



*Enhancing Value, Improving Marketability*

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## **CUSTOM APPLICATORS, SEED DEALERS AND FARMERS**

Minnesota farmers have a long history of producing high quality, pure seed. In recent years field inspectors from Minnesota Crop Improvement are finding an increasing amount of other crop in seed fields. Seed fields that are contaminated with other crop are rejected and cannot be used for certified seed.

The contamination may include; rye in wheat, barley in oats, or wheat in barley, etc. In many cases the seed producer has not grown the other crop in many years, if ever. This indicates that the problem was introduced from another source.

### **Potential operations that could result in other crop contamination:**

- Custom fertilizer applications
- Aerial and ground application of cover crop seed
- Custom seeding and harvesting
- Farmer applied fertilizer
- Farmer planted seed and cover crops
- Spreading of straw or manure onto fields

### **You can help keep seed fields free of other crop by following these practices:**

- Ask your customer if they are growing seed then take steps to prevent contamination.
- Clean all trucks before and after hauling seed or fertilizer.
- Clean loading equipment, elevators and augers to be sure they are free of seed or grain.
- Clean seed and fertilizer bins thoroughly before filling.
- Clean application equipment before and after spreading fertilizer or cover crop seed.
- Be careful not to turn around or spread onto neighboring fields.
- Always follow the Plant Variety Protection Act for all seed including cover crops.

**Let's work together to keep seed production fields  
free of other crop contamination!**

