

Crop quality for 2004/2005

The Swartland area in the Western Cape and the Free State province again experienced drought during 2004/2005. The crop was of average good quality, with high protein samples from the Swartland and Free State province, but with an average hectolitre mass of about 0.5 kg/hl lower than the five-year average.

The protein distribution of all the wheat produced was normal, with an average protein content of 13.0 % (12 % moisture basis), which is about the same as the previous season's 12.9 %. Drought was also experienced in the previous season. The five-year protein average was 12.0 % (1999/2000 to 2003/2004).

The average hectolitre mass was 77.7 kg/hl, which is a little lower than the five-year average of 78.2 kg/hl. The lower hectolitre mass can be contributed to the drought conditions. This crop had a thousand kernel mass of 35.1 g, which is a little better than the previous season's 33.5 g.

The average screenings (1.8 mm sieve) were 1.85 % (2.01 % last season).

The average falling number was 377 seconds. Three of the 480 samples tested, one from the eastern Free State and two from the Ruêns area, had falling numbers below 250 seconds.

The mixogram peak time (Quadromat) averaged 2.9 minutes and the mixogram peak time (Bühler) averaged 2.7 minutes.

The average Bühler extraction was 74.5 %, with an average Kent Jones colour of -1.3 KJ units.

The farinogram had an average water absorption of 61.0 % and an average development time of 5.2 minutes. The average alveogram strength was 40.0 cm² and the average P/L value was 0.62. The average extensogram strength was 116 cm².

Quality of imported wheat for 2003/2004 season

During the 2003/2004 delivery season, 1 039 786 tons of wheat were imported. The biggest import was from the United States, namely 413 429 tons, followed by 298 504 tons from Australia and 268 218 tons from Argentina. Smaller quantities were imported from France (25 016 tons), the United Kingdom (22 420 tons) and Germany (12 199 tons). (Figures obtained from SAGIS web site.)

No samples for analyses were received of the wheat from France.

The results are summarized at the end of this report per country of origin and can be compared directly with the South African wheat crop quality of the 2003/2004 season.