

## Infestation Problems in Grain Stores This Autumn

### Non-chemical Treatment with No Residue Risk

Harvest 2008 has been difficult with the inclement weather, which has led to grain going into stores in a variety of conditions. Growers must make sure they protect their investment in store, as any further loss of quality will make a significant impact on returns. Stored grain should be frequently inspected and checked to prevent insect pest and mite damage as storage pests can cause direct damage to grain and create conditions in which fungal growth can occur, all of which will add to the woes of this year's harvest and will adversely affect returns.

#### Summary

**Silico-Sec** is a real alternative to protect stored grain from pest attack whilst also following the latest FSA recommendations to minimise chemical residues in cereals.

Whether the pest has 6 legs or 8 is immaterial to **Silico-Sec**, as it is a highly effective protectant and curative grain store treatment. **Silico-Sec** is an environmentally safe and non-toxic natural powder derived from diatomaceous earth. Used at 200g per sq m incorporated over the grain pile surface, it will give long lasting bio-physical control of insect pests and mites in grain stores, stored cereals and oilseed rape.

- **Silico-Sec** consists of highly micronised specific amorphous silica (silicon dioxide) which is highly absorbent due to its biophysical properties.
- **Silico-Sec** damages the external wax layers of target pests coming into contact with the product, resulting in desiccation and eventual death.
- **Silico-Sec** is also effective against pesticide-resistant mite populations

The product is used in many other countries around the world and has been tested and developed in the UK in conjunction with the Central Science Laboratory, partly funded by the HGCA. It must be used as part of an integrated strategy for grain store management, together with temperature and moisture control. Being "inert", **Silico-Sec** works by a physical mode of action and is exempt from registration under the UK's COPR. It does not leave any chemical residue.

### Minimising Pesticide Residues

The published Food Standards Agency Report on Pesticide Residue Minimisation in Cereals ([www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2006/nov/guidanceon](http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2006/nov/guidanceon)) highlights 1 of 3 main action points that there is scope for minimising and possibly eradicating storage chemical residues (p33) by using techniques such as diatomaceous earths. **Silico-Sec** is a diatomaceous earth designed just for this job.

### Stores and Crops

**Silico-Sec** can be used on empty grain stores, on all feed cereals, malting barley (on the BBPA list), and oilseed rape. It is also suitable for use on organic crops.

HGCA have produced two topic sheets on the subject:-

- 1). HGCA Topic Sheet No 79 :- *Insect and mite control in Grain Stores using DE (Diatomaceous Earths)*
- 2). HGCA Topic Sheet No 62:- *Preventing and Controlling Mites in Stored Cereals*

**Silico-Sec** offers a real alternative to other forms of grain store treatment.

For further information please ring Interfarm on 01354 741414 or email [technical@interfarm.co.uk](mailto:technical@interfarm.co.uk)

**Read the label before use. Use Pesticides safely**

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