



Eastern Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

Date: November 7, 2024

Time: 9:00 am to 12:15 pm (EST)

Location: Montréal, QC

Members

Canadian Grain Commission

David Hunt (Chairperson)
Derek Bunkowsky
Esther Salvano

Description

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

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

*Elroy Cober

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Processors and exporters of grain

Bruno Simard
*Peter Worfolk

Association des commerçants de grains du Québec
Canadian National Millers Association

Producers of eastern grain

Dana Dickerson
*Julie Maw
Neil Campbell

Ontario producer (Grain Farmers of Ontario)
Ontario producer (Grain Farmers of Ontario)
Prince Edward Island producer (Soy Canada)

Additional

Heather Russell
*Manuela Roduner

Atlantic Grains Council
Ontario Agri-Business Association

Regrets

Benjamin Hodgins
Kevin Reles

Pulse Canada
Eastern Elevator Association of Canada

Observers

Patty Rosher
*Lonny McKague
Linda Roy
Ramzy Yelda
*Evan Thomas
*Shanell Dupras
*Ning Wang

Canadian Grain Commission
Canadian Grain Commission
Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec
Quebec producer (Producteurs de grains du Québec)
Canadian Grain Commission
Canadian Grain Commission
Canadian Grain Commission

*Gino Castonguay
*Rob Nay

Canadian Grain Commission
Canadian Grain Commission

*indicates virtual participation

Recommendations and action items from this meeting

- The Canadian Grain Commission will continue to collect feedback and do consultation on the concept of a Grain Standards Advisory Committee Open Forum and report back to the standards committees in the spring of 2025.

Chairperson's comments

Lead: David Hunt

Summary

- Welcomed to members and asked them to introduce themselves.
- Review of the role of the committee and rules of the meeting.

Approval of the November 7, 2024 Eastern Standards Committee agenda

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- Meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the April 3, 2024 Eastern Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- Meeting minutes were approved.

Business arising

Lead: David Hunt

Summary

- Will no longer ask for motions to accept advisory committee reports and instead the reports will just be presented for member information and comments.

Regulatory process

Lead: Eve Froehlich

Summary

- Proposing new approach for grain grading regulatory changes
- Received feedback from stakeholders that they wanted more consultations, economic impact analyses, and clarity on the principles for decision making from the Canadian Grain Commission.

- Will now be performing a Regulatory Impact Analysis for grading changes.
- Regulatory Impact Analysis includes a cost benefit analysis that has different requirements for changes depending on level of cost.
- The Canadian Grain Commission will continue to consult with standards committees on all grading changes.
- Low impact grading changes will require a qualitative cost benefit analysis and may include additional pre-consultation.
- Significant impact grading changes will require a quantitative cost-benefit analysis and may include additional pre-consultation and pre-publication in the Canada Gazette, Part I.

For discussion

- Member asked whether the impact assessment considers the overall situation or focuses on a specific geographic area.
 - o Confirmed the process focuses on analyzing the overall costs and benefits.

Technology advancement framework

Lead: Eve Froehlich

Summary

- The Canadian Grain Commission developed a technology advancement framework to facilitate engagement and collaboration with technology companies, which outlines the approach and guiding principles for making decisions.
- During consultations for our Science Strategy, many respondents wanted to move from visual inspection towards more rapid and objective methods for grain grading.
- The framework is available on the Canadian Grain Commission website and is being communicated to stakeholders. There will be a comprehensive strategy to engage with technology companies.
- There are no plans at this time to adopt AI grain assessment tools. If one comes through that is feasible, there would be consultation with the sector and staff before implementation.

Wheat Advisory Committee report

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

For information and discussion

- Sprouted tolerance in Canada Eastern Soft Red Winter (CESRW) wheat: asked to research samples with low Falling Number but no visible signs of sprouted. The 2024 sample review is complete, and it appears that No. 1 and 2 will ensure a Falling Number of over 275 seconds and all samples that had low Falling Number had visible sprouting.
- Degree of soundness: found it helpful to list the degree of soundness at the start of each column in the Official Grain Grading Guide for a consistent flow when grading a sample of grain using the grade determination tables. Feel it's necessary to retain as is. Work will continue to ensure grading standards are science based.
- Hard vitreous kernel (HVK) project: presented on the relation of HVK to Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat. HVK has minimal impact on most end-use quality factors. Only in extreme circumstances

when low protein is coupled with very low HVK, flour water absorption can fall below the normal CWRS range.

- Standard print for mildew: in the preliminary stages of developing a standard print to assess mildew with a focus on CWRS and Canada Western Amber Durum (CWAD). Exploring photography techniques and hope to have a first version to share for the next standards committee meetings.
- Procedure for shrunken and broken: an industry stakeholder reached out to confirm if there is an approved method using the 4.5 slotted hand sieve. The Official Grain Grading Guide only references the Carter Dockage Tester machine method and there's concern some elevators don't have the machine. Tests were conducted using hand sieves but found discrepancies between hand sieves and the machine method. It's understood elevators need a quick assessment option. If a hand sieve is used, careful consideration to the direction of the slots is required. The Canadian Grain Commission continues to use the Carter Dockage Tester at export and for Final Quality Determination. A trade memo was released clarifying the existing process.

Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report

Lead: Kris Wonitowy

For information

- Degree of soundness - Rye and triticale: found it helpful to list the degree of soundness at the start of each column in the Official Grain Grading Guide for a consistent flow when grading a sample of grain using the grade determination tables. Feel it's necessary to retain as is. The committee doesn't have concerns with the existing degree of soundness.
- Degree of soundness, colour characteristics – Oats: the Canadian Grain Commission will ensure consultation with industry is done before making any changes, but there are no plans to change this at this time.

Oilseed Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information and discussion

- Broken and small canola project: Grain Research Laboratory worked with producer samples last winter and found that broken seed leads to lower oil content and an increase in free fatty acids.
- Sprouting in canola project: noticed sprouted canola seeds in harvest samples with highest concentration from Peace River area of Alberta. The Canadian Grain Commission issuing a trade memo clarifying the image and definition for assessing sprouted canola as there have been cases where the assessment of canola with a slightly cracked seed hull being graded as sprouted would result in significant unnecessary downgrades.
- As of August 1, 2024, all recommended changes to soybean colour put forward by the standards committees were added to the Official Grain Grading Guide.
- Harvest quality for mustard will soon be posted on the Canadian Grain Commission website.

Pulses Advisory Committee report

Lead: Evan Thomas

For information and discussion

- Small lentils: received inquiries from producers where small lentils are removed and being assessed as dockage. Discussion on the use of certain sieves during the cleaning process and how they may filter out small lentils. It was noted that changing from a 9-round hole sieve to an 8-round hole sieve would lead to more foreign material being left in, which is not acceptable for exporters.
 - o Issue also discussed 8 to 10 years ago and same conclusion was reached.
 - o A small study will be conducted this winter.

Crop reports

Leads: Neil Campbell (Atlantic), Bruno Simard (Quebec), Dana Dickerson (Ontario), Kris Wonitowy (Western)

Summary

- Atlantic – crop report presented indicating early spring planting resulted in a growth cycle about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Numerous challenges with spring wheat, but positive yield for soybeans. Corn currently being harvested with exceptional quality.
 - o Member commented fusarium situation has improved this year.
- Quebec – Harvest is ahead of schedule, but there are logistical challenges. Yields have been satisfactory. Corn harvest nearly complete but there are storage constraints. Significant outflow of soybeans from Quebec with vessels currently waiting. Vessels are arriving on schedule, but availability is limited.
- Ontario – Harvest wrapped up mid-August for winter wheat. Great for many, but wet for some. Average yields with excellent quality. Seeding for this year's winter wheat into almost perfect conditions mostly in September but continued into October. Slow planting for corn due to weather, and harvest continues at a rapid pace. Samples this year testing low for DON. Slow and delayed seeding for soybeans this year, and harvest is nearly complete in most areas. Reports of average yield, but some low protein levels this year.
- Western – standards committee agreed to forgo western crop report due to time constraints.

Grain Standards Advisory Committee discussion

Lead: Derek Bunkowsky

Summary

- Presentation given on the concept of transitioning from Grain Standards Advisory Committees to a Grain Standards Advisory Open Forum for member feedback.
- Broader consultation on this matter will take place in the coming months and into 2025. Committee members were encouraged to continue thinking about the concept and submit their feedback.

Action item

- The Canadian Grain Commission will continue to collect feedback and do consultation on the concept of a Grain Standards Advisory Committee Open Forum and report back to the standards committees in the spring of 2025.

Terms of committee members

Lead: David Hunt

Summary

- Thanked members nearing the end of their terms.

Other

Lead: David Hunt

Summary

- Nothing raised.

Closing remarks

Lead: David Hunt

Summary

- The Chair thanked members for their participation and input and staff who were involved.

Adjournment

Lead: David Hunt

Action items

- Motion was carried to adjourn the meeting