

MemberUpdate

No. 12 of 23 • 8 June 2023

TOPIC: New ASW Grade – Milling Wheat Minimum Protein Content 9% (ASW9)

DISTRIBUTION: GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Member Update is to:

- Advise members of a proposed new milling wheat grade (ASW9) with a minimum 9% protein content.

2. Background

- Industry was advised in 2022 a submission was received seeking to create a new milling grade with a minimum 9% protein. This submission stated the protein content of the Western Australian (WA) wheat crop has been declining in recent seasons, with receival data showing a decline from 2008.
- It could be expected that growers who deliver higher protein ASW1 in the range of 9% - 10% may be missing out on higher returns if that grain was segregated rather than being commingled with ASW1 grain with a protein lower than 9%.
- The GTA Trading Standards Committee (the Committee) discussed the submission and proposal at length and noted:
 - No change would occur to the current ASW1 Grade, which has no minimum or maximum protein.
 - The Committee questioned the decline in protein and the needs of the market. Generally, the human consumption milling market has minimal demand for ASW1 below 9% protein.
 - The current ASW1 protein range of the delivered crop is broad, creating a very different quality profile depending on the protein content.
 - ASW1 protein content in States outside of WA is reportable well above 9% and separate ASW9 binning segregations are unlikely to be employed if industry agrees to implement ASW9.
- The Committee agreed there needs to be discussion across industry to assist with understanding the market requirements and the likely practical applications if ASW9 implemented.
- GTA has been asked by the Committee to consult with all relevant industry sectors more fully on the implications of any change, including the grower sector, BHCs in terms of segregations, payments and end-users including the human consumption and stockfeed sectors of industry.
- Initial industry consultations have occurred in Western Australia, following a trial of an ASW grade with a minimum protein of 9% in that State during the 2022/2023 harvest period.
- If released, this grade would apply across all regions and have the same specifications and cascading rules as ASW1 except a minimum protein of 9% would apply.

- Based on industry feedback, unless otherwise decided, **the Committee intends to release this grade in the 2024/25 season.**

3. Further Information

- Further information and a greater understanding of the ASW9 grade is available from GTA. GTA members who have queries relating to ASW9 may contact GTA at admin@graintrade.org.au.

4. Calling for Submissions

- The GTA Trading Standards Committee is seeking submissions from GTA members to provide feedback or comments about the proposed new ASW grade – Milling Wheat Minimum Protein Content 9%.
- You are invited to provide written feedback or comments about the proposal.
- Use the [GTA Submission proforma](#) to lodge your submission, noting that submissions do not need to be supported by other GTA Members, however, if they are supported, please indicate on the form. The deadline for submissions providing feedback is by **COB on the 31st of August 2023.**
- Unless marked “confidential” and appropriate supporting reasons are provided, all submissions may be placed on the GTA website for industry review.

END