

## **The challenge in grain sampling is to obtain a representative sample that will accurately reflect the characteristics of the whole bulk.**

The best opportunity to do this is during the filling of your store as this allows for regular incremental samples to be taken from each load. This forms one aggregate sample from which a final representative buyer sample can be prepared. These can then be picked up by our grain collectors and taken for analysis.

The test results obtained from these samples will better represent the bulk than those obtained by spearing heaps. This means you will have a better understanding of the variability of your grain, which will aid you in making your marketing decisions and help ensure that your grain meets contract specifications.

### **General Guidelines**

- Follow the HGCA Grain Sampling Guide - Autumn 2013 (Guide 60, available at [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com))
- Prepare one aggregate sample for approximately every 50T milling wheat and malting barley, and one aggregate sample for approximately every 100T for feed wheat/barley and other commodities
- Ideally two ~500g incremental samples should be taken from each trailer tipping into store ( $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  through the load). Air drying of the resultant aggregate sample may be required prior to preparing the buyers representative samples if over 16% moisture
- Alternatively, ~250g incremental samples should be taken every 10T from the cleaner or drier outlet
- Although not recommended, if you do decide to sample from the heap, at least 15 incremental samples should be taken evenly over the area representing no more than 50T or 100T as appropriate
- A 2 metre, multi-aperture, sequential opening grain spear should be used
- Resultant aggregate samples (often 3-10kg) must be mixed well before preparing the buyers' representative samples for analysis (see HGCA guidelines)
- Sample bags should be filled to the top, the air expelled and sealed tightly.

### **Notes on completion of Frontier grain sample bags**

Complete the coloured area of the sample bag fully, giving as much detail as possible including:

- Account name
- Account number
- Address - Frontier account address
- Frontier Farm Trader
- Sample Date
- Sampled by - tick 'farmer'
- Commodity and variety (essential for all wheat, barley, oats, rye and pulses)
- Tonnage sample represents
- Grain Location - (see notes on Sample Locations overleaf)
- Other information - anything that is relevant especially from a food safety perspective, but keep as concise as possible.

A standard method for describing the location of grain on farms is necessary to allow easy identification during marketing discussions.

### Three pieces of information need to be established:

- **FARM WHERE STORED** - farm where bulk is located - e.g. Elm Farm
- **STORE IDENTITY** - identify where on the farm the bulk is stored - e.g. Black barn
- **LOCATION IN STORE** - the location of the sample within the bulk.

### Grain Location in Flat Stores

Back	
Left	Right
Bay 1L	Bay 1R
Bay 2L	Bay 2R
Bay 3L	Bay 3R
Front	

Use the bays as markers numbering from the back (or first filled end of the store). Also, left, right (and middle in a large store)

e.g. *In the Black barn at Elm Farm*

Bay 1 left should be labelled on the sample bag as:

*Elm Fm/Black Barn/1L*

Bay 3 right should be labelled on the sample bag as:

*Elm Fm/Black Barn/3R*

### Grain Location in Bins

- If the bins are numbered on the farm, use the existing bin numbers.
- If the bins are not numbered - number from the back towards the point of entry and/or from left to right (see examples below)

Back	
Left	Right
Bin 1L	Bin 1R
Bin 2L	Bin 2R
Bin 3L	Bin 3R
Point of access Front	

#### Indoor bins

e.g. *In Indoor bins at Elm Farm*

First bin on left should be labelled on the sample bag as:

*Elm Fm/Indoor Bin/1L*

#### Outdoor bins

e.g. *In Outdoor bins at Elm Farm*

Third bin from left should be labelled on the sample bag as:

*Elm Fm/Outside Bin 3*

