



AHDB



AHDB Harvest Report

Report - 6

Week Ending – 24 September 2019

Prepared by ADAS



Overview

This harvest report has been prepared by ADAS for AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds, using data supplied by regional reporters (mostly independent agronomists). The approach used is consistent with previous years allowing comparison of data and provides a snapshot of harvest progress throughout the harvest season. All harvest reporting weeks run from Wednesday to Tuesday – with data reported for the week ending on a Tuesday e.g. WE24 September. A full data dashboard of progress is available [here](#). This report focuses on the fortnight between 10 September and 24 September.

The majority of harvest was complete in southern England and the Midlands by the 10 September (the previous report. In the last fortnight (WE17 and WE24 September) the main areas with harvesting activity were in Northern England and Scotland. In total about 130Kha were harvested, including wheat, spring oats and spring barley across this period. Harvest is complete in all regions bar less than 10Kha of spring barley in parts of Scotland and the occasional crop of spring oats. Harvest progress to WE24 September can be summarised as:

- **Wheat** –100% complete. Scotland have now harvested the final areas of wheat
- **Winter barley** –100% complete
- **Spring barley** – 99% complete with the remaining areas left to harvest in Scotland
- **Oats** – 99% complete with occasional areas of spring oats left to harvest in Scotland
- **Winter oilseed rape** – 100% complete

Settled weather in the last week has ensured harvest completion for northern regions with areas outstanding. Scotland experienced more unsettled weather as their harvest continued into September slowing progress for areas in the south of the region. Progress recovered towards the end of the week where showers gave way to dryer weather and are now close to seeing a completion to cereal and oilseed rape harvest. Wheat yields continue to be reported as above average in all regions. The current GB national yield estimate is 8.8-9.0t/ha, an increase on the 5 year average of 8.3t/ha. Quality data shows that the Hagberg falling numbers (HFNs) on the most recently harvested crops have dropped below 300 seconds, few of these are milling varieties. There are occasional reports of HFNs falling below 200 seconds on those destined for the feed market. To date protein levels average 12%-13% and specific weights are averaging 75-76kg/hl.

The GB national average winter barley yield is 7.4-7.6t/ha, this is above the 5 year average of 7.0t/ha. Winter barley harvest was complete as of WE27 August, with samples of later cut winter barley showing nitrogen contents averaging 1.6%.

The GB national average spring barley yield is estimated at 5.8-6.0t/ha, which is slightly above the 5 year average of 5.6t/ha. Nitrogen contents average between 1.5-1.7%.

The GB national average oats yield is estimated at 5.5-5.7t/ha, which is in line with the 5 year average of 5.6 t/ha.

The GB national average WOSR yield is 3.2-3.5t/ha.

Wheat

Harvest update

Harvest of wheat was completed by WE17 September in England, with small areas harvested in Scotland during WE24 September to bring wheat harvest to a close. The 2019 wheat harvest was for

the most part relatively straightforward. Wheat harvest started in the first week of August (WE06 Aug) and progressed steadily for two weeks as crops gradually ripened in the south. WE20 August saw a period of heavy and persistent rain affecting the whole country which brought wheat harvest to a virtual halt. A significant improvement in the weather for the last week of August (WE 27 August) resulted in record areas of wheat being harvested and brought progress back in line with the early harvests of recent year. There were just small areas of late ripening wheat (mostly feed wheat) left to harvest in the northern counties of England and Scotland during September.

Yield

GB national average yield is estimated at 8.8-9.0t/ha, a 6-8% increase on the 5 year average of 8.3 t/ha.

GB farm yields to WE24 September have typically ranged from 6.5-12.5/ha. The most recent yield data indicates that milling varieties typically yielded 6.5-11.0/ha, whilst feed varieties yielded 7.0-12.5t/ha. The best yields came from crops on heavier land, which held water better through the grain fill period. There are occasional reports of particularly poor yields where crops were negatively affected by lodging or from crops on light land that suffered water stress during the grain fill period.

Quality

Quality across the season has been typically good with the majority of crops meeting end market specification. However, new quality reports are showing declines for the small area of crops harvested late in Scotland. Wet weather in September meant that farmers in Scotland prioritised wheat still in the ground to maintain as much quality as possible. The areas harvested in WE17 and WE24 September were predominantly feed and biscuit varieties with lower specifications. Specific weights have dropped for crops on lighter land and which have experienced lodging issues due to wet weather and delays to harvest. Higher weights have been from crops on heavier land and harvested during dryer periods. High yields continued to dilute protein levels for milling group 1 and 2 varieties to around 12-13%.

Specific weight – Average 75kg/hl, range 70-80kg/hl. Specific weights on group1 and 2 milling wheats harvested in the Scotland this week were typically between 74-76 kg/hl. There were occasional reports of lower specific weights on crops where harvest was significantly delayed.

Hagberg falling number (HFN) – HFNs across the season have held up well with the majority of samples achieving specification. Where wheat was harvested earlier group 1 and 2 HFNs averaged well over 300 seconds. On group 3 and 4 wheats HFNs for the majority of crops held well above the 180 - 200 seconds specification. There are occasional reports of low HFNs on crops harvested in September, especially where crops were affected by lodging. Most of these were feed or group 3 and 4 biscuit wheats.

Protein – Group 1 and 2 milling wheat proteins average 12-13%.

Moisture – The majority of crops harvested in 2019 were harvested at low moisture contents near to 14-15%. These crops required little in the way of drying, but occasionally needed cool air blown through them to drop grain temperatures. Small areas of crops were harvested at moistures of 16-17% and needed a little time in the drier. However, overall drying costs for harvest 2019 were minimal.

Winter barley

Harvest update

Winter barley harvest 2019 progressed with little disruption. The first crops were harvested in WE23 July, with rapid progress made in the following two weeks. The harvest of winter barley was complete in most regions before the period of wet weather in WE20 August, and therefore there were only occasional late harvested affected by the delays experienced in that week. Harvest progress was ahead of most recent years (with the exception of the very early harvest of 2018).

Yields

The GB yield estimate for winter barley is 7.4-7.6t/ha, a 5-8% increase on the 5 year average of 7.0t/ha.

Farm yields ranged from 8.0-12.0t/ha for hybrid varieties, with conventional 2 and 6 row varieties yielding between 7.0-8.0t/ha. The highest yields were hybrid varieties on heavier soils with the lower yields coming from drought stressed crops on lighter land.

Quality

The majority of samples have been meeting quality specifications. This is due to most of the winter barley being harvested earlier on in the harvest period during settled weather. Some growers experienced high screenings off lighter land.

Specific weight – Average 65-66 kg/hl, typical range of 63-69kg/hl. Typically 2 row varieties lower than 6 row.

Grain nitrogen (malting varieties) – Average 1.6%. Ranging from 1.4-1.7%

Germination – Germination levels close to 99% where harvested early in good conditions.

Screenings – Average 3%, ranging from 2-15% with occasional reports of higher screenings off lighter land.

Moisture – Few winter barley crops harvested in 2019 required drying. Moisture content averaged 15%.

Spring Barley

Harvest update

Harvest of spring barley was virtually complete by WE24 September with just occasional crops left to harvest in Scotland. Harvest 2019 was ahead of most recent harvests for the majority of the harvest period. The main start to spring barley harvest occurred in the second week of August (WE13 August), however, the heavy rain experience by much of the country brought harvest to a halt in WE20 August and also resulted in widespread lodging. Improvements in the weather lead to steady harvest progress from WE27 August through to WE24 September.

Yield

The current estimated GB average yield for spring barley is 5.8-6.0t/ha, this is a slight increase on the five year average of 5.6t/ha.

Typical farm yields up to WE24 September ranged between 5.0-10.0t/ha, with malting varieties typically yielding 5.5-9.0t/ha and feed varieties reaching up to 10.0t/ha in earlier sown crops on heavier land. Lower yields are attributed to crops which experienced head losses through lodging.

Quality

Specific weights remain reasonable with a variation between 58-68kg/hl. Higher specific weights are from crops grown on heavier land with poorer weights off crops from lighter land. Increased tillering decreased grain size in parts of Scotland, but has not significantly affected overall quality.

Specific weight – Average 62-65kg/hl, typical ranges between 58-68kg/hl.

Grain nitrogen (malting varieties) – Average 1.7%, typical range 1.5-1.7%

Screenings – Average 2-4%, with reports of increased screenings in Scotland.

Germination – Typically between 97-99% with early harvested crops close to 100%. An estimated 10% has been lost to pre-germination in Scotland, with some rejections for malting.

Moisture – The majority of spring barley was harvested at low moistures and required little in the way of drying. Moisture contents typically ranges from 15-17%.

Oats

Harvest update

Harvest is now near complete across GB with small areas left to harvest in Scotland, these are predominantly spring varieties. Harvest progress for 2019 followed a similar pattern to the other cereal crops. Harvest started in early August, with good progress made on winter oats through to WE13 August. In recent years harvest has picked up in the WE20 August as winter varieties in the north and spring varieties in the south start to ripen ready for harvest. The wet weather this year delayed the upsurge in activity until WE27 August when large areas of crop were cleared (taking harvest progress ahead of most recent years). Progress then steadied off as the harvest of winter crops completed in all regions and spring oat harvest completed in the south.

It is estimated that about 20% of the oat area was affected by lodging, although slightly more was affected by brackling. This increased the challenges associated with harvesting the crop, slowing combine harvester progress across the ground. Lodging varied from leaning to lying flat, those crops that were completely flat. Where there are occasional fields of spring oats left to harvest in Scotland the recent change to more unsettled weather at the end of WE24 September and into the following week raised concerns over the viability of these crops as lodging increases.

Yields

The national average yield estimate is between 5.5-5.7t/ha, which is in line with the 5 year average of 5.6t/ha.

Current reports of winter oat yields are between 6.0-9.0t/ha for milling varieties and feed oats 7.0-7.5t/ha. Yields on spring oats have remained variable. Yields overall were close to average with the best crops up to 6.5t/ha, but there were particularly low yields on crops that lodged flat, dropping to 4.4t/ha.

Quality

Specific weight – Average 52kg/hl, range 40-54kg/hl. Lodged crops produced the lowest weights whereas crops on heavier land were showing better weights. There are no reports of variation between specific weights of winter or spring oats.

Moisture – Average weekly moisture content 16%, with lodged crops in Scotland requiring the most drying. Crops that were standing were typically harvested dry.

Winter oilseed rape

Harvest update

Harvest of winter oilseed rape was complete by WE03 September. As with winter barley the harvest of winter oilseed rape was largely unaffected by the weather. Harvest started in the WE23 July and then progressed steadily though to WE13 August. Almost 90% of the national area was harvested before the heavy rain hit in the WE20 August. The occasional remaining crops, mostly on high land and in the northern counties of England and into Scotland were harvested by the WE03 September.

Yields

The current GB national average yield estimate for WOSR is 3.2-3.5t/ha, just below the 5 year average of 3.5t/ha. Yields this year were affected more by pest levels than soil type or location. Where crops were established early and escaped pest damage yields were good with crops yielding over 4t/ha. However, later drilled crops and those that were affected by pest damage often struggled to establish. These crops were thin and vulnerable to pigeon grazing, weed competition and further Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle damage. A good number of crops were lost during the season, but some farmers still tried to take poor crops to harvest with yields of 1.0-1.5 reported on the worst affected fields. This localised variability in yields makes identifying the average GB yield more challenging this year than normal.

Quality

Early reports indicated that those oilseed rape crops that were harvested in the hottest part of August had low moisture contents, and poor oil contents. However, as harvest progressed and more crops were harvested further north, oil contents have improved.

Oil Content - Average 43%, range 40-47%.

Moisture - Few oilseed rape crops required any drying this season. The main problem for the early harvested crops was seed moistures that were too low. Where conditions were particularly dry crops were harvested in the evening or early morning to try and increase moisture contents of the seed.

Sarah Wynn	Luchia Garcia-Perez	Vikki Campbell
ADAS Boxworth Direct Dial: 01954 268249 sarah.wynn@adas.co.uk	ADAS Boxworth Direct Dial: 01954 268205 luchia.garcia-perez@adas.co.uk	AHDB vikki.campbell@AHDB.org.uk