

# Graincare Newsletter

## May 2004

Welcome to the first issue of the **Graincare** Newsletter from Industry Services *australia*. This newsletter is distributed to all Producers registered and accredited with **Graincare**, **Graincare** auditors and trainers and Grains industry participants.

### New **Graincare** Advertisement



#### Further develop your grain business with Graincare

Customers of Australian grain are more than ever demanding a quality assured product. Graincare on-farm quality assurance will give you the opportunity to meet this demand.

#### For more information

from NSW or mobile phones (02) 9428 6144  
all other states 1300 781 411  
or visit the Graincare website [www.graincare.com.au](http://www.graincare.com.au)



quality assured grain  
- our future

You will soon be seeing a lot more about **Graincare** in a variety of places. The new **Graincare** advertisement was released in March, and will be placed in a number of Grains and general farming publications.

If you would like to use the new **Graincare** advertisement in a local publication or newsletter, please contact Industry Services *australia* (ISa) to arrange for your copy of the advertisement.

### Why is food safety an issue?

Australia is one of many primary producing countries competing in the international market place. Customers in that market place, both in Australia and overseas, are becoming increasingly aware of consumer concerns, particularly when it comes to food safety. As primary

producers, we need to remember always that we are not just producing crops – we are producing food which people eat.

The recent examples of BSE (mad cow disease) have shown just how quickly consumer perceptions about a product can change because of isolated incidents. Similar incidents in grain products could seriously damage our industry and livelihood. It is important that farmers put in place measures to prevent this occurring – on-farm quality assurance is the most practical method of doing that.

We have now reached the point where quality assurance is no longer an add-on extra to assist in marketing a product. It is becoming a necessary entry point to carrying out a competitive and profitable business. Australian and overseas processors of grain have food safety plans in place and they want to be assured that their suppliers also have systems to assure the quality and consistency of their products.

**Graincare** focuses on food and feed safety - the 'non-negotiable' quality requirement demanded by all customers and an area where rigour is required in any on-farm QA program.

**Graincare** provides growers with a simple and effective mechanism for demonstrating that they are satisfying customer requirements for food and feed safety QA.

### Industry Services *australia* (ISa)

National Phone number for calls outside NSW: - 1300 781 411

For NSW callers and mobiles: - 02 9428 6144

Fax: 02 9420 9633

email: [graincare@awex.com.au](mailto:graincare@awex.com.au)

website: [www.graincare.com.au](http://www.graincare.com.au)

Mail: PO Box 823 Lane Cove NSW 1595





## Element in focus - G1 – Inputs and Service Suppliers

Each issue of the *Graincare* Newsletter will feature a section focusing on a specific element in the on-farm QA manual for *Graincare*. This issue targets inputs and suppliers (G1) and offers some practical tips to consider when working towards compliance.

The purpose of this element (G1) is to minimise the risk of contamination of inputs, and contamination by inputs of the end product that would compromise food and feed safety. The element also requires the assessment of service suppliers as being competent in meeting the needs of the business.

### **Steps required to ensure compliance with this Element of the Code are:**

#### **Records**

It is necessary to maintain records of inputs used, including details of origin, invoices and usage requirements.

To manage food or feed safety risks the use of fertilisers should be identified through risk management strategies. Information regarding:

- ✓ The identified food or feed safety risks for the crop on which the fertiliser is to be used; and
- ✓ the control measure(s), if any, that are implemented to manage identified risks, if control measures are not required, reasons should be provided.

#### **Transport**

It is important that Inputs are transported in a manner that minimises the risk of them being contaminated, in particular the risks of cross-contamination of one input by another.

Vehicles owned by the property that are used in the transport of inputs shall be cleaned to minimise the risk of contamination of grain by the inputs. Records shall be kept of cleaning operations undertaken, including details of any chemicals used.

Inputs should be segregated from each other in storage.

#### **Suppliers**

Property managers are to assess the competency of service suppliers to their grain growing business. Where utilised, a preferred service supplier list should be maintained for the following:

- ✓ agronomists;
- ✓ contract harvesters and transport operators;
- ✓ fertiliser and chemical spray contractors;
- ✓ any other suppliers who provide agronomic services to the property.

This list shall identify the basis on which property managers have assessed these suppliers as being competent, for example, qualifications, experience, references, etc.

The development of these management practices for this area will ensure appropriate correct records are collected and that your property meets the document management requirements for *Graincare*.