

Fast Fix For Punctured Ag-Bags

When a hailstorm punched hundreds of tiny holes in a neighbor's Ag-Bags, Adam Mueller was asked if he could seal them back up with insulating foam since he was in the foam insulation business.

"The foam didn't stick well enough to seal the bags, but I checked with my supplier, Oak Ridge Foam and Coating Systems, and they had another product," says Mueller. "We did a trial, and it worked very well on small holes."

Mueller knew one guy who had tried spraying acrylic paint as a patch for holes. However, the paint took 5 hrs. to dry, limiting when it could be applied and how.

Oak Ridge's coating went on fast, dried instantly, had no bleed-through, and didn't require unsealing the bag.

"We can start as soon as the bag dries off and work until the dew appears or there is rain," says Mueller. "We had one site that was level with poor drainage with water between the bags. We would do one side, drag the hoses across it, do the top and then drag them across it to do the other side. We couldn't have done more than one side with paint."

Mueller notes that the material, which is applied at 160°F, eliminates another

problem. Simply walking on an Ag-Bag can cause the plastic to stretch. However, applying the hot spray causes it to shrink right back.

Mueller has found that larger holes and tears can also be repaired. "We had some holes from really big hail," he explains. "We taped them and then sprayed over the tape. We found that we didn't need special tape, just a smooth surface."

As word got around, Agri-Seal, Mueller's new business, started expanding. Last year he traveled up to 3 hrs. from his southwestern Wisconsin farm. He now has a patent pending on the process and the specialized use of his foaming equipment.

"Not every spray foam machine works with the coating, but many can," says Mueller.

Pricing varies based on the area to be covered and what insurance companies will agree to cover. "The cost can also vary by the material stored in the Ag-Bag," notes Mueller. "Bags filled with wet, lumpy materials can be more wrinkled and require more coating than a bag filled with corn silage," he says.

Mueller believes demand will grow as word spreads. He is exploring franchising



Adam Mueller started up a new business using spray foaming equipment to seal punctured Ag-Bags.

Agri-Seal and would like to hear from interested FARM SHOW readers.

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Fast, Accurate New Way To Measure Grain Loss

With margins tight there may never have been a more important time to keep your combine working efficiently, and S.I. Distributing says that the new Bushel Plus Grain Loss management system lets you check grain loss more quickly and accurately than anything else on the market.

"What used to be a 20-min. process now takes just 5 min.," says Tim Hoehn, S.I. Distributing, Spencerville, Ohio. "It comes as a kit and was developed in Canada, where it is revolutionizing the checking-for-harvest-loss process there. We recently became the exclusive U.S. distributor.

"The kit can be used on soybeans and small grain such as wheat, oats, barley, canola and rice, as well as corn. Farmers using the system have reported savings anywhere from 2 to 10 percent."

The kit comes with a drop pan carrier, narrow drop pan, wide drop pan, battery-powered air separator with charger (optional), weigh scale, and a downloadable app.

The drop pan attaches magnetically underneath the carrier, and the carrier attaches magnetically under the combine. The pan is dropped remotely while harvesting and collects a sample of chaff and straw from the back of the combine. The



Drop pan attaches magnetically under combine and is dropped remotely while harvesting to collect a sample of chaff and straw. A downloadable app shows bu. per acre grain loss.

sample is dropped into the air separator and cleaned, and the remaining grain is then weighed on the scale. The downloadable app is used to quantify your bu. per acre grain loss, and you can then make adjustments to the combine to reduce loss.

"The carrier serves as a cover for the drop pan so the pan always stays clean, which results in an accurate sample," says Hoehn. "The pan drops only about one foot to the ground so it always lands flat on the ground, which doesn't always happen when you try throwing a drop pan under a combine. Then you can use the air separator to quickly clean the sample, and the weigh scale and app to

determine the bu. per acre loss. The drop pan is available in different sizes, but the 40-in. long pan is a good choice for corn and soybean growers."

Three different kits are available. The flagship BP 40-in. system sells for \$1,550 plus S&H; the 60-in. BP kit sells for \$1,700; and the mini 20-in. BP mini kit sells for \$1,225. The air separator accessory sells for \$650 plus S&H.

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