

U.S. Grains Council
2015/2016
Corn **Harvest Quality** Report



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Developing markets. >> Enabling trade. >> Improving lives.

U.S. Grains Council:

- Building partnerships based on trust
- Bridge to world's largest, most reliable grain supply

Corn Harvest Quality Report:

- Reliable and comparable data
- Transparent and consistent methodology
- Early look at general harvest quality



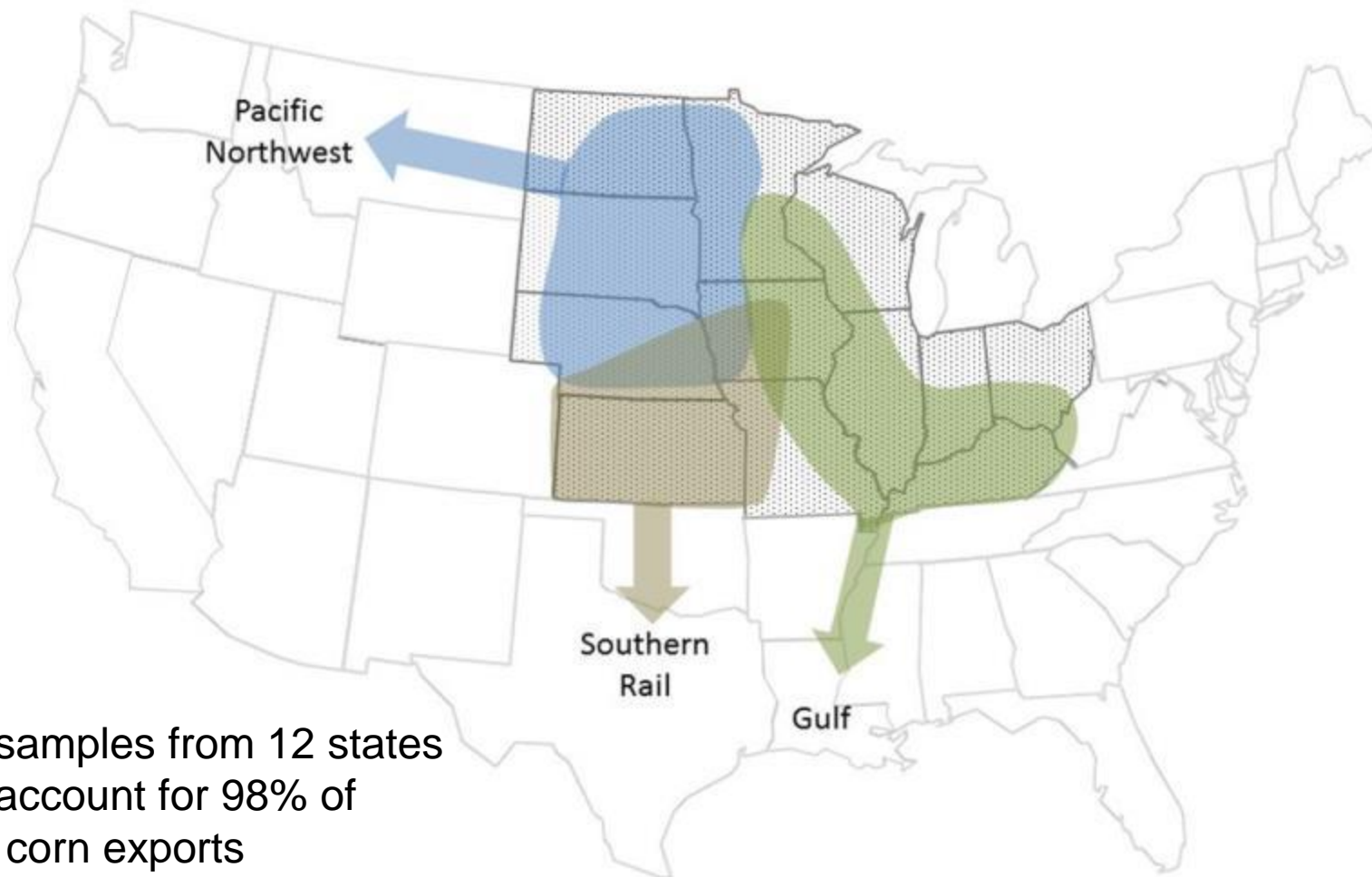
2015: Fifth year of this report

- Beginning to evaluate trends and factors that impact corn quality
- Annual Series: Enhancing knowledge over time
- Quality at export affected by many factors in the U.S. grain marketing system
- *Corn Export Cargo Quality Report* in March 2016 will report U.S. corn quality from samples at export points



“Export Catchment Areas” (ECAs)

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report



620 samples from 12 states
that account for 98% of
U.S. corn exports

Grading Factors

Test weight
Broken corn/foreign material
Total damage
Heat damage

Physical Factors

Stress cracks/Stress crack index
100-kernel weight
Kernel volume
True density
Whole kernels
Horneous (hard) endosperm

Moisture

Chemical Composition

Protein
Starch
Oil

Mycotoxins

Aflatoxins
DON

2015 Growing Conditions and Impact on Crop Development

2015/2016 Corn Harvest Quality Report

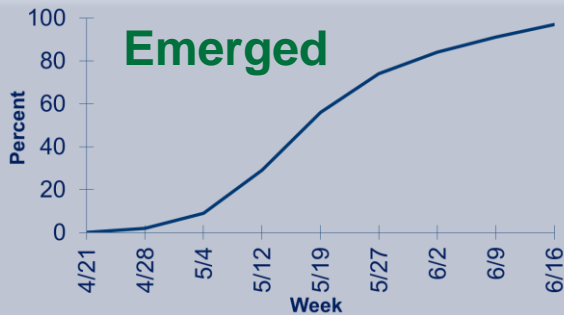
Warm, dry late April to early May, followed by very wet June



Cool daytime and warm nighttime temperatures, 4th record wettest summer



Cool August, warm & dry September & October



Condensed, early planting, abundant subsurface water



Minimal heat stress increased kernel filling with starch



Rapid natural dry-down and harvest; low breakage, stress cracks, disease, mycotoxin levels

Grade Factors

- Test weight: higher than 2014, 2013 and 4YA*; indicates good kernel filling and maturation
- BCFM: levels remained low; average well below the limit for No. 1 grade
- Total damage: lower levels with less variance than 2014; average well below the limit for No. 1 grade

Moisture

- Lower than 2014, 2013 and 4YA

Chemical Composition

- Lower protein, accompanied by high starch and oil concentration similar to 2014 but higher than 4YA

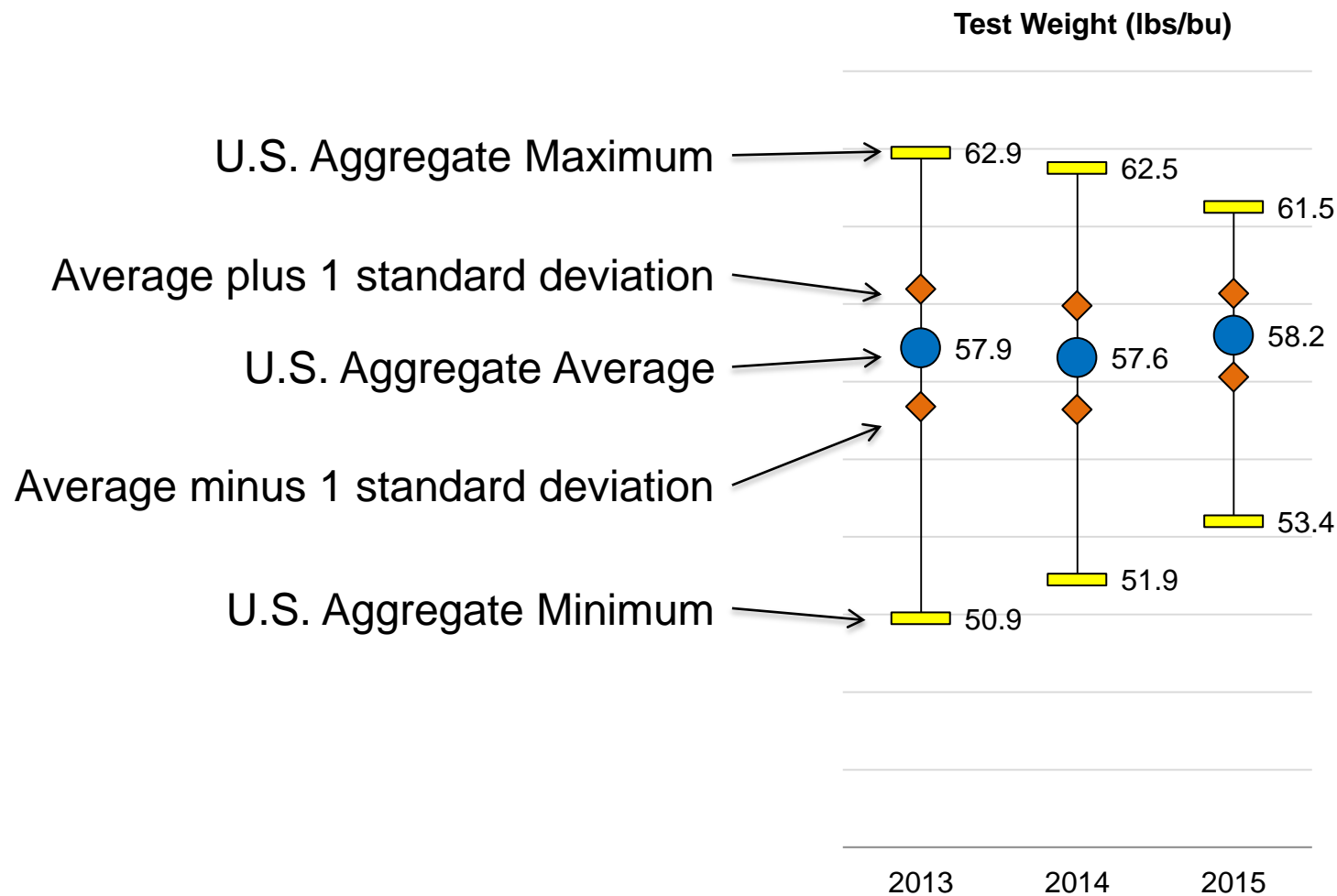
Physical Factors

- Stress cracks and SCI: lower levels than 2014 and 4YA; susceptibility to breakage may be slightly less than last 2 years
- True density and horneous endosperm: lower than 2014 and 4YA
- Whole kernels: higher than 2014 and 4YA

**4YA: simple average of U.S. Aggregate average quality factor in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014*

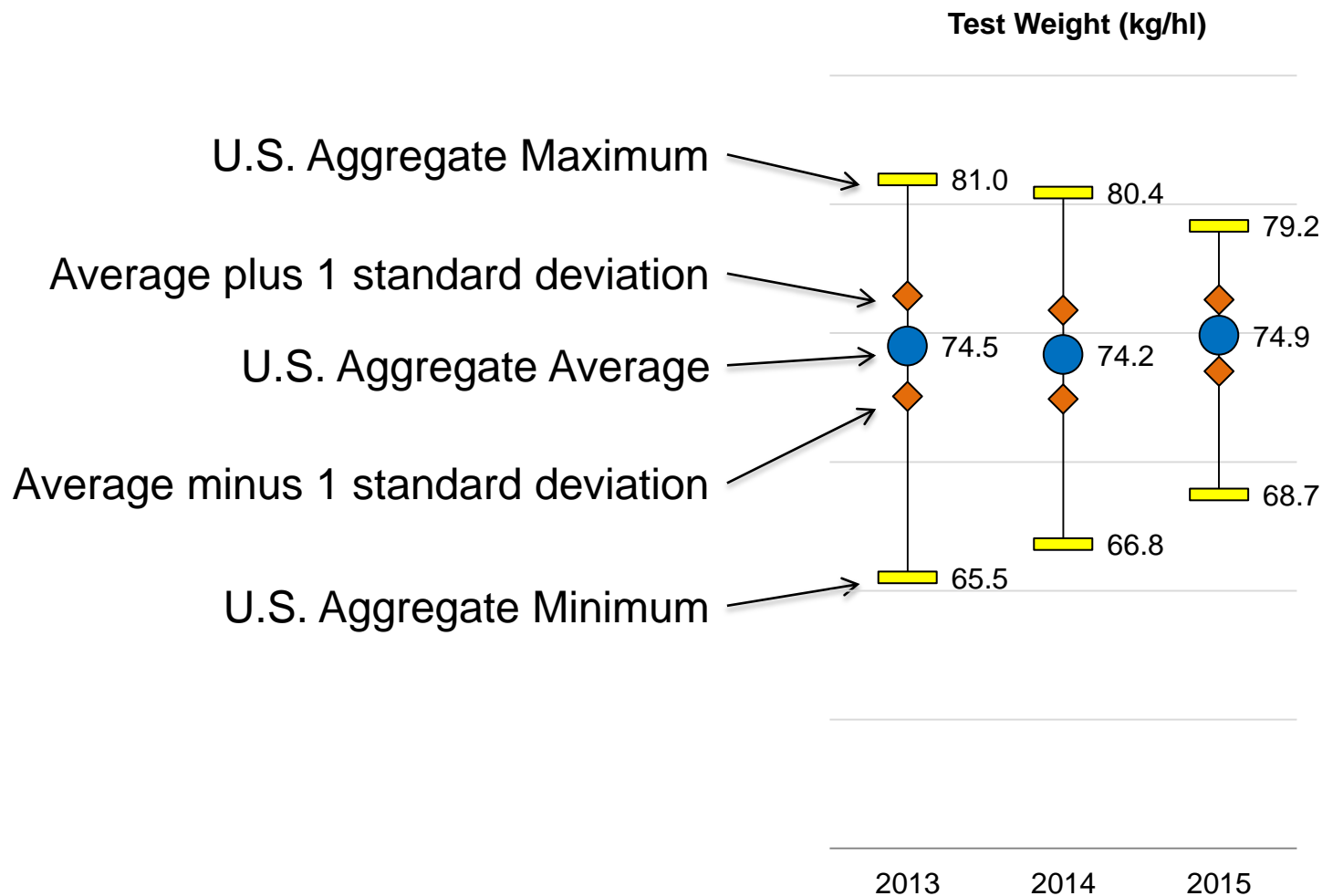
Test Results: Comparison

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report



Test Results: Comparison

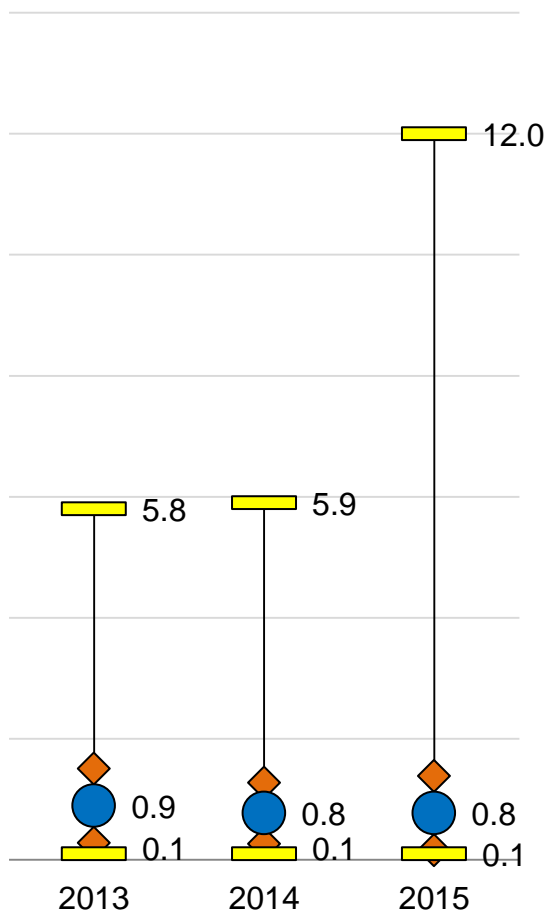
2015/2016 Corn
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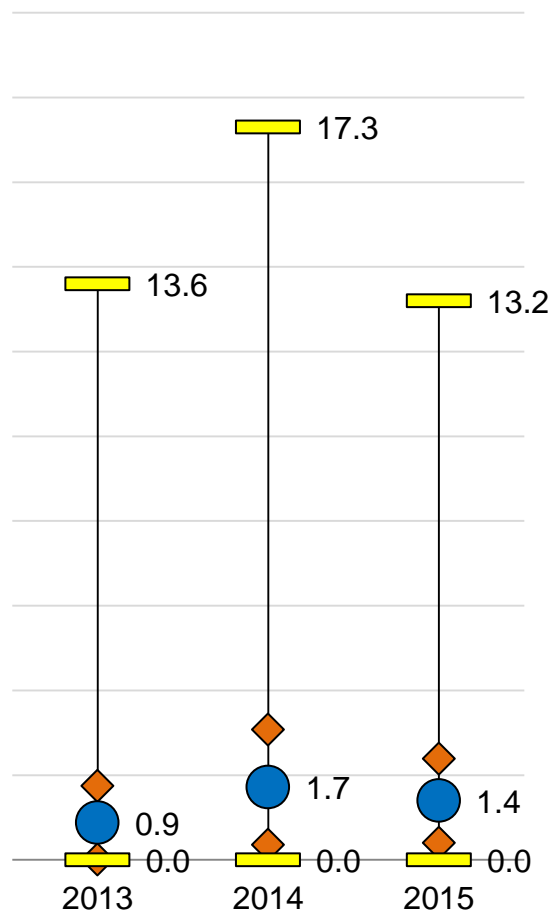
Test Results: Comparison (cont'd)

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BCFM (%)



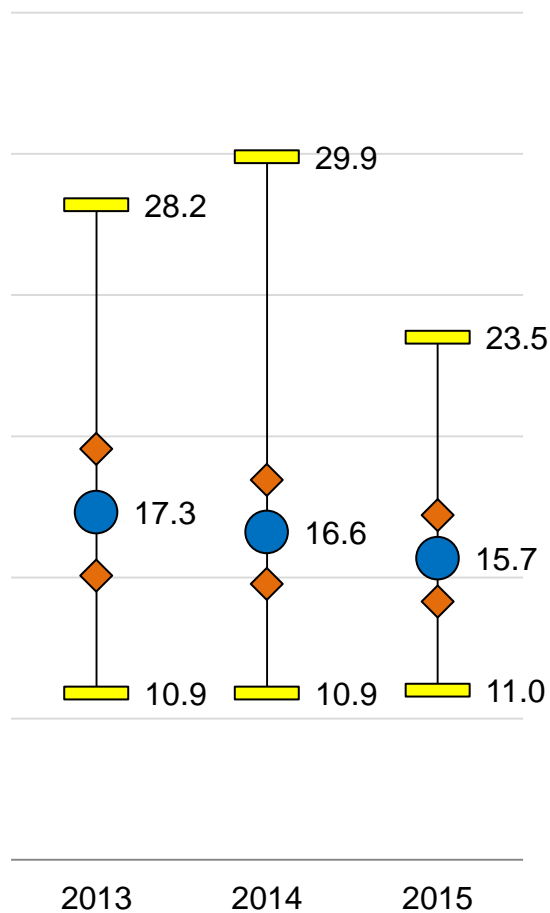
Total Damage (%)



Test Results: Comparison (cont'd)

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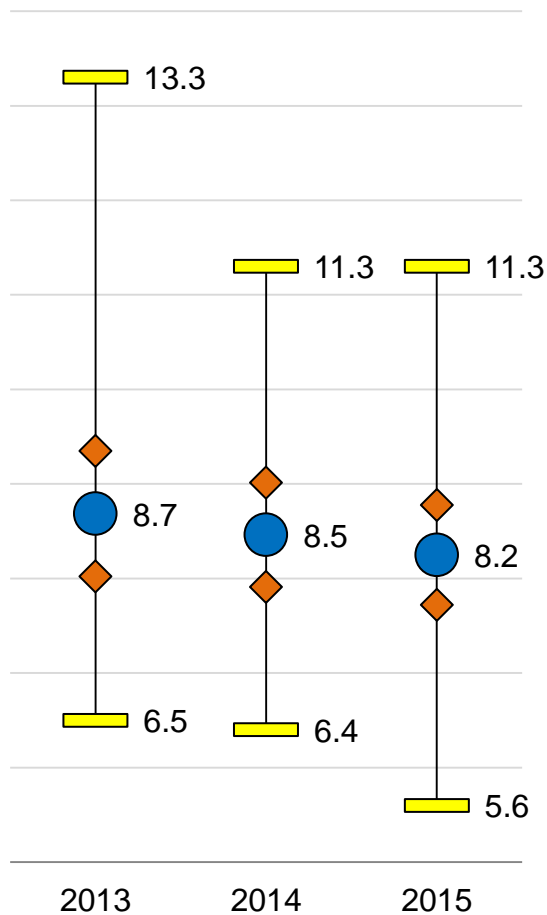
Moisture (%)



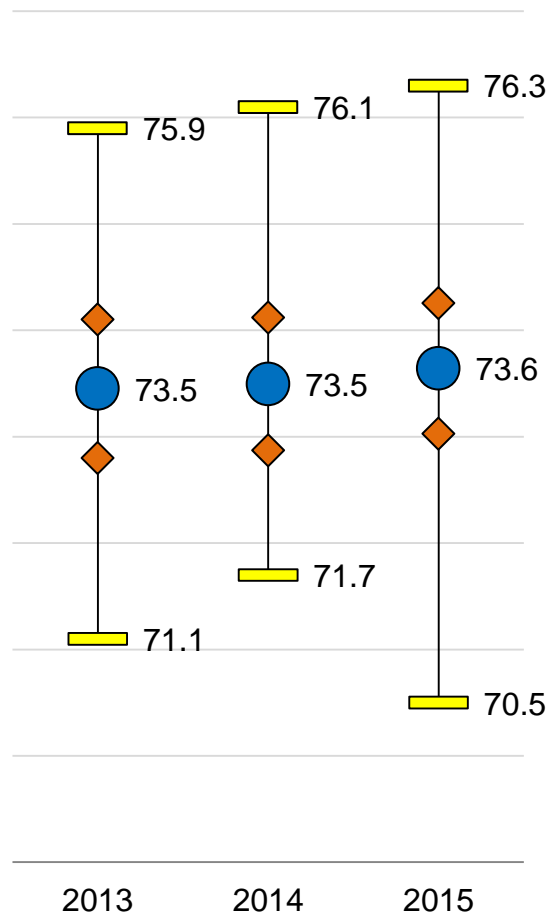
Test Results: Comparison (cont'd)

2015/2016 Corn
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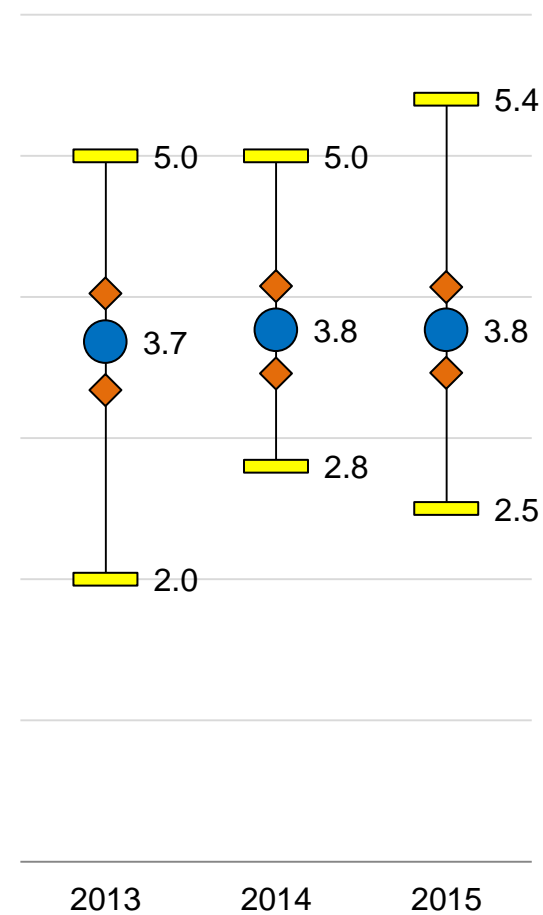
Protein (Dry Basis %)



Starch (Dry Basis %)



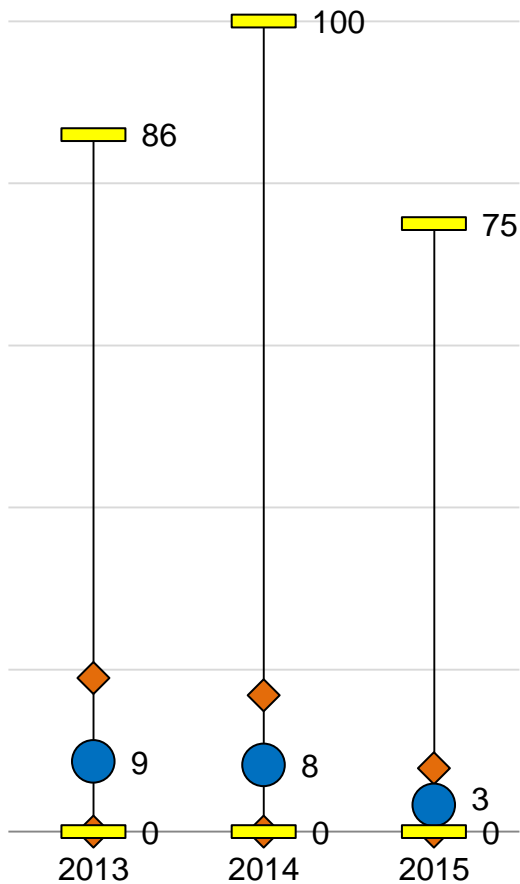
Oil (Dry Basis %)



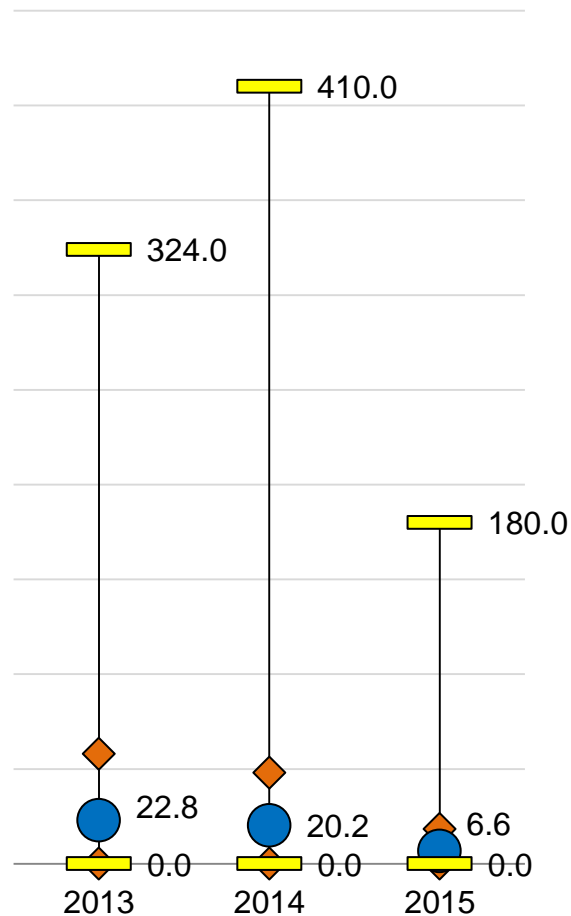
Test Results: Comparison (cont'd)

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Stress Cracks (%)



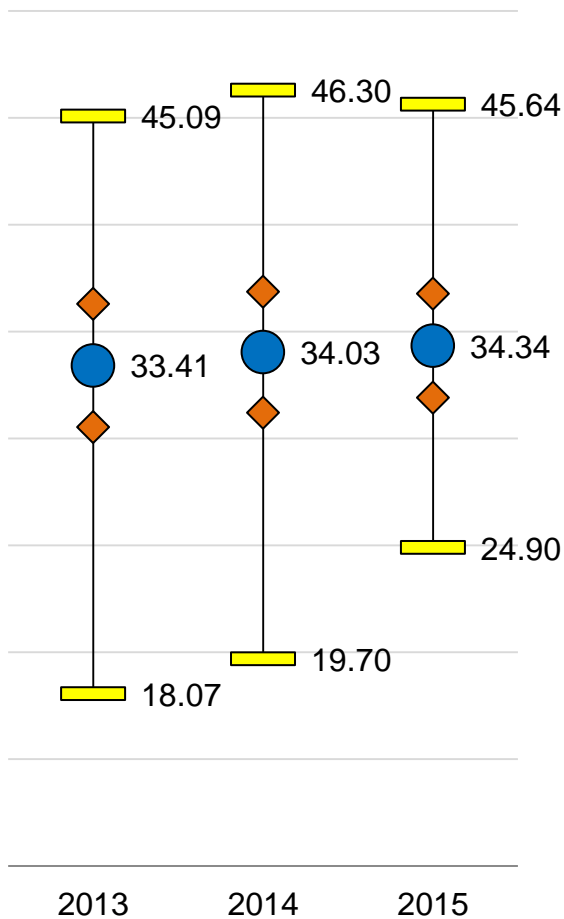
Stress Crack Index



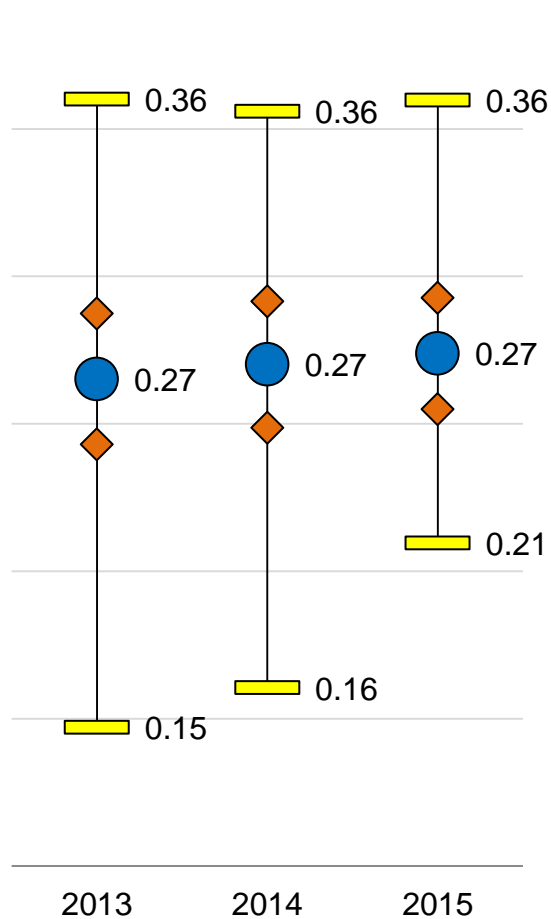
Test Results: Comparison (cont'd)

2015/2016 Corn
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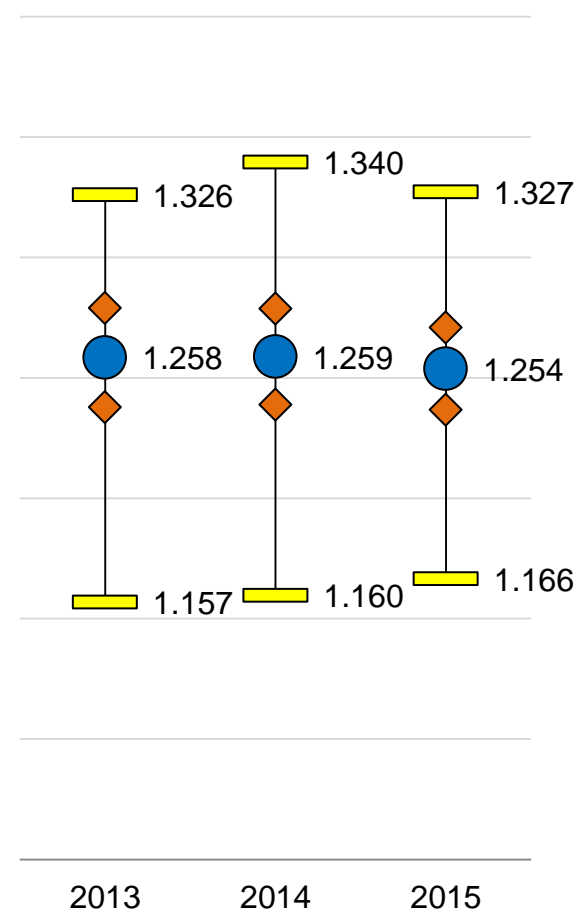
100-Kernel Weight (g)



Kernel Volume (cm³)

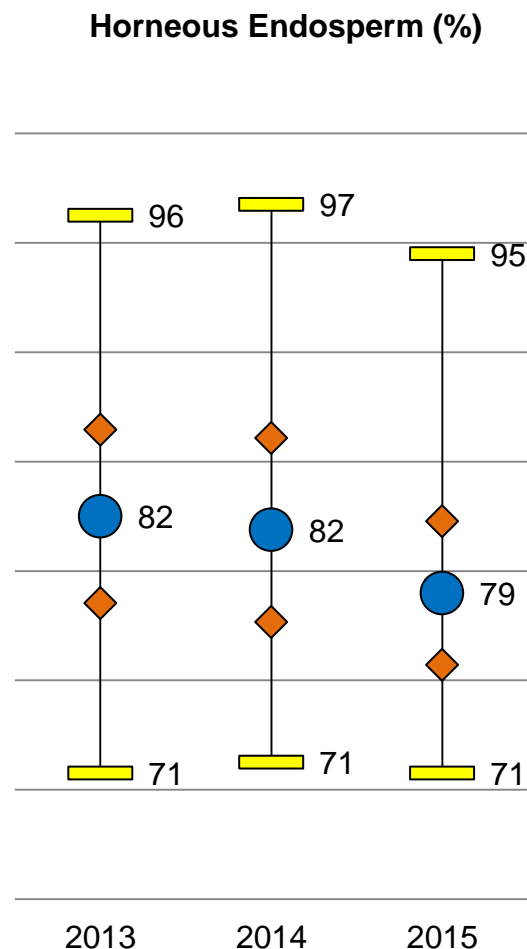
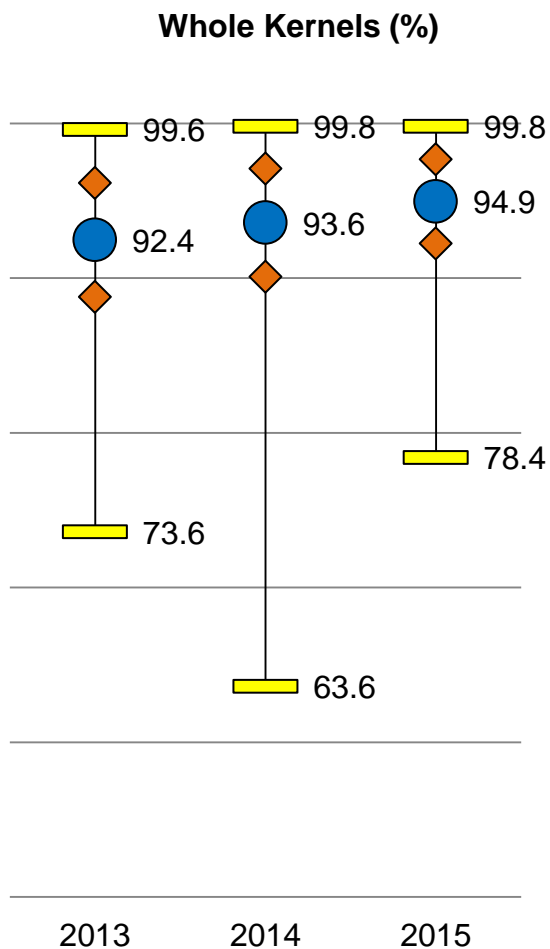


True Density (g/cm³)



Test Results: Comparison (cont'd)

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Aflatoxins

- 100% of the samples tested below the FDA action level

DON

- Lower incidences of DON were detected in the 2015 crop than in the 2014 and 2013 crops
- All samples tested below the FDA advisory level



Grades and Grade Requirements

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Harvest Quality Report

Grade	Min. Test Weight per Bushel (lb/bu)	----- Maximum Limits of -----		
		Heat Damaged (%)	Total Damage (%)	BCFM (%)
U.S. No. 1	56.0	0.1	3.0	2.0
U.S. No. 2	54.0	0.2	5.0	3.0
U.S. No. 3	52.0	0.5	7.0	4.0
U.S. No. 4	49.0	1.0	10.0	5.0
U.S. No. 5	46.0	3.0	15.0	7.0

Source: USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS)

Grade Factors and Moisture

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report

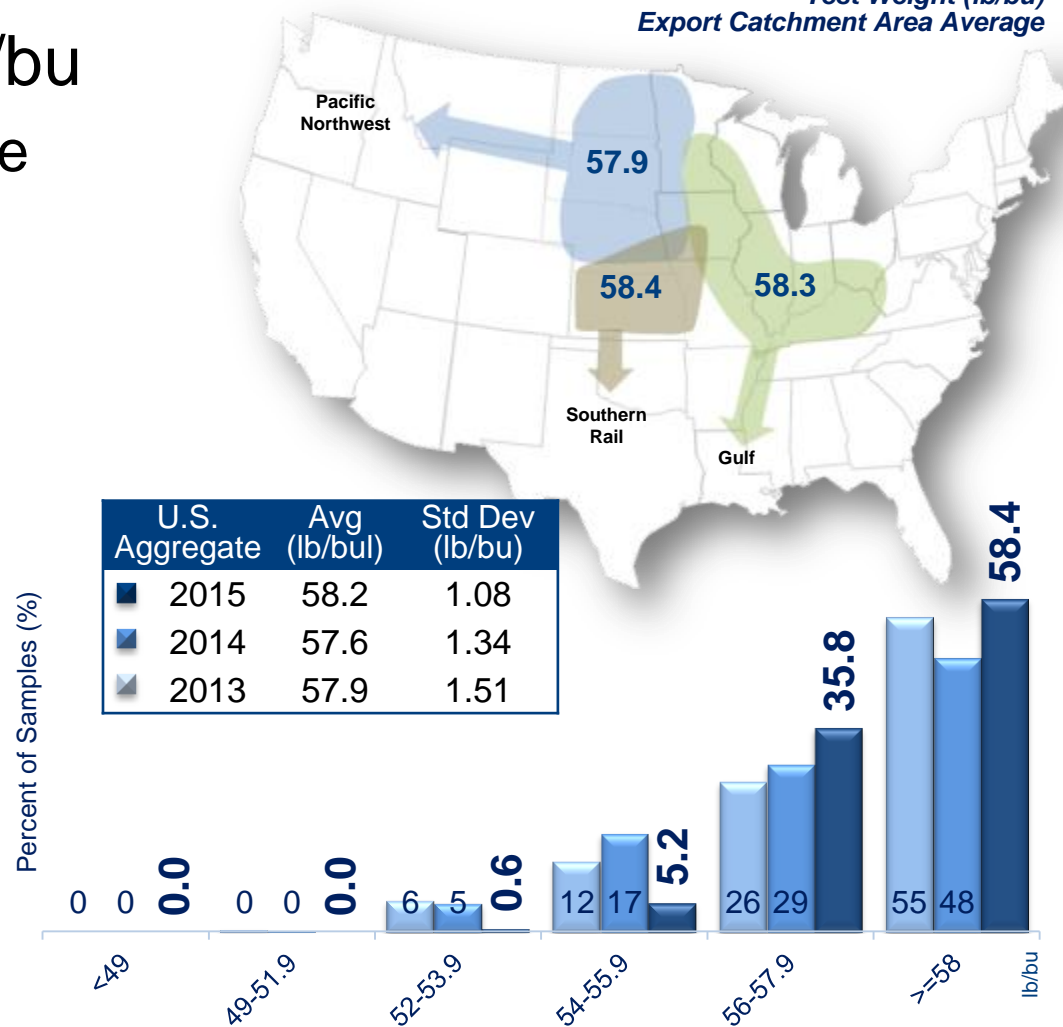
	No. of Samples	Avg.	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
Test Weight (lb/bu)	620	58.2	1.08	53.4	61.5
Test Weight (kg/hl)	620	74.9	1.38	68.7	79.2
BCFM (%)	620	0.8	0.61	0.1	12.0
Broken Corn (%)	620	0.6	0.42	0.0	7.5
Foreign Material (%)	620	0.2	0.27	0.0	4.5
Total Damage (%)	620	1.4	1.00	0.0	13.2
Heat Damage (%)	620	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Moisture (%)	620	15.7	1.53	11.0	23.5



U.S. Aggregate: 58.2 lb/bu

- Higher average and more uniform than 2014
- Indicates good kernel filling and maturation
- 94.2% above No. 1 grade minimum
- Southern Rail ECA had highest average

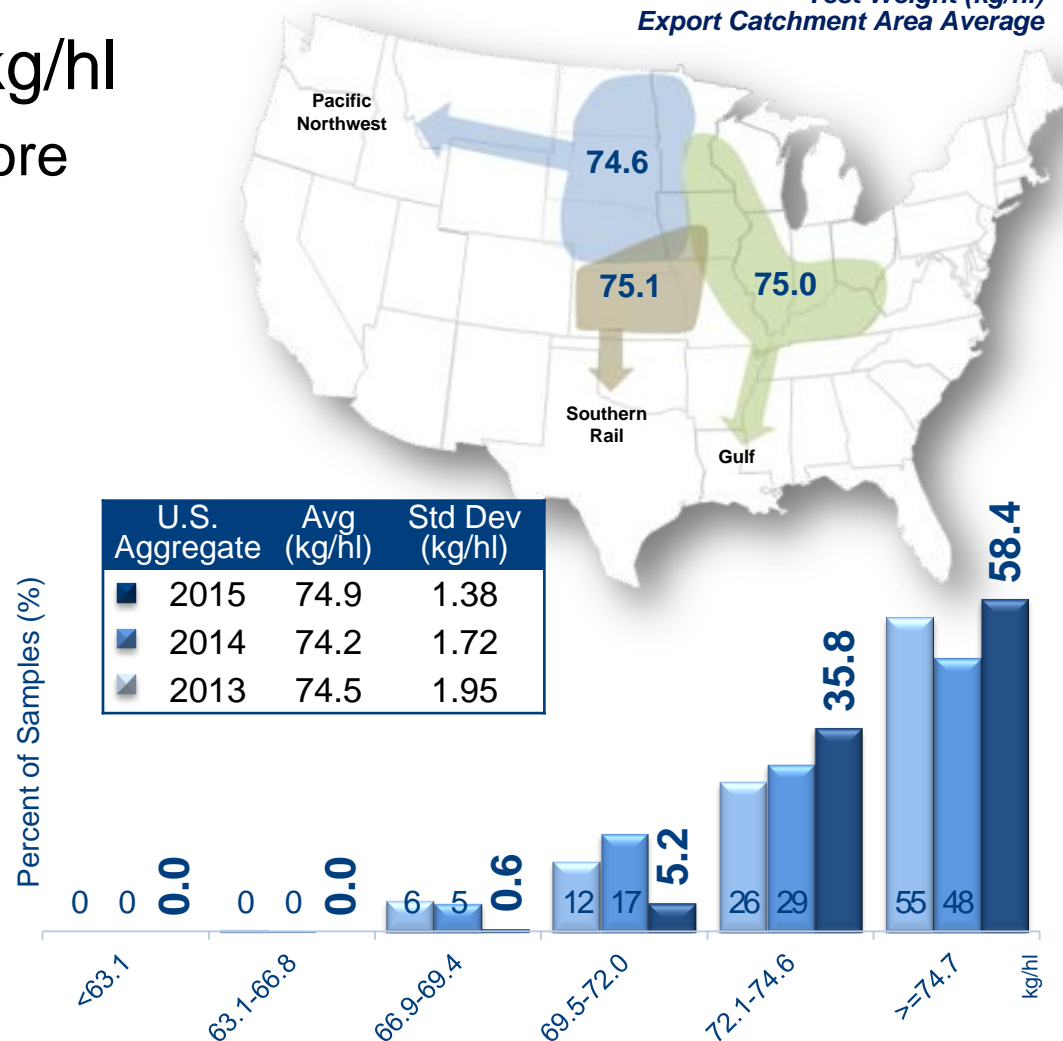
Test Weight (lb/bu)
Export Catchment Area Average



U.S. Aggregate: 74.9 kg/hl

- Higher average and more uniform than 2014
- Indicates good kernel filling and maturation
- 94.2% above No. 1 grade minimum
- Southern Rail ECA had highest average

Test Weight (kg/hl)
Export Catchment Area Average

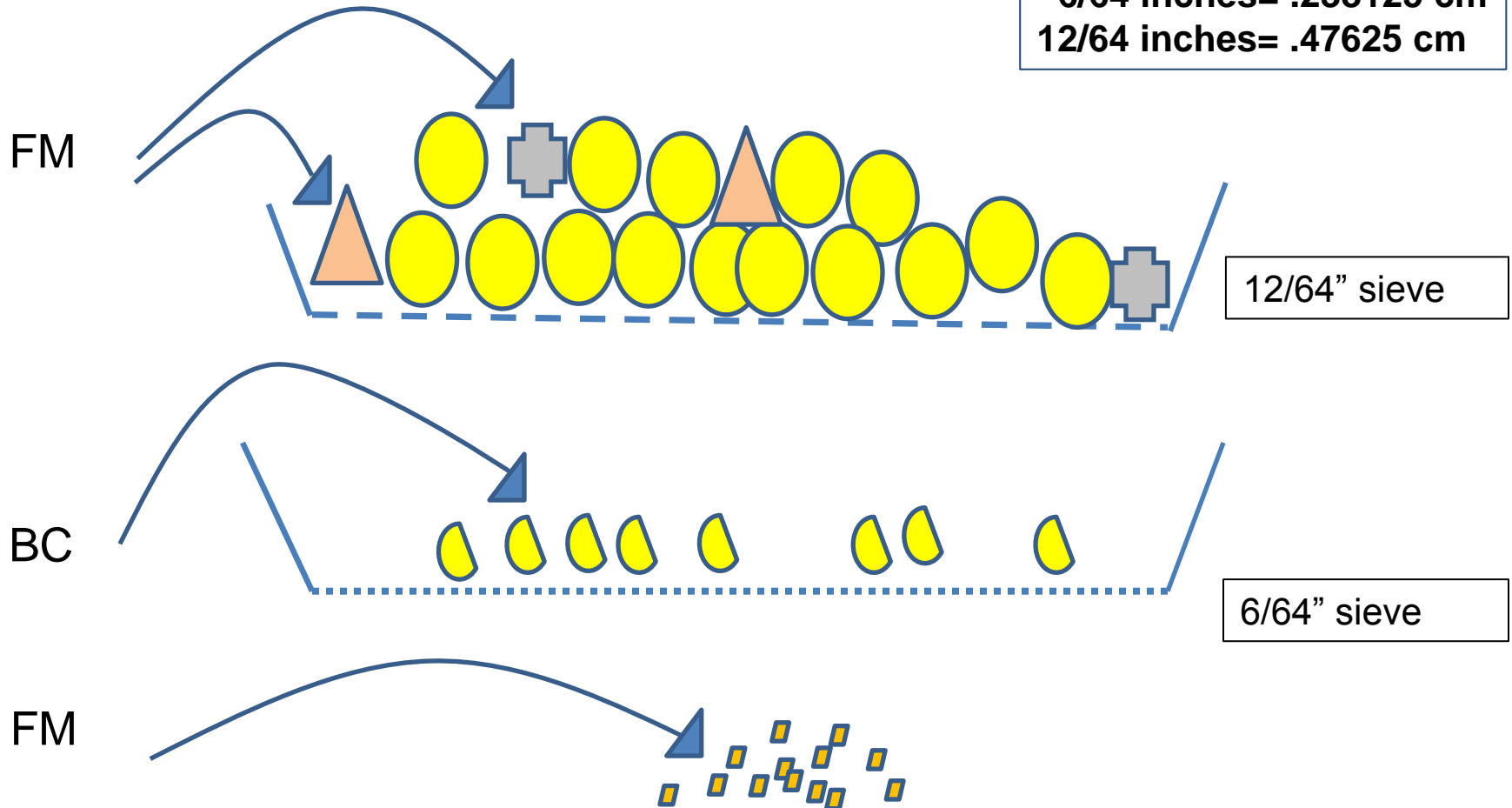


Broken Corn/Foreign Material*

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report

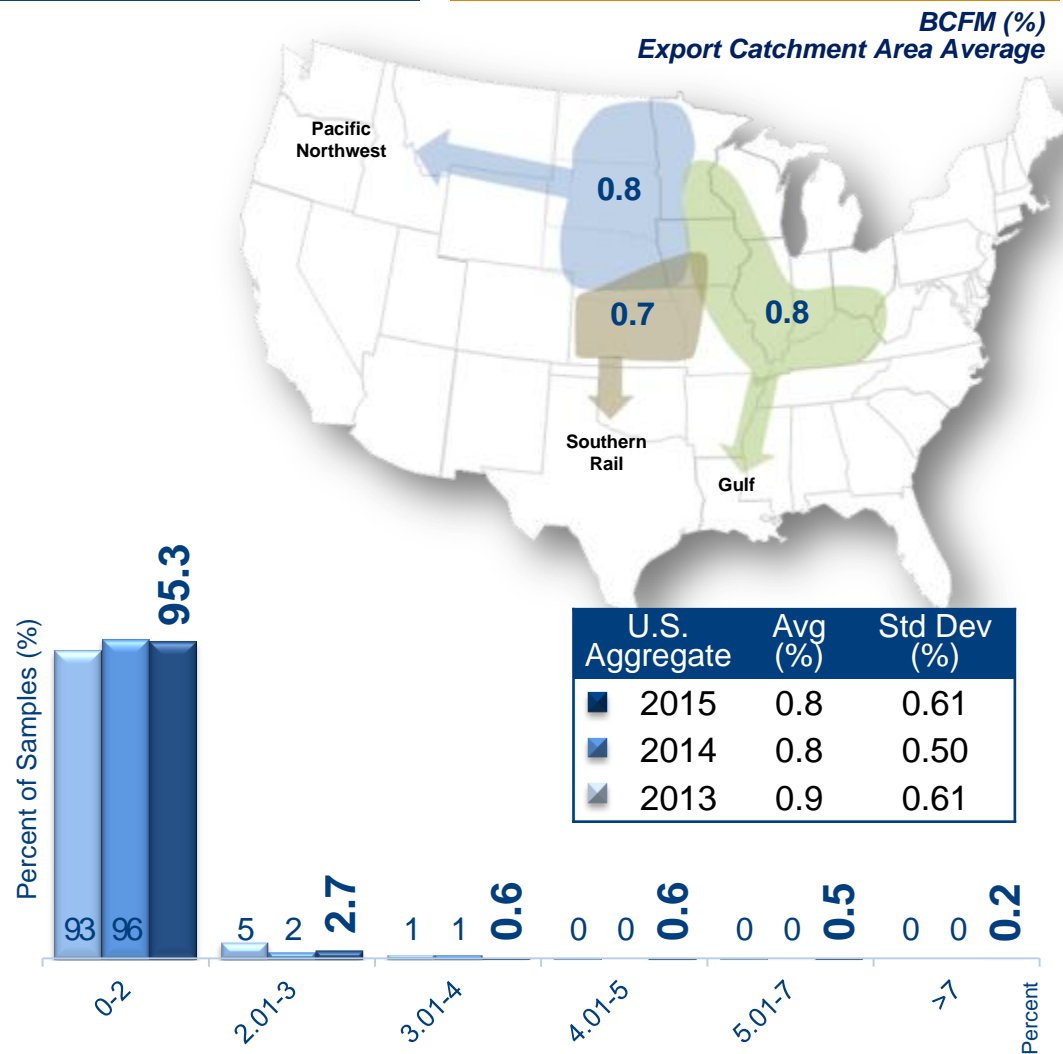
* Measured as % of weight

6/64 inches = .238125 cm
12/64 inches = .47625 cm



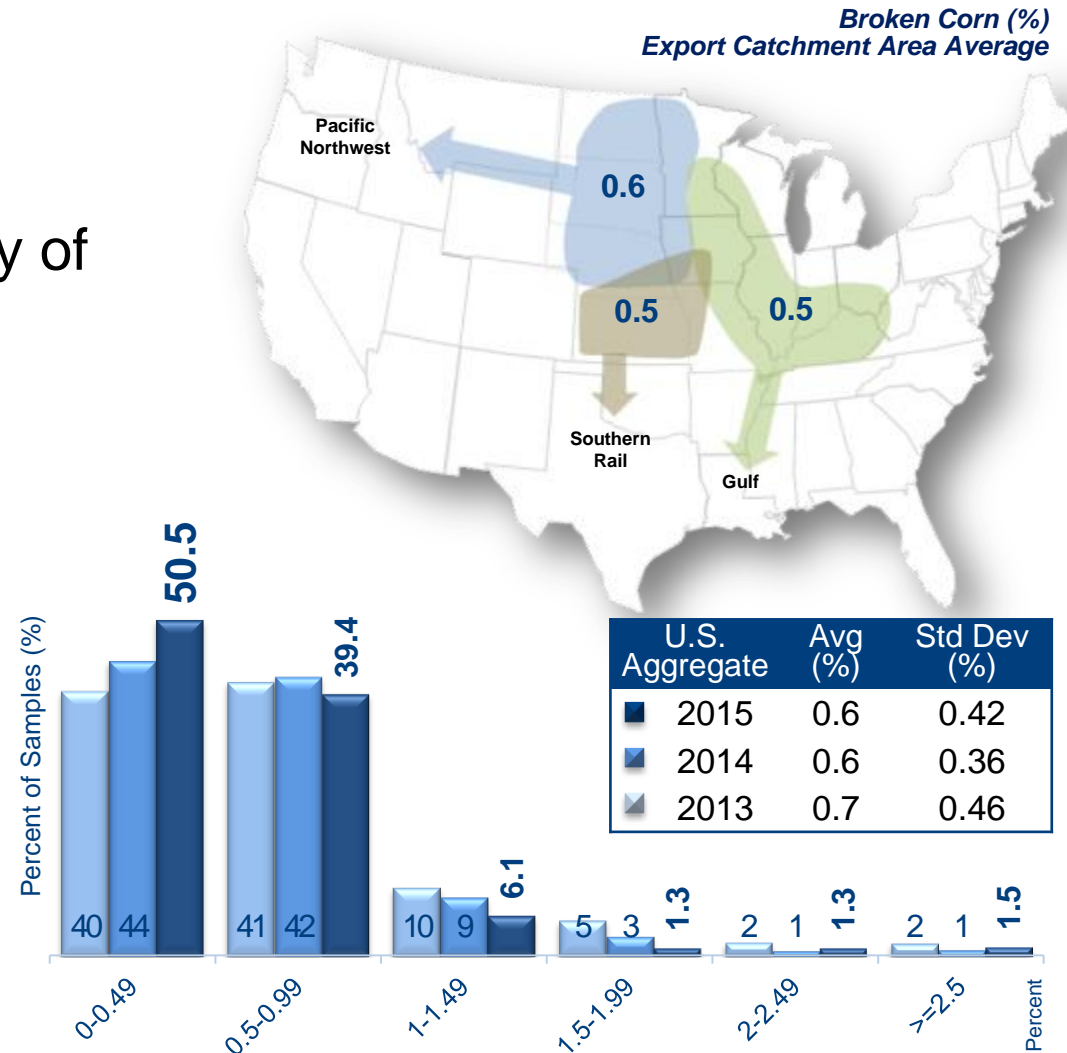
U.S. Aggregate: 0.8%

- Average well below limit for No. 1 grade
- Average same as but less uniform than 2014 and 4YA
- Southern Rail ECA had the lowest average in 2015



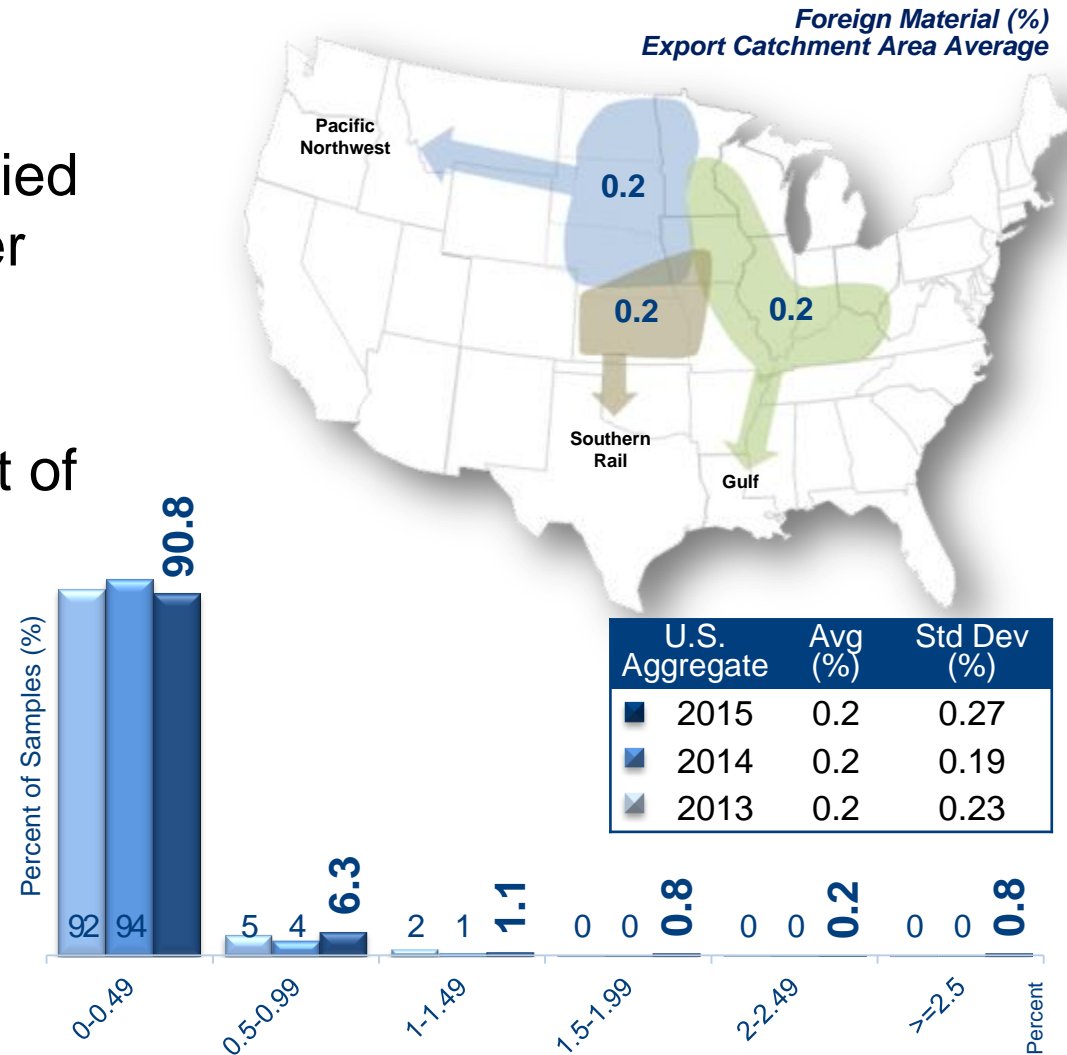
U.S. Aggregate: 0.6%

- In nearly all samples, BCFM consisted mostly of broken corn, similar to previous years
- Average similar to previous years



U.S. Aggregate: 0.2%

- Foreign material has varied little across ECAs or over the years
- Combines appear to be efficiently removing most of the fine material



Total Damage and Heat Damage (%)

2015/2016 Corn
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Total Damage

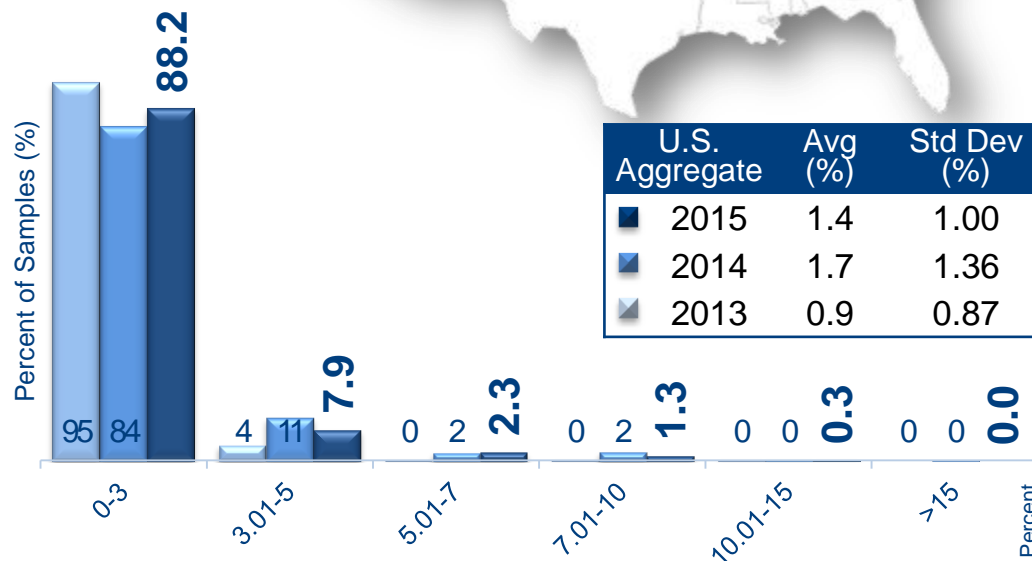
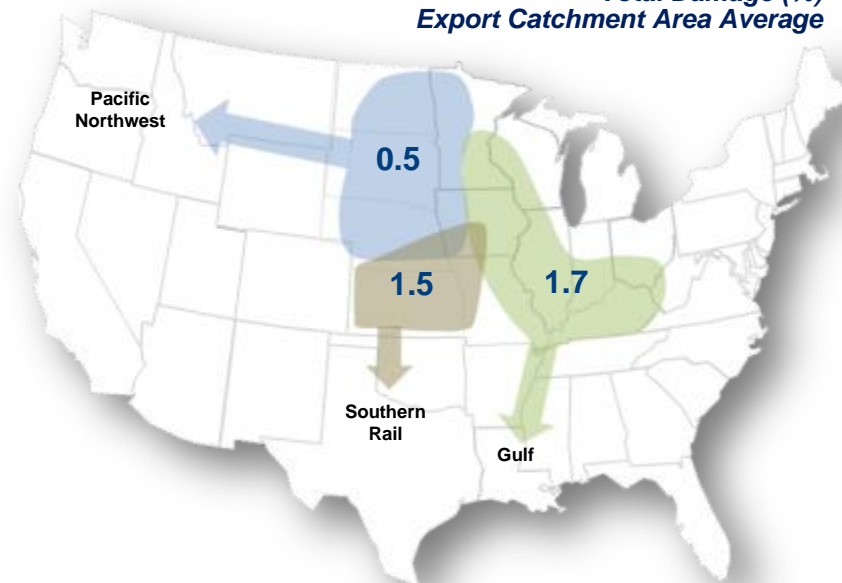
U.S. Aggregate: 1.4%

- 88.2% of samples met standard for No. 1 grade
- Lower than 2014 but slightly higher than 4YA
- Pacific Northwest ECA had lowest average for 4YA

Heat Damage: Zero

- Same as previous years

Total Damage (%)
Export Catchment Area Average



U.S. Aggregate	Avg (%)	Std Dev (%)
2015	1.4	1.00
2014	1.7	1.36
2013	0.9	0.87

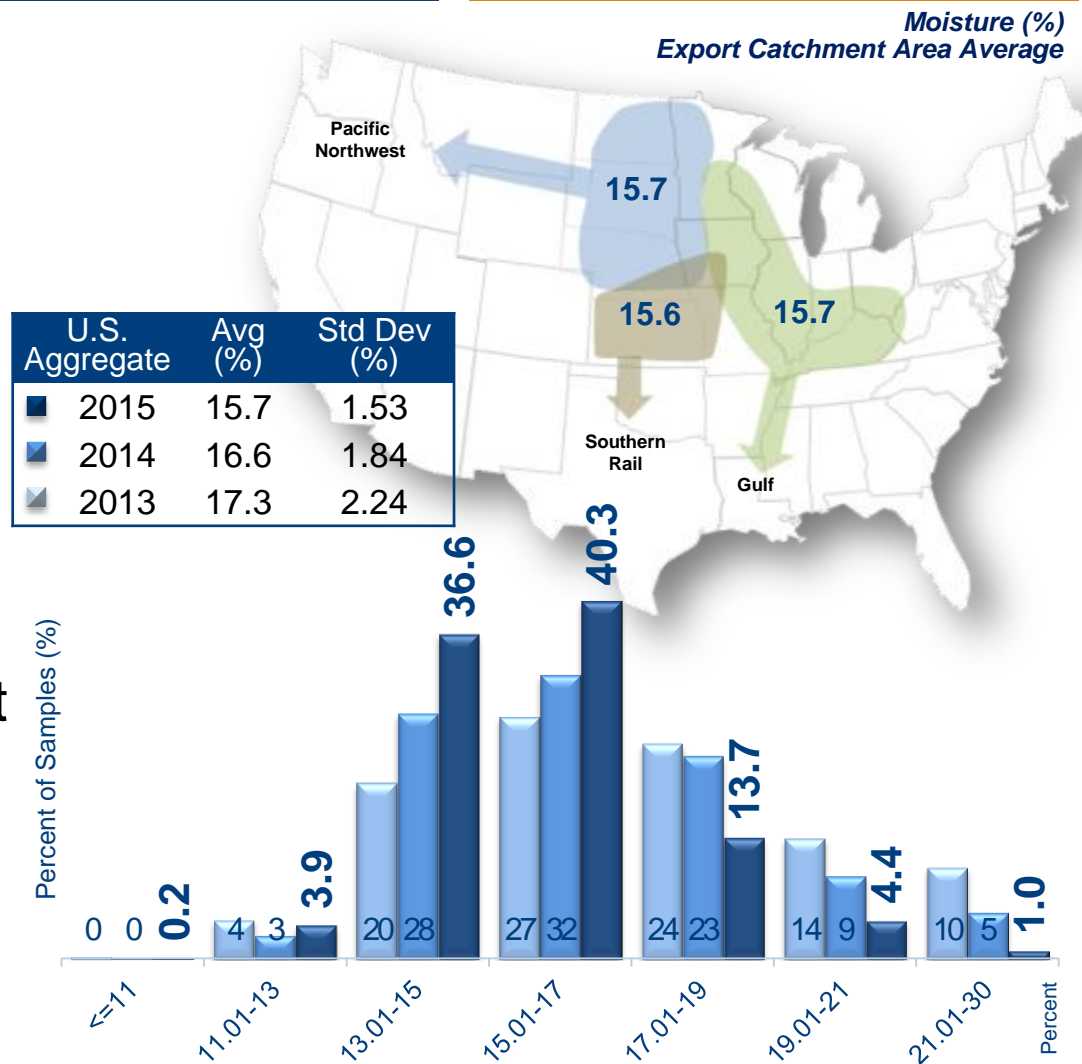
Moisture (%)

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Not a grade factor

U.S. Aggregate: 15.7%

- Lower average and variability than 2014 and 2013
- ECA differences:
 - Gulf: higher in previous years
 - 2015: more consistent harvest conditions across all areas, producing more uniform moisture contents







Protein

- Important for poultry and livestock feeding
- Supplies essential amino acids

Influenced by genetics, crop yields, weather and available nitrogen during the growing season

Starch

- Important for wet millers and dry-grind ethanol manufacturers

Influenced by genetics, weather and crop yields

Oil

- Important by-product of wet and dry milling
- Essential feed component

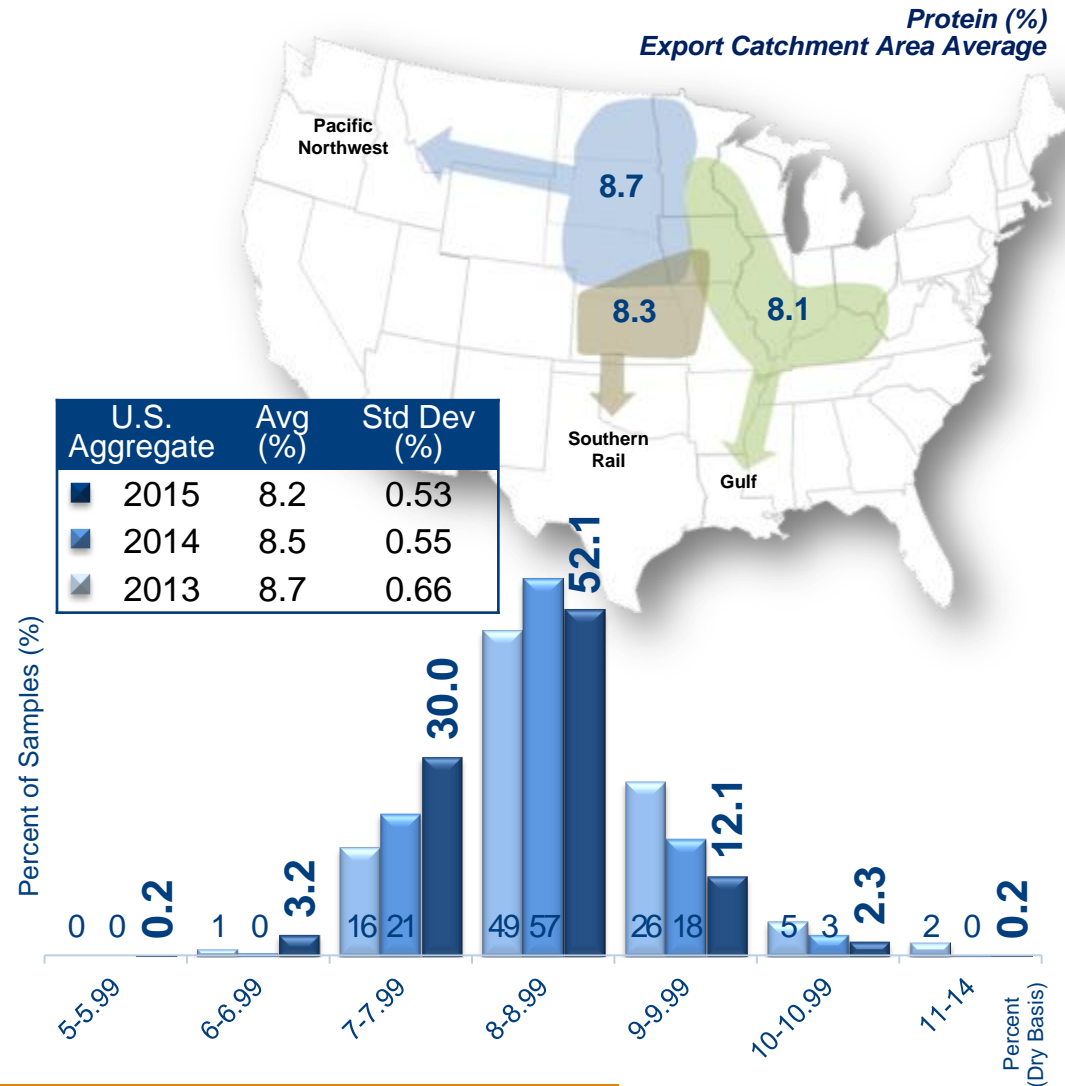
	No. of Samples	Avg.	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
Protein (Dry Basis %)	620	8.2	0.53	5.6	11.3
Starch (Dry Basis %)	620	73.6	0.61	70.5	76.3
Oil (Dry Basis %)	620	3.8	0.30	2.5	5.4

Protein (Dry basis %)

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U.S. Aggregate: 8.2%

- Lower levels in 2015 likely attributable to higher yields
- Available nitrogen was distributed across more bushels/acre, causing lower protein concentration
- Pacific Northwest ECA has had the highest protein the past 3 years

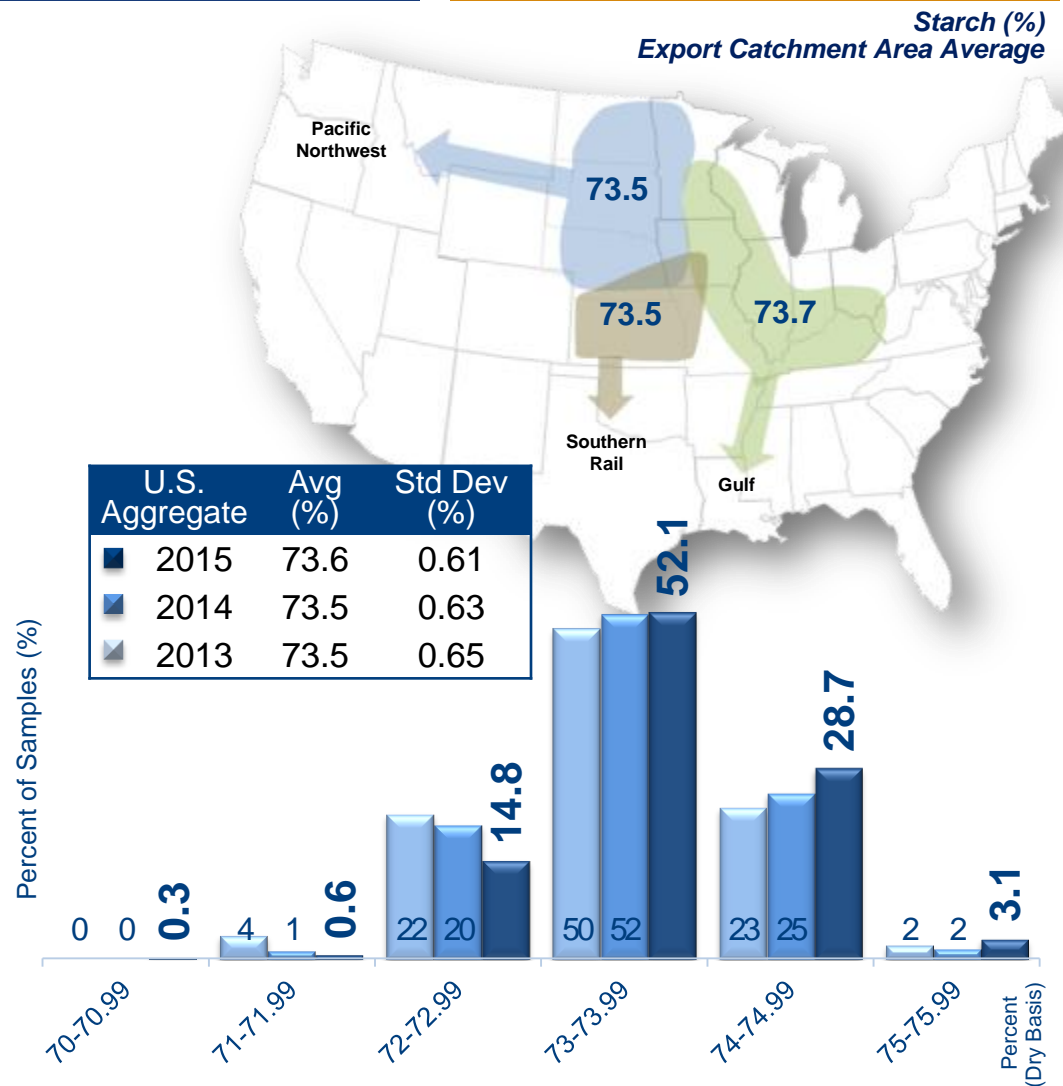


Starch (Dry basis %)

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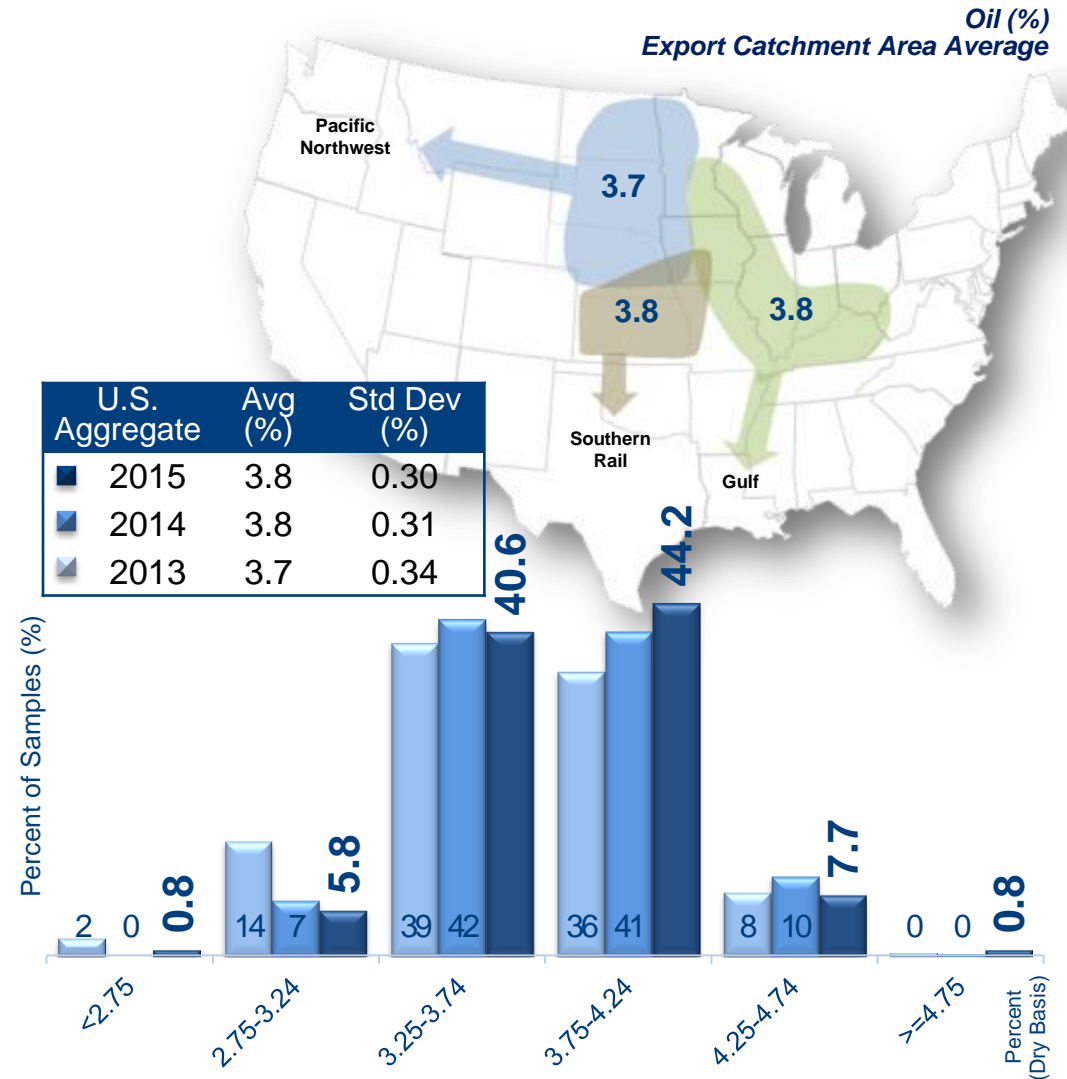
U.S. Aggregate: 73.6%

- Slightly higher than 2014, 2013 and 4YA
- Gulf ECA tends to have higher average starch and lower protein concentration than the Pacific Northwest and Southern Rail ECAs

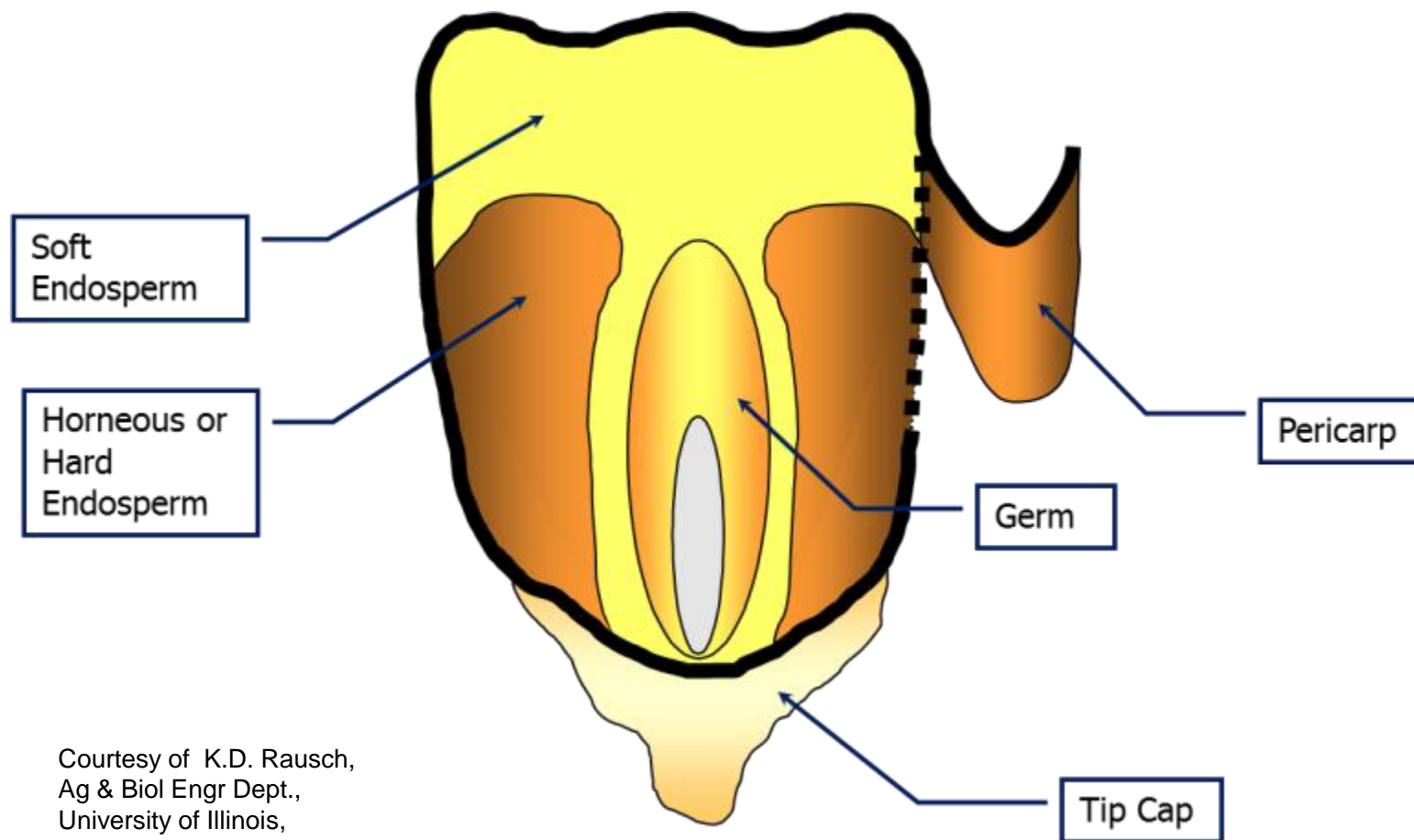


U.S. Aggregate: 3.8%

- Comparable concentration to 2014; slightly higher than 4YA
- Gulf and Southern Rail ECAs tend to have higher average oil concentration than Pacific Northwest ECA







Courtesy of K.D. Rausch,
Ag & Biol Engr Dept.,
University of Illinois,
Urbana, IL

Related to processing characteristics, storability and potential for breakage

- Stress cracks
- Stress cracks index
- Kernel weight, volume and density
- Whole kernels
- Horneous (hard) endosperm



	No. of Samples	Avg.	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
Stress Cracks (%)	620	3	5	0	75
Stress Crack Index	620	6.6	11.7	0	180
100-Kernel Weight (g)	620	34.34	2.43	24.90	45.64
Kernel Volume (cm ³)	620	0.27	0.02	0.21	0.36
True Density (g/cm ³)	620	1.254	0.017	1.166	1.327
Whole Kernels (%)	620	94.9	2.7	78.4	99.8
Horneous Endosperm (%)	620	79	3	71	95

Stress Cracks (%)

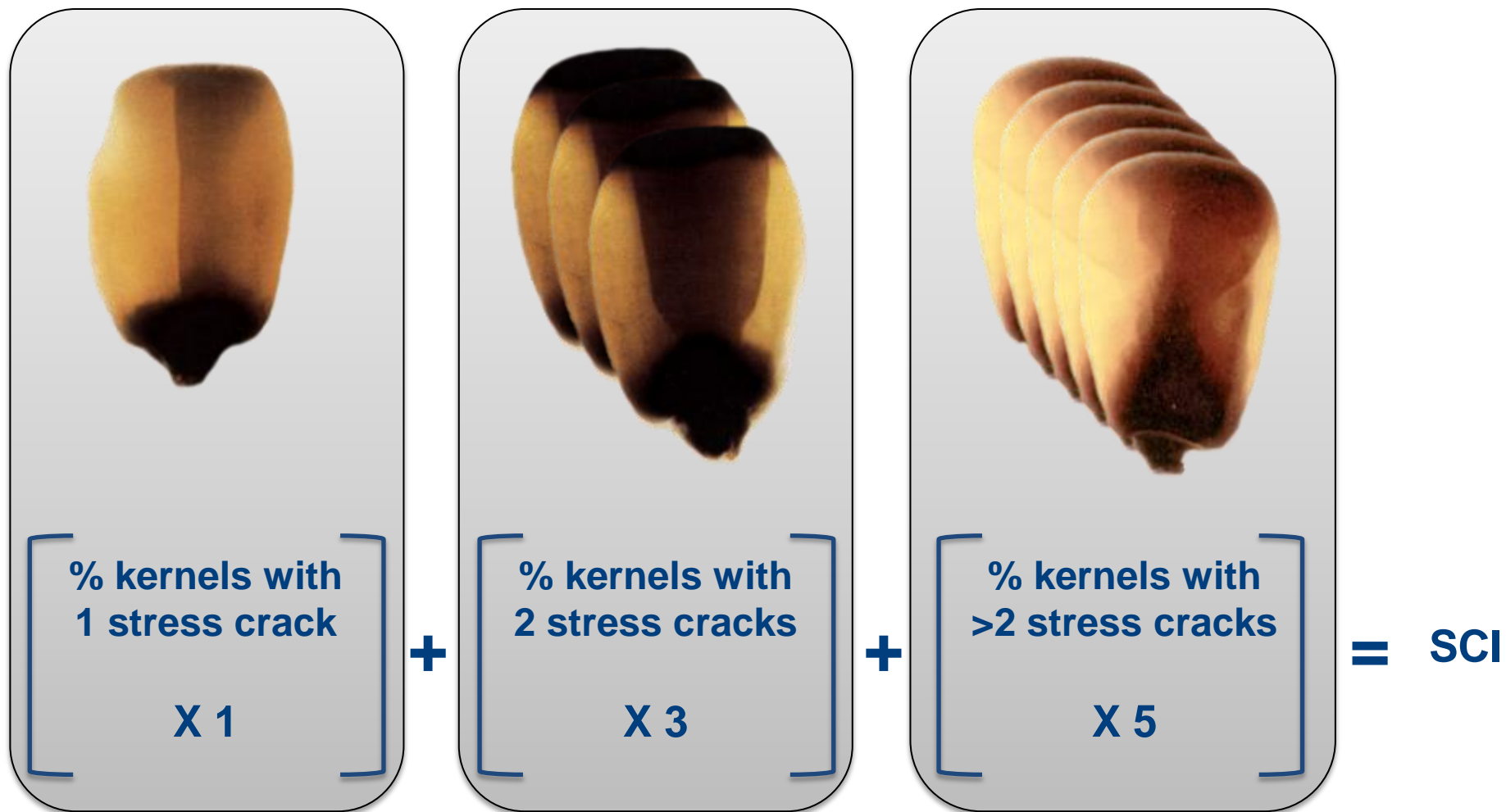
- Internal cracks in the horneous (hard) endosperm
- Most common cause is artificial drying
- Impacts breakage susceptibility, milling and alkaline cooking

Stress Crack Index (SCI)

- Indicates severity of stress cracking
- Measures single, double and multiple stress cracks
- Range 0 – 500 (100 kernel sample)

Stress Crack Index (SCI)

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Magnitude of SCI

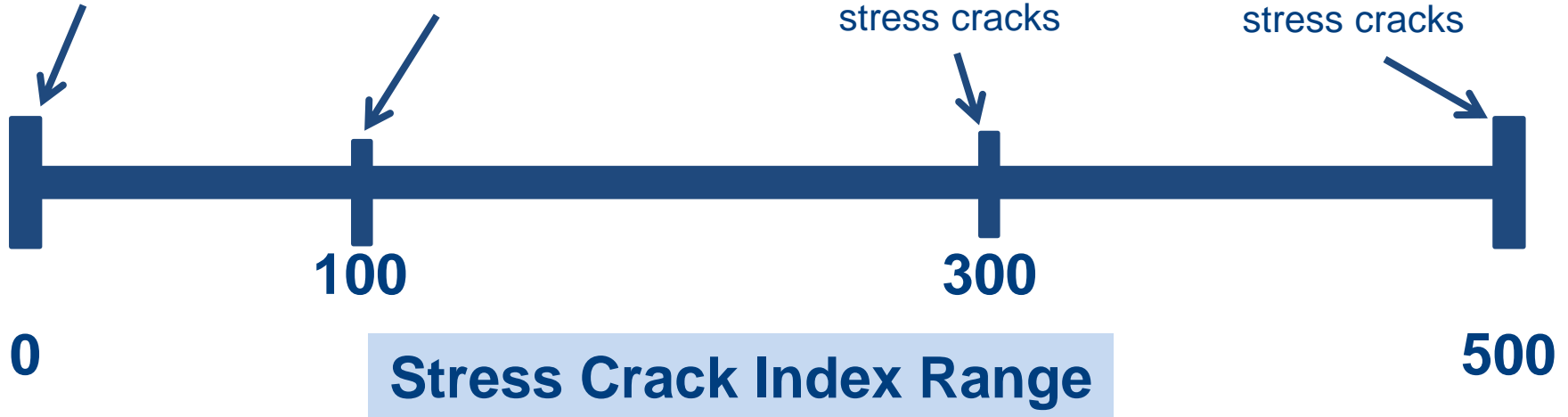
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All 100 kernels
have no stress
cracks

All 100 kernels
have single
stress cracks

All 100 kernels
have double
stress cracks

All 100 kernels
have multiple
stress cracks



161

Example SC% = 43%
SCI Calculation:
 $(4\%^a \times 1) + (19\%^b \times 3) + (20\%^c \times 5) = 161$

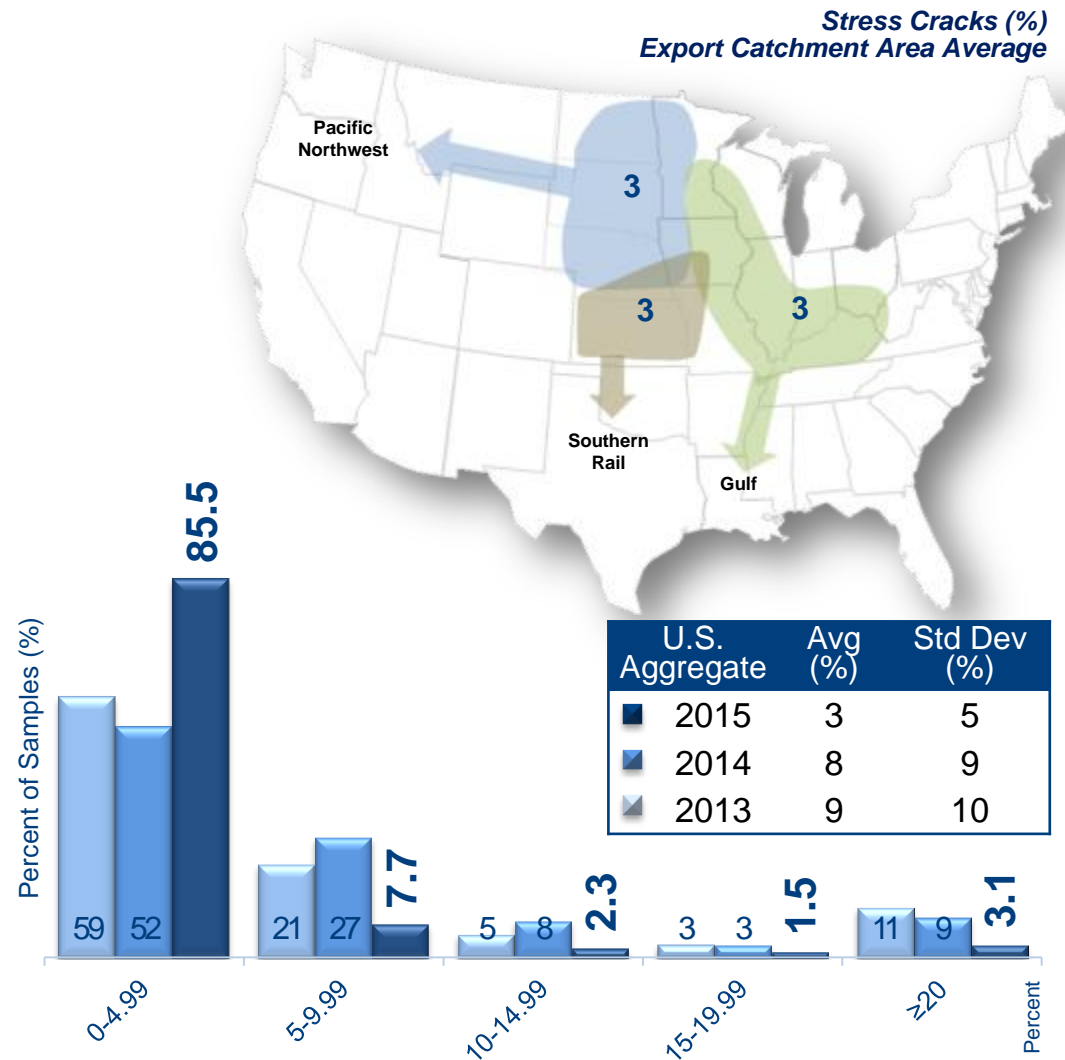
a: 4 kernels
b: 19 kernels
c: 20 kernels

Stress Cracks (%)

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U.S. Aggregate: 3%

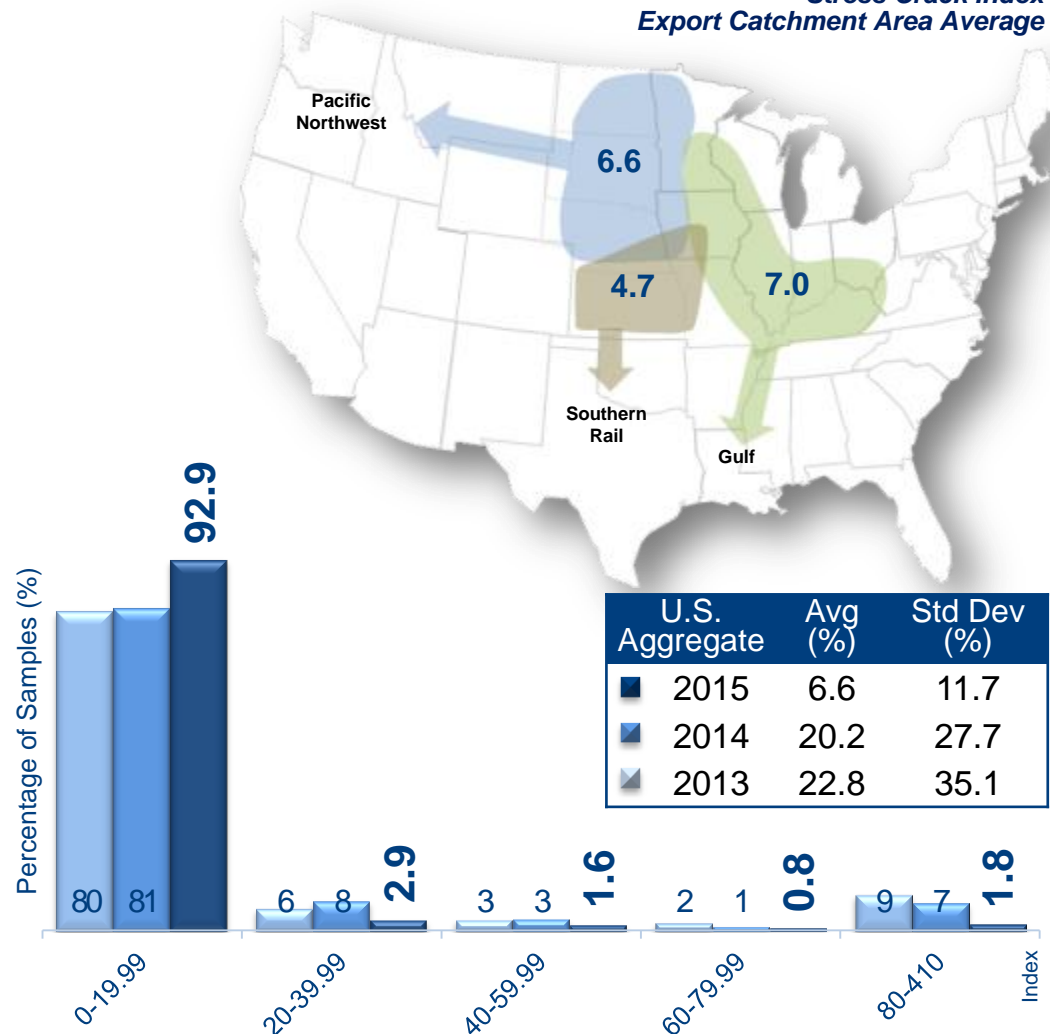
- Significantly lower than 2014 and 4YA
- Favorable growing and maturation conditions, along with good field drying and early harvest, led to less artificial drying



U.S. Aggregate: 6.6

- Fewer kernels with multiple stress cracks in 2015 than in 2014, 2013 and 4YA
- Southern Rail ECA has had the lowest average SCI and stress cracks of the 3 ECAs

*Stress Crack Index
Export Catchment Area Average*



- Measure the size and composition of corn kernels
- Kernel volume is indicative of growing conditions and genetics

100-Kernel Weight (mass) (g)

**True Density
(g/cm³)**

=

Kernel Volume (cm³)

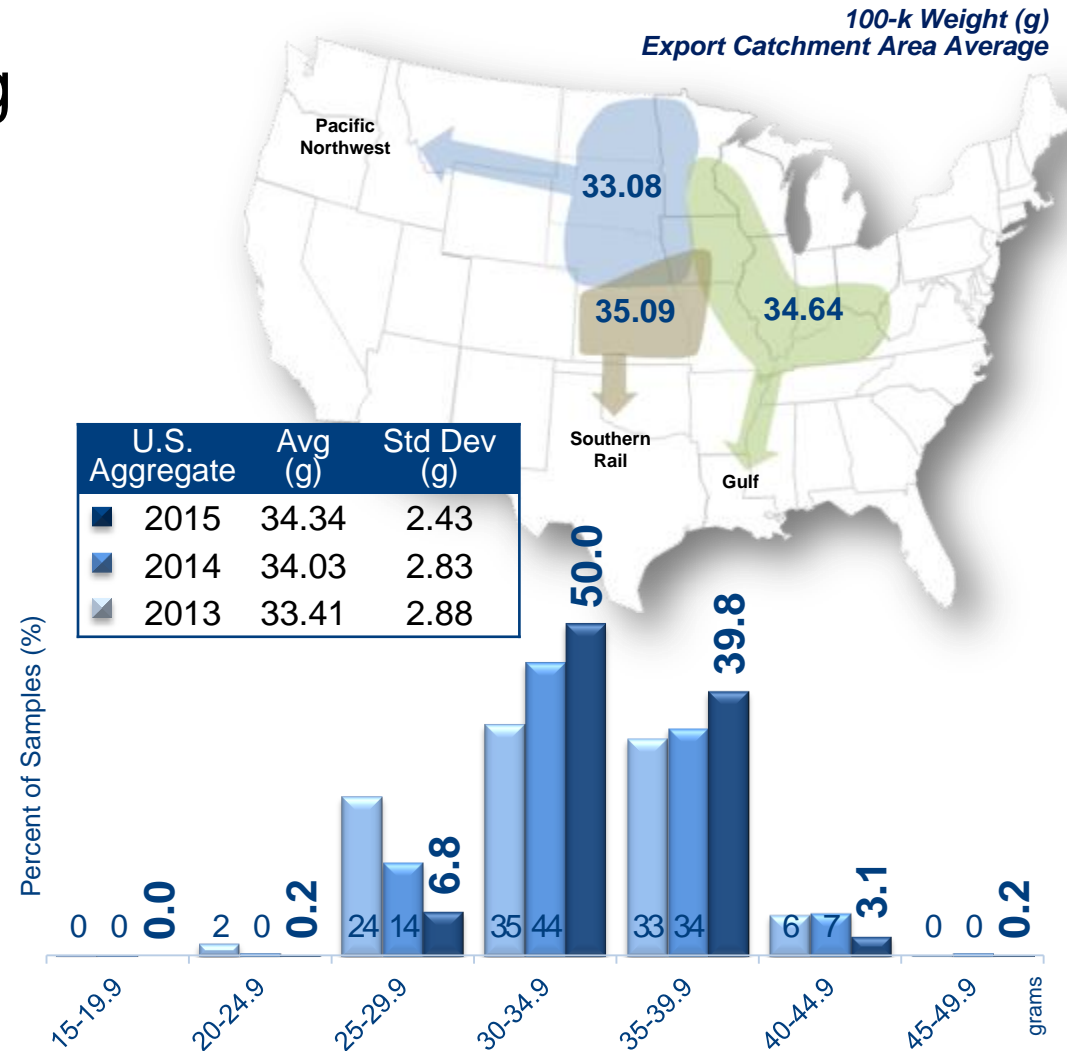
- True density reflects kernel hardness
- Higher density – harder kernels; less susceptible to breakage; more desirable for dry milling and alkaline processing
- Lower density – softer kernels; less at risk for development of stress cracks if high temperature drying is employed; good for wet milling and feed use

100-kernel (100-k) Weight (g)

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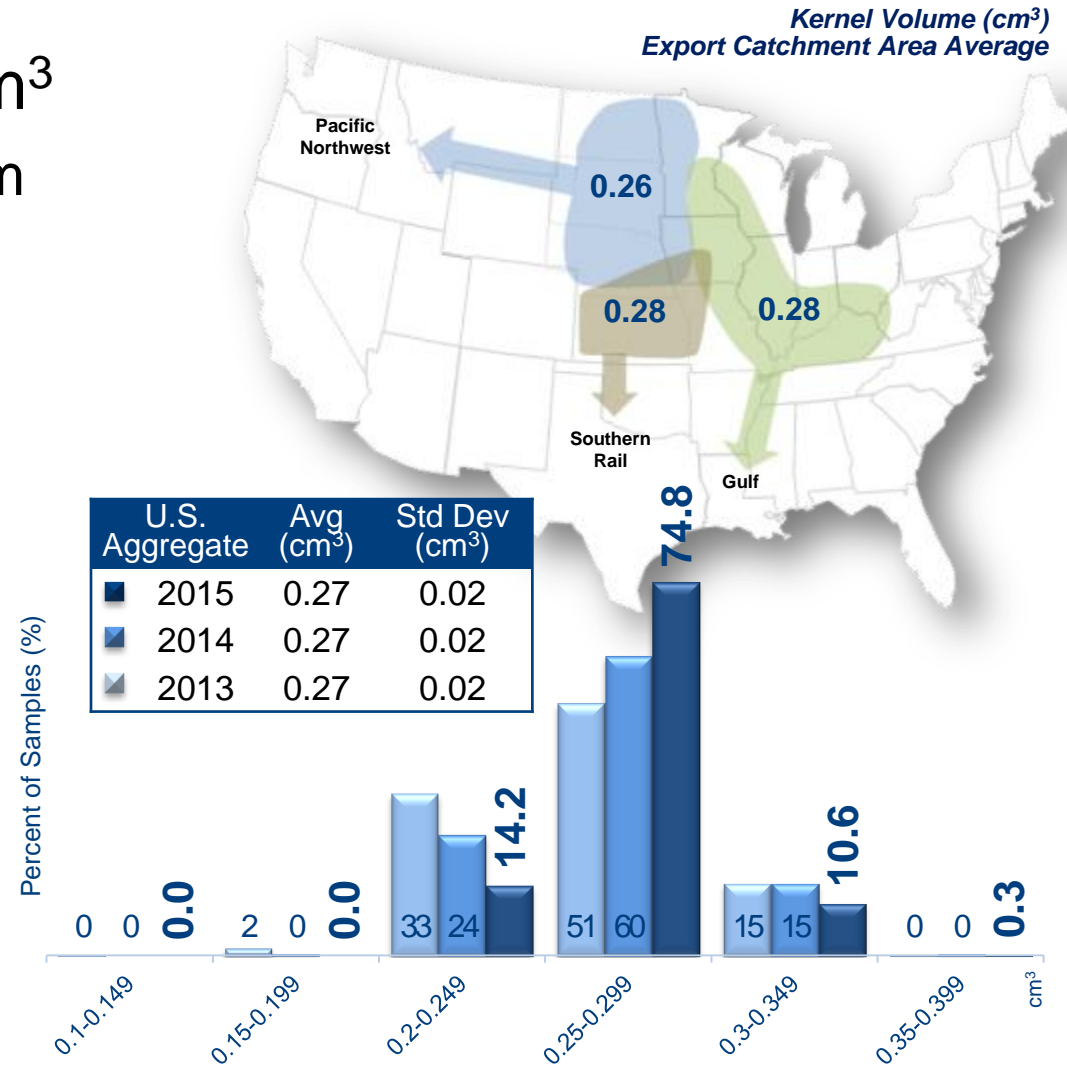
U.S. Aggregate: 34.34 g

- Higher than 2014, 2013 and 4YA averages
- Pacific Northwest ECA has tended to have the lowest 100-k weight of the 3 ECAs



U.S. Aggregate: 0.27 cm³

- Average unchanged from 2014, 2013 and 4YA
- Higher percent of larger kernels in 2015 than in 2014 and 2013
- Pacific Northwest ECA has tended to have lower kernel volumes than Southern Rail and Gulf ECAs



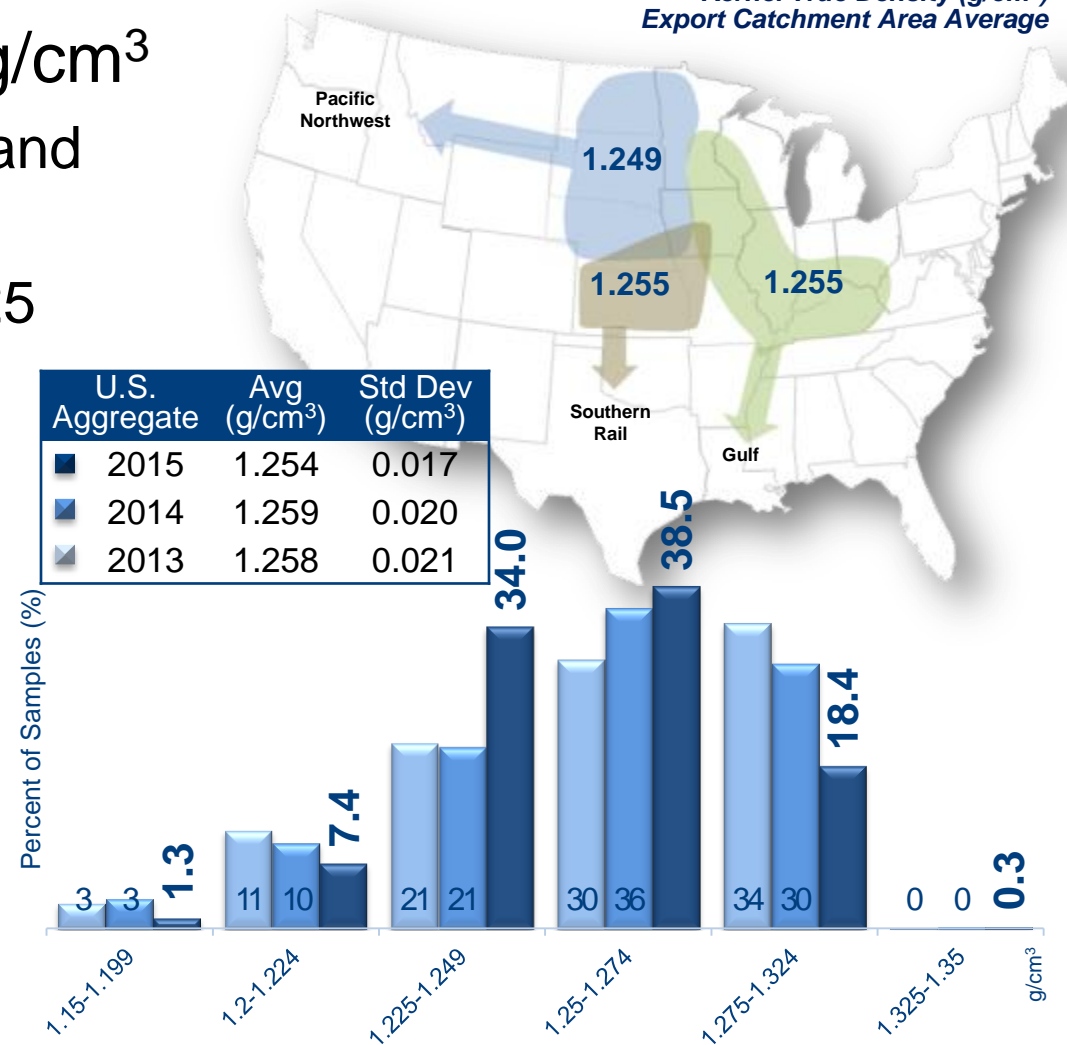
Kernel True Density (g/cm³)

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U.S. Aggregate: 1.254 g/cm³

- Lower than 2014, 2013 and 4YA
- More samples below 1.25 g/cm³ than in 2014 and 2013, indicating softer corn
- Pacific Northwest ECA was lowest among ECAs in 2015, 2014 and for 4YA

Kernel True Density (g/cm³)
Export Catchment Area Average



Whole kernels (%)

- Percentage of whole kernels of a 50 g sample
- 'Broken Corn' in BCFM measures only kernel size, not whether it is broken or whole
- Impacts alkaline cooking operations and susceptibility to mold invasion and breakage

Horneous (hard) endosperm (%)

- Measures the percent of the endosperm that is horneous or hard within a range from 70 – 100%
- The higher the value, the harder the corn kernel

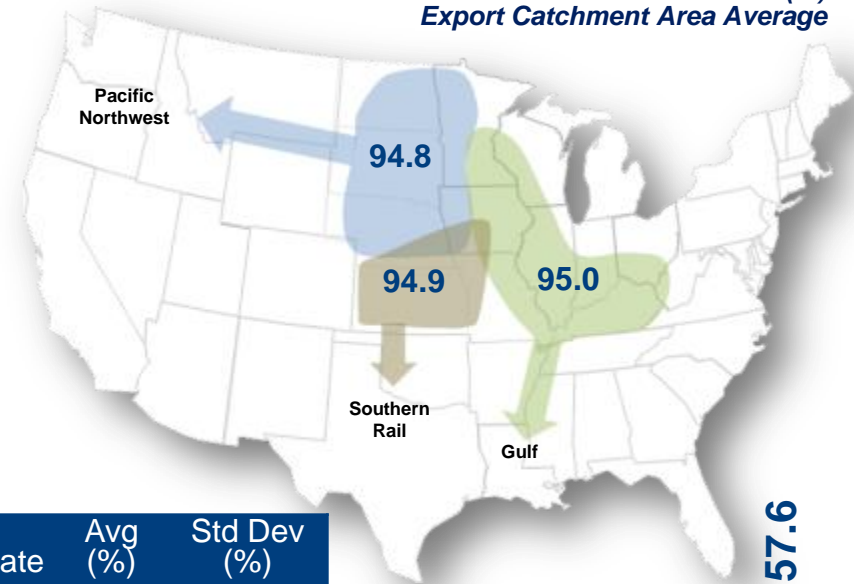
Whole Kernels (%)

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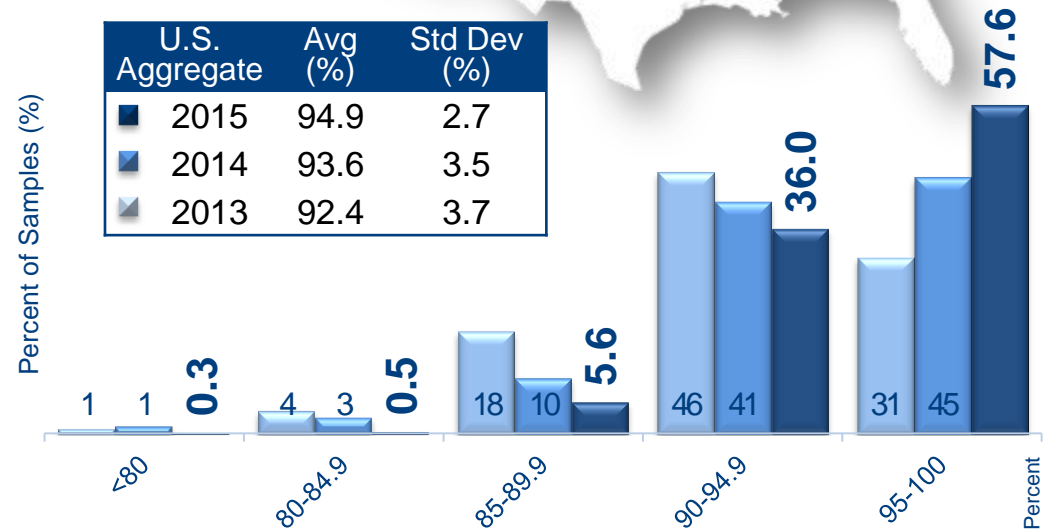
U.S. Aggregate: 94.9%

- Significantly higher whole kernels than in 2014, 2013 and 4YA
- Gulf ECA had the highest average in 2015 and 4YA

Whole Kernels (%)
Export Catchment Area Average



U.S. Aggregate	Avg (%)	Std Dev (%)
2015	94.9	2.7
2014	93.6	3.5
2013	92.4	3.7



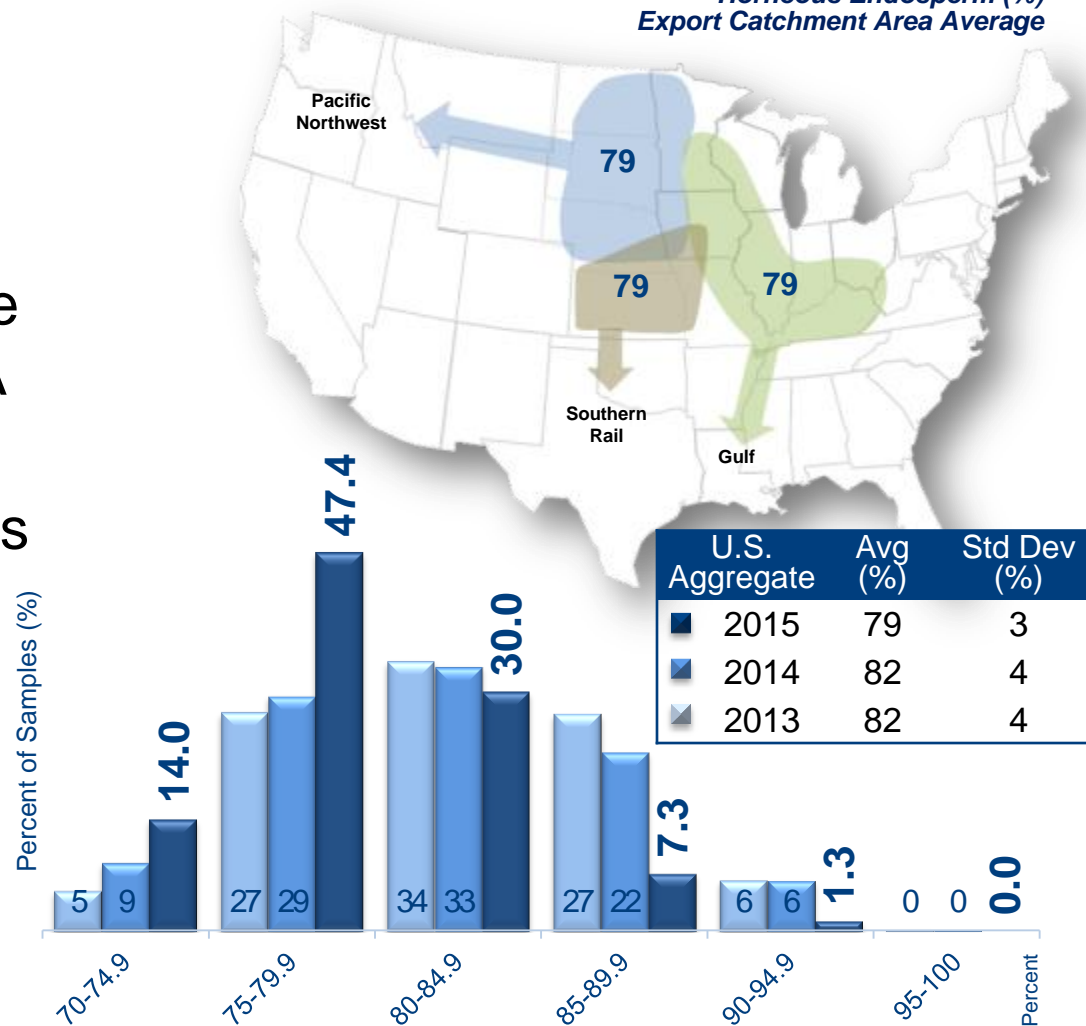
Horneous (Hard) Endosperm (%)

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U.S. Aggregate: 79%

- Lower than 2014, 2013 and 4YA
- Little variation among the 3 ECAs in 2015 and 4YA
- Over 5 years, Aggregate horneous endosperm has tended to be higher in years when Aggregate true density is higher

*Horneous Endosperm (%)
Export Catchment Area Average*

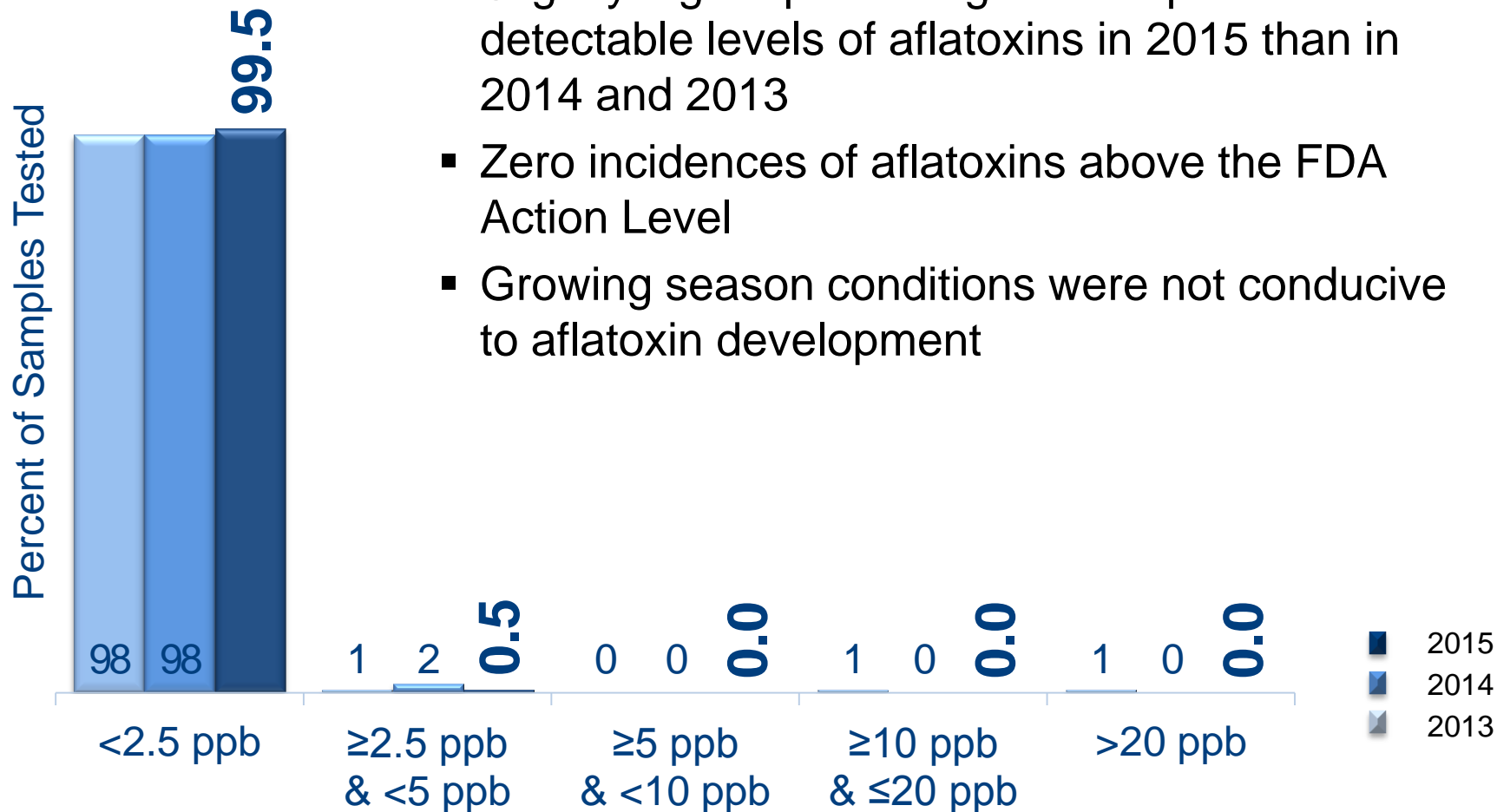




- *Corn Harvest Quality Report* shows ONLY the frequency of detection in harvest samples
- *Corn Harvest Quality Report* does NOT predict the presence or levels of mycotoxins in U.S. corn exports
- Tested a minimum of 25% of collected samples, same as in 2014 and 2013
- Positive results if above Limit of Detection (LOD)
 - Aflatoxins: 2.5 ppb
 - DON: 0.3 ppm

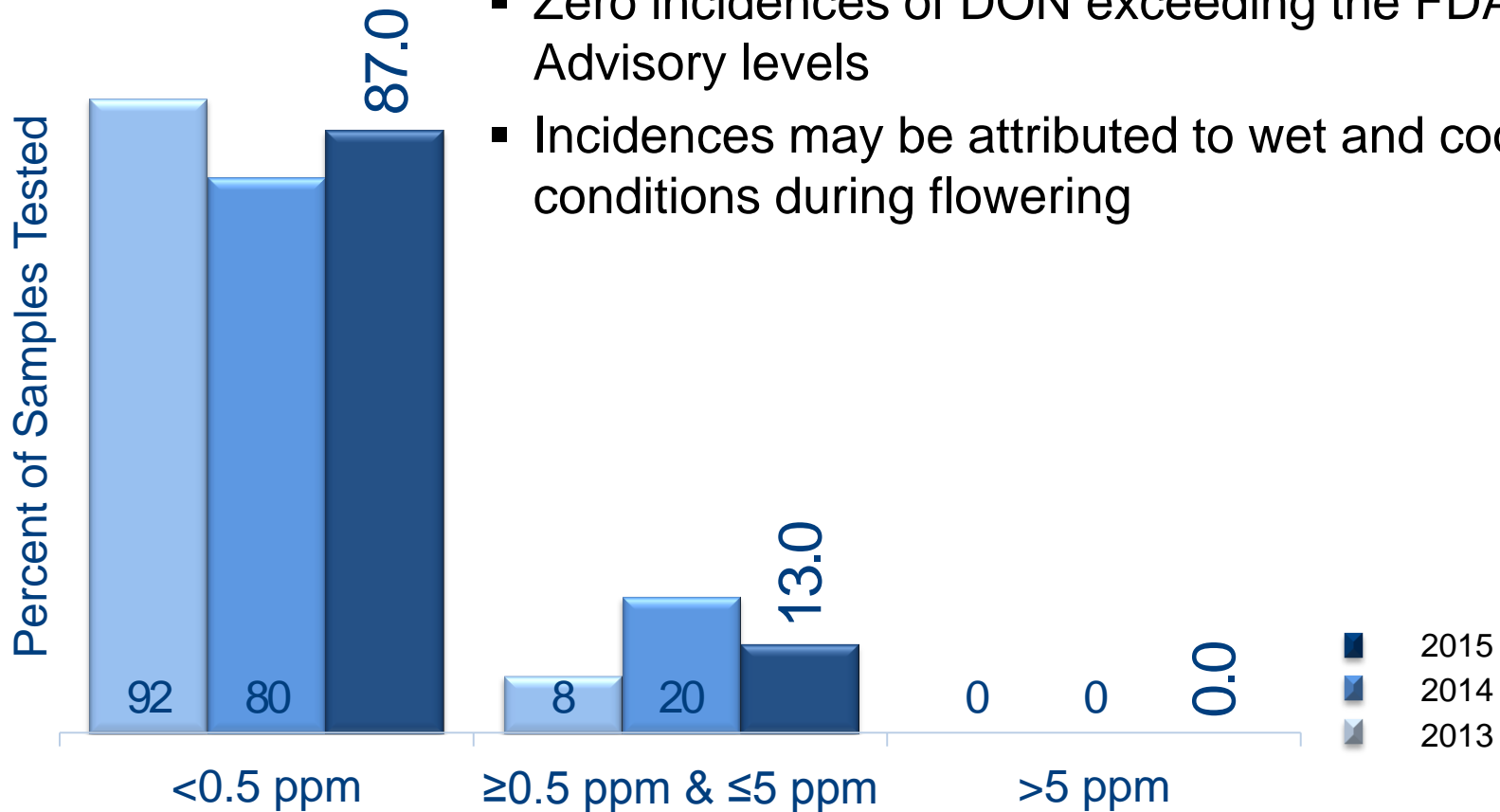
Aflatoxins Testing Results

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DON Testing Results

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- Larger percentage below 0.5 ppm in 2015 than in 2014
- Zero incidences of DON exceeding the FDA Advisory levels
- Incidences may be attributed to wet and cool conditions during flowering



Other Components of the Corn Harvest Quality Report



- U.S. Corn Production, Usage and Outlook
- Survey and Statistical Analysis Methods
- Testing Analysis Methods

- 2015 harvest samples were, on average, very good with 94% grading No. 2 or better
- High yields accompanied by lower protein; this was complemented by high starch, and similar oil concentration to 2014 levels
- Early and dry harvest conditions contributed to lower average moisture contents and lower total damage than in 2014, and much lower stress cracks than in previous years
- While test weight is positively influenced by true density, 2015 average test weight remained high due to low moisture content, high percent of whole kernels, and low breakage

- True density and horneous endosperm were lower than 4YA, indicating a softer corn; still, a good supply of corn suitable for dry milling available
- Low levels of BCFM and high percent of whole kernels will help decrease susceptibility to storage problems and enhance processability
- Growing season was not conducive to aflatoxin development
- Lower incidences of DON than in 2014

Building a Tradition: Thank You!



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SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDES:
U.S. Grains Council
2015/2016
Corn **Harvest Quality** Report



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[Insert Date]

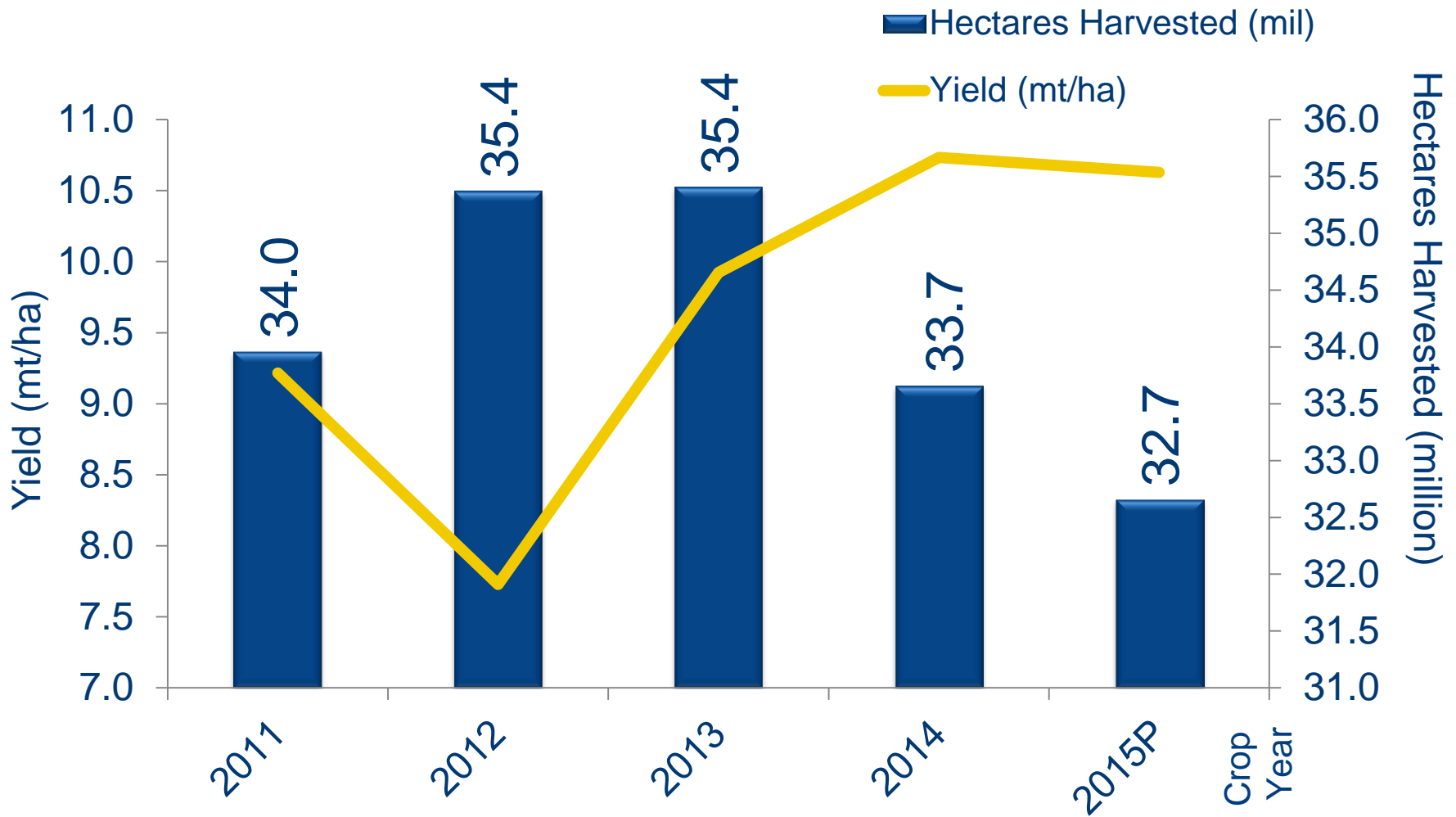
[Insert Location]

Developing markets. >> Enabling trade. >> Improving lives.



U.S. Production and Yield

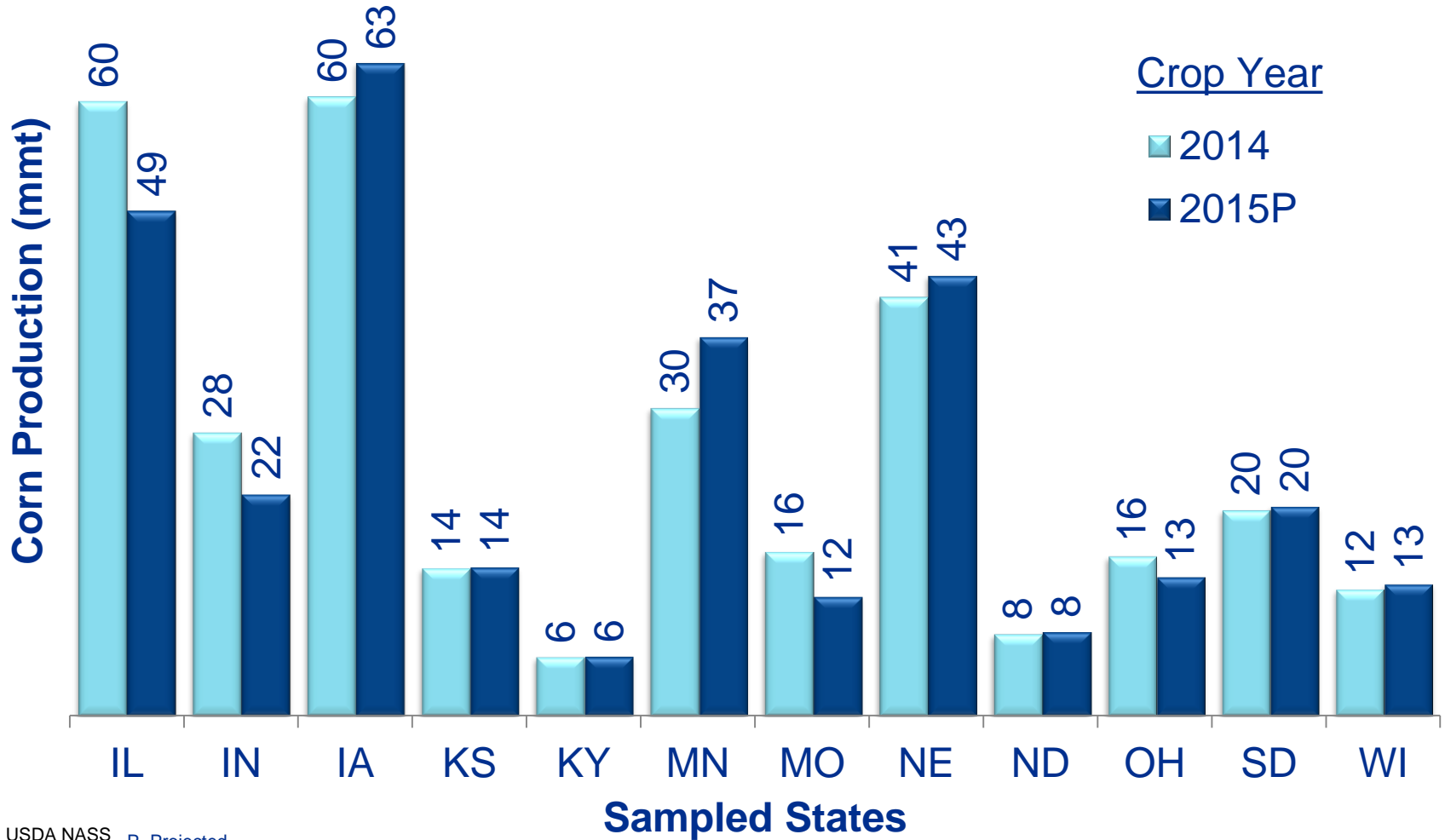
2015/2016 Corn
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Source: USDA NASS P=Projected

U.S. Production by State

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report



Source: USDA NASS P=Projected

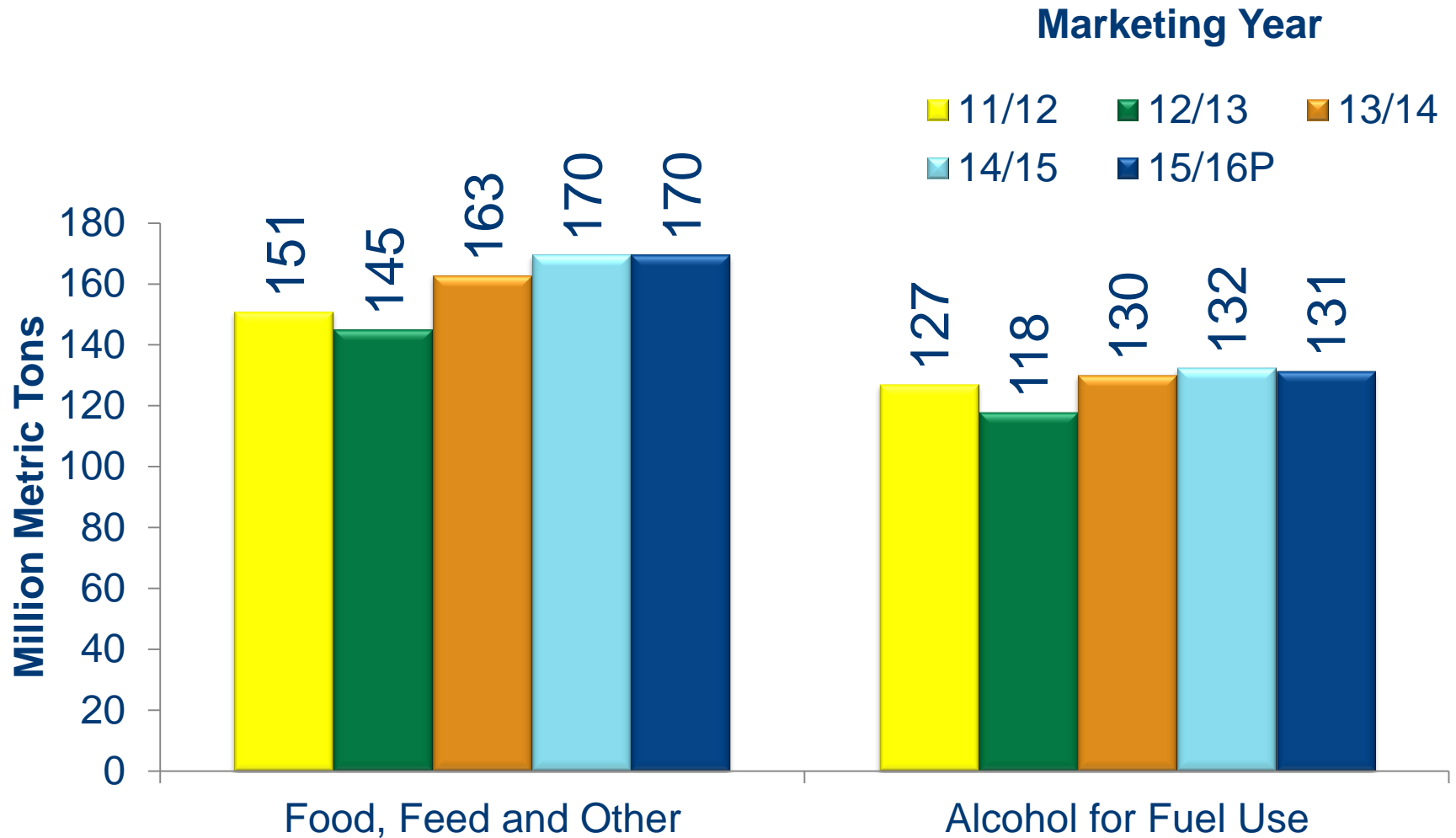
Surveyed State Production (MMT)

2015/2016 Corn Harvest Quality Report

State	2014	2015P	Difference		Relative %Change*	
			MMT	Percent	Acres	Yield
Illinois	60	49	(11)	-18%		
Indiana	28	22	(6)	-22%		
Iowa	60	63	3	5%		
Kansas	14	14	0	1%		
Kentucky	6	6	0	1%		
Minnesota	30	37	7	23%		
Missouri	16	12	(4)	-27%		
Nebraska	41	43	2	5%		
North Dakota	8	8	0	3%		
Ohio	16	13	(2)	-13%		
South Dakota	20	20	0	2%		
Wisconsin	12	13	1	4%		
Total	361	347	(14)	-4%		

*Green indicates 2015 is higher than 2014 and red indicates 2015 is lower than 2014; bar height indicates the relative amount.

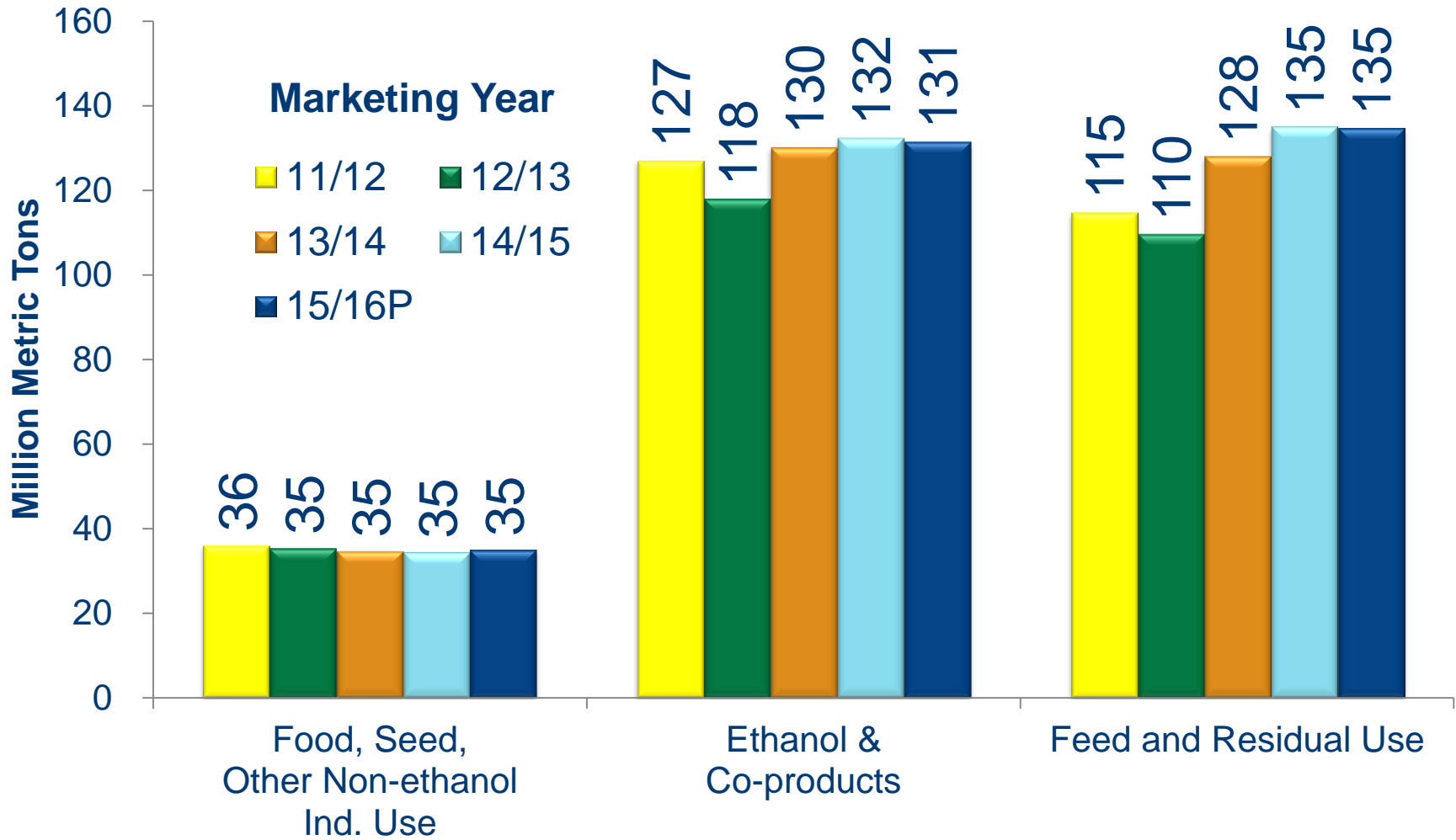
Source: USDA NASS



Source: USDA NASS P=Projected

U.S. Domestic Corn Use

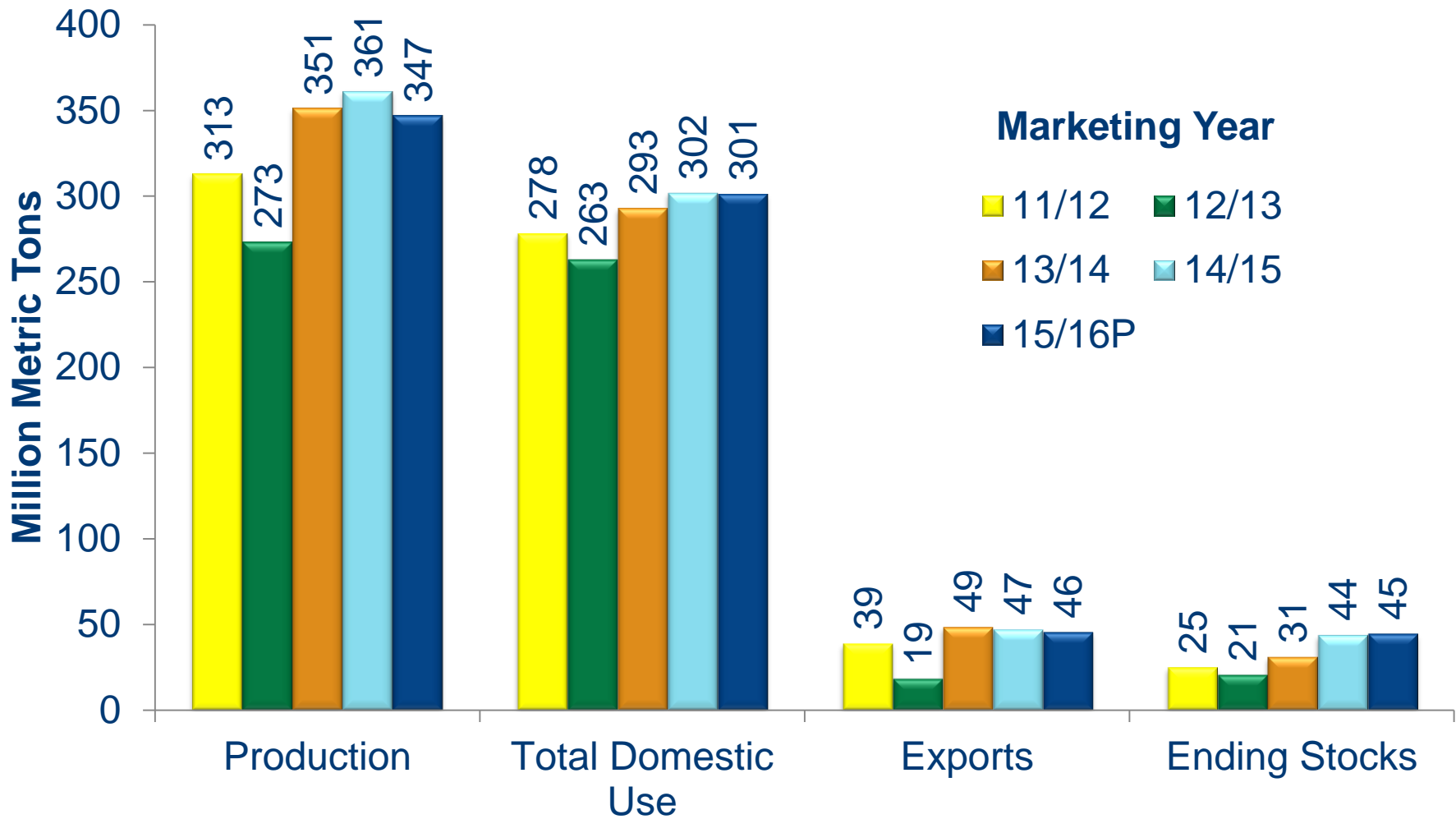
2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report



Source: USDA NASS P=Projected

U.S. Production and Disappearance

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report



Source: USDA NASS P=Projected

U.S. Corn Supply and Usage Summary

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16P
Acreage (million hectares)								
Planted	34.8	35.0	35.7	37.2	39.4	38.6	36.7	35.8
Harvested	31.8	32.2	33.0	34.0	35.4	35.4	33.7	32.7
Yield (metric ton/hectare)	9.6	10.3	9.6	9.2	7.7	9.9	10.7	10.6
<i>In Millions of Metric Tons</i>								
Supply (million metric tons)								
Beginning Stocks	41.3	42.5	43.4	28.6	25.1	20.9	31.3	44.0
Production	307.1	331.9	315.6	312.8	273.2	351.3	361.1	346.8
Imports	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.7	4.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
Total Supply	348.7	374.6	359.7	342.2	302.4	373.0	393.2	391.6
Usage (million metric tons)								
Food, seed, other non-ethanol ind. use	33.4	34.8	35.7	36.2	35.5	34.8	34.5	35.1
Ethanol and co-products	94.2	116.6	127.5	127.0	117.9	130.1	132.3	131.5
Feed and residual	130.4	129.6	121.3	114.8	109.6	128.0	135.0	134.6
Exports	47.0	50.3	46.5	39.1	18.5	48.8	47.4	45.7
Total Use	305.0	331.3	331.1	317.1	281.5	341.8	349.2	346.9
Ending Stocks	42.5	43.4	28.6	25.1	20.9	31.3	44.0	44.7
Avg farm price (\$/mt*)	159.83	139.76	203.93	244.87	271.25	175.58	145.66	131.88-155.50

P-Projected

* Farm prices are weighted averages based on volume of farm shipment
Average farm price for 15/16P based on WASDE November projected price

Source: USDA WASDE
November 2015

U.S. Corn Supply and Usage Summary

2015/2016 Corn
Harvest Quality Report

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16P
Acreage (million acres)								
Planted	86.0	86.4	88.2	91.9	97.3	95.4	90.6	88.4
Harvested	78.6	79.5	81.4	83.9	87.4	87.5	83.1	80.7
Yield (bushels/acre)	153.3	164.4	152.6	146.8	123.1	158.1	171.0	169.3
<i>In Millions of Bushels</i>								
Supply (million bushels)								
Beginning Stocks	1,624	1,673	1,708	1,128	989	821	1,232	1,731
Production	12,092	13,067	12,425	12,314	10,755	13,829	14,216	13,654
Imports	14	8	28	29	160	36	32	30
Total Supply	13,729	14,749	14,161	13,471	11,904	14,686	15,479	15,415
Usage (million bushels)								
Food, seed, other non-ethanol ind. use	1,316	1,370	1,407	1,424	1,397	1,370	1,359	1,380
Ethanol and co-products	3,709	4,591	5,019	5,000	4,641	5,124	5,209	5,175
Feed and residual	5,133	5,101	4,777	4,519	4,315	5,040	5,315	5,300
Exports	1,849	1,979	1,831	1,539	730	1,920	1,864	1,800
Total Use	12,008	13,041	13,033	12,482	11,083	13,454	13,748	13,655
Ending Stocks	1,673	1,708	1,128	989	821	1,232	1,731	1,760
Avg farm price (\$/bushel**)	4.06	3.55	5.18	6.22	6.89	4.46	3.70	3.35-3.95

P-Projected

* Farm prices are weighted averages based on volume of farm shipment
Average farm price for 15/16P based on WASDE November projected price

Source: USDA WASDE
November 2015