

Second provisional AHDB-HGCA 2011 Cereal Quality Survey Results

30th September 2011

GB Wheat 2011	2009 Final	2010 Final	2011 1st provisional	2011 2nd provisional	3 Year Average
Specific Weight (kg/hl)	76.9	77.0	79.8	79.2	76.5
Hagberg Falling Number (seconds)	263	270	284	277	254
Protein Content (%)	11.6	11.9	12.3	12.2	11.6

GB Barley 2011	2009 Final	2010 Final	2011 1st provisional	2011 2nd provisional	3 Year Average
Specific Weight (kg/hl)	66.3	67.0	66.8	66.4	66.4
Nitrogen Content (%)	1.61	1.64	1.82	1.64	1.61
Grain through 2.25mm sieve (%)	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.9
Grain retained in 2.5mm sieve (%)	95.0	94.1	95.8	95.8	94.3

General

This second set of provisional results are based on 38,000 wheat samples and 22,000 barley samples collected up to the 28th September 2011; this is more than double the number analysed for the first release. Some bias towards crops from the South and East still exists with 68% of samples from these regions and the Scottish harvest still ongoing. However, this effect should be less pronounced than in the first provisional results. The figures published are averages and hence there is variation around these numbers.

Full Cereal Quality Survey results will be available in November when a complete picture of GB wheat quality can be ascertained. It is expected that this data will change between the provisional and final results as harvest moves to completion across GB and more samples are analysed.

Further details on the AHDB-HGCA Cereal Quality Survey can be found at www.hgca.com/markets in the survey results section.

Wheat

For wheat, the second provisional 2011 results (as at 28th September) show a higher Hagberg Falling Number, specific weight and protein level compared to 2010 and the three year averages. This suggests that the market may be well supplied with high quality wheat at the expense of medium to low grade volumes this season. These historically high levels of protein may mean millers adjust their blends in order to achieve the desired characteristics in the flour grist.

- **Average Hagberg Falling Number** for GB wheat is 277 seconds, up 7 seconds on last season's final results and 23 seconds above the three year average. Variation across the regions is 204 – 295 seconds.
- **Average specific weight** shows an increase of 2.2kg/hl on last season's final results, to 79.2kg/hl. High specific weight levels may go some way to compensate for the lower yields reported in the UK via higher flour extraction rates.
- **Average protein content** is shown at 12.2%, an increase on 2010's final result of 11.9% and 0.6 points higher than the three year average. This suggests that protein levels have been sustained in samples through the main harvest with this level only 0.1 points lower than the first provisional results.

Barley

For barley, the second provisional 2011 results show a lower specific weight, similar nitrogen content and better screenings compared to 2010 final results. This latest data shows that 2011 nitrogen content was lower in the main body of harvest and spring varieties compared with the early samples analysed for the first provisional results. This reflects the fact that poorer crops were harvested earlier and suggests that, taking into account a greater proportion of the total crop, nitrogen levels could be lower than first thought.

- **Average specific weight** at 66.4kg/hl is lower than last season's final result of 67.0kg/hl but higher than the three year average.
- **Average nitrogen content** is seen at 1.64%, the same as last year's final result and only slightly above the three year average of 1.61%.
- **Screening results** are better in general with an average of 1.6% of grain passing through a 2.25mm sieve (lower than last year and the three year average) and 95.8% of grain retained by a 2.5mm sieve (higher than 2010 and the three year average). This is an indicator that this year's crop may be more consistent than 2010 with potentially less claims on contracts for screenings.

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