United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Federal Grain Inspection Service

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-25-03 June 11, 2025

SAMPLE COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VERIFYING THE ACCURACY OF MOISTURE METER CALIBRATIONS CROP YEAR 2025

Contents

1. PURPOSE

This program notice transmits collection assignments for samples needed to verify the accuracy of official moisture meter calibrations. It also restates the procedure for collecting and submitting samples.

2. BACKGROUND

The annual Moisture Meter Calibration Study is conducted on current year crop samples to assess the accuracy of the official inspection system and of National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP)-certified moisture meters. Each year, the evaluation is performed on samples submitted to the Inspection Instrumentation Branch (IIB) from the field offices and official service providers (OSP). Sample collection assignments for the respective offices are based on three years of crop production data within the geographic areas of responsibility.

Calibrations will be verified over the working moisture ranges but there is a significant need for samples that extend the moisture ranges shown in Directive 9180.61, Official Moisture Calibrations for UGMA-Compatible Meters. While it is understood that all requested moisture levels may not be available in all areas every year, field offices should make all reasonable efforts to provide the requested number of samples in each moisture range and to find samples at the moisture extremes requested.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This program notice is effective upon receipt for the 2025 crop production. Wheat samples should be submitted by October 01, 2025, and all other grain samples by December 15, 2025.

4. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This program notice supersedes FGIS PN-24-01, dated June 11, 2024.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The collection and submission of samples for the annual Moisture Meter Calibration Study are considered regular duties of the selected field offices and OSP's. All associated time will be charged to the field office standardization management code.

6. ASSIGNMENTS FOR SELECTED FIELD OFFICES

The 2025 sample request is similar to the 2024 request, which was reduced for some grains from previous years, due to the improved capability of the UGMA moisture meters. With this reduction, it becomes significantly more important that each office give their best effort to fulfill their request as stated in Table 1, so that the calibrations can be maintained with the same confidence as in the past.

During the 2025 growing season, the indicated numbers of samples of the commodities listed in Table 1 must be collected, tested for moisture, and submitted by the respective field offices to TSD-IIB. Each sample should weigh approximately 1500 grams.

7. INSTRUCTIONS

a. The purpose of this effort is to obtain representative samples from the entire nation. Therefore, it is important to have each office fill its quota at all moisture levels, if possible. However, do not submit extra samples in any moisture range, and do not adjust the moisture level of samples by adding water or by drying in the laboratory.

b. Samples with moisture levels beyond the established moisture ranges are valuable for extending these ranges. For this reason, some of the ranges of requested samples (Table 1) have been extended beyond established limits. When submitting samples, if the moisture falls outside the range of the applicable official moisture meter calibration, obtain an approximate moisture. The true moisture will later be determined at TSD by air oven.

c. If dockage is removed for inspection purposes, do not recombine it before submitting the sample.

d. The significant amount of time and effort invested in collecting and submitting the moisture samples can easily be lost through insect damage, microbial spoilage, or late sample submission. To prevent such loss, please collect the samples during the growing season and at harvest time and submit them promptly. Samples above 16 percent (above 14 percent for sunflower seeds and 11 percent for minor oilseeds) require special handling. To minimize loss by spoilage, keep high moisture samples refrigerated (not frozen) until shipped and ship the samples by UPS at least 48 hours before a weekend/holiday.

e. An easy way to account for samples submitted is to prepare mailing tags [Attachment 1] for the total number of samples of each commodity to be collected. On the back of each tag, write the commodity and moisture range. When all of the mailing tags are used, the collection assignment has been met.

f. The UGMA-Compatible moisture meters have a built-in test weight correction. These corrections need to be checked using external test weight data. For samples of sufficient volume, test weight will be determined by TSD-IIB, so it is not necessary to record test weight on the moisture sample transmittal tag. However, some submitted samples are too small to fill the kettle. For such samples, please record the test weight on the tag (or transmittal slip) if it is known.

g. Double bag each sample in polyethylene bags (6 mil thickness) and seal for shipment to TSD in appropriate size box. Multiple samples can be shipped together to save on cost. Record the field office location, date, commodity, official meter moisture, and test weight (if sample size is limited) on the back of the mailing tag or transmittal form [Attachment 1] accompanying the sample. Attach the transmittal tag to the bag. Please send samples to:

USDA AMS-NGC
Technology & Science Division
Moisture Laboratory
10383 N. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153-1394

h. Questions concerning these instructions should be directed to (816) 702-3873. If there is a special problem with the sample assignment, please notify the Moisture Laboratory at (816) 702-3884, as early in the season as possible.

Note: Do not submit any sample for the moisture survey if that same sample has been selected for the SIM monitoring program.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Moisture Sample Transmittal Tag

Moisture Sample Transmittal Tag

Field Office or OSP Use Only:

OFFICE __________ **MOISTURE** ___________

DATE __________ **TEST WT.** ____________

COMMODITY ____________________________

TSD Use Only: Date Received

Moisture Sample Transmittal Tag

Field Office or OSP Use Only:

OFFICE __________ **MOISTURE** ___________

DATE __________ **TEST WT.** ____________

COMMODITY ____________________________

TSD Use Only: Date Received

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Moisture Sample Transmittal Tag

Field Office or OSP Use Only:

OFFICE __________ **MOISTURE** ___________

DATE __________ **TEST WT.** ____________

COMMODITY ____________________________

TSD Use Only: Date Received

Table 1. Sample collection assignments, 2025 Crop Year

		Moisture Range (%)					
1. Barley, Six-Rowed	Office	7-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-21	All
	OSP	14	14	14	14	4	60

		Moisture Range (%)					
2. Barley, Two-Rowed	Office	7-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-21	All
	Washington	2	3	3	2	2	12
	OSP	8	12	12	12	4	48

		Moisture Range (%)							
3. Corn	Office	6-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-22	22-26	26-32	All
	Toledo	2	5	6	5	5	4	3	30
	OSP	11	26	29	28	27	26	13	160

		Moisture Range (%)				
4. Oats	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	All
	OSP	5	5	3	2	15
	Special Request	8	8	6	3	25

		Moisture Range (%)					
5. Rough Rice, Long Grain	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-20	20-26	All
	Crowley	5	8	9	9	4	35
	Stuttgart	7	10	10	10	8	45

		Moisture Range (%)					
6. Rough Rice, Medium Grain	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-21	21-28	All
	California	6	8	8	7	6	35
	Stuttgart	6	8	8	8	5	35
	OSP	1	3	3	2	1	10

		Moisture Range (%)					
7. Sorghum	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-24	All
	OSP	8	14	16	15	7	60

		Moisture Range (%)						
8. Soybeans	Office	5-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-24	All
	Toledo	5	6	7	6	4	2	30
	OSP	16	18	18	18	12	8	90

		Moisture Range (%)						
9. Sunflower Seed, Oil Type	Office	4-8	8-10	10-12	12-16	16-20	20-28	All
	DIOO	6	15	18	18	8	5	70

10. Wheat, Durum	Office	4-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-21	21-30	All
	California	1	3	3	1	1	1	10
	OSP	8	14	13	10	4	1	50

Table 1. Sample collection assignments, 2025 Crop Year

		Moisture Range (%)					
11. Wheat, Hard Red Spring	Office	6-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-21	All
	Washington	2	3	2	2	1	10
	OSP	6	15	17	15	7	60

		Moisture Range (%)					
12. Wheat, Hard Red Winter	Office	6-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-22	All
	Washington	2	2	2	2	2	10
	OSP	4	16	17	16	7	60

		Moisture Range (%)				
13. Wheat, Hard White	Office	6-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	All
	California	1	2	1	1	5
	Washington	3	5	5	2	15
	OSP	6	12	13	4	35

		Moisture Range (%)					
14. Wheat, Soft Red	Office	7-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-24	All
	Toledo	4	4	4	4	4	20
	OSP	8	11	12	11	8	50

		Moisture Range (%)					
15. Wheat, Soft White	Office	7-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-24	All
	Washington	5	8	9	8	5	35
	OSP	4	7	8	7	4	30

		Moisture Range (%)					
16. Beans, Black	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	17-20	All
	OSP	6	6	4	3	1	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
17. Beans, Blackeye	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	17-20	All
	OSP	6	6	4	3	1	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
18. Beans, Kidney	Office	6-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	17-20	All
	Washington	3	3	2	1	1	10
	OSP	3	3	2	1	1	10

		Moisture Range (%)					
19. Beans, Pink	Office	6-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	17-20	All
	OSP	6	6	4	3	1	20

Table 1. Sample collection assignments, 2025 Crop Year

		Moisture Range (%)					
20. Beans, Pinto	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	17-20	All
	OSP	4	6	7	2	1	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
21. Peas, Split	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	17-20	All
	OSP	4	5	5	4	2	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
22. Rice, Long Grain Brown	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-20	20-26	All
	Stuttgart	8	8	7	5	2	30

		Moisture Range (%)					
23. Rice, Medium Grain Brown	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-20	20-26	All
	Stuttgart	4	4	3	2	2	15
	California	4	4	5	1	1	15

		Moisture Range (%)					
24. Rice, Short Grain Brown	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-20	20-26	All
	California	7	8	8	5	2	30

		Moisture Range (%)					
25. Canola	Office	4-7	7-10	10-12	12-16	16-20	All
	OSP	7	7	7	5	4	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
26. Rapeseed	Office	4-6	6-8	8-10	10-12	12-14	All
	OSP	6	6	4	2	2	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
27. Flaxseed	Office	4-6	6-8	8-10	10-12	12-14	All
	OSP	6	6	5	2	1	20

		Moisture Range (%)					
28. Rice, Short Grain Rough	Office	8-12	12-14	14-16	16-20	20-26	All
	California	7	8	8	5	2	30

		Moisture Range (%)					
29. Lentils	Office	6-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-22	All
	OSP	2	2	2	2	2	10
	Moscow	2	2	2	2	2	10

		Moisture Range (%)					
30. Beans, Great Northern	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17		All
	OSP	9	7	3	1		20

Table 1. Sample collection assignments, 2025 Crop Year

		Moisture Range (%)					
31. Beans, Large Lima	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	All	
	OSP	9	7	3	1	20	

		Moisture Range (%)					
32. Beans, Cranberry	Office	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-17	All	
	OSP	9	7	3	1	20	

		Moisture Range (%)						
33. Sunflower Seed, Confectionary	Office	4-8	8-10	10-12	12-16	16-20	20-28	All
	OSP	8	8	8	8	6	2	40