

Wheat grades

Representative samples (480) of the crop were graded as follows: 13 % was graded B1, 29 % was graded B2, 27 % was graded B3, 15 % was graded B4 and UT plus COW made up 16 %. This year more samples graded B4 and UT compared to the previous year.

Grade B1 wheat in the Free State province only amounted to 13 % (36 % the previous season) and grade B1 in other summer rainfall areas amounted to 38 % (33 % in the previous season). In the irrigation areas 17 % (31 % in the previous season) of the wheat graded as B1 and in the Western Cape Province only 8 % graded as B1 (17 % in the previous season).

Cultivars

In the winter rainfall area, SST 027 dominated the market. The Western Cape produced 44 % of all wheat grown in South Africa during the 2007/2008 season. In the Western Cape, SST 027 (35 %) were followed by SST 015 (25 %) and SST 88 (24 %).

The cultivar that dominated the market in the Free State was Elands (23 %) (30% the previous year). Elands was followed by CRN 826 (19%), SST 806 (9 %) and then Gariep and PAN 3377 with both 7 %.

The cultivar CRN 826 (58 %) dominated the market in the Vaal and the Orange River areas, followed by SST 806 with 17 % and PAN 3434 with 14 %.

CRN 826 also dominated the North West (also mostly irrigation) with 36 %, followed by SST 806 (25 %) and SST 822 (10 %).

In Limpopo, Gauteng and Mpumalanga CRN 826 (26 %) was the dominant cultivar followed by SST 806 (28 %).

The above information was calculated from the cultivar identification done on all 480 crop samples.

Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins, as secondary metabolites of moulds or fungi, can cause toxic effects in humans and animals consuming contaminated foods or feeds. Thirty samples (representing different regions) were selected randomly for mycotoxin analyses. These samples were tested for aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol and ochratoxin.

Aflatoxin (5 ppb) was found in two of the 30 samples tested. In accordance with Act 54 of 1972, Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants, the allowable level of total aflatoxin is 10 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$). In accordance with Act 36 of 1947, Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural and Stock Remedies, the allowable level of total aflatoxin is 10 to 50 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$).

The average deoxynivalenol (DON) content was 1.36 ppm (mg/kg) with the highest value being 2.70 ppm. All samples tested, except one sample, had DON contents above 0.50 ppm.

The average ochratoxin content was 0.33 ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) with the highest value being 2.8 ppb.