

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**NEWS RELEASE
November 23, 2010,
Commissioners Clark, Cramer and Kalk**

****For Immediate Release**
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Grain Storage Levels at All-Time High

A strong North Dakota harvest has resulted in a record amount of grain storage licensed this year. As of November 19, 2010 there were approximately 406 million bushels of storage licensed by the state and federal government breaking the all-time record of 343 million bushels at this time in 2007.

All grain storage must be licensed, bonded and insured, including temporary storage consisting of ground, bunker, and leased space. Currently, there are 60.1 million bushels of temporary storage licensed compared to previous record of 46.7 million bushels of temporary storage licensed in late November 2007.

“The 2010 grain harvest was one of the better harvests that North Dakota producers have experienced,” said Commissioner Tony Clark, who holds the portfolio for grain elevators. “The increasing production of North Dakota’s farmers set the stage for this record level of licensed storage.”

Storage capacity at grain warehouses has steadily increased over the past several years. Increases in capacity can be seen all over the state, but they have been more predominant in the central and eastern regions this year.

“In my conversations with producers and elevator managers, they tell me more farmers are building private storage facilities as well. The modern farmer uses more tools to market his products at better prices. Storage is definitely one of those tools,” said Commission Chairman Kevin Cramer.

Requiring grain warehouses to be licensed, bonded and insured provides protection to farmers in case a facility becomes insolvent or suffers a disaster.

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