

# Harvest



## DID YOU KNOW?



**Harvest:** the process or period of gathering crops.



**Combine:** a machine that cuts, threshes, and cleans a grain crop in one operation.



**Auger:** a mechanism within a tube to move liquid or granular materials.



**Grain cart:** a trailer towed by a tractor with a built-in auger.



**Gravity wagon:** an angled wagon that utilizes gravity to make unloading easier.



**Grain hopper trailer:** a trailer pulled by a semi and used to haul bulk commodity products.

## TIMING OF HARVEST

The timing of harvest is key to a successful crop. Corn and soybeans turn a brownish yellow color when they are ready to be harvested. Once they have matured, the farmer knows that they need to start checking the moisture content to see when it's time to start combining. If the moisture content of both the corn and soybeans is too high they will want to wait longer to start combining otherwise they'll get docked when they go to sell it. The reason they are getting docked is that then the elevator would have to dry it themselves, using their own resources. It is important to dry the corn and soybeans so they don't mold while they are stored for the winter.



# EQUIPMENT



When harvesting corn and soybeans, farmers use a corn or a soybean head that attaches to a combine. A combine "combines" three jobs: cutting, threshing, and separating. It cuts the plant at the base, separates the kernels from the cob, and throws the stalks, leaves, husks, and cobs out the back. For soybeans, the farmers use a different attachment on the front of the combine called a bean or draper head. The bean head does the same thing as a corn head it's just made more specifically for soybeans. Before combines and the different heads were invented farmers used to have to do all of these different steps one at a time and by hand.

## ELEVATORS

Many farmers sell their crops to a local elevator. The farmers can either haul it there themselves or have a trucking company haul it for them. A semi-truck would come to the farmer's field, get loaded up with either the corn or soybeans, and haul the grain to the elevator for them. Other farmers may store their grain and sell it later in the year for a higher price due to supply and demand.



## FUN FACTS

- The first combine was developed, tested, and patented in Kalamazoo County, Michigan.
- Every row of corn on a corn cob has the same number of kernels.
- Soybean plants are 3-5 feet tall on average.
- There is a Minor League Baseball team based out of Cedar Rapids with their mascot being a corn cob and call themselves "the Kernels".

## JOKE OF THE DAY

Where do farmer's kids go to grow up?

Kinder garden!

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