



# Grain Bagging Tips

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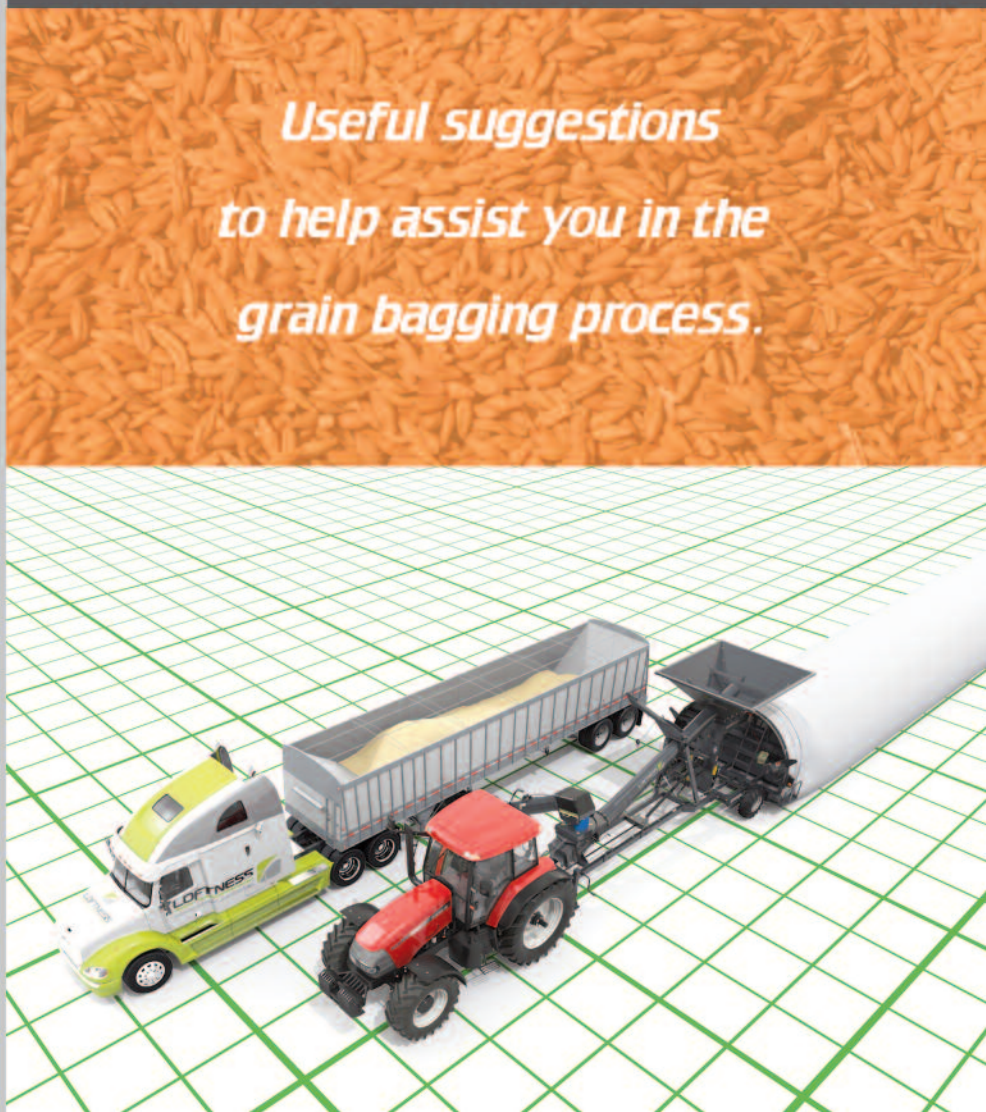
GRAIN BAG UNLOADER  
GRAIN BAG LOADER  
TRUCK UNLOADING AUGER

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**GRAIN LOGIX™**  
GRAIN BAG STORAGE SYSTEMS

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*Useful suggestions  
to help assist you in the  
grain bagging process.*

**LOFTNESS**  
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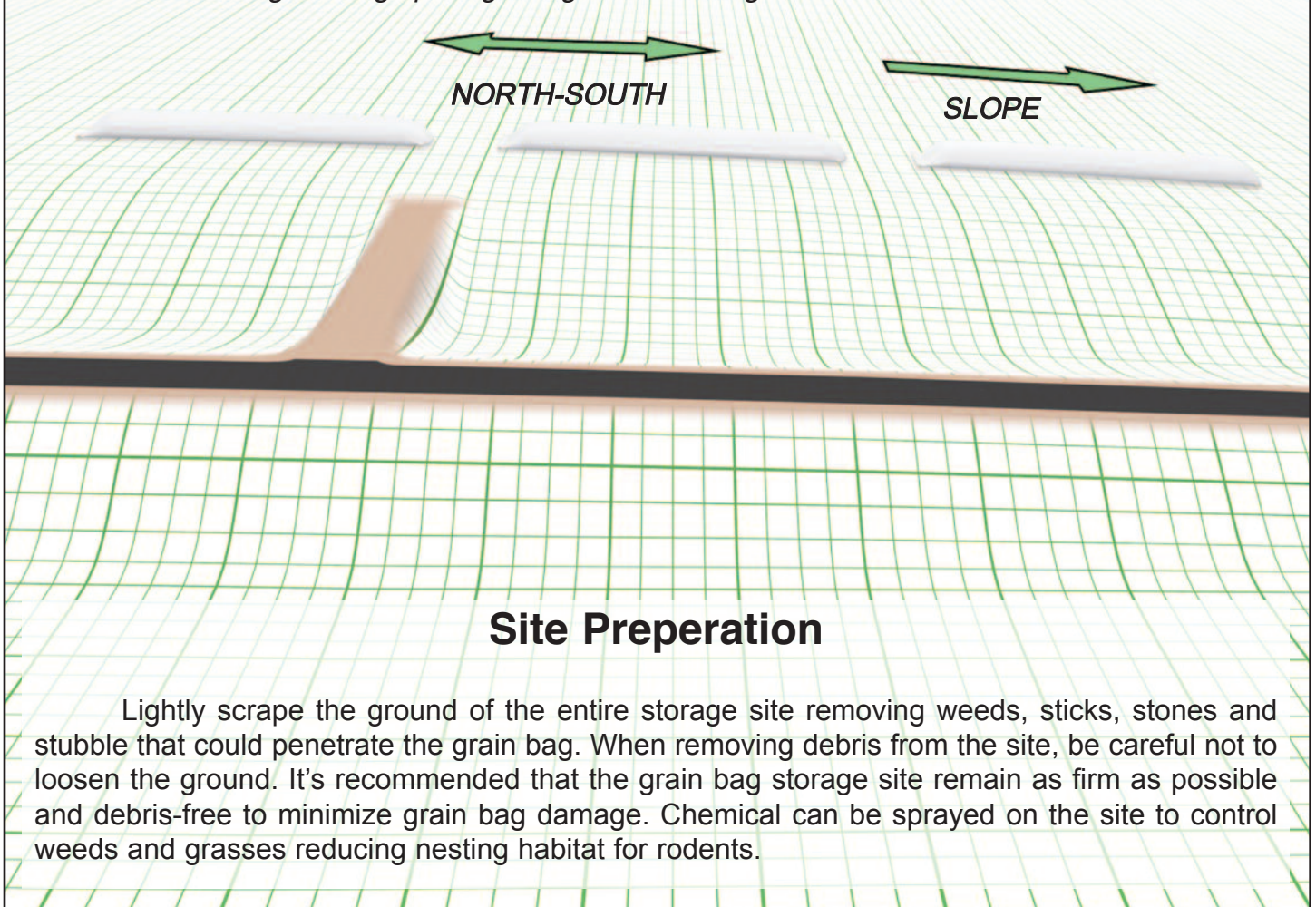
# Tips on Grain Bagging

## Grain Bag Site Selection

When choosing a site to store your grain bags, keep in mind that you'll want access to the bags in all weather conditions and seasons. Therefore, choose a site alongside a road or a firm well-drained area to allow trucks, loading and unloading equipment access to the grain bags. Preparing the site ahead of time will save time and money down the road.

The site should be on an elevated, slightly sloped and firm section of land with no chance of flooding. Check the site for any areas that do not drain naturally, and dig drainage channels to shed the water away from the grain bag storage site. Also, when selecting and preparing the site, keep in mind that machine traction is a very important process during the loading of the grain bags. Poor wheel traction will make it difficult to maintain the proper filling of the grain bag during the loading process.

**NOTE:** DO NOT store grain bags under trees. Branches from the trees can fall onto the top of grain bags and cause stress or puncture the bag. Impact at the highest stress point of the grain bag could result in the grain bag splitting along its entire length.



## Grain Bag Placement

It is recommended that the grain bags be positioned north - south on the storage site. This will allow the grain bags to be exposed to the sun evenly. If the grain bags are positioned east - west the south side of the grain bags will be exposed to the sun the entire day and may damage the grain bags.

It is NOT recommended to position the bag across the slope. Positioning the bag across the slope could cause water build-up along the edge of the bag. This places added stress on one side of the grain bag and may cause the bag to fail. It also prevents water from shedding away from and/or running along the length of the grain bag.

## Storing Grain Bags in the Field

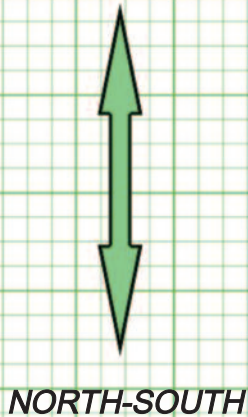
When storing grain bags in the field, it is recommended that the bags be positioned in a line. This will help prevent animals such as rodents and other pests from using the bags as a shelter from the weather and from natural predators.

**NOTE:** Maintaining adequate space between the grain bags for the unloading equipment and trucks to travel between the bags is recommended.

## Grain Bag Spacing

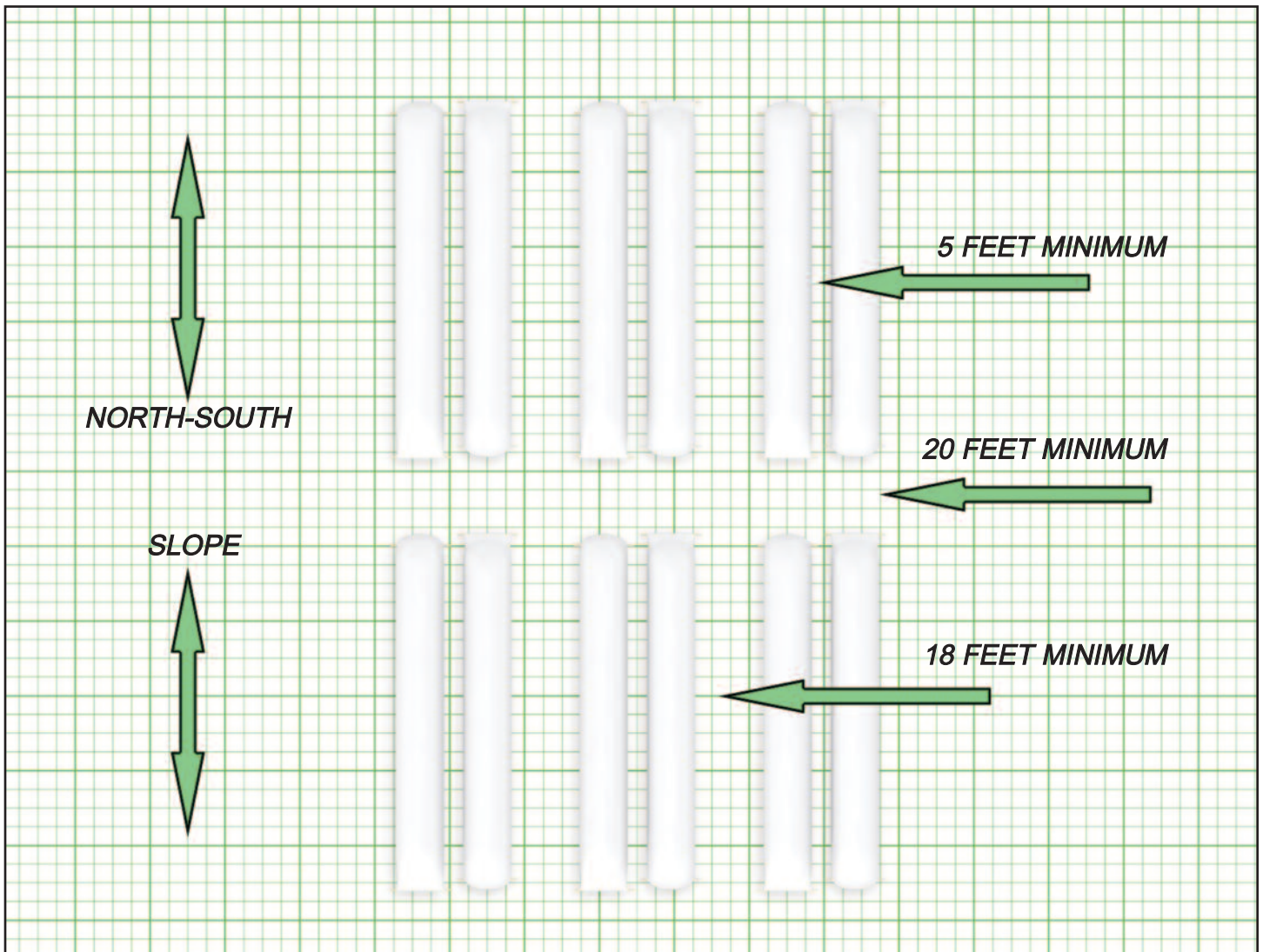
When storing grain bags side by side, it is recommended that you space the grain bags a minimum of 18 ft. apart. This will allow adequate space for the unloading equipment and trucks to travel between the bags during the unloading process.

**NOTE:** Unrestricted travel between all grain bags is recommended.



SLOPE





## Storing Grain Bags in Depots

When storing grain bags in depots, position the bags in pairs approximately 5 ft. (1.5 m) apart and a minimum of 18 ft. (5.5 m) between pairs. 5 feet (1.5 m) is adequate space for the unloader to operate without damaging the adjacent grain bag. Maintaining an 18 foot (5.5 m) spacing between pairs will allow the transport vehicle adequate space to travel.

Load the pair of grain bags opposite from each other. When unloading the grain bags, this will allow the unloading equipment to finish unloading one bag and move directly over and start the unloading of the second bag.

**NOTE:** If the grain bags need to be positioned end to end with another pair, leave approximately 20-26 ft. (6.1-7.9 m) of space between the two pairs of bags. This should be adequate space for the transport vehicle and unloader to travel between the pairs of bags.

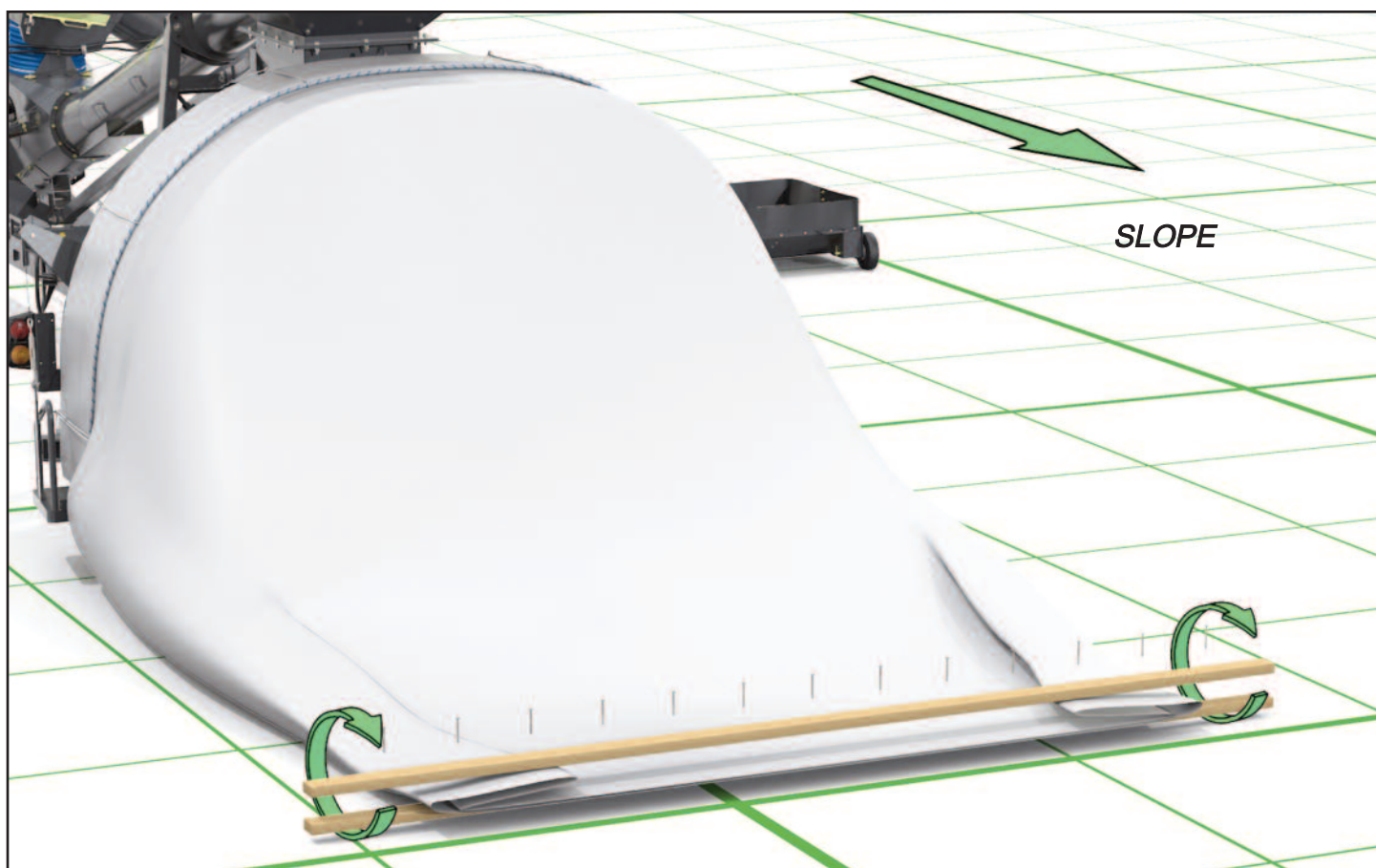


## Loading (Filling) Grain Bags

**NOTE:** For specific settings and instructions, please refer to the Operator's Manual included with the machine or available free online at [www.loftness.com](http://www.loftness.com).

**NOTE:** For more information please refer to the "GrainLogix Training Video" on DVD or Youtube.

Position the loading equipment at the lowest elevation of the storage site and facing up the slope. Loading the bags up a slope will aid the operator in braking the machine. As the grain bag is being filled, the weight of the product will provide downward pressure on the seal and create an



additional seal to help prevent moisture from entering the grain bag.

**Starting A New Grain Bag** - Remove approximately 10-13 ft. (3.1-3.9 m) of the grain bag from the loader (GBL). Align the bag ends and fold the two outer edges of the bag. Start the fold approximately 2 ft. (0.6 m) up on the bag, and then fold it towards the center of the bag.

Place a board underneath the folded end of the bag (the board should be long enough to reach the entire width of the bag), then place a second board on top of the bag. With the folded end of the grain bag positioned between the two boards, fasten the boards together. Flatten the end of the bag, roll the sealed end downward a minimum of three times, and fold it underneath the grain bag as far as possible. As the grain bag is being filled, the weight of the grain will provide downward pressure on the seal and help create an additional seal to help prevent moisture from entering the grain bag.

Install a guideline at the start of the bag, stretching it tight along-side one of the front tires of

## Loading (Filling) Grain Bags con't.

the tractor. Position the guideline as straight as possible along the loading path. The guideline will help the operator maintain the tractor and bag loader position and keep the bag straight during the loading process. It is important to keep the bag straight while loading.

Adjust the grain bag so the vertical guidelines printed on the bags are located at the side of the bag loader / tractor where they can be monitored throughout the bagging process. To help insure the bag is being filled to capacity, adjust the brake pressure on the bag loader in small increments until there are no wrinkles or loose plastic present. If bag begins to stretch, decrease the brake pressure of the bag loader in small increments until stretching is eliminated.

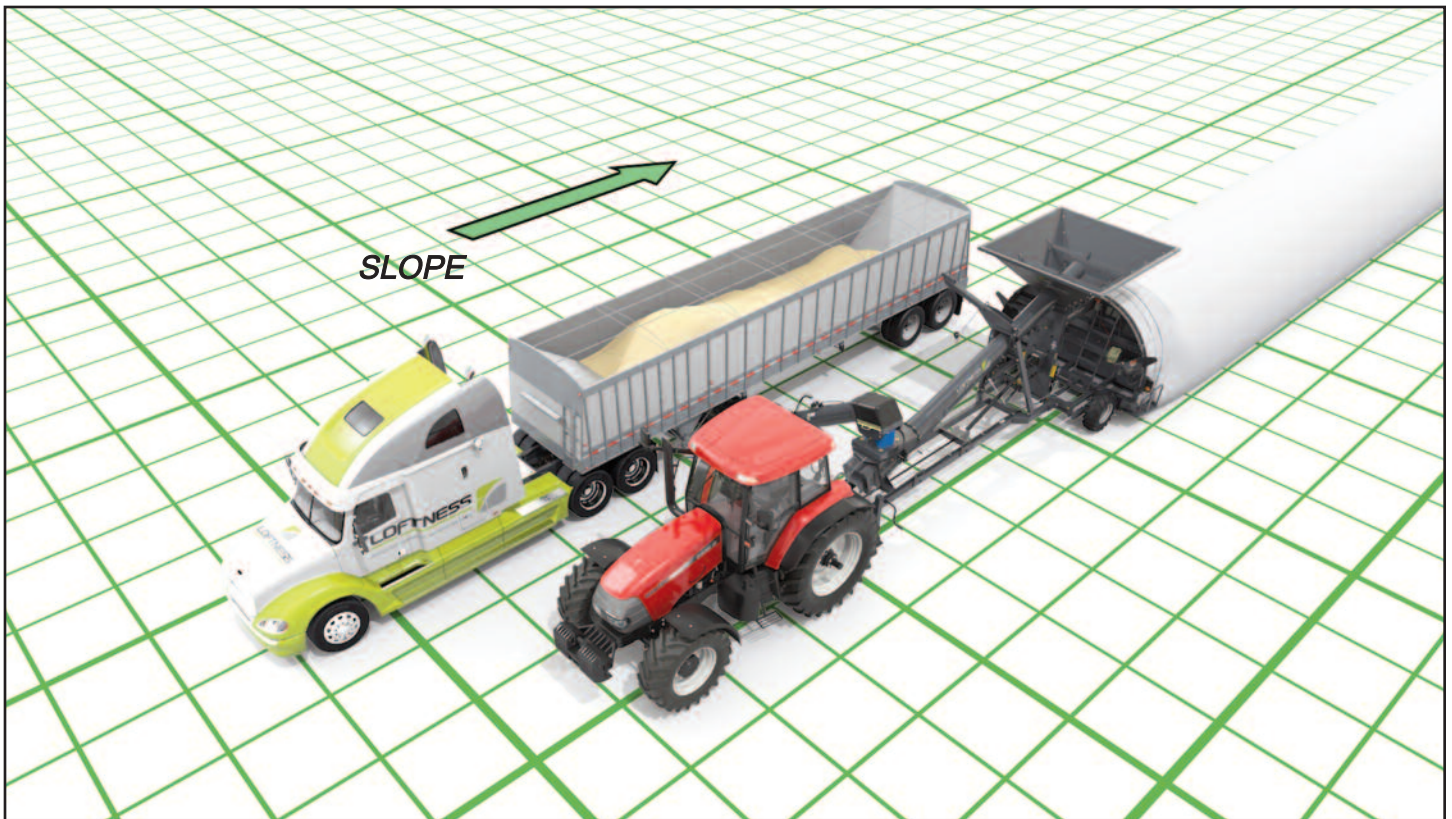
**NOTE:** Proper filling of the grain bag ensures that the maximum amount of oxygen is removed from the bag. Less oxygen in the bag decreases the chance of spoilage.

**NOTE:** The bag should be full. Fill the bag until there are no wrinkles or loose plastic present. **DO NOT STRETCH** or over-fill the bag. Never exceed the grain bag manufacturer's specifications.

**NOTE:** The grain bag expansion will vary depending on type of grain and its weight, cleanliness and moisture content. Time of day will also affect the expansion of the grain bag. Warmer temperatures increase the bag's expanding, which requires less brake pressure on the bag loader. Cooler temperatures decrease the bag's expanding, which requires more brake pressure on the bag loader.

**Always refer to the bag manufacturer's recommendations regarding proper bag filling & bag expansion specifications.**

## Sealing the Bag

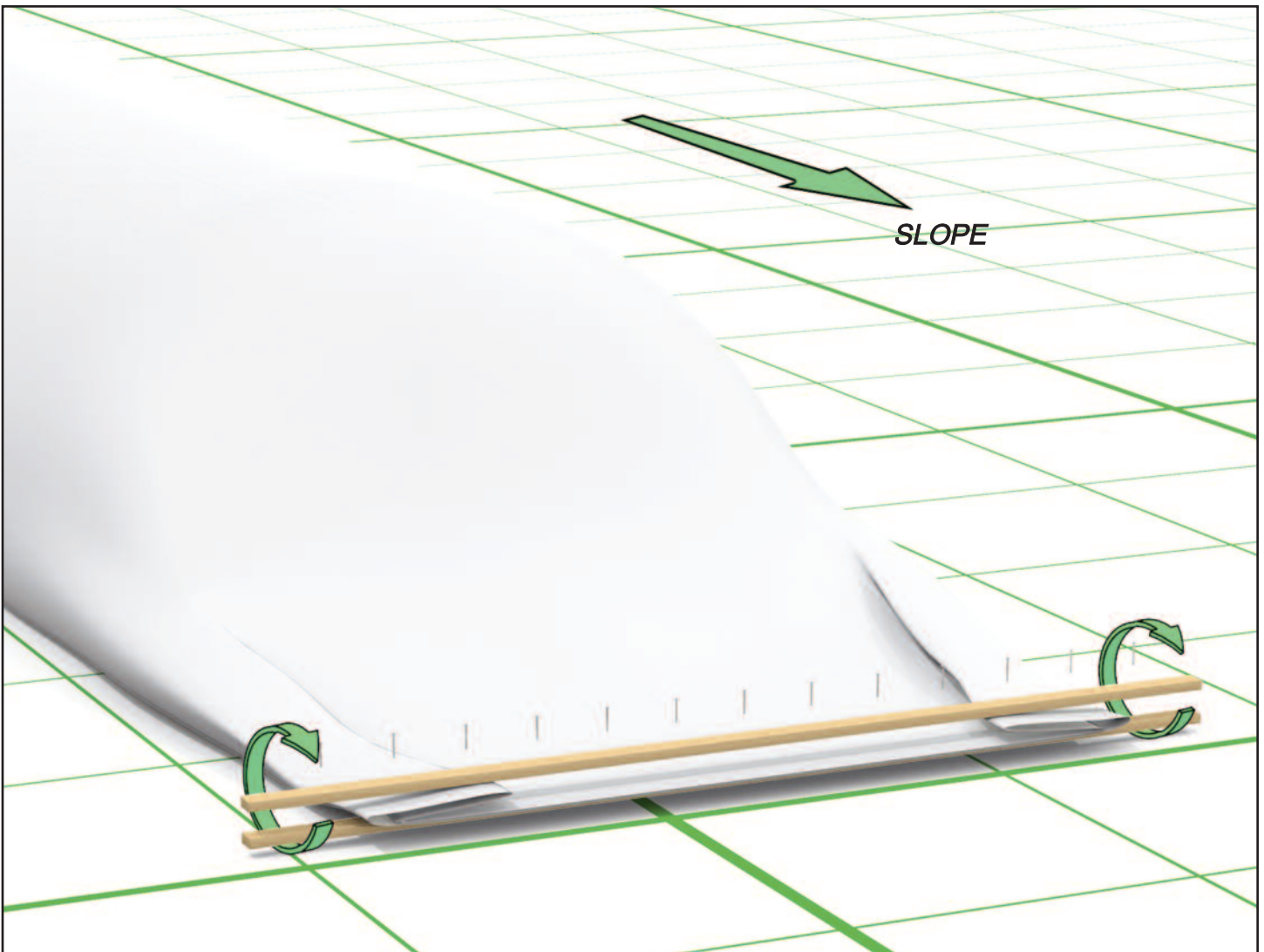


**Sealing A Loaded Grain Bag** - Leave approximately 10-13 ft. (3.1-3.9 m) of the grain bag empty for sealing. The entire 10-13 ft. (3.1-3.9 m) of unused bag is not needed for sealing the bag but will aid in the unloading process.

Seal the grain bag with the same procedure used when starting a new grain bag. Once the loaded grain bag has been sealed, roll the bag underneath the grain as far as possible to get some grain weight on the boards. This will also help prevent rodents and birds from entering in through any loose or unsealed portion of the finished bag end. Also inspect the grain bag for any loose creases and tape them down.

**NOTE:** When the grain bag is full, seal the bag as soon as possible to eliminate the chance of excess moisture entering the bag and damaging the grain.

## Causes of Grain Spoilage



Conventional/Traditional storage methods: Problems with “moisture migration” or “top crusting” due to large surface to volume ratio. Insect and rodent access due to lack of sealing of conveyors, fans, doors and eaves.

Grain Bags: The oxygen level inside the bag is reduced, and the concentration of carbon dioxide increased after the bag is filled and sealed. This environment virtually eliminates fungal diseases and insects without the use of chemicals, which means less toxicity, and helps manage the “migration of moisture” and/or “top crusting”.

## Grain Bag Protection

To help prevent animals or livestock grazing in the area from damaging the grain bags, install a wire fence around the entire storage site. Maintain approximately 7-10 ft. (2.1-3.1 m) between the bags and the wire fence. Keep the site free of weeds, grass and debris to help prevent rodents from damaging the grain bags. Use locally approved baits or traps when necessary. Netting can also be used to repel unwanted birds.

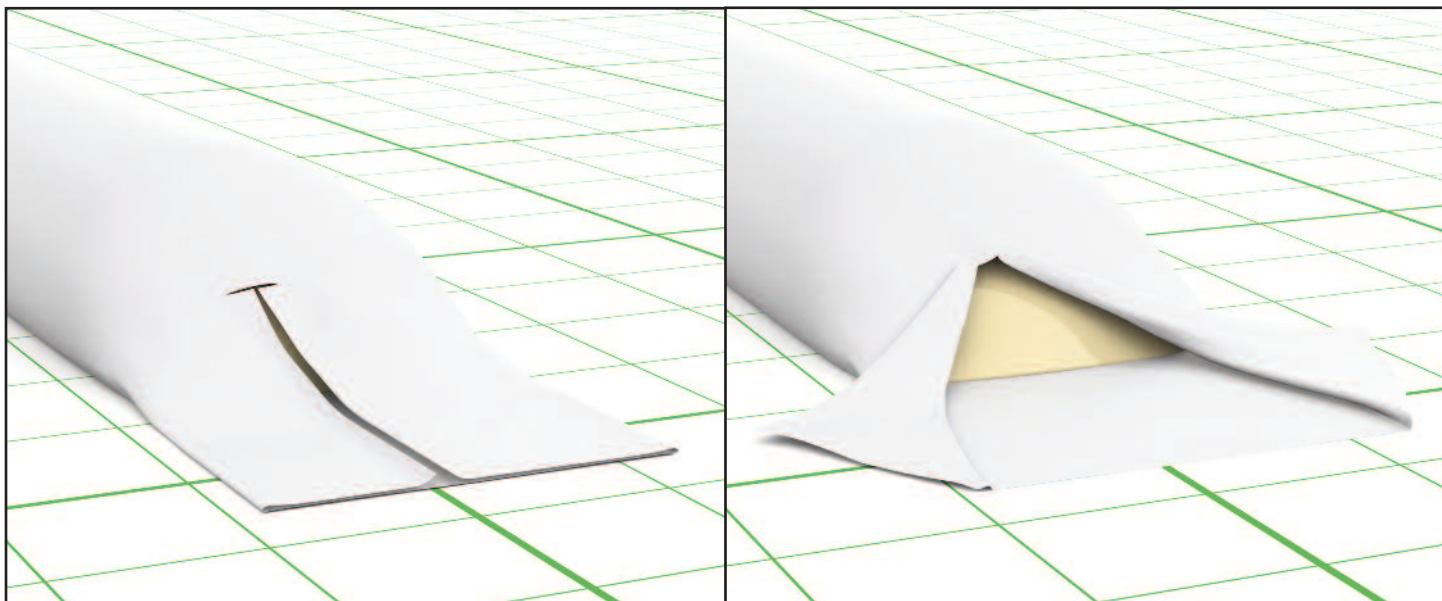
Thoroughly inspect the grain bags weekly for punctures. Seal all punctures as soon as possible. It is important to repair damaged areas quickly to help prevent moisture from entering the grain bag. Inspect the grain bags immediately after every storm for damage. Small damaged areas can be repaired with bag manufacturer’s specified tape. If the damage is too great to be repaired with the specified tape, it’s recommended that the bag be emptied and the grain loaded into a new bag.

When storing grain bags in a stubble field, it is recommended that a fire break be constructed to protect the bags from potential fire hazards.

## Opening the Bag

Grain bags are filled under pressure. Extreme care should be taken when opening the bag at the beginning of the extraction process. It is very important that a horizontal cut be made first. This will help prevent the bag from opening quickly along the entire length of the bag. After making the horizontal cut, make a vertical cut from the horizontal cut all the way down to the end of the bag.

## Extracting Grain from the Bag



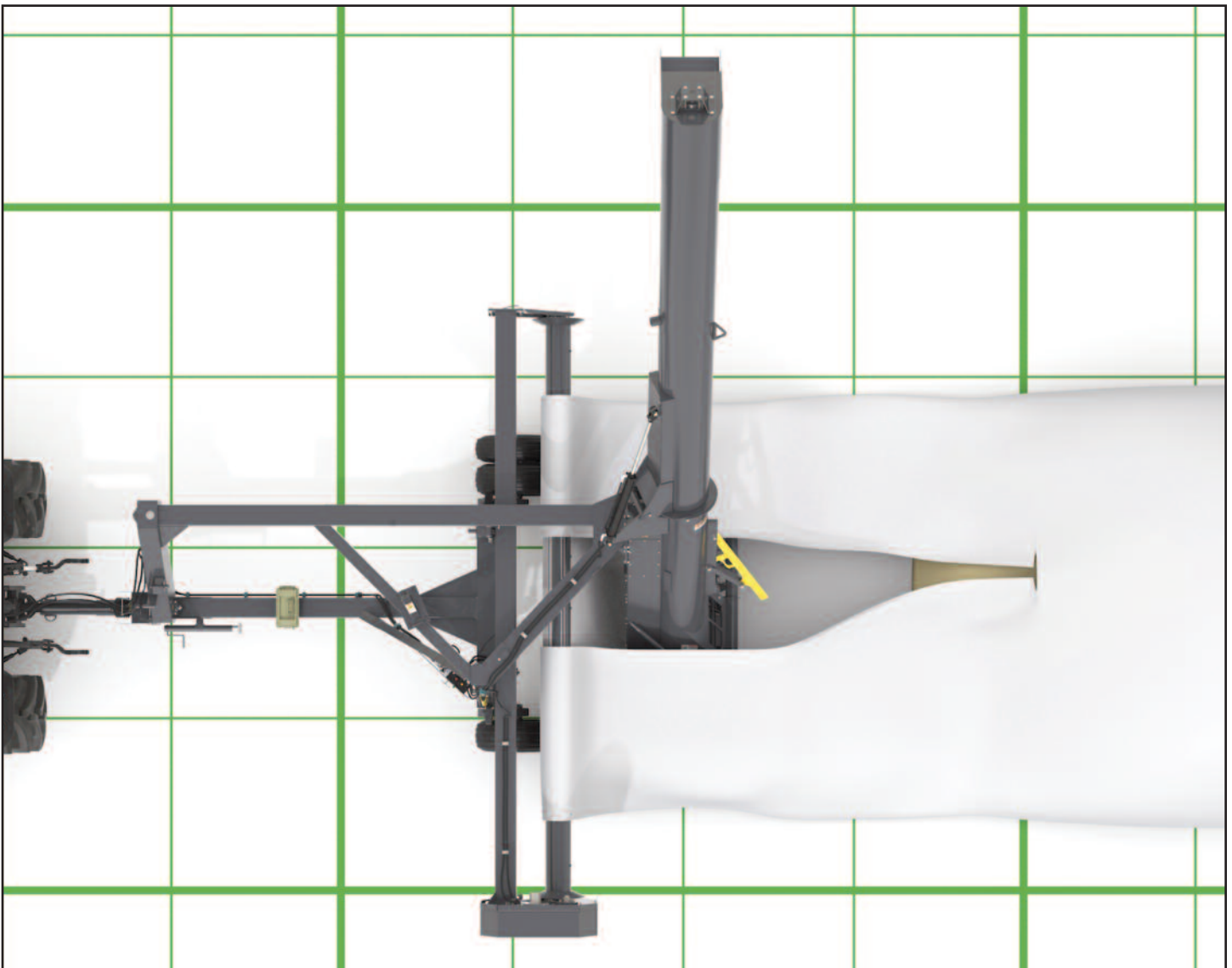
**NOTE:** For specific settings and instructions please refer to the Operator's Manual included with the machine or available free online at [www.loftness.com](http://www.loftness.com).

**NOTE:** For more information please refer to the "GrainLogix Training Video" on DVD or Youtube.

Position the Grain Bag Unloader (GBU) and tractor at the end of the grain bag. During the extraction process, the operator of the tractor is required to remain in the operator's position at all times to start and stop the PTO shaft and to keep the tractor / GBU centered on the grain bag. Position a person alongside the GBU to monitor grain intake and to pause the unloader when the grain transport vehicle is full.

The operator of the grain transport vehicle is required to remain in the operator's position at all times during the extraction process to move the grain transport vehicle and monitor when the vehicle is full.

Open the grain bag and place the GBU cross augers into the grain bag, slide the bag underneath the cross augers and lower the bag unloader. Wrap the grain bag over the top and completely around the roller to secure the bag on the roller hooks. Start roller rotation and begin pulling the GBU and tractor into the bag. Roll up enough of the grain bag to make the bag taut while keeping the cross augers buried in the grain. Guide the bag as it advances onto the roller, making sure the bag is straight and even on the roller.

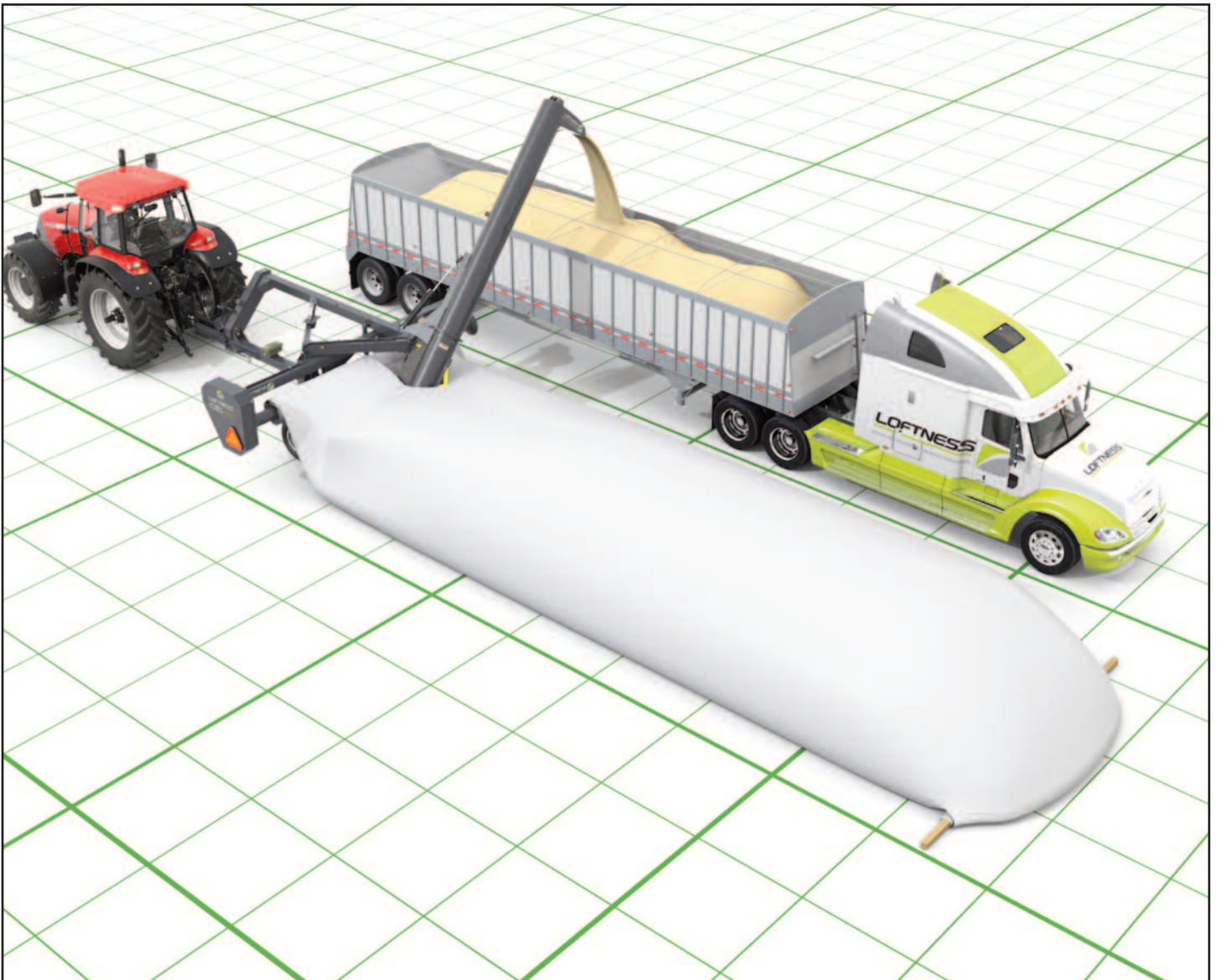


## Extracting Grain from the Bag con't.

Move the grain transport vehicle or cart into position. Engage the tractor PTO shaft at a slow speed to ensure grain will start flowing up the auger. Gradually increase the PTO speed until it reaches 540 RPM.

Once extraction has begun and the GBU is deeper into the bag, be sure the bag cutting knife is in-line with the starting cut and is cutting the bag properly. Increase or decrease the roller speed, while adjusting the roller height to avoid grain build-up by the roller. The grain level should remain just below roller height. Maintain an adequate distance from the tires on the GBU and the mound at the bottom of the grain bag.

Keep the tractor and GBU operating in a straight line and centered on the grain bag. Adjust the tractor and GBU as needed to maintain the operating path until the desired amount of grain is extracted from the bag. Grain can be extracted until the cross augers make contact with the end of the grain bag. Clean up any remaining grain and remove the grain bag from the GBU.





## WHY BUY A LOFTNESS GRAIN BAG SYSTEM?

- Designed and built in the United States for North American farmers, utilizing US components and workmanship.
- Speed up your harvest. Don't wait for trucks, the dryer or in elevator lines. Fill bags in the field and keep the combines moving.
- Fill bags from combine, grain carts or even semi-trucks.
- Expand the capacity of your existing grain handling system.
- Easily segregate your grain or seed by variety, moisture content, etc.
- It's a fraction of the cost of a grain bin set-up.
- There are no property taxes on the grain bag system or grain bags.
- Can be depreciated faster than grain bins.
- Store your grain in bags for about 5-7 cents per bushel.
- Eliminate elevator storage costs.
- Reduce your labor force; less trucks are required.
- Remove grain from bag after harvest when time is more abundant.
- Control your own marketing strategy.
- Easy to use, operator-friendly.
- Bag your crop at the rate of 30,000 bu/hr.
- Supported by local dealerships, backed by factory-trained technicians and local sales representatives.
- Fifty-seven year company history with state-of-the art manufacturing facility.
- Quality-controlled product designed for minimal dealer assembly, followed by one year factory warranty.
- Professionally staffed repair parts department providing service for parts when needed (24 hour ordering via email, or fax).
- Non-proprietary off-the-shelf wear items that can be sourced and purchased locally.
- New and innovative product design changes are on-going to provide customer satisfaction.
- Up-to-date accurate website for customer service.
- Operator's manuals and parts books are available online free of charge.
- Company reliability has proven track record with dealers and retail customers.
- Extra capacity and flexibility whether you have to store 10,000 or 1,000,000 or more bushels of corn, wheat, soybeans, rice, sunflowers or other grains.
- Keep your grain protected from bugs within low oxygen and high CO2 environment.
- Store your grain in any suitable location, on lot, on farm or in the field.
- Provides extra storage for rented land, short-term contracts or bumper crops.
- Load and unload bags with very little manual labor or spillage.
- Contained system reduces grain dust.
- More features than competitive models.
- Loftness is, and has been, a family owned business since 1956.  
See our company history online at:  
<http://www.loftness.com/about.cfm>.





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Call us or ask your local Loftness Dealer about the new Loftness GrainLogix System 12 High Performance 12 foot Grain Bag Loader.

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