

Program Notice

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NATIONAL SOYBEAN EXPORT ASSESSMENT SAMPLE COLLECTION PLAN FOR INTERIOR OFFICES

1. PURPOSE

This notice outlines procedures Official Service Providers (OSP) to use in collecting soybean samples for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) soybean export assessment.

2. BACKGROUND

Starting with the 2007 soybean harvest, FGIS began a farm-gate soybean assessment from which 1,112 soybean samples were collected from 27 states across the U.S., directly from country elevators. The objective of this farm-gate assessment is to collect soybean samples at their first point of sale, believed to be country elevators, so that the initial quality of U.S. soybeans coming directly from the farm can be determined.

The farm-gate assessment is projected to continue through the 2011 harvest, collecting 5 years of data in the process. Each fall after samples are collected, full factor analyses are conducted to assess levels of both grade determining and non-grade determining factors for U.S. soybeans. In addition to grade determining factors, a detailed breakout of foreign material (FM) characterization is conducted to determine various components of the FM. Damaged kernels total, heat damage, FM, FM composition, moisture, oil, protein, splits, test weight, soybeans of other colors, and the resulting grade are all analyzed and recorded.

To identify how the quality of U.S. soybeans differs from the farm-gate to export, FGIS is conducting the second year of its soybean export assessment. Like the farm-gate assessment, soybean samples collected from the export assessment will also receive full factor analyses (including both grade determining and non-grade determining factors), as well as a detailed breakout of FM characterization. The U.S. soybean export assessment will provide a general overview of how soybean FM composition differs from farm-gate to export. Samples gathered from the soybean export assessment will also be used to test for pesticide residues.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This year's soybean export assessment **begins September 1, 2009**, and will continue through January 31, 2010. Official agency participation is based on the agency's historic volume of monthly export soybean inspections.

4. SAMPLE COLLECTION

Approximately 10 percent of U.S. soybean exports are shipped from interior service points and graded by official agencies. In order to analyze the required number of export samples from these interior locations, it will be essential for agencies under the supervision of the Cedar Rapids Field Office and Grading Services Lab (GSL) to provide assistance to the Market and Program Analysis Staff (MPAS) in the sample collection process.

Please note: A sample kit will be sent FedEx to each agency headquarters within the next week containing plastic sample bags with unique ID's, zip ties, pre-paid pre-addressed FedEx air bills, and FedEx packs in which to return the required samples.

5. PROCEDURES

The sample collection period will start on September 1, 2009, and end on January 31, 2010. The samples may be collected from any mode of **export shipment** (containers, barge, rail, or truck). Lot size of the shipment does not matter. The following table provides the number of samples required from each agency and the sample collection month.

Export Sample Collection Requirements

Collect samples from September 2009 through January 2010.

Agency	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Central Iowa		1				1
Eastern Iowa		1	1	1		3
Fremont	1	1	1			3
Hastings		2	1	1		4
Kankakee	1	2	1		1	5
Kansas	1	1	1	1	2	6
Lincoln		1	1	1	1	4
Mid-Iowa Grain		1				1
Missouri		1	1	1		3
Omaha		1				1
Sioux City		1		1	1	3

If agencies are unable to collect the requested number of samples during a given month, additional samples should be collected the following month. For example, if Fremont is unable to collect the one sample requested for September, they should collect an additional sample to the number requested for October.

Collect at least a 2,000 gram portion for each sample gathered for this assessment. The sample collected should not be the file sample, but may be a representative cut of the original sample. Also, ensure that the sample is not from a rejected subplot/composite, but one that meets contract specifications. Divide the collected sample into two equal portions, each weighing approximately 1,000 grams or more. Place each separate portion into a bag provided by MPAS. On the blank label affixed to these bags, print the sample identification and the inspection date.

Note: Each bag that MPAS provides has a unique identification number affixed to it. Because two portions are needed for each sample, two bags will contain the same identification number. Official personnel must ensure that the two portions from the selected sample are placed in bags with the same identification number.

The first portion will be used for grade-determining factor analyses including FM compositional analyses. This sample portion must be sent to the Sioux City Inspection agency using the pre-paid FedEx air bills.

The second portion will be used for pesticide residue analysis and must be sent to the National Grain Center in Kansas City, Missouri, using the pre-paid FedEx air bills.

Please ensure that both portions do not go to the same place.

Note: Instead of trying to divide the provided sample bags between various elevators/service points to gather the required samples, it may be more effective to have your elevators/service points collect the samples when they are able using bags they already have, and then send these samples to the Agency's headquarters for repackaging into the provided sample bags. This will help ensure that samples are collected in a manner as close to the provided sampling plan as possible. However, if you choose to use this method, please make sure that at each of these elevators/service points, the sample identification (such as the CU-SUM and subplot numbers) and date are all written on the bags sent to your headquarters so that this data can be transferred to the bags sent to Sioux City and the National Grain Center.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this notice to Ross Heiman at (816) 823-2580 or by email at Ross.D.Heiman@usda.gov.

/s/ Robert Lijewski

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