

Tuesday 20 November 2012**MEDIA RELEASE****CLASSIFICATION CHANGES FOR FOUR NEW WHEAT VARIETIES**

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) has responded to industry calls to reflect changes in the varietal classification of four new wheat varieties grown in the Southern region, following the publication of the GTA 2012/13 wheat standards manual on August 1, 2012.

Wheat Quality Australia (WQA) is tasked with the wheat variety classification process for the Australian grain industry, while GTA administers the industry Wheat Standards (Standards) through its Standards Committee.

Outside of the timeframe for finalising 2012/13 Manual, WQA has since independently assessed four new varieties, including Scout, Axe, Cobra and Kord; as being suitable for AH classification.

The GTA Standards Committee convened an extraordinary meeting to adopt the revised classifications in advance of the 2013/14 marketing year, following notice received from WQA on November 15.

The decision by the Standards Committee will ensure the correct assessment of grower deliveries made in the current harvest, in accordance with GTA Standards which references the variety master list developed by WQA.

“Variety integrity and correct variety assessment are an integral part of the grain classification and Standards application process adopted in the Australian grains industry today,” GTA CEO Geoff Honey said today.

GTA has updated the varietal master list, to take effect from midnight, 19 November and advised its membership.

GTA endorses the varietal classifications as listed in the 2012/13 manual and encourages all industry to follow the approved varietal master list as listed in the manual where relevant.

“This rapid response has demonstrated the benefits of industry self-regulation in administering grain standards, by adopting a flexible approach in dealing with variety upgrades on this occasion. This decision will enable the grain trade, including growers and the relevant plant breeders, to capture additional value for these varieties this harvest.

“GTA is delighted to announce this outcome for the benefit of the industry,” Mr Honey concluded.

To improve the current administration of grain Standards, GTA will initiate an internal review in early 2013 to examine its procedures to adopt varietal classifications made by WQA in-season for future years, according to GTA’s mandate to facilitate trade within the grain value chain.

Further information:

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