Combine Cleanout Procedures

Here are some practices that may be helpful in getting the palmer contamination cleaned out of a combine.

Depending on make, model, and age of the machine there can be some challenges to complete some of the following recommendations.

1. Get a bale of wood shavings and a couple bales of straw.  Spread the straw in the head so that it slug feeds into the machine, this will fill up the throat and purge the throat of anything loose.  Then run the shavings through as a secondary precaution to help in the flushing process through the internal parts of the machine.
2. Take the service doors off the side of the machine to be able to clean around the concaves and the rotor.  Make sure to use extra caution to make sure all of the nooks and crannies are well cleaned and inspected especially the top of the rotor.
3. Blow down the shoe under the rotor.  Blow out the sieves and the Chaffer.
4. Remove pans under the clean grain and return augers.  If they don’t have a removable pan use a bag of wood pellets to fill the flighting of the auger to purge the tubes.  Make sure the bottom of the elevators are open so it all falls out on the ground when you run the machine.
5. Open all inspection doors on grain tank and unload auger and blow out.
6. Make sure to take plenty of time inspecting all corners and choke points inside the machine to effectively clean out all contamination.

As you know with pigweed seed it is very small.  These practices in no way guarantee to have the machine perfectly clean!

If you have any questions let me know.

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