

In December 2016, the U.S. Grains Council released its second annual Sorghum Harvest Quality Report. This report showed that the 2016 early and late harvest samples were of good quality. This quality was largely the result of favorable sorghum growing and harvest conditions, which also enabled high yields. The report showed the following key characteristics:

HARVEST GRADE FACTORS AND MOISTURE

- Average test weight of 59.1 pounds per bushel (76.1 kilograms per hectoliter), with 87.8 percent at or above the limit for U.S. No. 1 grade sorghum. Similar to 2015, this test weight indicates good kernel filling and maturation.
- Average levels of broken kernels and foreign material (BNFM) of 1.8 percent, with 86.5 percent at or below the limit for U.S. No. 1 grade, indicating little cleaning will be required.
- Low levels of total damage (average of 0.4 percent), with 97.6 percent at or below the limit for U.S. No. 2 grade.
- No observed heat damage.
- Average elevator moisture of 13.7 percent, lower than 2015.

HARVEST CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

- Average protein concentration of 8.5 percent (dry basis), lower than 2015.
- Average starch concentration of 72.6 percent (dry basis), lower than 2015.
- Average oil concentration of 4.4 percent (dry basis), similar to 2015.
- All samples had no detectable levels of tannins.

HARVEST PHYSICAL FACTORS

- Average kernel diameter of 2.61 millimeters, higher than 2015.
- 1000-kernel weight (TKW) average of 28.17 grams, higher than 2015.
- Average kernel volume of 20.57 cubic millimeters, higher than 2015.
- Average kernel true density of 1.370 grams per cubic centimeter, higher than 2015.
- Kernel hardness index, on average, was 67.1, which was lower than 2015. This implies less energy may be needed for grinding the 2016 crop than the 2015 crop.

HARVEST MYCOTOXINS

- 100% of the 2016 samples tested below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action level (20 parts per billion) for aflatoxins.
- 100% of the 2016 samples tested below the 5 parts per million U.S. FDA advisory level for DON (deoxynivalenol or vomitoxin).

2016/2017 SORGHUM CROP PRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate (WASDE) report released in November 2016 estimates U.S. sorghum production at 11.7 million metric tons (462 million bushels) in 2016, a 23 percent decrease in production from the 2015 crop year. The United States is the top exporter of sorghum, with an estimated 73.6% of global sorghum exports during the 2016/2017 marketing year.

VIEW THE FULL REPORT ONLINE

The full report provides more details on these characteristics and the tests used to assess them. Please visit www.grains.org to view the report in its entirety.

ABOUT THE U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL

The U.S. Grains Council is a private, non-profit partnership of farmers and agribusinesses committed to building and expanding international markets for U.S. sorghum, barley, sorghum, and their co-products, including ethanol. The Council is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and has 10 international offices that oversee programs in more than 50 countries.