

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 28, 2008**

**Commissioners Clark, Cramer and Wefald**

**\*\*For Immediate Release\*\***

**Phone 701-328-2400**

**Licensed Grain Storage Capacity Remains High in 2008**

Storage capacity of all licensed grain facilities in North Dakota remains high in 2008 after reaching an all-time high in 2007 when several additions were made.

As of August 1, total licensed capacity stood at 315 million bushels, up from 285.7 million bushels on August 1, 2007. In November 2007, storage levels reached an all-time high of 343.5 million bushels.

Grain elevators are required by law to be licensed, bonded and insured. Licensed facilities include buildings, bunker storage and ground storage.

Commissioner Tony Clark, who holds the portfolio for grain elevators, said the high level of storage is a good sign.

“Although we are not currently seeing the large increases in storage we saw last year, grain elevators are more equipped to handle larger amounts of grain than they have been in previous years,” Clark said.

As harvest continues, the Commission expects to see more requests to increase storage.

“It’s too early to predict if a significant amount of ground storage will be added between now and the end of harvest,” said Commissioner Kevin Cramer. “It all depends on how good the harvest is.”

The Commission currently licenses 394 grain facilities, a decrease of 2 from last year. The Commission also licenses roving grain buyers. As of August 1, there were 66 licensed roving grain buyers, an increase of eight from the same time a year ago.

The Commission wants to remind people they should only sell their grain to licensed buyers. Licenses can be easily verified by calling the Commission.

“Requiring grain warehouses to be licensed, bonded and insured provides protection to farmers in case a company becomes insolvent or suffers a disaster,” said Commissioner Susan Wefald. “If grain buyers are not licensed, the seller’s only recourse available if left unpaid may be action in civil court as an unsecured creditor.”

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