VyRal

A LeakReceipts Field Guide

LeakReceipts for Grain Producers

The Field Guide: where the money leaks, how to prove it, and how to close it

For: Grain Producer — Elevator Settlement

by VyRal Dynasty

LeakReceipts for Grain Producers The Field Guide: where the money leaks, how to prove it, and how to close it

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How every number in this book is labeled.

- **VERIFIED** means the figure comes from a named, dated source, and the source is printed next to it.
- **CALCULATED** means it is arithmetic on verified numbers or on your own numbers, and the math is shown.
- **ESTIMATE** means a reasoned range, and it is always called one.
- **STRUCTURAL** marks a standing rule of the trade (a law, a contract term, how the paperwork works), not a market figure.
- **STILL BEING MEASURED** means VyRal has not verified a figure yet, so no number is printed.

If a number is not labeled, it is a blank for you to fill from your own paper.

What this book is not. This is education, not legal, tax, accounting or financial advice. Where a fix says a professional decides, a professional decides. Nothing here says that any company, customer or person did anything wrong. The fixes show you how to check your own paper and ask in writing.

About how this book was made. This book was assembled with AI from VyRal's sourced research on this trade and checked against those sources. AI can make mistakes. Before you act on a figure, check it against the source printed beside it. Rules and rates change, and every figure carries its date for that reason.

Before you share any document with anyone, Vera included, black out account numbers, Social Security numbers and anything else you would not hand a stranger.

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The short answer for your trade

Your settlement ticket has two halves. One half is graded against federal standards you can verify and appeal. The other half — moisture discount, shrink, drying charge, storage, basis — is computed entirely on the elevator's own equipment, against the elevator's own numbers, with no federal standard behind it. The single biggest deduction on that ticket, moisture, isn't even a federal grade factor. Most producers never separate the two halves, never request an official inspection when a grade looks wrong, and deliver the bulk of the crop at harvest — the single weakest basis window of the year — by default rather than by choice.

Your leak map

Every leak this book covers, biggest first. The size grade is VyRal's research grade for how much money a leak tends to move in this trade. It is a grade, not a dollar figure. Your own paper sets the dollars.

#	Leak	Size grade	Evidence	Fixes
1	Basis Is Structurally Weakest at Harvest	Major	VERIFIED	1
2	Federal Grade Standard vs. Elevator's House Grade	Major	VERIFIED	1
3	Moisture Is Not a Federal Grade Factor	Major	VERIFIED	1
4	Right to Official USDA Inspection and Appeal	Major	VERIFIED	1
5	State Grain Indemnity Fund Coverage (or Its Absence)	Major	VERIFIED	1
6	Grain Shrink Factor Applied Per Point of Moisture	Significant	VERIFIED	1
7	Self-Employment Tax Boundary (SECA)	Moderate	STRUCTURAL	1
8	Pride Economy — Owned Harvest and Handling Equipment	Small but common	STRUCTURAL	1

What people in your trade say hurts

Before we built a single fix, we went and read what people in this trade say out loud: forums, trade press, regulators' complaint files and court records. These are the pains that kept coming up, the ones with the most sources first. If one of them is yours, you're not imagining it.

Freight costs hide in my basis and in the haul to a better bid

Barge, rail and truck freight all cost more, and the elevator prices that into the bid. The farther buyer that paid more last year can now pay less after the diesel to get there.

Found in 5 public sources; newest dated 2026-10-27. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Diesel and fertilizer jumped after I budgeted, and grain prices didn't follow

I budgeted diesel at one price and paid about double. Fertilizer is up too. What I pay for inputs has climbed far faster than what I get for my crop, and most growers expect lower income this year.

Found in 3 public sources; newest dated 2026-10-07. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

No room to store, so I sell at harvest into the worst basis

Big crops are outrunning storage in several states. Elevators fill up, pile grain on the ground and charge more for space, and the local bid drops. Without my own bins I have to take what's offered at harvest.

Found in 3 public sources; newest dated 2026-10-29. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

The buyer went broke and the fund pays back only part of my grain

When a grain dealer files bankruptcy, I get a short window to file a written claim. The fund pays a share, not all of it, up to a cap, and some states have no fund at all. Grain sold but not yet paid for is the most exposed.

Found in 3 public sources; newest dated 2026-03-26. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Thin margins push me to roll over loans, and more farms are going under

Cash flow sits near break-even, so lenders are rolling loans over and tightening credit. Farm bankruptcies jumped this spring to the most in six years, with fuel and fertilizer called the breaking point.

Found in 2 public sources; newest dated 2026-05-01. VERIFIED count from VyRal's public research log; the sources are listed at the back.

Get your paper together

Every fix in this book starts with paper, not memory. Memory rounds in the other side's favor. Paper doesn't.

Pull the last 90 days. Put it all in one folder, paper or phone, and label each piece with its date. Black out account numbers and Social Security numbers before you share anything with anyone.

The paper that proves each leak:

- Your contracts, invoices, statements, pay records and the messages around them.

My folder checklist

Last 90 days of statements or pay records _____

Every contract or agreement I work under _____

Every invoice, ticket or settlement for the same 90 days _____

The messages that changed a price, a scope or a date _____

Leak 1: Basis Is Structurally Weakest at Harvest

Size grade: Major · Evidence: VERIFIED

What it is. Local cash price equals the nearby futures price adjusted by basis, and basis runs seasonally weakest (most unfavorable to the seller) during peak harvest, when the largest share of the crop is delivered simultaneously and elevator storage fills fastest.

Why it leaks. A producer who delivers and prices the whole crop at harvest under a flat cash contract locks in the single weakest basis window of the year by structural default — without ever comparing what the same bushel would bring a few weeks later at the same elevator.

The number to hold it against. About $0.11/bu: the average corn basis dip at harvest across the 12-state Corn Belt (median decline $0.19/bu in Illinois). Basis bottoms around mid-October. Source: Belman, Janzen & Vizcarrondo, farmdoc daily, University of Illinois, Sept. 17, 2026.

VERIFIED · Near-primary — research body

> **Ask yourself:** What was your basis at harvest delivery, and what was it at the same elevator 60-90 days later?

1. Pricing the whole crop at harvest, in the weakest basis window

Fix approved · leak evidence: Verified

Fix 1 — Do it yourself (free).

1. On your harvest settlement tickets, write down the basis you got and the date.
2. Write down the same elevator's posted basis 30, 60 and 90 days later (ask the elevator, or save their bid sheets).
3. Work out what storage would have cost you for that time from your own bin costs or the elevator's storage charge, in writing (CALCULATED: basis change minus storage cost).
4. Keep this record each year.
5. Next harvest, use your own record to decide how much to sell at harvest and how much to store or contract for later. This is a decision from your own past numbers, not a price forecast.

Fix 2 — The words to send, under your own name. Fill in the brackets, keep a copy, and send it from your own email or by mail. Nobody sends it for you.

> To: [ELEVATOR NAME] — Grain Desk
>
> Hello, this is [YOUR NAME], customer #[ACCOUNT #]. Could you send me (1) your posted cash bids and basis for [CROP] on [DATES], and (2) your current storage and handling charges, in writing? I am planning how much to sell at harvest next year. Thank you.
> [YOUR NAME], [PHONE / EMAIL]

Fix 3 — Done for you. **LeakReceipts · Rate & Price Builder**

WE DO: build a year-by-year record of your harvest basis against the same elevator's later basis, minus your own storage cost. YOU DO: collect the bid sheets and decide when to sell.

Keep it closed. Record harvest basis and later basis every year so your next marketing plan rests on your own numbers.

What this fix can't decide for you. Not a market forecast or marketing advice; recommendations come from his own record only. No claim about any named elevator.

My receipt for this leak			
Owed by my paper	Paid or billed	Gap (CALCULATED: owed − paid)	Fix 2 sent · answer

FREE FIRST CHAPTER

That's Leak 1 of 8.

The full Field Guide for Grain Producers walks through every leak on the map you just read: why it happens, the paper that proves it, and three fixes for each one — one you do yourself for free, the words to send under your own name, and what LeakReceipts can do for you while the decision stays yours.

Get the full guide:
leakreceipts.com/ebooks/grain-producers

Run it on your own numbers:
leakreceipts.com

WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT — 2 Corinthians 5:7