



U.S. Durum Growers Association

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA

P.O. Box 1091 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • (701) 214-3203
office@durumgrowers.com • www.durumgrowers.com

September 20, 2016

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

Vitreous Kernel Alignment Program

The US Durum Growers Association (USDGA) and North Dakota Wheat Commission (NDWC) have asked the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to establish a program to ensure producer confidence in the official inspection system in the determination of Hard Vitreous kernels of Amber Color (HVAC) in durum wheat by official agencies (OAs). HVAC as determined by OAs will be compared to results generated by the USDA Domestic Inspection Operations Office (DIOO) at the National Grain Center in Kansas City, Mo. DIOO will determine HVAC on the same durum wheat samples as the OAs.

The alignment program will analyze samples garnered by two processes:

- Collect in-house samples selected out of the FGIS inspection process
- Collect samples for which farmers specifically requested official inspection

Data will be combined from both collection processes and statistically analyzed to determine the degree to which the OAs are aligned to the National Grain Center on the factor HVAC. Findings will be reported to the USDGA after the data analysis is completed.

In-house samples from the FGIS inspection process

FGIS has established a program for identifying daily samples of durum submitted to each of the three specific North Dakota OAs that grade durum wheat. It is expected the program will generate approximately 200 random samples for submission to DIOO to determine HVAC. The OAs have been instructed to retain file samples for an extended period in order to be selected for this program. There is no cost to farmers for this component of the program.

Farmer requesting official inspection

Farmer-submitted grain samples provide farmers the opportunity to flag specific samples for the alignment program.

The farmer participates by performing two steps:

1. Arranging for a North Dakota OA to receive the sample for grading (see "North Dakota Official Agencies" below), and
2. Informing the USDA a sample has been sent to a North Dakota OA for alignment testing. This is done by sending a prompt email to FGISforDurumGrowers@usda.gov.

Messages to this email address will be treated anonymously and can be used for any other concerns or questions. The farmer is responsible for shipping costs and official agency inspection fees for this component of the program. Any sample inspected by an official agency may be eligible for a federal appeal, at the farmers' expense.

The following information must be included in the email request:

- Date sample was sent to the North Dakota OA
- North Dakota OA name
- Sample identification information
- Grower name and phone number
- Elevator name

FGIS North Dakota Official Agencies

North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.
2601 N. University Dr., Fargo, ND 58102-1303
701-293-7420 (phone), 701-241-8818 (fax)
ndgi@graininspection.com
www.graininspection.com

Grain Inspection, Inc.
P.O. Box 1652, Jamestown, ND 58402-1652
314 2nd Street, N.W., Jamestown, ND 58401-3119
701-252-1290 (phone), 701-252-1298 (fax)
grain@csicable.net
www.graininspectionservices.com

Minot Grain Inspection, Inc.

P.O. Drawer B, Minot, ND 58702-0210
1804 Valley Street, Minot, ND 58701-6076
701-838-1734 (phone), 701-838-3782 (fax)
motgrins@srt.com