

## AHDB Harvest Report

### Report 2 – Week 5

Week ending 12th August 2021

#### Summary

This is the second report of the 2021/22 season and covers the period 28 July – 12 August 2021. It is produced with data collected by RSK ADAS Ltd and compiled by AHDB.

The unsettled weather at the end of July and beginning of August has been seen across all GB regions, resulting in very stop-start harvest progress and many frustrated combine drivers. The weather has ranged from localised showers in the North East, to downpours and hail showers in Yorkshire.

The conditions have meant that the winter wheat harvest has yet to start in earnest. With many farmers across the regions keen to get going, pockets of producers have cut small acreages. However, the reports from these are that the winter wheat was not yet fully ripe. By 12 August, only an estimated 2.5% of the GB winter wheat area had been cut, the slowest start since 2017.

Conversely, the winter barley harvest is now nearing completion, with 88% of the GB area cut by 12 August. This is behind last year's progress by this point (98%), but ahead of the year earlier (2019-81%) and on par with the 5-year average.

Winter OSR harvest has progressed since the first harvest report, now estimated at 61% complete. However, the rate is still some 20-percentage points back on the 5-year average.

Winter barley yields to date are close to the 5-year average, with some improvement seen as harvest has progressed. Currently, they are estimated at 6.8-7.2t/ha (5-year average of 6.8t/ha) and similar to 2017 and 2018 levels. Winter OSR yields are pegged at 3.2-3.6t/ha, a small improvement from the first report and 5-year average (3.3t/ha).

The majority of winter barley was harvested before the weather turned, limiting any potential quality impact. Lower than average specific weights and N have been reported so far. Grain nitrogen levels for malting barley varieties are on the low side for some, with reports of some crops falling to 1.2%. However, the majority are ranging between 1.4-1.6%, with a few over 1.7%. Specific weights are typically on the low side (60-64/hL) and screenings are mostly low (below 6%). Early oil contents for winter OSR are averaging between 42-44%.

#### Straw

Winter barley straw quality is predominantly good, with the North East reporting more straw than expected, and high straw yields in the South East, Eastern and Yorkshire regions. The West Midlands reports that demand is starting to slow in their area, following strong straw prices and high demand in livestock areas.

#### Winter wheat

##### Harvest update

Nationally, harvest progress is estimated at 2.5%. This is the slowest start to the wheat harvest since 2017 (1.4% at this point). Progress is 21% behind the 5-year average and 41% behind last year's quick start.

Crops have been slow to ripen, and the frequent showers, heavy dew and overcast skies have added to this delay. Growers are keen to start the wheat harvest and a few have cut small areas, although often reporting that the winter wheat was not yet fully ripe.

Lodging is reported on exposed sites and headlands, although less than 2% of the total land is affected.

Therefore, limited yield data is reported so far. Early harvested crops are looking good, but it is far too early to call. Any wheat that was cut during this period has required drying.

## Winter barley

### Harvest update

An estimated 88% of GB winter barley had been harvested by 12 August. While this is behind this point last year (98%), it is in line with the 5-year average.

Most regions managed to proceed with harvest during this period, aided by good weather for most at the start. The majority are reporting to be at, or near, completion. However, some regions still had area to cut when the weather turned, slowing harvest rates. Yorkshire and the Humber reports slower progress, with 57% cut, heavy showers and strong winds hampering work. There are concerns amongst growers here that this may affect the quality of their malting barley.

### Yields

The current yield estimate sits at 6.8-7.2t/ha. This has improved slightly since the first report and as harvest has progressed, the lower end of the range now matching the 5 and 10-year average.

Yield ranges between 4.8-10.5t/ha are reported, with malting varieties are ranging between 4.8-7.5t/ha and occasional reports of up to 10t/ha in Yorkshire. Feed yields have been quoted as 10.5t/ha on the best land. Adequate moisture levels throughout much of the year has largely resulted in light land crops yielding well, only slightly below heavier land crops.

Yields are close to the 5-year average in most regions and West Midlands is reporting better than average yields. The exception to this is the South East, where yields have been quoted as slightly back on the 5-year trend.

### Quality

**Specific weight** – Specific weights are typically between 60-64kg/hL, although ranging from 50-65kg/hL. While they are typically on the low side, the occasional report of up to 72kg/hL from heavier land has been received.

**Screenings** – Screenings are typically at 5-8%. They are mostly on the low side (less than 6%), but with occasional feed crops over 10%.

**Grain nitrogen (malting varieties)** – Lower than average N content is reported, with a range of 1.4%-1.6%.

**Moisture** – Moisture content is ranging between 15-17%. Where the crop was cut during the dry weather, very little grain drying has been required. Regions that are more northern have had to dry more, with the North East stating that most grain is having to be dried and 90% of grain dried in Yorkshire.

**Germination** – There is still limited data for germination levels. Subsequent reports should include more samples, allowing germination percentage ranges to be published. Reports from the South West currently quote good germination percentages.

## Winter oilseed rape

### Harvest update

An estimated 61% of the GB OSR crop had been harvested by 12 August. This is up from 9% from the first report, but still 20 percentage points behind the 5-year average (81%).

The harvest has now started in most regions, although been challenged with the localised heavy downpours. In some regions (Yorkshire), hailstorms have caused pod damage and significant seed loss. This has led to some farmers cutting unaffected crops too early to try to avoid further loss, with moisture levels higher than optimum. Farmers in the Eastern region have also pushed on with harvest, based on the same concerns.

### Yields

Nationally overall yields are estimated as good, ranging between 3.2-3.6t/ha. This is improved from the early yields in the first report, with the 5-year average (3.3t/ha) now at the lower end of the range.

Yields are reported as highly variable in areas where Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle (CSFB) activity has been more prevalent. The West Midlands, South East and South West have quoted wide ranges depending on the level of damage. The Eastern region has reported lower than average yields in most counties (except Suffolk and Norfolk), reflecting the higher concentration of CSFB in this area.

### Quality

**Oil content** – Averaging between 42-44%. The East Midlands are quoting a range of 40-45%, while the South West is averaging 44%. The Eastern region is reporting lower oil contents.

**Moisture** – Most OSR cut over the past fortnight has required drying, with many farmers harvesting between showers. While the East Midlands managed to harvest at below 9% moisture, some needed to go through the drier to remove green seeds.