



Eastern Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

Date: April 3, 2025

Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm (EDT)

Location: Montréal, QC

Members

Description

Canadian Grain Commission

David Hunt (Chairperson)

Derek Bunkowsky

Dr. 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

*Dr. Elroy Cober

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Processors and exporters of grain

Benjamin Hodgins

*Bruno Simard

Peter Worfolk

Vacant

Pulse Canada

Association des commerçants de grains du Québec

Canadian National Millers Association

Eastern Elevator Association of Canada

Producers of eastern grain

Neil Campbell

Dana Dickerson

Julie Maw

Vacant

Prince Edward Island producer (Soy Canada)

Ontario producer (Grain Farmers of Ontario)

Ontario producer (Grain Farmers of Ontario)

Québec producer (Producteurs de grains du Québec)

Additional

Manuela Roduner

Heather Russell

Vacant

Ontario Agri-Business Association

Atlantic Grains Council

Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec

Observers

*Lonny McKague

*Gino Castonguay

Kris Wonitowy

*Joey Vanneste

*Evan Thomas

*Dr. Bin Xiao Fu

Canadian Grain Commission

Canadian Grain Commission

Canadian Grain Commission

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*Dr. Marta Izydorczyk

*Shanell Dupras

*Linda Roy

Ramzy Yelda

Canadian Grain Commission

Canadian Grain Commission

Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec

Producteurs de grains du Québec

*indicates virtual participation

Recommendations and action items from this meeting

- A motion was carried to repeal physical standards and replace them with standard prints for mildew in Canada Eastern Red Spring (CERS) for the No. 1 and No. 2 grades, Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter (CESRW) for No. 1 and No. 2 grades, and Canada Eastern White Winter (CEWW) for No. 1 and No. 2 grades.
- A motion was carried to close the grain grading modernization project, recognizing that continuous review of the Official Grain Grading Guide and any specific grading issues of concern will remain an ongoing process.
- The Canadian Grain Commission is committing to providing the standards committees with a progress update on its new technology advancement initiative at each meeting moving forward.

Chairperson's comments

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- Welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Approval of the April 3, 2025 Eastern Standards Committee agenda

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- The agenda was amended to move up the Oilseeds Advisory Committee report.
- Meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the November 7, 2024 Eastern Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- Observer requested that item No. 7 in the meeting minutes contain a sentence to speak to Industry Services' consideration of adding the manual method into the Official Grain Grading Guide.
- Meeting minutes were approved with the above-mentioned amendment.

Business arising

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- No business arising.

Oilseeds Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information

- Increase in sprouted canola observed during harvest 2024 – Industry trade memo was issued in September clarifying the definition of sprouted in canola. Impacts of sprouted canola on the quality of oil were assessed on samples through the Harvest Sample Program. Free fatty acids levels were measured at the time and will continue to be monitored every few months.
- Update on research done on brown mustard seeds that have sprouted due to excess heat – sprouted due to heat is different than sprouted due to moisture, as it does not have the same effect. Seed sprouted due to heat or moisture can't be differentiated visually. The study did not indicate a need for any changes to the definition or tolerances.
- Broken and small canola project – project phase 2 will assess quality parameters and effects of reasonably sound small canola seed. Segregations to be performed with various slotted sieves and compared against the original sample and cleaned samples. An update will be presented at the fall standards committee meeting.
- Brown damaged canola seed – will perform detailed grading and analyze the quality of samples containing brown seed. Early indications suggest brown seeds are more damaged, have higher oxidation, higher chlorophyll and are lower in quality than sprouted seeds. There may be a need to define types of damage while maintaining total damage tolerance.

For discussion

- Member asked if there were concerns around sprouted canola in the Western Standards Committee meeting.
 - o Evan Thomas explained that producers did not voice any concerns with deliveries and seemed that the committee was generally pleased with the direction the study was going. Recognized the results would be discussed after the study with potential recommendations coming forward.

Pulses Advisory Committee report

Lead: Joey Vanneste

For information

- Small lentils assessed as dockage project – to determine if small lentils falling through the No. 9 round-hole sieve have different quality characteristics than those that remain on top of the No. 9 round-hole.
 - o Canadian Grain Commission is initiating this research and will provide an update on findings at the fall 2025 meetings.
- Lentils are designated into two classes: Lentils, Red and Lentils, other than Red, which is determined by the cotyledon colour. Concerns about a new red lentil variety with the black seed coat entering the bulk

handling system. Shared that one solution could be to use the definition of contrasting colours instead of contrasting classes. Contrasting classes is only assessed for Lentils, Red.

- Canadian Grain Commission will be reviewing the definitions of contrasting classes and contrasting colours and will provide an update at the fall 2025 meetings.

For discussion

- Member asked about contrasting classes and contrasting colors in lentils and whether they see this approach being used for any other grains.
 - Responded not at this time for other grains.
- Members expressed interest in hearing updates on lentils. While the crop isn't typically grown in the east, there is value in hearing what's going on.

Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

For information

- Information on Rapid Visco Analysis (RVA) and Falling Number test to determine pre-germination in malting barley was shared.
- Dr. Marta Izydorczyk provided an update that the Canada Food Inspection Agency will start applying the regional restriction process for barley variety registration, similar to what's done for wheat.
 - Dr. Marta Izydorczyk explained there were concerns with some barley lines recommended in the east being brought forward to the west without any data on disease resistance. Concerns about rust and Fusarium head blight causing harm to production in western Canada. Recommendation that those lines should be brought and tested in western co-op trials for a comprehensive evaluation on various diseases that are of concern in western Canada.

For discussion

- Member asked if corn was part of the Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee.
 - Derek Bunkowsky confirmed it's not, but the Canadian Grain Commission is looking into it as part of changes that may be introduced stemming from the grain advisory committee consultations.
- Member asked if the dissolving of the barley council has affected the Canadian Grain Commission.
 - Response is that it has not.
- Observer mentioned that in the advisory committee meeting minute, there's a mention of a presentation. Observer asked when providing the meeting minutes that any attachments and references to reports and presentations be included.
 - Kris Wonitowy mentioned the research would be available on the Canadian Grain Commission's website and he would confirm if the presentation could be distributed with the minutes.

Wheat Advisory Committee report

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

For information

- Shrunken, broken, and total shrunken and broken project scope – will determine when levels of shrunken, broken, and total shrunken and broken start to affect end-use quality with a goal of implementing a quick and consistent process that can be used to determine an accurate shrunken and broken assessment. The work will also determine if shrunken and broken need to continue to be separate grading factors.
 - Dr. Bin Xiao Fu stated it's important to get a proper protocol in place for the first phase of the study. Then we can look at how the percentages of shrunken and broken impacts functionality. Expecting to have some results in the fall this year to share with the standards committees. We'll also need to do some validation, which will take more time.
- Falling number in relation to sprouting in Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter (CESRW) and Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) in 2024 – presented the results of their research, which found that:
 - the 2024 crops had a low incidence of visible sprouting
 - grading for mildew in CESRW protected against a low falling number
 - excess moisture resulted in mildew damage
 - alpha-amylase levels can be slightly elevated even before sprouting is visible
 - late-maturity alpha-amylase is triggered by temperature shock during grain development and occurs only in specific genotypes
 - there was no indication of late-maturity alpha-amylase in CESRW and CWRS in 2024
 - the existing sprouted tolerances and mildew standards are working effectively
- Informed members of an ad-hoc meeting with eastern representatives that occurred to discuss eastern standard prints as there wasn't enough eastern representation on the Wheat Advisory Committee.

For discussion

- Observer commented that they asked about adding the hand sieve method for wheat to the Official Grain Grading Guide and not just the Carter dockage method. It's a practical thing that they teach to inspectors instead of the Carter method.
 - Kris Wonitowy stated it would be difficult to add the hand sieve assessment in the grading guide knowing there's a substantial difference compared to the Carter dockage method that could have implications on grading. Looking at making amendments.
 - Observer added we need a method to grade with the sieves and with the Carter.
 - Derek Bunkowsky stated the goal is to conduct the science and verification on different methods with sieves to get consistent results and present findings to the committee in the fall. The hope is to make a recommendation at the next spring meeting.
- Observer asked if there is work being done to create a hard red winter standard print.
 - Kris Wonitowy stated there are no plans at this time.
 - Derek Bunkowsky commented if we get the appropriate material to create a standard, the Canadian Grain Commission will look at creating it. Can try to collect samples of hard red winter and see if they can create a standard. It will not change the level of mildew in the existing

Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter (CESRW) standard, but recognizing there is a difference in colour between the 2 classes, the sample can look different.

- Member asked how it was determined there was late maturing alpha-amylase with no sprouting.
 - o Dr. Bin Xiao Fu stated excess moisture can create sprouted and severe sprouted. Before they become visible, there's an early stage of germination that you can't see where alpha-amylase is already elevated. Mildew gave a good early sign of early-stage germination. The protein alpha-amylase from moisture is different than from temperature shock.
- Member asked if late maturity alpha-amylase events can be due to genotype and still have mildew.
 - o Dr. Bin Xiao Fu responded there is a possibility but it's low. Looking at varieties of soft red winter in Ontario that are more susceptible to sprouting. Need to look at some varieties and how susceptible they are to sprouting. Late maturity alpha-amylase is more complicated, and a nursery is needed to create the temperature shock environment to detect it.
- Member mentioned in certain regions there's a narrative that a variety is causing low falling number events without moisture or preharvest sprouting visible. Interesting to see the study didn't show any late maturity alpha-amylase events. Worth going back and checking some mildew samples for protein to make sure it's not late maturity alpha-amylase.
- Noted there was a question raised in the fall meeting about creating a stress test. Noted that falling number is evaluated for 3 years in pre-registration trials in the west and 2 years in the east. The late maturity alpha-amylase issue does not affect baking results like high alpha-amylase.
 - o Producers concerned about being discounted for late maturity alpha-amylase events that don't impact baking.
- Member asked if there are studies or opportunity to study difference between late maturity alpha-amylase impacts on soft winter wheat applications like cookies or crackers.
 - o Dr. Bin Xiao Fu informed members there are 2 contributing factors to late maturity alpha-amylase: variety and environment. It's not expressed every year because it's only in years of temperature shock, which is why it needs to be monitored each year. Late maturity alpha-amylase has less impact on end-use functionality because moisture-related sprouting can damage the kernel structure.
- Member asked for elaboration on the hard vitreous kernel (HVK) in Canada Western Amber Spring (CWRS) study.
 - o Derek Bunkowsky informed members that HVK is a key factor in the US grading and marketing system, and some important customers place a lot of value on it. Want to ensure we don't undermine Canada's market share when reviewing HVK as a grading factor. Informed that there isn't an HVK tolerance in eastern wheats, only in CWRS. Given the risk of market implications, the Canadian Grain Commission has engaged with Cereals Canada for assistance understanding possible customer reactions.

Grain Standards Advisory Committee update

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- Presented on initial results of the Grain Standards Advisory Committee consultation.
- A "What we heard" report will be compiled and published on the Canadian Grain Commission website.

- Will also be shared at fall standards committee meeting.

For discussion

- Member commented it's been helpful to take part in ad-hoc meetings on issues and occasionally shadowing advisory committee meetings. Asking if there's an opportunity for the Eastern Standards Committee to be made aware of advisory committee meetings and their agendas so members can observe.
 - o Canadian Grain Commission to do more communication on advisory committee meetings and dates with Eastern Standards Committee members
- Derek Bunkowsky asked members their thoughts on potentially having an eastern advisory committee to encompass all grains grown in eastern Canada.
 - o Member believes it would make sense adding that it doesn't become the only committee where eastern issues are discussed. Wants to ensure the other advisory committees don't become entirely western.
 - o Member suggested adding corn to another advisory committee and not forming a new one as there is only so much time members can devote.
 - o Derek Bunkowsky commented having set up ad-hoc committees when there are eastern-specific issues to deal with, which have been successful. If there's an issue with corn or something else in the east, we can effectively manage it that way as well.
 - o Esther Salvano informed members that we received 59 corn samples last year. She added the promotion of the Harvest Sample Program is important too and if interested, we can send kits for further distribution.
- Observer thinks the regulatory process could be changed quickly and to find 2 people focused on corn for the Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee in time of the fall. It's feasible to do within 5 months until a decision is made on the new structure of the advisory committees.
 - o David Hunt commented it doesn't require lengthy assessment since it's a low-impact decision. Committed to investigate applying that in parallel with advisory committee structure. Depending on progress in terms of advisory committee options, maybe we do add corn to the Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee.

Recommendation of standards

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

Action item

- Motion carried: Be it resolved that the following official standards of eastern grain are hereby repealed as the designated standard samples and replaced with the tentative standard prints submitted to the Eastern Standards Committee by the Chief Grain Inspector for Canada, for the following official grades of grain, be and are hereby recommended to the Commission for designation for the 2025-2026 crop year, effective July 1, 2025.

Repealed standard samples:

Wheat, No. 1 Canada Eastern Red Spring, Mildew Standard (2022)

Wheat, No. 2 Canada Eastern Red Spring, Mildew Standard (2022)

Wheat, No. 1 Canada Eastern Red (Winter), Mildew Standard (2013)
Wheat, No. 2 Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter, Mildew Standard (2024)

Wheat, No. 1 Canada Eastern White Winter, Mildew Standard (2012)
Wheat, No. 2 Canada Eastern White Winter, Mildew Standard (2009)

Recommended standard prints:

Wheat, No. 1 Canada Eastern Red Spring, Mildew Standard (2025)
Wheat, No. 2 Canada Eastern Red Spring, Mildew Standard (2025)

Wheat, No. 1 Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter, Mildew Standard (2025)
Wheat, No. 2 Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter, Mildew Standard (2025)

Wheat, No. 1 Canada Eastern White Winter, Mildew Standard (2025)
Wheat, No. 2 Canada Eastern White Winter, Mildew Standard (2025)

- Motion carried: 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 prints for other grades of grain grown in the Eastern Division, be and are hereby recommended to the Commission for designation for the 2025-2026 crop year, effective not earlier than July 1, 2025.

Grain grading modernization project

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

For information

- Updated on the status of the grain grading modernization project and the closure of the project.

Action item

- Motion carried: Motion to close the grain grading modernization project, recognizing a continuous review of the Official Grain Grading Guide and any grain grading issues of concern will remain an ongoing process.

Technology advancement framework

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

For information

- Presented the technology advancement framework at the fall 2024 Eastern Standards Committee meeting.
- The Canadian Grain Commission has received proposals showing promise.
- Developed a strategy to identify ways we can contribute, including research and development, and will continue to evaluate and validate new technologies, facilitate access to samples/reference material and create benchmarks and standards.

- Planning a targeted call-out soon with the intention of preparing and planning for possible projects during fall 2025.

Action item

- Committing to providing the standards committees with a progress update on this new technology advancement initiative at each standards committee meeting moving forward.

Other

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- Dr. Esther Salvano provided an update on the Soy Quality Program, which was previously delivered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The first year of the program was delivered successfully.
 - o Dr. Ning Wang informed members that his unit tested over 1,600 samples from variety trials and the results are posted on Soy Canada's website. His unit also tested about 75 samples for soy food testing. The results were sent directly to companies who submitted the samples. Dr. Wang participated in Soy Canada's mission in February and March 2025.
- Advised that the next Eastern Standards Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 6, 2025, with the location to be determined.
 - o It was noted that Soy Canada's board meeting is on the same day.

Terms of committee members

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- Currently 3 vacancies on the committee. The Canadian Grain Commission has received nominations for the Eastern Elevator Association of Canada seat, however, no appointments have been made due to the caretaker convention.
- Following this meeting, 2 former members, who were observers in this meeting, will be eligible for nomination and the organizations will be contacted to initiate that process.
- Members asked to wait to set the fall Eastern Standards Committee meeting date because of many new appointments and renewals.

Closing remarks

Lead: David Hunt

Summary

- David Hunt thanked members for their participation and wished everyone safe travels home.

Adjournment

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- Motion was carried to adjourn the meeting