



Eastern Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

Date: October 29, 2025

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

Location: Montréal, QC and virtual

<u>Members</u>	<u>Description</u>
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 Jay Fretz *Peter Worfolk	Pulse Canada Association des commerçants de grains du Québec Eastern Elevator Association of Canada Canadian National Millers Association
Producers of eastern grain Dana Dickerson Julie Maw Neil Campbell Ramzy Yelda	Ontario producer (Grain Farmers of Ontario) Ontario producer (Grain Farmers of Ontario) Prince Edward Island producer (Soy Canada) Québec producer (Producteurs de grains du Québec)
Additional Vacant Linda Roy Manuela Roduner	Atlantic Grains Council Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec Ontario Agri-Business Association
Observers Heather Russell *Lonny McKague Jon Friesen *Margaret Gowdar *Dr. Bin Xiao Fu	Atlantic Grains Council Canadian Grain Commission Canadian Grain Commission Canadian Grain Commission Canadian Grain Commission

*Joey Vanneste
*Dr. Veronique Barthet
Evan Thomas
*Dr. Marta Izydorczyk

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**indicates virtual participation*

Summary of recommendations and action items from this meeting

- The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) will bring forward the following items to the spring 2026 meeting:
 - a motion to change the grading factor for contrasting classes to contrasting colours in lentils
 - further discussion on heated corn and damage
 - a report on the study of more samples of brown damaged canola seed and sprouted canola
 - an update on the shrunken, broken, and total shrunken and broken in CWAD project
 - a proposal on variety requirements in No. 4 grades of eastern wheat
- Standards committee members accepted the research results and the CGC will close the broken and small canola project from an Eastern Standards Committee perspective.

The CGC will discuss the proposal of a study of Brazilian versus Canadian soybeans and provide feedback.

1. Chairperson's comments

Lead: David Hunt

- Welcomed members to the meeting and introduced new and returning members.
- Members and observers provided introductions.

2. Approval of the October 29, 2025 Eastern Standards Committee agenda

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- Meeting agenda was approved

3. Approval of the April 3, 2025 Eastern Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- A question was raised on the format of the minutes/record of discussion and including clarification in the summary. A note will be added to clarify the outcome in the appropriate area.
- Meeting minutes were approved with the above-mentioned amendment.

4. Business arising

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- No business arising.

5. Grain Standards Advisory Committee update

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- The CGC provided a brief update on the outcome of the consultation following consideration of all stakeholder feedback.
- The CGC is maintaining the current Grain Standards Advisory Committee structure, making enhancements to better incorporate regional and sector perspectives.
- Meetings now occur approximately 8 weeks prior to the standards committee meetings to allow more time for stakeholders to distribute and consider information in advance.
- Voting provisions have been removed from the advisory committee terms of reference to better align with the role of technical support to the standards committees.

6. Pulses Advisory Committee report

Lead: Joey Vanneste

For information

- Small lentils: 2024 was hot and dry and led some producers to harvest smaller-sized lentils. Producers contacted the CGC seeking clarification on the dockage determination process as small lentils were being included in dockage. It was agreed that the CGC would undertake a scientific study and provide findings back to the Pulse Advisory Committee and standards committees.
- Lentils contrasting classes and colours: Noting a wide range of colours of lentil seed coat and cotyledon. New lentil varieties with novel seed coats are being submitted for registration and the CGC was tasked with reviewing and clarifying definitions for contrasting classes and contrasting colours. The advisory committee had a common perspective to remove all reference to contrasting classes and replace with contrasting colours,
- Green peas bleached guide: the photo illustrating bleached green peas has been removed from the web version of the Official Grain Grading Guide due to variations in colour displays. Printed copies are available and can be obtained by emailing QAStandards-NormesAQ@grainscanada.gc.ca.

Action items

- A motion will be brought forward at the spring 2026 meeting to change the lentils grading factor for contrasting classes to contrasting colours.

7. Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information

- Comparative analysis of ZoomAgri: The CGC presented findings from a recent study comparing traditional DNA-based methods with the ZoomAgri artificial intelligence-driven image analysis system for assessing barley varietal purity. Full study results are published on the CGC's website.
- Pearling quality of hulless barley: Presented a preliminary study examining the pearling quality of Canadian barley varieties in response to increased Japanese demand for barley as a rice extender. Compared 2-row and 6-row, covered and hulless barley types. 6-row barley with smaller and softer kernels generally perform better for pearling.
- Heated in corn: Room to improve national consistency in assessments as heat damage can lead to downgrading and is significant because of strict tolerances. The CGC proposed developing a printed visual guide to complement current definitions.

For discussion

- Member requested clarification on purpose of the barley varietal assessment study and the technology used.
 - Testing is specific to barley only. The project was developed by ZoomAgri in partnership with Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC). The CGC is evaluating the results produced by this technology.
- Member wanted to know the percentage of hulless barley grown in Canada.
 - The CGC advised members that the percentage and market are small. In the past, there was a large volume that was sold to Japan and there has been larger demand for barley to use as a rice extender with the recent shortage of rice.
- Questions were raised on when heated corn samples were provided and circumstances for why this project was initiated.
 - The CGC advised that maintaining consistency on the assessment of heated corn samples over the years has been a challenge due to the lack of a visual tool.
 - The CGC is proposing to develop a printed guide, similar to what's done for canola stages.
- Member asked if smell would be a component of damage assessment for heated corn.
 - The CGC confirmed with members that smell would be an indicator to seek further assessment as smell can be subjective.

Action items

- Further discussion on heated corn and damage will be brought forward at the spring meeting.

8. Oilseeds Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information

- Broken and small canola project:

- Phase 2 work was done this year. Analysis showed that there was no effect on the quality profile of different samples due to sieve size. Using a larger sieve size increased dockage content while it did not change the quality of the material.
- The CGC recommended to accept the research results and close this project.
- Sprouted in canola: 2024 had high levels of sprouted in canola and a trade memo was issued to clarify assessments. More samples will be tested before contemplating changes to the grading standards.
- Brown damaged canola seed: presentation given on Free Fatty Acids (FFA) in brown damaged canola seed. Analysis indicates that FFA increased with levels of brown seeds, leading to refining being affected.
- Canola quality *Brassica juncea*: New line of Liberty Link GM canola that will be available in the United States within the next year or 2 that is able to grow better than traditional canola in drier growing areas.
 - Visually indistinguishable from oriental mustard and grading procedures may have to be updated to accommodate this.
 - There is a potential for market disruption if genetically modified material is detected in mustard shipments.
 - The only way to verify it as canola is a wet chemistry test.
 - Item will remain a topic for future meetings.

For discussion

- Concerns were brought forward on allergen declarations for the milling industry in regard to mustard.
- It was highlighted that canola contamination is a concern for the west as well as Canada produces 50 to 75% of world exports for mustard, with 50% coming from Saskatchewan crops.

Action items

- Accept the research results and close the broken and small canola project from an Eastern Standards Committee perspective.
- The CGC is studying more samples of brown damaged canola seed and sprouted canola and a report will be shared at the spring meeting.

9. Wheat Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information

- Shrunken, broken, and total shrunken and broken: provided overview of report and information on the research project that we conducted over the winter on shrunken kernels. The CGC is proposing that the shrunken tolerances be updated to accurately reflect the grades. The advisory committee was in favour of staggered tolerances, but data on broken kernels in conjunction with broken will need to be reviewed.
- Darkened kernels in CWAD: The CGC shared challenges seen in the west. Darkened kernels are having significant impacts on assessments. We've expedited research and a report will be shared with the Western Standards Committee.
- Variety requirements in No. 4 grades of eastern wheats: referenced the *Canada Grain Act* that states unregistered wheat varieties are only eligible to receive the lowest grade by regulation. In eastern Canada, feed is a class and not a grade, and the registered variety requirements is in place for the No. 4

grade. This is incorrect based on the Act. The CGC outlined a possible change to the No. 4 grade of eastern wheat classes that will be discussed at the variety registration meetings this winter.

- Standard prints for mildew in Canada Eastern Hard Red Winter (CEHRW): revisited discussion. For the time being, CEHRW will continue to be assessed against the CESRW standard, but we'll look for additional material to potentially create a print for CEHRW.

For discussion

- Discussion amongst the committee on current trade irritants and sensitivities on US unregistered varieties of wheat.
 - The CGC suggested that removing the connotation of feed as a grade in Canada western (CW) grades could be beneficial in eliminating some of these irritants. There is no issue in Canada eastern (CE) grades of wheat because feed is a class, not a grade.
- Member commented they would prefer to hear the perspective of those in the west before providing a decision on the variety requirements in No. 4 grades of eastern wheat.
- Member asked about the level of our involvement with current US/Canada trade negotiations and if anything would potentially be brought forward to the committee. Also asked if there was any discussion on changes to variety registration.
 - The CGC has been asked for opinion and do have some input but are not always aware of what is being discussed. As negotiations proceed, we'll provide information depending on what can be shared.
 - If variety registration comes forward as an item in trade negotiations, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency would be the lead.

Action items

- An update on the shrunken, broken, and total shrunken and broken project will be brought forward at the spring meeting.
- A proposal on variety requirements in No. 4 grades of eastern wheat will be brought forward at the spring meeting.

10. Crop reports

Leads: Atlantic – Heather Russell

Quebec – Bruno Simard

Ontario – Dana Dickerson

Western – Evan Thomas

For information

- Overview of crop reports were presented. Yield results across the regions are varied due to weather and moisture challenges.
- Due to the Canada Post strike, Harvest Sample Program samples at the CGC were quite low compared to last year at the same date. Now starting to receive more samples, but these results were not reflected in the western crop report.

11. Technology advancement framework

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

For information

- A progress update on the framework was presented to members.
- To date, 7 proposals have been received by domestic and international companies, with 3 continuing through the framework and 4 rejected.
- The CGC has already received the equipment for 1 project and have begun to do an assessment. This project is focused strictly on wheat and looking at 5 common and specific grading factors. The goal is to test assessment accuracy.

For discussion

- Members agreed it's positive to be involved with upcoming technology but questioned the direct benefit to the CGC and discussed potential impacts for inspection approaches in the future.
 - The CGC will be gaining the ability to use this type of technology early and to look at its application to its own work. Allows the CGC as a regulator to be involved with the calibration of the algorithms and offer a level of assurance to producers.
 - This technology could potentially change the role of inspection. Coordination and oversight will still be needed in the use of this technology in the future should it become commercialized.

12. Travel policies and guidelines

Lead: Tawhid Sarker

For information

- Presentation provided to members on policies and guidelines for travel for standards committee meetings.

13. Other

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- Chief Commissioner reminded members of the update that was emailed on October 27 2025, which included the announcement to postpone the increase of fees as well as information on the new email subscription service.
- Planning for the CGC's annual stakeholder engagement sessions in winter/early spring are underway and will coincide with larger conferences.

For discussion

- Member asked about potential for the CGC to study Brazilian versus Canadian soybeans to compare their protein and oil content to determine if Canadian soybeans are higher quality.

- A member suggested hosting the spring meeting in Winnipeg as has been done in past if there is possibility to tour labs or review samples.

Action items

- The CGC will discuss the proposal of a study of Brazilian versus Canadian soybeans and provide feedback.
- A survey will be sent to members to determine details for the spring meeting.

14. Terms of committee members

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- There are no appointments up for renewal.
- Thanked member whose third and final term is expiring in November. The CGC will reach out to the organization to initiate the appointment process.

15. Closing remarks

Lead: David Hunt

For information

- Thanked members for their participation and input.
- Reminded that the CGC is still accepting samples for the Harvest Sample Program and asked members to encourage those in their regions to send samples.

16. Adjournment