

# Directive

9120.1

May 1, 1997

## THE COLLECTION AND USE OF WHEAT VARIETY TYPE SAMPLES

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## **1. PURPOSE**

This directive establishes procedures to collect, classify, use, and maintain wheat variety “type samples.” These variety-pure samples are used by official inspection personnel as a reference to properly identify wheat varieties and classes grown in the United States.

## **2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

This directive supersedes FGIS Program Directive 912.1 dated 4-25-90. This directive is updated to reflect organizational changes, new numbering system, and new format but does not revise policy.

## **3. POLICY**

Variety type samples will be collected, classified, maintained, and used by field offices, agencies, and the Board of Appeals and Review (BAR) according to procedures in this directive. Using type samples will help official inspection personnel classify wheat correctly and provide the grain industry with more uniform and accurate inspection results under the Official U.S. Standards for Wheat.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

New varieties are constantly being developed and introduced. However, varieties belonging to different classes are often used in developing new varieties which may not always have the physical characteristics traditionally used by official inspection personnel to classify wheat. Thus, it is important to have samples of varieties having similar physical or morphological characteristics for each class of wheat.

Official inspection personnel will be able to maintain proficiency in assigning the correct class to wheat samples by using the variety type samples as an interpretative reference.

## 5. COLLECTION, CLASSIFICATION, AND USE OF TYPE SAMPLES

- a. Field Office and Agency Responsibilities. Inspection personnel licensed or authorized to grade wheat must be able to recognize the different varieties and classes of wheat marketed within the geographical area for which the field office or agency has responsibility.

Wheat variety type samples will be available to assist inspection personnel with this requirement and will be assembled as follows:

- (1) Each field office, with the cooperation of the agencies in their area, shall collect a minimum of 5,000 grams of each wheat variety currently grown or marketed within their area of responsibility. As new varieties are introduced, the same requirements will apply.

All samples shall be certified as pure seed. Untreated wheat should be used for variety type samples unless no untreated seed of a particular variety is available.

Inspection personnel are encouraged to seek cooperation from county extension agents, colleges, universities, seed companies, producers, and the grain industry in order to collect complete sets of wheat variety type samples. State universities or seed companies can usually provide a list of certified seed producers.

- (2) Official inspection personnel collecting the samples should note relevant information on the varieties, such as pedigree, acreage planted, and production of the variety compared to the total wheat produced in the area and submit this along with the type samples.
- (3) The field office shall remove a small portion of each type sample from each inspection point in their circuit then send the balance of the sample to the BAR as soon as possible.
- (4) Each field office and agency shall maintain a collection of wheat variety type samples according to section 5 of the directive and make them available to their inspectors.
- (5) Inspection personnel licensed or authorized to grade wheat must be trained to identify varieties and be informed of new varieties as they appear in the circuit.
- (6) Each year before harvest, agency managers must submit to the field office an updated list of wheat varieties in their area. Each field office manager will compile the list for their area and submit it to the BAR. Climatic conditions and differences in geographic areas may cause differences in varietal characteristics so a sample of each variety should accompany the list if possible.

- b. Board of Appeals and Review Responsibilities. The BAR is responsible for determining the class of each variety submitted. The BAR classification shall prevail for all official inspection purposes even when the class assigned by the BAR does not agree with that of the wheat breeder.
- (1) The BAR shall notify the field office manager of the correct classification of all varieties submitted.
  - (2) The BAR shall notify the field office manager of new varieties that may appear in a field office circuit and distribute the appropriate type samples.

## 6. MAINTENANCE OF TYPE SAMPLES

Field offices and agencies shall retain type samples in suitable bottles (approximately 2-ounce capacity). Possible suppliers include:

Curtis Matheson Scientific <sup>1</sup>  
P.O. Box 1490  
Houston, Texas 77251-1490  
Telephone: 1-800-650-0650

Twin City Bottle <sup>1</sup>  
1227 Hennipen Avenue East  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414  
Telephone: (612) 331-8880

Put a mothball in each bottle to preserve the wheat. Identify each sample with a label, color coded as follows:

Hard Red Winter wheat Blue  
Durum wheat Green  
Soft Red Winter wheat Yellow  
Soft White wheat Black  
Hard White wheat Brown  
Hard Red Spring wheat Red

Include the name of the variety, name of the class, crop year, and source of the sample. For example:

Arkan                      Color Code: Blue  
HRW, 1986  
Wichita, Kansas

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<sup>1</sup> The mention of firm names does not imply that they are recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture over other firms not mentioned.