



Western Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

Date: April 4, 2024

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (CDT)

Location: Canadian Grain Commission
Winnipeg, MB

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
Avtar Virk

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
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

Steven Donald
Gregg Fotheringham
Clayton Harder
Jean Harrington
Fiona Jochum
Sean Stanford
Shane Stokke
Shanna Stolhandske-Dale
Glenn Tait
Rodney Volk

Saskatchewan producer (Canadian Federation of Agriculture)
Manitoba producer (Manitoba Crop Alliance)
Manitoba producer (Canadian Canola Growers Association)
Saskatchewan producer
Manitoba producer (Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association)
Alberta producer (Alberta Grains)
Saskatchewan producer (Flax Council of Canada)
Saskatchewan producer
Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
Alberta Pulse Growers

Additional

Ian Armer

Terminal Elevator Association

Robert Chapman
James Dunlop
Darren Highfield

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

Observers:

Blair Goldade
Michael Vadnais
Julianne Curran
Gino Castonguay
Joey Vanneste
Veronique Barthet
Lonny McKague
Shanell Dupras
Ning Wang
Ray Bacala
Patty Rosher
Kris Womitowy
Evan Thomas
Briane Stewart
Max Cote
Marta Izydorczyk

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
Canadian Canola Growers Association
Pulse Canada
Canadian Grain Commission
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Regrets:

Chad Doerksen
Justin Bell

Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
Alberta Grains

Recommendations from this meeting

- Accept recommended changes to soybean chapter of the Official Grain Grading Guide to clarify seed coat discolouration (view Oilseed Advisory Committee report section)
- Addition of a variety requirement in the Standard of Quality for Barley, Canada Western Food to create a variety designation list for food barley (view in Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report section)
- Recommendations for the following standards (view in Recommendation of standards section):
 - o The No. 1 and No. 2 Canada Green pea standard samples (2010, 2016) to be repealed and replaced with No. 1 and No. 2 standard prints (2024), effective August 1, 2024
 - o All other standard samples and standard prints for other grains are recommended and carried over for the 2024-2025 crop year

Chairperson's comments

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Welcome to members and asked them to introduce themselves

Approval of the April 4, 2024 Western Standards Committee agenda

Lead: Doug Chorney

Action items

- Meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the October 31, 2023 Western Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: Doug Chorney

Action items

- Meeting minutes were approved.

Business arising

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- No updates given

Oilseed Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information

- Decimal precision for domestic mustard seed, flaxseed and soybeans: making revisions to ensure all determination of commercial cleanliness calculations are made on a consistent basis, effective August 1, 2024
- Heated canola project
 - o Research found that fatty acid composition is affecting the sample as much as the heated and they cannot decipher the difference
 - o Need heated producer samples to mix with an intact sample to decrease the heated tolerance without changing the composition for oil and fatty acid
- Sprouted in brown mustard project
 - o Seeing sprouted mustard with sprouting caused by heat instead of moisture
 - o Working on more samples to assess difference, like oxidation and fatty acids, which will be finished by the next standards committee meeting
- Broken and small canola project
 - o Received a request to look at effect of broken and small canola, material that may be passing through larger slotted sieves
 - o Working on it this year with the goal of presenting results at fall standards committee meeting

For discussion

- Soybean seed coat discolouration

- Initially launched to understand Enlist soybeans and the significant downgrading that occurred in the US which led to them removing the grading factor “soybeans of other colours”. Intent is for us to be proactive to avoid a similar situation happening in Canada
- Soybeans can display seed coat discolouration from a variety of causes that is only present on the seed coat. To be considered damaged, soybeans must be damaged internally
- Proposing some changes to the Official Grain Grading Guide to clarify and reduce downgrades from seed coat discolouration:
 - remove “badly” from the Degree of soundness for the No. 4 and No. 5 grades
 - change grading factor from “Other colours and bicoloured other than for mixed soybeans” to “Other colours”
 - add table to colour definition
 - update Stained and Mottled definition
 - Proposed wording: Staining or mottling on the surface may be caused by weather, dirt, weed stain, disease or varietal characteristic. If the soybeans are not damaged or discoloured internally, they are considered sound.
- Inspectors will still have to cut the seed to determine discolouration versus damage
- Not lowering the standards of quality, but clarifying how stained and mottled soybeans are to be graded
- Clarified that no samples would be downgraded for staining lower than a No. 3. A sample could be downgraded further for other factors but not staining
- Member comments on soybean discolouration:
 - Member asked if there is any science to support the purple mottling guide
 - Clarified that testing was done in 2009 and the toxicity levels did not appear to be a concern however purple mottling may cause discolouration in flour. It’s unknown what causes purple mottling
 - Member asked if we’re going on the assumption that mottling or discolouration don’t affect the hilum
 - Explained that to clarify damage and validate the degree of soundness, inspectors need to cut the bean in half to ensure no damage to the cotyledon
 - Member asked if there’s an area in the US where stained soybeans are more likely to come from
 - Appears that the bulk of stained samples coming from the southern states
 - Breeders do have the ability to eventually breed this out. Members reminded it’s not only Enlist varieties that can produce seed coat discolouration. There’s a genetic component but not all varieties respond to environmental factors
 - Member commented that the US doesn’t have a visual standard for the No. 2 grade and Canada’s is pretty dirty. Doesn’t foresee issues with proposed change

Action items

- Motion was carried to accept the Oilseeds Advisory Committee report as presented
- Motion was carried to accept the proposed changes to the soybeans chapter in the Official Grain Grading Guide as presented, effective August 1, 2024

Pulses Advisory Committee report

Lead: Joey Vanneste

For information

- Decimal precision for faba beans and soybeans: making revisions to ensure all determination of commercial cleanliness calculations are made on a consistent basis, effective August 1, 2024

For discussion

- Standard prints for No. 1 and No. 2 Canada green peas
 - o Current standards were made in 2010 and 2016 and may have become discoloured and earth tag may have been removed
 - o Created standard prints to assess green peas instead of current physical standards
 - o Members viewed the prints under proper lighting at Canadian Grain Commission headquarters

Action items

- Motion was carried to accept the Pulses Advisory Committee report as presented
- Motion was carried to recommend the standard prints for No. 1 and No. 2 Canada Green peas as presented

Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

For information

- Degree of soundness - Rye and triticale: gathering more information on this grading factor to create a roadmap of next steps
- Degree of soundness, colour characteristics – Oats: Advisory committee agreed that although adding a colour characteristic chart to the grading factors section would be beneficial, it's best to complete the degree of soundness review in all grains to consistently apply possible changes
- Decimal precision for oats and mixed grain: making revisions to ensure all determination of commercial cleanliness calculations are made on a consistent basis, effective August 1, 2024

For discussion

- Proposing creating a variety designation list for food barley, including Canada Western (CW) Food Barley to give more recognition to specific types of food barley
 - o Advisory committee and Prairie Grain Development Committee were supportive and asked us if there are tools available to identify varieties
 - We can identify varieties by DNA
 - o Producers would be required to declare it's a food barley variety at delivery
- Member comments on variety designation list:
 - o Member asked if there would be a process to remove varieties from the list
 - Clarified it's the same process we apply to other classes of grain with designation lists

Action items

- Motion was carried to accept the Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report as presented
- Motion was carried to revise the variety requirement in the Standard of Quality for Barley, Canada Western Food to be designated as such by order of the Commission, effective August 1, 2024

Wheat Advisory Committee report

Leads: Dr. Ray Bacala and Kris Wonitowy

For information

- Degree of soundness: Inconsistencies were identified and we'll gather more information and will bring it forward as a package for all grains
- No. 2 CESRW mildew standard: We nearly exhausted our No. 2 standard samples but replenished over the winter. Held ad-hoc meeting over the winter to give time to compare the standard samples.

For discussion

- Hard vitreous kernel project: Investigating hard vitreous kernel grading factor in Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat for functionality, updating research done 20 years ago. Previous research showed limited impact on end-use functionality and it was removed as a grading factor for No. 2.
 - o Market acceptance is important to keep in mind when considering potential changes to the grading system
- Sprouted tolerance in Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter (CESRW) wheat project: examined relationship between visible sprout damage and Falling Number in CESRW. They found that tighter tolerances for sprouted didn't necessarily provide better protection for Falling Number and increase risk of low grade but with acceptable Falling Number. More research is needed.
 - o With current testing of Harvest Sample Program and CWRS samples, it doesn't appear to affect western wheats classes

Action items

- Motion was carried to accept the Wheat Advisory Committee report as presented

Recommendation of standards

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

Summary

- The motions were presented

Action items

- The following motions were carried:

Motion: Be it resolved that the following official standards of Canada grain are hereby repealed as the recommended standard samples and replaced with the tentative standard prints submitted to the Western Standards Committee by the Chief Grain Inspector, for the following official grades of grain, be and are hereby recommended the designated standard prints for the 2024-2025 crop year, effective August 1, 2024.

Repealed standard:

Peas, No. 1 Canada Green, Standard Sample (2010)

Peas, No. 2 Canada Green, Standard Sample (2016)

Recommended designated standard prints:

Peas, No. 1 Canada Green, Standard Print (2024)

Peas, No. 2 Canada Green, Standard Print (2024)

Motion: Be it resolved that owing to suitable samples not being available and in accordance with the provision of subsection (b) of Section 25 of the Canada Grain Act, the use of the last designated standard and print samples for other grades of grain grown in the Western Division, be and are hereby recommended to the Commission for designation for the 2024-2025 crop year, effective not earlier than August 1, 2024.

Other

Leads: Doug Chorney and Derek Bunkowsky

Summary

- Order respecting the calculation of moisture shrinkage for grain artificially dried at primary elevators
 - o Engaged with industry and moving ahead to include terminal elevators on the Commission Order effective August 1, 2024
- Eastern membership on advisory committees
 - o Aware that stakeholders have concerns about representation
 - o With Chief Commissioner Doug Chorney's retirement, want to give the new Chief Commissioner the opportunity to work with the other commissioners to find a path forward
 - o Still open to feedback
- Date of next Western Standards Committee meeting – November 5, 2024

Terms of committee members

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Two members are finishing their third and final terms. The Chair thanked them for their service

Closing remarks

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- The Chair thanked the members and staff for thoughtful content that makes this meeting so productive

Adjournment

Lead: Doug Chorney

Action items

- Motion was carried to adjourn the meeting