. This typically leads to losing at least a couple of feet of grain on the pile surface, which is a significant loss.

For example, a cone-shaped pile 25 feet high contains approximately 59,000 bushels of grain. Losing just 1 foot of grain on the surface is a loss of about 13% of the grain, which is \$39,000 if the grain value is \$4 per bushel and \$78,000 at \$8 per bushel. Aeration and wind blowing on the pile will not dry wet grain adequately to prevent spoilage.

Use a cover to prevent water infiltration. Drainage is critically important to the success of any grain storage. About 25,000 gallons of water will run off an area about 100 by 400 feet during a 1-inch rain. This water must flow away from the grain and the area next to it. When determining a location for a pile, examine the entire area to ensure that flooding will not occur during major rain events.

The outdoor ground surface where grain will be piled should be prepared to limit soil moisture from reaching the grain. The storage floor also should be higher than the surrounding ground to minimize moisture transfer from the soil into the grain.

“Make sure the ground surface is crowned so moisture drains out and away rather than creating a wet pocket that leads to grain deterioration,” says Hellevang.

Hellevang recommends monitoring for these issues:

- Anything out of alignment in a bunker or bulkhead wall (any twisting, flexing or bending of a structural member may lead to a failure)
- Separation or movement in connections
- Material deterioration

Grain covers

A combination of restraining straps and suction from the aeration system holds grain covers in place. Provide adequate airflow through the grain to control grain temperature. Place perforated ducts on the grain under the cover to provide a controlled air intake for the aeration system and airflow near the cover to minimize condensation problems under the cover.

Place properly sized and spaced ducts under the pile on the ground to pull air through the grain. Some storage options use a perforated wall for the air inlet.

“Minimize the amount of open area so the air does not ‘short-circuit’ to the fan,” says Hellevang.

Wind velocity determines the amount of suction you need to hold the cover down. Some control systems measure wind velocity and start fans based on the wind speed. Backup power can hold the cover down during power outages. Make sure the backup power starts when needed.

Cooling stored grain

Cool grain with aeration to extend the allowable storage time and reduce the potential for insect infestation. Temperatures below about 60 degrees Fahrenheit reduce insect reproduction. Insects are dormant below about 50 degrees, and extended exposure to temperatures below about 30 degrees can kill insects.

Cooling grain as outdoor temperatures drop will reduce moisture migration and the condensation potential near the

top of the grain pile. Also, the grain should be cooled because grain moisture content and temperature affect the rate of mold growth and grain deterioration. The allowable storage time approximately doubles with each 10-degree reduction in grain temperature.

For example, the allowable storage time for 17% moisture corn is about 130 days at 50 degrees and about 280 days at 40 degrees. The grain should be cooled whenever the average outdoor temperature is 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the grain. It should be cooled to near or below 30 degrees for winter storage in northern states and near or below 40 degrees in southern states.

Aeration ducts need to have perforations sized and spaced correctly for air to enter and exit the ducts uniformly and obtain the desired airflow through the grain. The maximum spacing for aeration ducts is equal to the grain depth to achieve acceptable airflow uniformity.

Long-term grain storage

Grain has an acceptable storage life before the quality is reduced enough to impact its value. Allowable storage time is cumulative, so consider the amount of storage life remaining when deciding if you can store the grain longer.

“Keep in mind that airflow through the grain permits grain temperature to be maintained, but it does not extend the allowable storage time,” says Hellevang.

For example, if corn is stored at 14% moisture and 60 degrees for two months (November through December), then cooled to 40 degrees for four months (January through April) and then stored through the summer months (May through August) at 70 degrees, approximately 90% of the storage life has been used. That means very little expected allowable storage life is remaining if the grain is going to be stored for another year. Grain going into storage for a second year needs to have been kept cool and dry during the first year and have few broken or cracked kernels.



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