



U.S. Durum Growers Association

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA

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Dear Durum Producer:

USDGA and the ND Wheat Commission (NDWC) have heard concerns from durum producers in recent years regarding consistency of grading for hard vitreous kernel and vomitoxin (DON). A recent USDGA survey indicates a majority of durum inspection is performed by unofficial sources. However, for the durum officially inspected, USDGA and NDWC are working with the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to ensure producer confidence in the official inspection system. Learn more about official inspection and these efforts below.

Hard Vitreous Kernel

Working with USDGA and NDWC, FGIS has developed a first-ever Hard Vitreous kernel of Amber Color (HVAC) alignment program, which will analyze samples collected in-house from the FGIS inspection process and from farmers who specifically request a FGIS inspection when delivering to an elevator. **Attached is detailed information on how to submit a sample.**

Data will be combined from both collection processes and statistically analyzed to determine the degree to which HVAC results for service points in the field are consistent with the National Grain Center in Kansas City, Mo. Findings will be reported to USDGA and NDWC after the data analysis is completed. Alignment sample collection will continue through October. FGIS will discuss the issue at the Crop Outlook and Durum Forum in November in Minot.

DON

FGIS has had a DON monitoring program in place for the past 18 months. It compares the results of original inspections obtained by one of the FGIS Official Agencies (OAs) using a FGIS-approved test kit to results obtained by using the 'reference method,' which is ultra-high performance liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry, a highly sensitive instrument.

Weekly and annual reports showing the comparison of the results obtained from the original inspection to those obtained by the reference method are provided to the testing locations. Producer's individual samples are not included in the program, but rather samples analyzed for official inspection by the OA regardless of where the sample originated. Results for all service points are combined into an annual report that looks at system-wide performance, as well as where improvements can potentially be made. The next annual report is expected this October.

Your participation in the HVAC alignment program is encouraged. Updates on both programs will be provided by FGIS officials during the 2016 Crop Outlook and International Durum Forum on Nov. 14-15 in Minot, N.D. Visit www.durumgrowers.com for more information and to register.

See a representation of HVAC on the FGIS website at www.gipsa.usda.gov/vri/wheat_hvac.aspx. For more information on wheat grading, see the Grain Inspection Handbook, chapter 13, on the FGIS website at www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/handbook/BK2/BookII_2016-05-25.pdf.

If you have questions on either of the programs, feel free to contact USDGA at office@durumgrowers.com or 701-214-3203 or NDWC at ndwheat@ndwheat.com or 701-328-5111.

Sincerely,

Russell Doe
USDGA President

David Clough
NDWC Chairman