

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-09-17

09-08-09

NATIONAL SOYBEAN EXPORT ASSESSMENT
SAMPLE COLLECTION PLAN FOR EXPORT FIELD OFFICES

1. PURPOSE

This notice outlines procedures for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) field offices to use in collecting soybean samples for the 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. We expect this assessment to continue through Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

4. SAMPLE COLLECTION

Each field office is asked to collect a different number of samples based on its historic volume of monthly soybean inspections. In an attempt to correlate the time during which larger volumes of samples are collected with the historic periods of greatest export inspection activity, we have provided the time-frame in which to collect the samples. The respective sampling plan for each field office is detailed in the following table.

FGIS Soybean Export Assessment

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
New Orleans	20	53	63	55	57	248
Olympia	4	32	24	19	19	98
Toledo	1	7	5	3	1	17
League City	0	0	1	1	1	3

FGIS has established a management code to fund the assessment and measure our costs. Field offices should charge all measurable costs (e.g., sample preparation time) for completing the project to management code 9116B10 for FY 2010. The project management code will be renewed for each successive year to reflect the fiscal year as follows: code 9116B11 for FY 2011, and so on.

Note: A sample kit will be sent FedEx to New Orleans, Olympia, and Toledo 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. The League City Field Office's kit will be mailed the week of October 26, 2009.

5. PROCEDURES

Each field office is to determine its own method of sample collection, but the sample collection should be dispersed as evenly as possible across the entire month. For example, ideally, if 30 samples were needed for the month of September, one sample would be collected each day. A strategy for New Orleans, a field office with heavy soybean export volume, may be to begin each month by collecting samples from soybean sublots numbered 1 and 15. **Field offices may need to adjust their sample collection patterns in an effort to collect the desired number of samples throughout the collection time period of September 1, 2009, – January 31, 2010.** If the desired numbers of samples for the month have been collected ahead of schedule, discontinue collecting samples until the start of the next month. If the required number of samples are not collected in any given month additional samples should be collected the following month beyond the number required for the current month.

Collect at least a 2,000 gram portion for each sample gathered for this assessment. Ensure that the sample is not from a rejected subplot, but from one that meets load order specifications. Divide the sample into two equal portions, each weighing approximately 1,000 grams or more. Place each separate portion into a bag provided by Market and Program Analysis Staff (MPAS). On the blank label affixed to these bags, print the CU-SUM lot number, the subplot number, and the date the sample was collected; for example, "K5AV1H-13 9/1/09."

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 numbers.

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 field office'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 CU-SUM number, subplot number, 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 the sample collection and analysis to Ross Heiman at (816) 823-2580 or by email at Ross.D.Heiman@usda.gov

/s/ Robert Lijewski

Robert Lijewski, Acting Director
Field Management Division