

# Appendix B

## Glossary of Terms

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**A-Fix-A:** Brazilian form of the delayed price payment used in the United States. The farmer receives an advance on which interest is paid, until at a day of the farmer's choosing, the final price of the grain is set.

**Associação Nacional dos Exportadores de Cereais (ANEC, Brazil):** A Brazilian trade organization that sets the standards that determine the grading of export grain in Brazil.

**Australian Wheat Board (AWB):** The single most important government institution in the Australian wheat industry. The AWB is involved in variety control, the establishment of grain standards, the administration of producer price policy, and domestic and export grain sales.

**Blending:** For purposes of this assessment, blending is the mixing of two or more grain lots to establish an overall quality that may or may not be different from any one individual lot. Blending is done for economic reasons, to achieve uniformity for improved handling, or to meet a particular quality specification.

**Canadian Wheat Board (CWB):** Established as a Crown Agency in 1935, the CWB is the sole marketing agency for wheat, oats, and barley grown in Canada.

**Cleaning:** For purposes of this assessment, cleaning is the removal of dockage, insects, and to a degree shrunken and broken kernels from grain by means of mechanical screening and scalping devices. Precleaning is the removal of foreign material from grain before it is dried. Cleaning practices vary from country to country.

**Combine:** A machine that harvests grain. The first combine was patented in 1836, since then self-propelled combines of either conventional or rotary design have evolved and are used throughout the United States and other grain-producing countries.

**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):** The overriding policy that regulates agriculture in the European Economic Community (EC).

**Condition Camara:** The quality standard imposed by the government on Argentinean grain.

**Conselho Nacional do Comercio Exterior (CONCEX):** A Brazilian association of private traders and Government agencies that acts in an advisory capacity on grain exports. It is not a Government agency.

**Corn:** The seed of a cereal grass and the only important cereal crop indigenous to America (also called maize).

**Cultivar:** An international term denoting certain cultivated plants that are clearly distinguishable from others by one or more characteristics, and that when reproduced retain those distinguishing characteristics. In the United States, "variety" is considered to be synonymous with cultivar (derived from cultivated variety).

**Drying:** For purposes of this assessment, drying is the removal of moisture from grain by various methods. Air temperature, grain velocity, and air-flow rate during the drying process have a greater influence on grain quality than all the other grain handling operations combined. Drying technology varies little from country to country.

**Electrophoresis:** A technique used to separate molecules (e.g., DNA fragments or proteins) from a mixture of similar molecules. By passing an electric current through a medium containing the mixture each type of molecule travels through the medium at a rate corresponding to its electric charge and size. Separation is based on differences in net electrical charge and in size and arrangement of the molecules. This technique can be used to identify and categorize grain varieties.

**European Economic Community (EC):** A group of 12 nations consisting of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (UK), Ireland, Denmark, Greece, Spain, and Portugal, that have banded together for political and economic reasons. The data used in this report has been gathered from the first 10 members and does not apply to Spain and Portugal.

**Feed Grains:** Grains, especially corn, characterized as high-energy grains due to their relatively high levels of nitrogen-free extract and low levels of crude fiber.

**Fumigation:** For purposes of this assessment, fumigation is the destruction of pests by professional personnel, trained in the application of fumigants, i.e., chemicals that at a required temperature and pressure can exist in the gaseous state in sufficient strength and quantities to be lethal to a given pest organism. Fumigants are some of the most toxic and unique pesticides. Methyl bromide and hydrogen phosphide are the fumigants most commonly used on grain.

**Gluten:** A tenacious, elastic protein substance found especially in wheat flour that gives cohesiveness to dough.

**Grade-Determining Factors:** Factors selected as in-

dicators of quality and value that help determine the grade of grain.

**Grain:** The seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses (e. g., wheat, corn, barley, oats, and rye) and other plants in commercial and statutory usage (e. g., soybeans). Grain is a living organism and as such is a perishable commodity that can be adversely affected by improper harvesting, handling, storage, and transportation.

**Grain Storage:** Grain is stored in three basic ways. Vertically, in upright metal bins or concrete silos; horizontally, in flat warehouses or other facilities; and on-ground in piles.

**Guaranteed Minimum Price (GMP, Australia):** A mechanism that provides a price floor for grain producers during a specific marketing season. It is intended to provide some degree of stability in growers' incomes.

**Hard Wheat:** Wheat varieties that are high in protein (especially Hard Spring and Winter wheat and Durum wheat).

**Intervention Price (1P, EC):** The price (negotiated in ECUs) at which the EC is obliged to purchase wheat, as long as the wheat meets certain quality and eligibility criteria. The 1P provides a floor below which local prices seldom fall (similar to the United States loan rate).

**Junta Nacional de Granos (JNG, Argentina):** An Argentinean Government agency that regulates the grain industry in that country. It establishes grading standards (mandatory for export grain), conducts educational programs, licenses inspectors, and enforces regulations.

**Legume:** A plant that is a member of the Leguminosae family that has the characteristic of forming nitrogen-fixing nodules. Peas and beans are legumes.

**Maize:** Indian corn (*zea mays*), more commonly called corn in the United States.

**Milling:** Process whereby grain kernel components are separated physically or chemically, and grain is ground into flour or meal.

**Moisture:** Moisture content and uniformity is a critical factor in grain quality. If grain is too wet or too dry at harvest, damage occurs. Moisture also interacts with temperature and relative humidity in grain storage centers and during shipping, when too much moisture can spur mold growth, increase insect activity, and cause other quality losses.

**Oilseed:** A seed or crop (e.g., soybeans) that is grown largely for oil.

**Pampas:** An extensive generally grass-covered plain, part of temperate South America east of the Andes.

**Plant Breeding:** The development of plants with certain desirable characteristics. Grain breeding programs generally aim to improve yield and harvestability, increase disease resistance, and satisfy apparently desirable quality goals.

**Receival Standards (Australia):** Standards that grain has to meet when it is inspected and graded at the point of first sale, when grain passes from the grower to the Australian Wheat Board.

**Sedimentation Test:** A test that measures the quality of protein content in wheat. Ground wheat is suspended in water and treated with lactic acid. The portion that settles to the bottom of a graduated cylinder within 5 minutes is the sedimentary value.

**Shrink:** The loss of weight in grain due to the removal of water.

**Soft Wheat:** Varieties of wheat that contain low amounts of protein. Winter soft is the principal type of wheat produced in France.

**Soybeans:** A hairy annual Asiatic legume widely grown for its oil-rich proteinaceous seeds and for forage and soil improvement. Brazil is the second largest producer of soybeans in the world (after the United States).

**Stress-cracks:** Cracks in the horny endosperm of corn caused by rapidly drying kernels with heated air. Stress-cracking causes increased breakage during handling and reduces flaking grit yields.

**Unit-trains:** A train consisting of a number of railcars (about 20 in France and 50 or more in the United States) that depart from the same point for the same destination with one bill of lading. This is an efficient way of moving grain.

**Variety:** Any of various groups of plants of less than specific rank. See cultivar.

**Wet Milling:** Process using water whereby corn is tempered and steeped and converted into starches.

**Wheat:** Any of various grasses high in gluten cultivated in various temperate parts of the world for the wheat that they yield, which is used in a vast array of products.