



AHDB



# AHDB Harvest Report

Report - 5

Week Ending – 10 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. WE10 September. A full data dashboard of progress is available [here](#). This report focuses on the fortnight between 27 August and 10 September.

Peak harvest occurred in WE27 August, with most farms in the south having completed their areas by the end of the week. However, harvest activity continued in the Midlands, Northern England and Scotland. As harvest drew to a close on most farms rate of progress dropped off in WE10 September with 139Kha cut, down from 431Kha cut in WE03. To WE10 September just over 3.5Mha had been harvested, equivalent to 96% of the GB cereal and oilseed rape area. There are just over 145k hectares left to harvest, mostly in Scotland. Harvest progress to WE10 September can be summarised as:

- **Wheat** – 97% complete. Harvest of milling varieties now complete, with some small areas of feed wheat outstanding mainly in northern regions and Scotland.
- **Winter barley** –100% complete.
- **Spring barley** – 90% complete. Southern regions are now complete, with small areas remaining in the Midlands, Yorkshire and Scotland.
- **Oats** – 87% complete. Progress continued over the last fortnight with southern areas now complete. Areas of spring oats remain in the north and Scotland.
- **Winter oilseed rape** – 100% complete, with the outstanding areas in Scotland now harvested.

WE03 September was unsettled especially in northern regions, resulting in slight harvest delays especially for those in the north and Scotland, but with only small areas left to harvest this had minimal impact.

Wheat yields are reported to be 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. Hagberg falling numbers (HFNs) for milling varieties met specification with most samples well over 300 seconds. HFNs on group 3 and 4 wheats are for the most part over 200 seconds, with occasional reports of poor HFNs, but mostly on crops destined for a feed market. To date protein levels average 12-13% and specific weights remain good, averaging at 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 1.5-1.7%.

The GB national average spring barley yield is estimated at 5.6-5.9t/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 5.4-5.6t/ha, which slightly below the 5 year average of 5.6 t/ha. Spring oat yields in parts of northern England and Scotland are slightly below average, whilst winter oats and crops further south tended to be close to average.

The GB national average WOSR yield is 3.2-3.5t/ha, which is in line with the 5 year average of 3.5t/ha.

## Wheat

### Harvest update

An estimated 97% of GB wheat was harvested by WE10 September. This is equivalent to approximately 1.8Mha, with 336Kha harvested in WE03 and WE10 September. The peak of wheat harvest for most regions took place WE27 August, with southern areas clearing most remaining areas WE03 September. Wheat harvest is now complete in the South West, South East, East of England and East Midlands, with just occasional crops left to harvest in the North of England. There is an estimated 49Kha of GB area left to harvest, these are predominantly feed varieties with the largest areas remaining in Scotland and the West Midlands.

### 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.

Farm yields WE10 September ranged from 6.5-12.5/ha. Typically milling varieties yielded 6.5-11.0/ha whilst feed varieties yielded 7.0-12.5t/ha. The best yields came from crops on heavier land with little difference between first and second wheat crops. Lower yields were from crops which lodged due to heavy rainfall WE20 August and those that suffered from drought stress in the spring. Growers saw some areas of seed shed where crops suffered from lodging issues.

### Quality

Quality across the season has been good with the majority of crops meeting end market specification. However, for the small area of crops harvested late in the season following harvest delays, quality has declined with HFNs in particular starting to drop. Specific weights remain good, with the lowest specific weights reported on crops affected by lodging and shedding issues. Protein levels ranged from 8-12% depending on variety and if additional nitrogen had been applied. High yields continued to dilute protein levels for milling group 1 and 2 varieties to around 12.5-13.1%.

**Specific weight** – Average 76kg/hl, range 70-80kg/hl. Specific weights on group1 and 2 milling wheats that were harvested early in the East of England and parts of the south were high typically 77-79 kg/hl. Further west and on the group 3 and 4 wheats, specific weights are lower, typically around 74-77 kg/hl, with 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. Group1 and 2 HFNs have averaged well over 300 seconds. On group 3 and 4 wheats HFNs have held well above 200 seconds. There are occasional reports of particularly low HFNs on late harvested wheat. HFNs tend to be lower in the Midlands and north, with occasional reports of crops failing to meet specification.

**Protein** – Group 1 and 2 milling wheat proteins average 12-13%, whilst group 3 and 4 wheats are in the region of 11.5%.

**Moisture** – Grain drying requirements have varied across the country. In the south and east, good conditions meant that little, if any grain harvested required drying. Where showers caught the tail end of harvest in the Midlands and parts of the north, there were occasional crops harvested at slightly higher moistures which required drying by 1-2%.

## Winter barley

### Harvest update

Harvest is now complete with the peak of winter barley harvest taking place between WE20 August and WE27 August. Southern areas took advantage of dry weather and ripe crops at the beginning of harvest, with the north harvesting remaining areas over the August bank holiday.

### 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 range 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 winter barley was harvested during settled weather at the start of harvest period with most samples meeting quality specifications. Some growers experienced high screenings from crops grown on lighter land.

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

**Grain nitrogen (malting varieties)** – Average 1.6%. Ranging from 1.5-1.7%

**Germination** – Reports show germination levels close to 99% where harvested early in good conditions.

**Screenings** – Typical reports are around 3%, ranging from 2-15% with occasional reports of higher screenings from crops grown on lighter land.

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

## Spring Barley

### Harvest update

Harvest of spring barley is 90% complete, bringing harvest progress slightly ahead of recent years. An estimated 195Kha of GB area was harvested in WE03 and WE10 September. Harvest is complete in the East Midlands, South West, South East and East of England, with Yorkshire at 99%, Wales at 97% and West Midlands at 95% complete. The largest remaining areas are in the North West, North East and Scotland which have a combined area of 69Kha left to harvest.

Lodging was an issue on an estimated 12% of the crop area. In most cases it was limited to slight leaning, but occasionally lodging was severe and resulted in localised yield impacts.

### Yield

The current GB average yield for spring barley is 5.6-5.9t/ha, a slight increase on the five year average of 5.6t/ha.

Farm yields up to WE10 September ranged between 5.0-10.0t/ha, with malting varieties typically yielding 6.0-9.0t/ha and feed varieties reaching up to 10.0t/ha in earlier sown crops on heavier land. The lowest yields are on crops that were planted later in the year on lighter soils, or on those that experienced head losses through lodging.

## Quality

Most crops are showing reasonable specific weights with a variation between 58-68kg/hl. Higher specific weights are from crops grown on heavier land and poorer weights off crops from lighter land. There are reports that some samples are showing discolouration and grain skinning issues in over ripe grain in the East of England.

**Specific weight** – Average 63-65kg/hl, typical ranges between 58-68kg/hl.

**Grain nitrogen (malting varieties)** – Average 1.6%, typical range 1.5-1.7%

**Screenings** – Average 2%, with few reports of high screenings ranging from 1-5%.

**Germination** – Typically between 97-99% with early harvested crops close to 100%.

**Moisture** – Weekly average 17%, compared to 15% in the previous week. Crops harvested in the south and east required little to no drying and typically had a starting moisture between 15-17%. Crops harvested in the last two weeks, in more northern regions have required a small amount of drying starting from moistures of 18%.

## Oats

### Harvest update

An estimated 87% of GB oats were harvested by WE10 September, with 31.6Kha harvested in the last two weeks. Harvest is now complete for all southern and midland regions with spring oats making up the majority of remaining areas in Yorkshire and Scotland.

Total number of crops lodged is estimated to be at 17% due to heavy rainfall and high winds experienced in August. In the worst cases this led to whole crop collapse and made harvest difficult. Where lodged crops were present on farm, harvest of these crops was prioritised to minimise yield losses.

### Yields

The national average yield estimate is between 5.4-5.6t/ha, slightly below the 5 year average of 5.6t/ha.

The yields of winter oat varieties were good with milling oats yielding 6.0-9.0t/ha and feed oats 7.0-7.5t/ha. Yields on spring oats were more variable, with some poor yields in Northern England and Scotland, especially on fields that had widespread lodging and crop collapse. Farm ranges are between 4.4-6.5t/ha for spring oats.

## Quality

**Specific weight** – Average 52kg/hl, range 40-54kg/hl. The lowest weights were from crops that had lodged with higher weights from standing crops on heavier land. Little to no variation between specific weights of winter or spring oats reported.

**Moisture** – Average weekly moisture content 16%, with lodged crops requiring the most drying to bring moisture down from 17% or above. Standing crops were typically harvested dry.

## Winter oilseed rape

### Harvest update

Harvest of winter oilseed rape is complete with an estimated area of 5.8Kha harvested between WE27 August and WE10 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. Later drilled crops which were worst affected by pest damage, yielded lower than those early drilled crops that were unaffected by pest damage.

### Quality

The majority of oilseed rape crops harvested in the south and east had lower than normal oil contents. However, late harvested crops in the north had slightly better oil contents, up to 47%.

**Oil Content**- Average 44%, range 40-47%.

**Moisture**-Average 7%.

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