



Western Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

Date: April 4, 2023
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (CDT)
Location: Winnipeg, MB
303 Main Street – 6th Floor Large Boardroom

Members

Description

Canadian Grain Commission

Doug Chorney (Chairperson)
Derek Bunkowsky
Esther Salvano

Chief Commissioner
Chief Grain Inspector for Canada
Director General, Grain Research Laboratory

Nominated by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa

Saskatoon Research and Development Centre (Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada)

Vacant

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Processors of grain

Caalen Covey
Kevin Sich

Canadian National Millers Association
Brewing & Malting Barley Research Institute

Exporters of grain

Tala Mobayen
Robert Tkatchuk

Canadian Special Crops Association
Canadian Grain & Oilseed Exporters Association

Producers of western grain

Justin Bell
Chad Doerksen
Steven Donald
Gregg Fotheringham
Clayton Harder

Alberta producer (Alberta Wheat Commission)
Saskatchewan producer (Saskatchewan Pulse Growers)
Saskatchewan producer (Canadian Federation of Agriculture)
Manitoba producer (Manitoba Crop Alliance)
Manitoba producer (Canadian Canola Growers Association)

Fiona Jochum
Sean Stanford
Shane Stokke

Manitoba producer (Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association)
Alberta producer (Alberta Barley Commission)
Saskatchewan producer (Flax Council of Canada)

Shanna Stolhandske-Dale
Glenn Tait
Rodney Volk

Saskatchewan producer
Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
Alberta Pulse Growers

Additional

Ian Armer
Robert Chapman
James Dunlop
Darren Highfield

Terminal Elevator Association
Inland Terminal Association of Canada
Canola Council of Canada
Country Elevator Association

Regrets

Jean Harrington

Saskatchewan producer

Observers

Patty Rosher
Lonny McKague
Gino Castonguay
Véronique Barthelet
Marta Izydorczyk
Ning Wang
Bin Xiao Fu
Evan Thomas
Joey Vanneste
Kris Wonitowy
Shanell Dupras
Laura Lapointe
Janelle Whitley
James Lokken

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Canadian Grain Commission
Cargill
Canadian Canola Growers Association
Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Recording Secretary

Josie Valle

Canadian Grain Commission

Recommendations

- A motion was carried to revise the severe sprouted definition in the wheat chapter of the Official Grain Grading Guide
- A motion was carried to align primary and export test weight minimums and total foreign material tolerances with current export levels in the wheat chapter of the Official Grain Grading Guide
- A motion was carried to postpone the alignment of primary and export test weight minimums and total foreign materials tolerances with current export levels until a comprehensive economic analysis is performed and the results considered by the Western Standards Committee
- A motion was carried to use the last designated standard and print samples for other grades of grain grown in the Western Division

Action items

Revisions to the Official Grain Grading Guide for August 1, 2023 include:

- All grains
 - o Update the definition for “Processed sample” in all chapters
- Oilseeds
 - o Update the determination of dockage process in the canola chapter
- Pulses
 - o Update the composition of dockage to include insect parts and update the definition for insect parts in lentils, beans, chickpeas and fababeans chapters
- Barley and other cereal grains
 - o Update the composition of dockage to include the percentage of hulled seeds in dockage and update the definition of foreign material and hulled seeds in the canary seed chapter

Chairperson’s comments

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Welcome to members
- Noted that Dr. Peter Burnett, former Director of our Grain Research Laboratory and a member of the Eastern Standards Committee and Western Standards Committee, passed away

Approval of the April 4, 2023 Western Standards Committee agenda

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- A motion was carried to approve the meeting agenda

Approval of the November 1, 2022 Western Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- A motion was carried to approve the meeting minutes

Business arising

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- No business arising was discussed

Grain standards review and advisory committee update

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Provided a rationale for the changes proposed to the grain standards advisory committees (formerly sub-committees) and that the Canadian Grain Commission would be extending membership to the east with goal to provide additional balance

Standards committee member comments

- Requested clarification on what the premise was behind the eastern representation

- It was explained that eastern stakeholders felt excluded and did not know all the industry initiatives that were underway
- Advisory committees are not decision-making bodies and instead conduct research analysis to bring recommendations forward to the standards committees

Grain grading modernization update

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

Summary

- In 2017, the Canadian Grain Commission undertook a grain grading modernization project at the request of producer organizations where it was identified that several aspects of the grain grading system were out of date, and in need of review
 - [Updates on this project are available](#) on the Canadian Grain Commission website
 - The focus of the project has been to uphold the integrity of the grain grading system, and address any concerns identified by grain industry stakeholders and the Canadian Grain Commission

Pulses Advisory Committee report

Lead: Joey Vanneste

Summary

- The Pulses Advisory Committee report was presented, including discussions on:
 - red lentil wrinkled seed effects on dehulling efficiency research update
 - insect parts and their inclusion in dockage composition for beans, chickpeas, fababeans and lentils chapters in the Official Grain Grading Guide
 - bi-coloured soybeans potential issues update due to seed coat discolouration in certain environmental conditions
 - processed samples definition clarification in the Official Grain Grading Guide

Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

Summary

- The Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report was presented, including discussions on:
 - potentially changing the No.1 CW General Purpose barley test weight tolerance from 50 to 48 pounds per bushel, based on concerns that had been raised related to crop insurance claims and calculations
 - this item was closed with no changes recommended because the results of this study indicated that there is no scientific evidence supporting a strong relationship between barley test weight and feedlot performance until the test weight decreases significantly
 - heated in oats where it was determined that a change to the Canadian Grain Commission grading standard is not necessary
 - hulled in canary seed and clarifying the definitions for foreign material and hulled seeds in the Official Grain Grading Guide

Oilseeds Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

Summary

- The Oilseeds Advisory Committee report was presented, including discussions on:
 - o the heated canola project update where the Grain Research Laboratory is working on processing samples and a need for analysis before any results can be finalized
 - o the fact that mustard dockage is now included in producers' Harvest Sample Program results
 - o clarification for slotted sieve selection when assessing dockage in the canola chapter of the Official Grain Grading Guide
 - o processed samples definition clarification in the Official Grain Grading Guide

Wheat Advisory Committee report

Leads: Kris Wonitowy and Dr. Bin Xiao Fu

Summary

- The Wheat Advisory Committee report was presented, including discussions on:
 - o the current sprouted tolerance in Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter wheat project, noting that there has been an insufficient number of samples sourced through the Harvest Sample Program for this research and the Canadian Grain Commission may look for alternate ways to source material
 - o the sprouted and severe sprouted definition update in the Official Grain Grading Guide
 - research was presented on the impacts of sprouted and severe sprouted wheat on alpha-amylase activity and Falling Number in CWRS and CWAD.
 - the research found that kernels referred to in the portion of the current severely sprouted definition, "the sprout has been clearly broken and only a portion remains" have similar impacts as regular sprouted
 - o the primary and export standards alignment update, including on test weight tolerances for Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) and Canada Western Amber Durum (CWAD)
 - research was presented on test weight in relation to the functionality of CWRS and CWAD, including data from studies conducted in 2021, 2022 and 2023
 - the research demonstrates that existing export test weight tolerances are required to ensure milling quality and functionality expectations from end-user markets
 - cargo monitoring data shows that average test weight on export cargoes well exceeds the export tolerances
 - there are 21 official grains and 535 grading factors and there are only 4 grading factors remaining in 6 out of 10 western wheat classes where there is a different primary and export standard
 - Canadian Grain Commission presenter stated that alignment to a single standard for test weight will support the science and contribute to the advancement of the grain grading modernization project
 - Canadian Grain Commission presenter stated that it's not in the best interest of producers, handlers or the Canadian Grain Commission for an official grading factor to be managed commercially in delivery contracts using different specifications than

what's in alignment with the *Canada Grain Regulations* and Official Grain Grading Guide

- A motion was carried to revise the severe sprouted definition
- A motion was carried to align primary and export test weight minimums, and total foreign material tolerances with current export levels
- A motion was carried to postpone the alignment of primary and export test weight minimums and total foreign material tolerances with current export levels until a comprehensive economic analysis is performed and the results considered by the Western Standards Committee

Standards committee member comments

Standards committee members had questions and comments about aligning primary and export test weight tolerances for certain classes of wheat, including discussion on:

- the discrepancy in test weight tolerances between Canada and the United States
- the statistical probability of impacts on shipping and farmers
- blending at the elevator
- the potential expenses and premiums of meeting export specifications
- some members asked for an economic analysis and the Canadian Grain Commission explained it doesn't typically do that work for grading changes or have the resources to do so

Variety identification for malt barley update

Lead: Esther Salvano

Summary

- Provided update on concerns producers brought forward about variety test results for malting barley purity
- Determined that testing methods, as well as undesignated DNA profiles associated with CDC Copeland may be the cause of the results in question
- Discussed that the Grain Research Laboratory is working to develop new testing protocols

Recommendations of standards

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

Summary

A motion was carried to use the last designated standard and print samples for other grades of grain grown in the Western Division

Terms of committee members

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Noted committee members whose terms were set to expire and up for renewal

Closing remarks

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Thanked members for their participation
- Noted the committee is essential to ensure that changes to the grading system reflect the interests and concerns and balance the needs of all parts of Canada's grain sector

- Noted that the Commissioners will carefully consider all recommendations and take them under advisement before any changes are made

Adjournment

Lead: Doug Chorney

Action items

- A motion was carried to adjourn the meeting