

On-farm Sealed Storage in Western Australia: a Progress Report

C.R. Newman

APB Centre, Bougainvillea Avenue, Forest Field, Western Australia 6058

On-farm sealed grain storage was introduced into Western Australia in 1982. This method of grain storage and insect control was new to farmers and associated industry. Mistakes were made and corrected, and designs were altered to accommodate more effective sealing methods. From personal observations and field reports it was clear that many farmers did not understand or correctly apply fumigation technology.

A study of a discrete area of the Western Australian central wheat belt was conducted to discover the extent of the problem and establish the requirements for an extension campaign. Fifty-six per cent of silos examined did not achieve the gastightness standard required and all silos that had been in use for more than three years failed the test. The reasons for failure are discussed.