

The background of the page is a light cream color, decorated with a scattering of golden wheat grains and several dark brown insects, likely grain beetles, positioned around the text. The insects are shown in various orientations, some facing left and some right, as if crawling over the grain. The wheat grains are also scattered, with some appearing in small clusters and others as individual kernels.

South Dakota community protects wheat and corn profits with Diacon®.

Melissa Johnson knows the damage that insects can cause to stored crops. As an elevator manager for Farmers Alliance in Corsica, South Dakota, Johnson has seen crop infestations delay shipments, reduce the value of the crops or have them rejected outright by buyers.

“Insect damage to wheat can cost us as much as 50 cents per bushel. For an elevator that tries to carry 150,000 bushels into late spring, that could potentially cost us \$75,000 on the wheat we hold,” said Johnson.

Farmers Alliance is a full service agricultural cooperative located in southeastern South Dakota. The Corsica location is the co-op’s second largest, and it handles a variety of grain in addition to wheat, including corn and soybeans.

For Johnson, the greatest infestation problem was the saw-toothed grain beetle. She found that the pests would make their way into storage in less than a month’s time. If insects were found in the crops, Johnson would have to delay shipments and treat the products with fumigants.

“We were using some malathion-based products, and we were very unhappy with the strong odor. We could even taste it after application,” said Johnson.

Looking for a way to avoid the need for fumigants, Johnson placed a greater emphasis on preventing infestations rather than treating them. On a visit from a Central Life Sciences representative, she learned of the company’s Diacon® IGR product, an insect growth regulator used for the control of a wide range of stored product insects. Johnson decided to begin using the Diacon®-D IGR formulation, and the payoff was almost instant.

“In our first year of using Diacon, we stored into late winter and even early spring and found no evidence at all of any insect activity,” Johnson said. “After that, we recommended that our growers start using it. When they saw our results, Diacon sold itself.”

Rodney DeLange of Corsica was one of those farmers who followed Johnson’s recommendation with great results. DeLange runs an operation with his son raising cattle and growing winter wheat, corn and soybeans. Like Johnson and the Farmers Alliance, he was encountering problems with insect infestations in his wheat.

“If I stored the wheat too long, we always had problems. I’d have to treat it with toxic gas if the elevator wouldn’t accept it, and I never liked working with the stuff,” said DeLange. “Since we started using Diacon, we’ve never had any more problems with insects. I can store my wheat longer because I’m confident in the product.”

DeLange added that he’s tried other powder-based solutions before, but none offered the effectiveness of Diacon®-D IGR. He praised the product’s ease of use, saying he simply follows the recommended application amount on the label and sprinkles it over the grain as it moves up the auger.

“Now it’s just standard that if grain’s going in the bin, Diacon goes in,” said DeLange.

Johnson said farmers like DeLange were happy to accept her recommendation of Diacon®-D IGR because of her success with it and the product’s reasonable price point. She added that with wheat reaching upwards of \$8 per bushel, there was no hesitation by the farmers to make the small investment for the protection of their crops.

Not only has Farmers Alliance found success with Diacon®-D IGR for treating wheat, but the company also trusts the protection of its corn with the product. This is especially important as the Corsica elevator is the main provider of corn for the town’s feed mill which is also part of Farmers Alliance. The Corsica feed plant has a capacity to manufacture 150,000 tons of feed per year, and Johnson knows how high its standards are for the corn it accepts.

“We’ve been very pleased with Diacon and the support we’ve received from Central Life Sciences,” said Johnson. “The product works, it’s affordable, and we’ll continue to rely on it to protect our crops.”

Diacon®-D IGR, a dry formulation, and Diacon® IGR, a liquid formulation, are tolerance exempt insect growth regulators (IGR) used to control stored product insects by breaking the insect life cycle and preventing larvae from maturing into adults. Diacon®-D IGR is a dry formulation with versatile applications, including direct-to-grain or empty premise treatment. Diacon® IGR can be applied directly to grain or used in fogging applications and is approved virtually everywhere stored product insects are a problem — farm storage, large silos, peanut bins, food processing facilities and more.

(S)-Methoprene, the active ingredient in Diacon® IGR, protects stored grains and raw agriculture commodities from damaging insects by interfering with the normal process of insect development. Diacon® IGR is effective against a broad range of insects, such as: almond moth, Indian meal moth, lesser grain borer, saw-toothed grain beetle, merchant beetle, red flour beetle, confused flour beetle, and others. Diacon® IGR can also be used to treat pet food, animal feedstuffs, birdseed and any other commodity you want to protect from storage insects.

For more information about Diacon®-D IGR or Diacon® IGR, call 1.800.248.7763 or visit online at www.diacon2.com.



Melissa Johnson
Elevator Manager

