

## Noodle Wheat Outlook Western Australia

- This industry update is provided by the Wheat Council of the Grain Industry Association of WA as at 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- The industry estimate for total grain production in Western Australia for the 2016/2017 harvest is approximately 15.5m tonnes, including around 9 million tonnes of wheat. Noodle wheat production is estimated to be 9-10% of this total wheat production.
- Overall the harvest is expected to be slightly above average with some areas having better than expected yields and the impact of frost being varied across the state.
- The GIWA Wheat Council has concerns regarding grain quality for the 2016/2017 harvest, specifically regarding lower protein levels for both APW and ANW due to prolonged periods of rain and lower temperatures throughout the growing season.
- This year's harvest is only 40% complete. It is expected that the low protein trend will continue, making it challenging for exporters to meet the noodle wheat protein specifications required for the Japanese and Korean markets. It is possible that the final zone average protein levels will be close to the minimum protein receival standard for each grade.
- Acknowledging that tenders are a commercial matter between the trade and end customers, the GIWA Wheat Council proposes the following potential solutions for managing this situation for any new crop wheat shipped from Australia:
  - Lowering the minimum protein specification.
  - Consideration of the higher minimum protein 10.5% APW1 as an allowable grade into Japan.
- The Grain Industry Association of WA encourages the trade to be proactive around negotiating potential solutions to manage consistency of quality for customers of noodle wheat in Japan and Korea.
- GIWA does not support any changes to the blend ratios as this could negatively impact value to growers. Grower confidence in growing noodle wheat is dependent on a consistent blend ratio.

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