## Contents

Summary and Conclusions  1

Chronology of the Use of Water on Grain  5

Justification for Allowing Application of Water and Oil for Dust Suppression  10

Air Pollution Regulations  10
OSHA Regulations  11
Insurance Rates  12
Grain Quality  13
Congressional Actions  13

Frequency and Causes of Grain Dust Explosions  14

Improved Air Quality  20

Grain Quality Considerations  22

Cost and Effectiveness of Alternative Technologies  25

Pneumatic Systems  25
Housekeeping Practices  27
Use of Liquid Additives  27
  Effectiveness of Oil as a Dust Suppressant  27
  Effectiveness of Water as a Dust Suppressant  28
Cost Comparisons.  32
Economic Impacts  35
Results of the Survey  36
  Dust Control Techniques  36
  Motivation for Implementing Dust Control Strategies  37
  Base Moisture Levels Used in Buying Grain  37
Regulation of Alternative Technologies  39

Monitoring the Use of Water on Grain  42

Practices in Other Countries  51

A Market Directed Solution  53

References  56
TABLES

Table 1. Opacity Limits by Type of Facility 12
Table 2. Five-year Average Grain Elevator Explosions and U.S. Grain Export Volumes, 1960-1994 18
Table 3. Comparison between Grain Elevator Dust Explosions and Grain Export Volume 18
Table 4. Equilibrium Moisture Contents at 25C of Common Grains, Seeds, and Feed Ingredients at Relative Humidities of 65-90%, and Fungi Likely to be Encountered 23
Table 5. Financial Impact of Water and Oil Dust Suppressants on Soybeans 34
Table 6. Number of Responses by Type of Firm, 1994 36
Table 7. Method of Dust Control by Type of Firm, 1994 37
Table 8. Primary Motive for Using Dust Control Practices 38
Table 9. Base Moisture Content Used in Purchasing Grain 39
Table 10. Weight or Price Adjustments for Grain Below Base Moisture Content 55

FIGURES

Figure 1. Annual Number of Dust Explosions 17
Figure 2. Grain Elevator Explosions Versus Grain Export Volume 19