

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM16 - Harvesting Crops Using a Stripper Header



Small grain residue remaining after harvest using a stripper header.

Harvesting crops using a stripper header

Crops will be harvested using a combine with a stripper header so residue of a minimum of 18 inches high will be left standing in the field.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland.

Benefits

The traditional harvesting of small grains such as wheat usually leaves only a portion of the

stalk standing, often less than 12 inches in height. In addition, those portions of the stalk cut during the harvest are either left in a mat on the field or are baled for straw. When using a combine with a stripper header, only the seed head is cut and the entire stalk is left standing. There is no mat of vegetation on the ground that can hinder wildlife/bird movement and the standing stalks may be 24 inches or more in height. This provides winter cover to protect wildlife and birds from the elements and predators.

Criteria for Harvesting crops using a stripper header

This enhancement is for use on dry fields and not fields subject to flooding, including rice fields. Standing residue must not be cut or burned until the landowner is ready to plant a follow-up crop. Standing residue must be a minimum of 18 inches in height. Producers should refrain from all post-harvest chemical and tillage weed control.

Documentation Requirements for Harvesting crops using a stripper header

1. The landowner must provide written documentation stating which fields were harvested using a stripper header.
2. The landowner must provide a map showing which field(s) was harvested using a stripper header.

IDAHO ADDENDUM 2009

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The basic concept of the stripper header is that a rearwards rotating rotor fitted in the front of the header is fitted with 8 rows of stripping fingers that strip grain from the crop as the combine moves the head forwards while it spins backwards. The speed of the rotor can be varied according to crop conditions.

Fingers strip the head running opposite the direction of travel and throw the grain back over into the auger. You can change the speed of the rotor for the fingers. Rotor speed also depends on ground speed.



Harvest efficiency is different when you use a stripper header on your combine. Basically, ground speed is limited by how much grain you throw over, what the return elevator can handle and how much power you have in your machine. It is the ability to handle the grain, not the straw that is limiting. Going through a green patch, it doesn't slow you down because you're not putting the straw through.



After the grain has been stripped by the rotor a series of deflectors within the header deflect the grain back into a conventional auger and pan. This auger then moves the material to the center where it enters the feederhouse of the combine. 85% of the grain is threshed by the header meaning that the material entering the combine is predominantly grain, chaff, leaf and minimal straw. The benefit of this reduced bulk entering the combine is significantly improved capacity and efficiency.



Stainless steel stripping fingers shown in "aggressive" wheat configuration.

Other benefits include improved performance in down, lodged and hailed crops, both in terms of crop recovery and speed as well as improved performance in green, high moisture and weed infested crops.

Note: Photos shown for information purposes only. NRCS does not endorse any product or equipment. Stripper headers are currently manufactured by Shelbourne-Reynolds and Massey Ferguson.