

USGC 2022 Corn Harvest Quality Report: Higher Average Test Weight, Protein Content in This Year's Harvest

According to the U.S. Grains Council's (USGC's) *2022/2023 Corn Harvest Quality Report*, the 12th annual corn quality survey published globally today, the 2022 U.S. corn crop entering the market channel has a higher average test weight, higher protein concentration and lower total damage relative to each quality factor's average of the previous five crops.

Cool temperatures early in the year caused delays in planting but May's warm weather allowed farmers to catch up and the crop has since matured at a near-average pace. Areas of the western Corn Belt continued to endure higher heat and lower than expected precipitation.

These factors contributed to reduced yields in this year's crop but accelerated maturation and the clear weather ensured a timely harvest, which has maintained crop quality.

The average aggregate quality of the representative samples tested was better than the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade. The report also showed that 81.5 percent of the samples met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade and 95.3 percent met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 2.

"Through trade, the Council is committed to the furtherance of global food security and mutual economic benefit and offers this report to assist buyers in making well-informed decisions by providing reliable and timely information about the quality of the current U.S. crop," said Kurt Shultz, USGC senior director of global strategies. "This year's supply allows the United States to remain the world's leading corn exporter and will account for an estimated 29.9 percent of global corn exports during the upcoming marketing year."

The report is based on 600 yellow corn samples taken from defined areas within 12 of the top corn-producing and exporting states. Inbound samples were collected from local grain elevators to measure and analyze quality at the point of origin and provide representative information about the variability of the quality characteristics across the diverse geographic regions.

This year's crop showed higher test weight than 2021; higher average total damage than 2021 but lower than the five-year average and the same average moisture content as 2021 and the five-year average. The crop also showed higher average protein concentration than 2021 and the five-year average.

Nearly all of the samples tested below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action level for aflatoxins and 86.1 percent of the samples tested below the 5.0 parts per million FDA advisory level for deoxynivalenol (DON) or vomitoxin. Of the samples tested for fumonisin, 98.9 percent tested below the FDA's strictest guidance level of 5.0 parts per million, a slightly higher proportion than in 2021.

The 2022 U.S. corn crop checks in at 353.84 million metric tons (13,930 million bushels) and the average yield is 10.81 metric tons/hectare (172.3 bushels per acre), according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate.

The *2022/2023 Corn Harvest Quality Report* provides information about the quality of the current U.S. crop at harvest as it enters international merchandising channels. A second Council report, the *2022/2023 Corn Export Cargo Quality Report*, will measure corn quality at export terminals at the point of loading and will be available in early 2023.

The Council will present its findings to buyers around the world in roll-out events starting in January 2022 with programs scheduled across Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Presentations will continue through the first quarter of the new year and aim to offer participants clear expectations regarding the quality of corn for this marketing year. During these events, crop quality information is accompanied by presentations on U.S. corn grading and handling, which helps provide a better understanding of how U.S. corn is moved and controlled through export channels.

Read the full *2022/2023 USGC Corn Harvest Quality Report* [here](#) and look for more information on the rollout events in 2023.