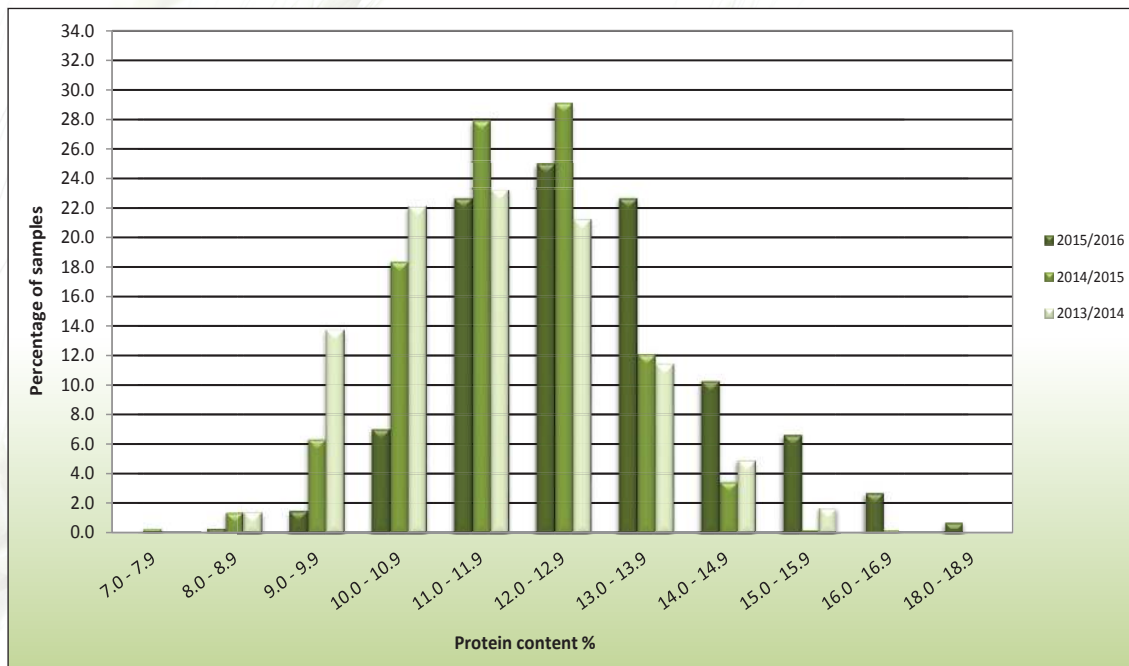


Crop quality of the 2015/2016 season

All national, seasonal and regional averages provided in this report are weighted averages.

The national whole wheat protein average of 12.8% is the highest since the 2004/2005 season and can be attributed to the drought conditions experienced this season. Protein content is generally a function of the environment (soil and climatic conditions) where the wheat was grown as well as fertilizer treatment. The percentage of samples having protein contents exceeding 13.0%, increased significantly from 16.4% and 18.3% in the previous two seasons respectively, to 43.2% this season.

Graph 14: Protein content distribution over the last three seasons



Contrary to normal expectations, the Winter rainfall areas (12.8 %) did not have the lowest whole wheat protein average this season. This position was taken by the Irrigation areas, with an average of 12.6%. The production regions in the Free State province, as in previous seasons reported the highest average protein content of 13.2%.

Graph 15: Protein content distribution between the three production areas

