Cleaning grain bins

Adult responsibilities
ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- Auxiliary equipment is locked out or tagged out
- Bin is aerated before child enters to clean
- Climbing structure is stable and safe
- Child has been fitted for a respirator and shown how to use it
- Child changes outer clothing and washes hands after job

Can your child do this job?

ABILITY

- Can the child climb safely? (See "Climbing")
  - Yes.
  - No. STOP! Children must be able to climb correctly to do this job safely.

- Does the filled container the child will remove from the grain bin weigh less than 10-15% of his or her body weight?
  - Yes.
  - No. STOP! Children lifting more than 15% of their body weight are more likely to injure their backs.

- Does the child have to carry the filled container less than 10-15 yards?
  - Yes.
  - No. CAUTION! An adult should keep the collection point close by or carry the filled container to the collection point.

- Are the cleaning tools the right size for the child?
  - Yes.
  - No. STOP! The wrong size tools can cause injury.

TRAINING

- Has the child been trained on lifting techniques?
  - Yes.
  - No. STOP! Lifting incorrectly can cause back injury.

- Has an adult demonstrated cleaning grain bins on site?
  - Yes.
  - No. STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job at the work site.

- Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?
  - Yes.
  - No. CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

SUPERVISION

- Can an adult supervise as recommended?
  - Yes.
  - No. STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

Main Hazards

- Working up high can lead to falls
- Weight of grain bin refuse can strain muscles
- Dust, mold and organic particles can cause breathing problems

Remember

- Non-skid shoes
- Respirator
- Eye protection

Supervision

What’s the right amount? Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

Age 14-15:
NO climbing. CHECK every few minutes.

Age 16+:
CHECK every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, LEAVE for 15 to 30 minutes.

Climbing the ladder:
Age 16+:
WATCH nearly constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, CHECK every few minutes.