**Today’s Maintenance Tip: Overfilling Your Silo**

**Presented as a Public Service for the purposes of Farm Safety**

**LET’S TALK SILOS - SILO SENSE - COMMON SENSE**

**For many years, tower silos have stood – like soldiers standing at attention – protecting farmers valuable feed crop – protecting it from not only spoilage but against contamination and other negative outside sources. Tower Silos have performed so well and for so long that often little attention is given to their value and importance on the farm, or to their maintenance.**

It’s Saturday afternoon and you’ve got a wedding dance tonight. A few more loads and the silo will be full. Hurry up! Let’s get the feed off and party! On the last load, the pipe plugs. The silo must be full. Take a quick trip up. Yes, it’s full, right up into the roof.

In fact, you can’t see the unloader. It’s covered with feed. Now, we can head to the wedding. WRONG! Unless you want to pay the price.

When you cover the unloader with feed, it puts tremendous pressure on the suspension, cables and machine. If left, when the feed settles, the unloader is going down with it. Bent tripod or hexapod, broken cables, bent unloader rings and broken unloader arms can be expected.

You can still go to the wedding, but if you don’t have time to uncover the unloader, at least crank it down. Take all the pressure off the cable and leave plenty of slack so that when the feed settles, there is no pressure on the suspension or unloader.

If you were using the unloader to distribute, make sure the power is off and uncover the unloader as soon as possible.

**Your tower silo is protecting your valuable feed. It needs to be in top notch condition to do its job. You can’t expect it to do its job if it’s not maintained and used properly. And remember: ---- run the blower for ventilation while working up there and never put yourself under a suspended unloader.**

Disclaimer

These articles are contributed by Bruce Johnson of Wisconsin Silos. They are meant to be informative and fun to read. They are not all inclusive. Your best source of information is the International Silo Association Operator’s manual or call the International Silo Association at 610-607-3622.