

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

Meeting Market Requirements

16-17 JUNE 2015

RYDGES

186 EXHIBITION STREET

MELBOURNE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NATIONAL WORKING PARTY ON GRAIN PROTECTION (NWPGP)



CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

This File Note lists outcomes agreed by the 2015 Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference, hosted by the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) in Melbourne on 16-17 June 2015. Agreed outcomes, major discussion points and findings are listed numerically in no order of priority.

There were 161 attendees at the meeting, representing all sectors of the grain supply chain.

To provide comment on this document or to comment on any NWPGP related matter, please contact GTA via email at admin@graintrade.org.au.

A. Official Welcome

The Chairman of Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Peter Reading opened the meeting. GTA provided a commitment to continue to support the activities of the NWPGP, including:

- Administration of the NWPGP and organising the annual meeting which appears to be growing in attendance numbers; and
- Promotion of the NWPGP and its deliberations through various industry publications and on the GTA website.

The Chairman commented on the spread of participants from all areas of the supply chain, noting it was critical that all participants work together to ensure Australian grain maintains its quality reputation and integrity.

B. Continued Role of the National Working Party on Grain Protection

The Chairman of the NWPGP Bill Murray announced his retirement as of 30 June 2015. It was announced that the NWPGP Strategic Working Group (SWG) had appointed Gerard McMullen as the new Chairman. To fill the role of Bill Murray, the SWG announced the appointment of Adrian Reginato to the SWG.

The meeting acknowledged the assistance of GTA and it was agreed to continue the NWPGP annual meetings using the administrative support offered by GTA.

A number of administrative tasks were discussed and **agreed**:

- 1) That the 2015 meeting outcomes be documented and distributed to all attendees for comment.
- 2) That the outcomes of the 2015 meeting be placed on the GTA website and forwarded by GTA to all invitees, attendees and the wider industry via a GTA Member Update. See <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>.
- 3) The SWG is to develop the agenda and make arrangements for the 2016 NWPGP annual meeting, to be held in Melbourne.
- 4) A note of thanks was provided to:
 - i. GTA staff for their continued assistance in administering the NWPGP; and
 - ii. All sponsors of the 2015 NWPGP meeting; and
 - iii. The retiring Chair Bill Murray, for his valued efforts and input into the NWPGP, its activities and more generally the entire Australian grain industry over many years.

It was further **agreed**:

- 5) That the SWG continues to operate and provide oversight of NWPGP activities.
- 6) That the SWG liaise with the GRDC (and other industry parties as required) on any matter relating to activities discussed under the auspices of the NWPGP.

C. Communication & Extension Activities

The meeting was provided with details of a range of communication and extension activities conducted and supported by various industry organisations such as the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and the Plant Biosecurity CRC:

- The GRDC continues to fund extension staff in a range of activities covering grain storage, chemical use and grain hygiene. Extension material is developed on various topics and widely distributed as required.
- The Plant Biosecurity CRC provided an update on a range of activities that impact on industry. An outline on strategies “to achieve nil live stored grain insects” was provided.
- Options for addressing the needs of industry beyond the 2018 deadline for the term of the Plant Biosecurity CRC are being developed.

It was **agreed**:

- 7) That the research requirements as noted during the meeting be documented and forwarded to relevant organisations (e.g., Plant Biosecurity CRC, GRDC) for consideration.

D. Regulatory Update

The meeting was provided with an update on a range of matters dealing with Codex and other international and domestic regulations:

- Overviews of the procedures and the process of establishing and reviewing MRLs at Codex were provided. This included the role of the JMPR. The differences in the Australian system were provided for comparison.
- The process of establishing priorities of new or old chemicals to be reviewed was also outlined.
- The significant input in Codex matters from Government and the benefits of that input to industry was acknowledged.
- Several key Australian export markets are in the process of reviewing their MRLs.
- Australia continues to provide input into overseas country regulatory issues through the Government to Government mechanism. A key participant in providing the Australian position in

those reviews is the National Residue Survey (NRS), supported by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

- Co-ordinated industry input via the NWPGP into developing the Australian Government position continues to be vital.
- Details of the current APVMA chemical re-prioritisation review were outlined, including the benefits for industry to place a submission by the required deadline. A submission will be developed following feedback from the existing NWPGP industry contact list.
- The industry was challenged to provide a submission on the current FSANZ low level MRL review, which could assist its marketing efforts where no MRLs currently exist in a market. A submission will be developed following feedback from the existing NWPGP industry contact list.

It was **agreed**:

- 8) The meeting fully endorses the continuation of the GRDC funded project enabling the NWPGP Chairman on behalf of the Australian grains industry:
 - i. To provide input to and attend as required, international forums such as Codex; and
 - ii. To actively liaise with national regulatory organisations such as the APVMA and NRS on chemical related matters.
- 9) Through the GRDC funded project, the NWPGP Chairman:
 - i. Continue to liaise with industry to provide input to the NRS on matters relating to chemicals raised through SPS and other international processes; and
 - ii. Continue working with NRS to facilitate the establishment and or maintenance of overseas MRLs as requested by industry.

E. Insect Infestation Trends, Resistance & Grain Treatments

Insect species detected:

- No significant differences have been experienced in the insect species detected this year from last year.
- Due to the relatively dry harvest, the number of infestations, and thus required effort to control insects, has been relatively lower than that for the previous year.
- Research continues on control mechanisms for various quarantinable insects.
- The movement of Grain Beetles between States has implications for movement of resistance genes. Industry was advised it needs to take a broad view when dealing with resistance and insect control.

Stored grain treatments applied:

- No significant departures from prior year treatments have occurred or been required.
- Research continues on small scale use of Nitrogen, especially the benefits for use on-farm where there are appropriately sealed storages.
- The use of Diatomaceous earth as a structural application has been promoted.
- Fumigant and grain protectant treatments continue to be rotated for phosphine resistance management as per the Phosphine Resistance Management Strategy.

An update on the distribution and frequency of insect resistance in Australia was provided:

- There is no significant change in the frequency of weak resistance to phosphine.
- There continues to be a need to pursue resistance testing to the currently available grain protectants.
- The current funding for resistance testing ends in June 2015.

It was **agreed**:

- 10) Further research on control methods may be required on other species, such as moths, birds and snails.
- 11) To form a Working Group to update the Phosphine Resistance Management Strategy, and to consider the impact on grain protectant use.

F. Transport Issues – Road

An update on actions being undertaken by the road transport sector to assure the integrity of grain carried was provided:

- A number of areas to focus on were outlined, including:
 - The requirement to continue to improve industry practices.
 - Cleandown and disinfestation strategies following carriage of infested grain or commodities containing chemical residues need to be improved.
 - Determining the responsible parties when infestation is detected.
- Communication continues with other transport associations on promotion of the various Transport Codes of Practice available for use by industry.

It was **agreed**:

- 12) All issues outlined for further review would be documented and forwarded to GTA for consideration, in conjunction with the relevant GTA committee and NatRoads.

G. Storage Update

The meeting was advised that:

- There is an increasing focus on the use of aeration on-farm given its benefits on managing grain quality and assisting insect control.
- On-farm storage continues to increase.

Grain Producers Australia gave an update on the development of the On-farm Stewardship Program:

- The Guide is finalised and is in the process of being signed-off by grower representative bodies.
- It is planned for official release in July 2015 on the Growers Day at the Australian Grains Industry Conference.
- A detailed communication plan involving a range of extension material is being developed.

H. Meeting Market Requirements

A range of topics were covered under this item. These included:

- The challenges faced by analytical laboratories in assessing samples for a large number of chemicals, often at very low levels of detection.
- The refinement of a Market GAP list, detailing a range of chemical and commodity MRL issues identified by industry since 2010. The meeting was advised a Working Group had been formed to review and prioritise the list, with the intention of keeping this list up to date on a regular basis.

National Residue Survey (NRS) Results:

- An outline of the testing program and results from the last year was provided.
- Compliance with MRLs remains at a very high level, as per recent seasons.
- Compliance with the requirement for industry to outturn grain containing protectants at half the MRL for all existing grain protectants remains high (i.e., the Recommended Outturn Limit).

- Violations of pre-harvest chemicals remain a concern and further work is required on developing appropriate disinfestation and cleaning procedures.
- Where issues have arisen (e.g., Australian MRLs exceeded), trace-back has occurred to determine causes.
- NRS will test an additional 400-500 samples next year largely in locations where fertiliser (and resulting residues) has previously been detected, however all States will be included.
- NRS are working on improving current communication strategies to ensure wider industry coverage.
- All marketers and exporters are encouraged to participate in the NRS. GTA members must participate in the NRS. Contact the NRS in DAFF at <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/nrs>
- An update on a number of recently announced reviews was provided:
 - South Korea – Positive List System is underway as a 2 Stage process. A Working Group has been formed to provide industry input to the Australian Government position, in order for Australian / South Korean Government liaison to occur.
 - Japan – The history of this review was outlined. Packages will be submitted shortly for supporting a number of chemicals.
 - EU Haloxypop – A positive outcome was received following industry input and subsequent Australian Government liaison with the EU regulatory body.
 - Taiwan – A review of all wheat MRLs has been announced and further information is being sought by the NRS. A Working Group has been formed to provide industry input to the Australian Government, in order for Australian / Taiwan Government liaison to occur.

It was **agreed**:

- 13) That the meeting fully endorses the NRS Grains program.
- 14) That the meeting fully supports:
 - i. The activities of the NRS relating to pesticide residues, MRLs, and relevant market requirements, including those raised through WTO SPS and other international processes.
 - ii. The current NRS responsibility of providing market access advice and action to facilitate the establishment of overseas MRLs as requested by industry.
- 15) That the meeting supports the expansion of the NRS contaminants sampling program in 2015/16 to develop data on the background N/P levels in grain, in order to further research the sources and nature of contamination of grain with chemically treated fertiliser.
- 16) To continue to support the requirement for industry to outturn grain containing protectants at half the MRL for all existing grain protectants.
- 17) The Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances document for 2014/15:
 - i. Be revised as per the outcomes of the 2015 NWPGP meeting via liaison with the NRS and GPA; and
 - ii. Is placed on the GTA website and distributed to industry.

Results of the 2015 Market Trends Survey:

- Greater industry involvement occurred this year but more participation is warranted.
- Meeting market requirements continues to be a challenge however overall Australian grain is highly regarded internationally.
- There continues to be a need to educate industry and increase awareness of market requirements and consequences of the mis-use of chemicals.
- Key messages from the extension program need to continue.

It was **agreed**:

- 18) The feedback from the survey in terms of chemical MRL issues is to be included in the various Australian and overseas country reviews as required, including the Market GAP list.

- 19) Further refinement to the Market Trends Survey questions would be of benefit to the NWPGP.
- 20) The SWG liaise with the Australian Grain Exporters Association (who developed and administered the survey):
- i. To further refine the survey for 2016.
 - ii. To seek mechanisms for greater industry participation in the survey.
- 21) A vote of thanks is to be provided to Rosemary Richards of AGEA for co-ordination of this Market Trends Survey task in 2015.

The Malting and Brewing Industry Barley Technical Committee (MBIBTC) provided an update on its activities:

- An explanation of the variety evaluation process was provided, including the process of evaluation of chemicals to determine their impact on the brewing process and malt production.
- It was reiterated that while approved, the industry does not support the practice of “crop topping”.
- The development of a revised relationship between the MBIBTC and SWG of the NWGP was outlined. Once agreement is reached, information outlining the changes will be communicated to industry and placed on relevant websites.

The Stockfeed industry provided an update on its general requirements:

- The commitment to safety and traceability, as referenced in the FeedSafe system.
- The reliance on CVDs:
 - When receiving inputs from growers.
 - From transport operators regarding prior loads.

I. Specific Chemical Issues

Bromide Ion (i.e., methyl bromide)

- Methyl bromide continues to be used as an approved Quarantine Pre-Shipment fumigant.
- Australia continues to liaise with all relevant chemical manufacturers and international parties seeking support and ultimately the generation of the necessary data at Codex for this compound to continue to be used, given its listing for periodic review in 2019.

Chlorpyrifos-methyl

- This year at Codex Australia invoked the 4 year rule to allow Australia to provide new labels and to allow JMPR to conduct a new long-term dietary estimate using the GEMS Food 17 cluster diets.
- In the interim, the existing Codex MRLs (CXLs) remain in place.

Deltamethrin

- This compound is listed for residue evaluation for new uses by Codex in 2016.

Diatomaceous Earth

- Is an increasingly important tool in the control of insects.
- Research is underway to understand the differences in the efficacy of commercial products.

Methoprene

- This compound is listed for residue evaluation for new uses by Codex in 2016.

Nitrogen

- Research continues on the various types of nitrogen generators and the efficacy against various insect species at different temperatures.
- A challenge remains to maintain the half life in silos where this could be used.

Phosphine

- Phosphine is listed for periodic re-evaluation at Codex in 2019.
- An update on the Working Group, and Plant Biosecurity CRC research to update the label, was provided.

It was **agreed**:

- 22) Industry should be encouraged to provide to the Working Group for compilation into the existing database that has been developed to capture that information:
- i. Any issues regarding phosphine use and suggestions for changes to those practices; and
 - ii. Suggestions for potential changes to labels to create clarity etc.

Spinosad

- Is showing good insect control in BHC and in on-farm storages.

Sulfuryl Fluoride

- Continues to be used extensively in industry as a “resistance breaker”.
- Various research efforts are underway to evaluate its use to control the strongly resistant Rusty Grain Beetle, one option being its use in combination with phosphine.