



Western Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

Date: November 1, 2022

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

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Members

Description

Canadian Grain Commission

Doug Chorney (Chairperson)
Derek Bunkowsky
Esther Salvano

Chief Commissioner
Chief Grain Inspector
Director General, Grain Research Laboratory

Nominated by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Vacant
Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa

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

Processors of grain

Caalen Covey

Canadian National Millers Association

Exporters of grain

Robert Tkatchuk
Tala Mobayen

Canadian Grain & Oilseed Exporters Association
Canadian Special Crops Association

Producers of western grain

Justin Bell
Shane Stokke
Rodney Volk
Steven Donald
Gregg Fotheringham
Fiona Jochum
Jean Harrington
Glen Tait

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

Sean Stanford

Alberta producer (Alberta Barley Commission)

Additional

Darren Highfield
 Robert Chapman
 James Dunlop

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

Regrets

Ian Armer
 Shanna Stolhandske-Dale
 Kevin Sich
 Chad Doerksen
 Clayton Harder

Terminal Elevator Association
 Member
 Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute
 Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
 Canadian Canola Growers Association

Observers:

Patty Rosher
 Lonny McKague
 Bin Xiao Fu
 Ning Wang
 Véronique Barthet
 Tricia McMillan
 Kris Wonitowy
 Evan Thomas
 Joey Vanneste
 Shanell Dupras
 Marta Izydorczyk
 Jon Friesen
 Jocelyn Beaudette
 Geoff Bachman

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Recording Secretary

Natalie Rioux

Canadian Grain Commission

Recommendations

No recommendations were brought forward during this meeting.

Chairperson's comments

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Welcome to members.
- Meeting being held virtually due to the inability at this time for the Canadian Grain Commission infrastructure and technology to support hybrid meetings.
- The current committee membership is 24 of 25 members because of one vacancy from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Approval of the November 1, 2022 Western Standards Committee agenda

Lead: Doug Chorney

Standards committee member comments

- The agenda will be corrected to reflect that the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission is not an association.

Action items

- Meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the April 5, 2022 Western Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: Doug Chorney

Action items

- Meeting minutes were approved.

Business arising

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Nothing was discussed.

Grain standards committee review of the revised terms of reference

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Through the consultations on the *Canada Grain Act* review, grain sector stakeholders provided feedback on the standards committees and its operations and processes. We heard that stakeholders want:
 - o more transparency
 - o broader and timelier access to information including meeting minutes, records of decision and grading issues discussed
 - o updates to the nomination process and increased representation.
- The Canadian Grain Commission reflected on this feedback and decided to make improvements to the transparency and processes of standards committees.
- More specifically, the Canadian Grain Commission has conducted a review of standards committee operations in 3 areas:
 - o terms of reference
 - o communications
 - o nomination process
- The review will result in better functioning standards committees, clearer communications and more transparency, which addresses stakeholder concerns.

- A member commented that the *Canada Grain Act* states the Canadian Grain Commission is to act “in the interest of grain producers” and this should be added into the terms of reference document. This comment was taken under advisement.

Action items

- No action items brought forward.

Crop report for western Canada

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

Summary

- Harvest is virtually complete across the western Prairies.
- Updates on Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba harvest progress were provided.
- We use samples from our Harvest Sample Program to make crop quality data available to marketers to promote the sale of Canadian grain, and to confirm Canada's ability to deliver consistent, high-quality grain from year to year. The Grain Research Laboratory also uses these samples for scientific research.
- So far, the Canadian Grain Commission has received 7472 samples with 64% of samples being cereal crops, 26% being oilseeds and 10% being pulses.

Action items

- No items brought forward.

Wheat advisory committee report

Leads: Kris Wonitowy and Dr. Bin Xiao Fu

Summary

- The wheat advisory committee report was presented.
- The sprouted tolerance in CESRW research project was discussed.
 - o Investigated the 2.5% sprouted tolerance level in No. 2 grade of CESRW as a company was having trouble attaining a Falling Number value of 275.
 - o Through a study on the 2021 CESRW crop, the Grain Research Laboratory assessed whether differentiating between severely sprouted and sprouted kernels will better reflect Falling Number values.
 - o Of the 200 samples analyzed, none had a Falling Number over 300, a typical quality benchmark. This reflected the poor overall condition of the 2021 crop.
- A study is being launched that relates to the severe sprouted definition in western wheat.
 - o Part of the definition is under review, “the sprout has been clearly broken and only a portion remains,” and results are anticipated in the spring.
- WGEA member companies would like primary and export tolerances to be harmonized.
 - o The results from the Grain Research Laboratory’s research clearly demonstrated that test weight has significant impacts on milling yields and ash contents of flour or semolina. Samples with low test weight had lower milling yield and higher ash content.

Standards committee member comments

Standards committee members had questions and comments, including around:

- the variety registration factors for CWRS wheat
- how test weight had been impacted by the production circumstances for the past year
- the potential harmonization of primary and export tolerances
 - o There were different perspectives on the impacts of harmonizing test weight tolerance between primary and export, with debate about the extent to which risk would be transferred back to the producer in this scenario.

Action items

- Motion to accept the wheat advisory committee report as presented was carried.
- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

Pulses advisory committee report

Leads: Joey Vanneste and Dr. Ning Wang

Summary

- The pulses advisory committee report was presented.
- A study was presented that investigated the effect of the degree of wrinkled seeds on dehulling quality of red lentils.
 - o Suspect and wrinkled seeds in red lentils had a significant effect on dehulling quality. Sound seeds had the lowest broken fraction and powder produced, followed by clamshell, suspect, and then wrinkled seeds.
 - o It's difficult for inspectors to remain consistent when using the current definition of wrinkled in the Official Grain Grading Guide.

Action items

- Motion to accept the pulses advisory committee report as presented was carried.
- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

Barley and other cereal grains advisory committee report

Leads: Kris Wonitowy and Dr. Marta Izydorczyk

Summary

- The barley and other cereal grains advisory committee report was presented.
- A request was received to modernize the primary and export grade determinant tables for general purpose barley to align the minimum test weight in Canada Western and Canada Eastern grades.
 - o Aligning Canada Western and Canada Eastern grades is being considered. More information and data will be provided for consideration at the spring advisory committee meetings.

- The discrepancy between Canadian Grain Commission standard for heated oats compared to millers and processors was discussed.
 - o More information is being gathered and a decision will be presented at the spring advisory committee meeting on whether or not the definition of heated oats in the Official Grain Grading Guide needs to be changed.

Standards committee member comments

Standards committee members had questions and comments, including:

- asking about the instrument and method the Canadian Grain Commission uses to convert kilograms per hectolitre to pounds
 - o the Canadian Grain Commission uses the Avery conversion factor for test weight conversion from metric values to pounds per bushel.
- asking why Extra 1 CW barley was removed as a grade in 1999
- referencing that the percentage of product shipped by specification may be misleading as most shipments have a minimum test weight specification.

Action items

- Motion to accept the barley and other cereals advisory committee report was carried.
- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

Oilseeds advisory committee report

Leads: Evan Thomas and Dr. Veronique Barthet

Summary

- The oilseeds advisory committee report was presented.
- The modification of the definition for inconspicuous admixture in canola for the Official Grain Grading Guide.
 - o Don't intend to revise yellow mustard after its effects as conspicuous admixture were reviewed.
- Processed compared to unprocessed canola samples were discussed.
 - o Plans on proposing the following edits for the Official Grain Grading Guide at the spring advisory committees for implementation no earlier than August 1, 2023:
 - revisions to the definitions of processed and unprocessed
 - additions to the wording around procedures that reference processed samples
 - o The addition of a checkbox for processed samples in the submitted sample form was discussed.
- There are updated versions available of the distinctly green and heated canola colour guides.
- An update was provided on the Grain Research Laboratory's study on heated canola.
 - o The research began a couple of years ago and so far there have been mixed results.
 - o This research needs more investigation and requires more samples.
- Added dockage assessments for mustard samples received through the Harvest Sample Program.

Standards committee member comments

Standards committee members had questions and comments, including:

- mentioning that canola shipments to China require dockage below 1% and that exporters can meet this by increasing the air and double cleaning, but crushers are not interested in that material despite the reasonably sound canola in the dockage
- questioning if broken canola is considered reasonably sound

Action items

- Motion to accept the oilseeds advisory committee report was carried.
- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

Recommendations of standards

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

Summary

- No new standards being brought forward this fall. The designation of standards now occurs at the spring meeting before the beginning of the new crop year.
- However, new standards could still be recommended in the fall and come into effect at the beginning of the following crop year.

Action items

- No action items or recommendations were brought forward

Terms of committee members

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Thanked the new committee members for their participation.

Action items

- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

Closing remarks

Lead: Doug Chorney

Summary

- Thanked members for their participation.

Standards committee member comments

- Requested that background information be provided at minimum one to two weeks before the advisory committee meetings.

Action items

- No action items or recommendations were brought forward

Adjournment

Lead: Doug Chorney

Action items

- Motion was carried to adjourn the meeting.