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Jordan

Post: Amman

Jordan Grain Inspection and Sampling Workshop a Success

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News,
Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, Grain and Feed,
SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities,
SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports,
SP3 - Build Demand in Developing Countries through Trade Capacity Building,
Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation,

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Report Highlights:

FAS Amman in cooperation with the U.S. Grains Council and the Amman Chamber of Commerce organized on April 22-26, 2018, a first of its kind grains inspection and sampling workshop. The training program was geared towards government officials responsible for grain inspection standards and procedures. Thirty inspectors and laboratory officials from relevant agencies also attended the training. There is a need to adopt a standardized methodology for calculating the number of permissible broken kernels and averaging these by lots. Similarly, importers are calling for the government to study the possibility of increasing the permissible number of broken kernels and pulses bringing these more in line with international standards.

General Information:

FAS Amman in cooperation with the U.S. Grains Council and the Amman Chamber of Commerce organized on April 22-26, 2018, a first of its kind grains inspection and sampling workshop. The training seminars were held in Jordan's capital city of Amman and at the Port of Aqaba. This capacity building training builds upon our September 2017 Jordan Grain Trade and Business Facilitation workshop (see, [GAIN – JORDAN \(October 5, 2017\): Jordan Grain Trade and Business Facilitation – A Grain Standards Workshop](#)).

The training program was geared towards government officials responsible for grain inspection standards and procedures. Thirty inspectors, laboratory technicians, and officials from relevant agencies attended. Post recruited Mr. Sabri Shoukry Gerguis, a veteran grains inspector with 40-plus years of experience with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to lead the training.

The workshops included the observation of the inspection and sampling procedures of a full vessel load of barley while at anchor utilizing a vacuum suction pump. A full vessel load of U.S.-origin corn as well had samples pulled for the seminar's participants' training purposes. Inspection and sampling procedures for both barley and corn are similar.



Photo: Barley sampling using utilizing a vacuum suction pump at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan (April 2018).
Source: U.S. Grain Council.



Photo: Bagged barley samples taken using utilizing a vacuum suction pump at the Port of Aqaba, Jordan (April 2018).
Source: U.S. Grain Council.

While onboard the barley delivery vessel, Mr. Gerguis observed and explained the different methods used in sampling grains (e.g., barley and corn). He elaborated to the participating Jordanian officials that the utilization of a vacuum pump suction probe is not accepted in the United States for sampling grain exports as it tends to overestimate foreign material in samples. Mr. Gerguis detailed that the correct apparatus for taking samples of grains is a diverter-type (D/T) sampler and or a probe.

Post and importers are concerned that vacuum pump suction sampling is conducive to unnecessary false positives of elevated lighter weight dust and foreign materials being sucked into in the air column. There is a call by Jordanian grain traders to adopt a standardized methodology for calculating the number of permissible broken kernels and averaging these by lots. Similarly, grain importers are calling for the Jordanian government to study the possibility for increasing the permissible number of broken kernels and pulses bringing these more in line with international standards. Jordan imported roughly \$26.3 million in U.S.-origin corn in calendar year 2017.

The four-day long training program included sessions detailing the role, purpose, and functions of USDA's Federal and Grain Inspection Service FGIS). It also included detailed explanations as to how corn is graded and its grading factors, as well as how grains are accurately sampled.



Photo: Corn testing at the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture laboratory in Amman, Jordan (April 2018).
Source: FAS OAA Amman.

Inspectors benefitted from the hands-on grading of samples taken from a U.S.-origin corn vessel being discharged in Aqaba. Training included the use of visual aid cards to assess damaged kernels, broken corn, and foreign materials (see, Appendix I and II). Participants were instructed as to how to assign the correct grade according to the U.S. Grains Standards Act.



Photo: Corn testing and grading at the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture laboratory in Amman, Jordan (April 2018).
Source: U.S. Grains Council.



Photo: Corn testing at the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture Laboratory in Amman, Jordan (April 2018).
Source: U.S. Grains Council.



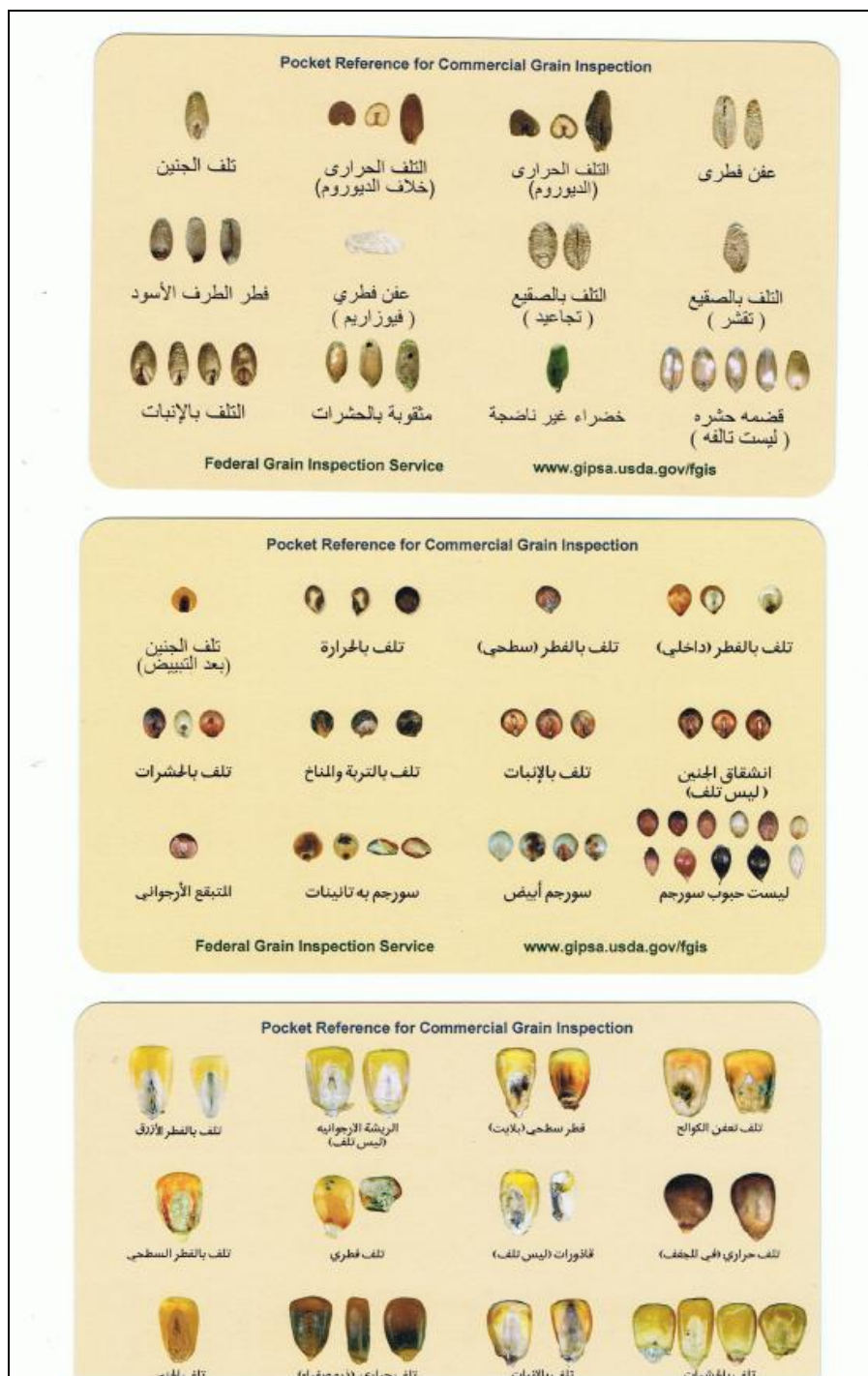
Photo: Corn testing and grading training at the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture laboratory in Amman, Jordan (April 2018).
Source: U.S. Grains Council.

Other workshops introduced participants to loading procedures for grain exported overseas from the United States and its ports. Instruction on inspection records maintenance and issuing of final certificates of shipment was also provided.

Jordanian grains testing laboratories were assessed as part of the activity; recommendations on equipment and activities are being provided by the trainer. Labs visited included the Ben Hayyan Lab (Aqaba) and the Ministry of Agriculture Lab (Amman). Meetings were held with officials from the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO), Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), and the Jordan Silos and Supply General Company.

Jordan has a population of 10,248,069 (Central Intelligence Agency – July 2017 estimate). Since the onset of the civil war in Syria and resulting refugee crisis, one of Jordan's most pressing socioeconomic challenges has been managing the influx of 650,000 UN-registered refugees, more than 80 percent of whom live in Jordan's urban areas. Jordan's own official census estimated the refugee number at 1.3 million as of early 2016. Jordan is not a significant producer of wheat or other grains such as corn.

Appendix I – Pocket Reference for Commercial Grain Inspection (front)



Source: USDA\ GIPSA.

Appendix II – Pocket Reference for Commercial Grain Inspection (back)

القمح									
رتب	الحد الأدنى للوزن النوعي بالهكتولتر	الحدود القصوى						فصص الأنواع الأخرى	
		الحبوب التالفة		المواد الغريبة (الجزء من الكل) (%)	الحبوب المكسورة (نسبة مئوية) (%)	الحبوب الغريبة (نسبة مئوية) (%)	الأنواع المتبقية (نسبة مئوية) (%)		
		نسبة (%)	إجمالي (%)						
أمريكي رتبة ١	٧٦,٤	٧٨,٢	٠,٢	٢,٠	٠,٤	٣,٠	٣,٠	١,٠	٣,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٢	٧٥,١	٧٥,٦	٠,٢	٤,٠	٠,٧	٥,٠	٥,٠	٢,٠	٥,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٣	٧٢,٥	٧٣,٠	٠,٥	٧,٠	١,٣	٨,٠	٨,٠	٣,٠	١٠,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٤	٦٩,٩	٧٠,٤	١,٥	١٠,٠	٣,٠	١٢,٠	١٢,٠	١٠,٠	١٠,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٥	٦٦,٠	٦٦,٥	٣,٠	١٥,٠	٥,٠	٢٠,٠	٢٠,٠	١٠,٠	١٠,٠

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Arabic 2017

السورجم						
رتب	الحد الأدنى للوزن النوعي للهكتولتر	الحدود القصوى				
		الحرقاة (مئوية) (%)	الحبوب التالفة (نسبة مئوية) (%)	الواد القريبة (جزء من الكل) (%)	الكلبي (نسبة مئوية) (%)	
أمريكي رتبة ١	٧٣,٤	٠,٢	٢,٠	١,٠	٣,٠	
أمريكي رتبة ٢	٧٠,٨	٠,٥	٥,٠	٢,٠	٦,٠	
أمريكي رتبة ٣	٦٨,٢	١,٠	١٠,٠	٣,٠	٨,٠	
أمريكي رتبة ٤	٦٥,٦	٣,٠	١٥,٠	٤,٠	١٠,٠	

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Arabic 2017

الذرة				
رتب	الحد الأدنى للوزن النوعي للهكتولتر	الحدود القصوى		
		التلف الحرقاء (جزء من الكلبي) (%)	الكلبي (نسبة مئوية) (%)	الذرة المكسورة والواد القريبة (نسبة مئوية) (%)
أمريكي رتبة ١	٧٢,١	٠,١	٣,٠	٢,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٢	٦٩,٥	٠,٢	٥,٠	٣,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٣	٦٦,٩	٠,٥	٧,٠	٤,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٤	٦٣,١	١,٠	١٠,٠	٥,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٥	٥٩,٢	٣,٠	١٥,٠	٧,٠

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Arabic 2017

السورجم					
رتب	الحد الأدنى للوزن النوعي للتوسل كيلوجرام / هكتار	الحدود القصوى			
		الحبوب التالفة		الحبوب المكسورة والمواد الغريبة	
		الحرقاة (متوبة) (%)	الكلي (نسبة مئوية) (%)	المواد الغريبة (جزء من الكل) (%)	الكلي (نسبة مئوية) (%)
أمريكي رتبة ١	٧٣,٤	٠,٢	٢,٠	١,٠	٣,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٢	٧٠,٨	٠,٥	٥,٠	٢,٠	٦,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٣	٦٨,٢	١,٠	١٠,٠	٣,٠	٨,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٤	٦٥,٦	٣,٠	١٥,٠	٤,٠	١٠,٠

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Arabic 2017

الذره				
رتب	الحد الأدنى للوزن النوعي للوسل كيلوجرام / هكتوليترا	الحدود القصوى		
		الحبوب التالفة		الذره المكسورة واللوات الغريبة (نسبة مئوية) (%)
		التلف المبراري (كجزء من التلف الكلي) (%)	الكلي (نسبة مئوية) (%)	
أمريكي رتبة ١	٧٢,١	٠,١	٣,٠	٢,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٢	٦٩,٥	٠,٢	٥,٠	٣,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٣	٦٦,٩	٠,٥	٧,٠	٤,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٤	٦٣,١	١,٠	١٠,٠	٥,٠
أمريكي رتبة ٥	٥٩,٢	٣,٠	١٥,٠	٧,٠

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Arabic 2017

Source: USDA\ GIPSA.

Appendix III – Common Vacuum Probe Errors

- Probe not sufficiently robust to withstand being inserted vertically into the bottom of the load (i.e., probe is bent, made of plastic, bottom opening hole damaged);
- Probe blocked with material from a prior load, leading to reduced suction and inability to obtain a representative sample from entire depth of the load;
- Vacuum hose attached to the probe blocked with material from a prior load (caused by kinking, not operating probe motor until all material is removed before re-inserting probe, hose interior surface is corrugated and not smooth), leading to reduced suction and an inability to obtain a representative sample from the entire depth of the load;
- Vacuum hose has holes in it, reducing the suction and ability to obtain a sample from the entire depth of the load;
- Vacuum probe motor not sufficiently powered to obtain a sample from the entire depth of the load;
- **Vacuum probe excessively powered, resulting in collection of an excessive quantity of lighter foreign material when used incorrectly;**
- Vacuum probe motor filter not regularly cleaned, reducing suction;
- Probe suction not commenced until probe inserted a long way into load, leading to failure to sample the top part of the load;
- Probe not inserted in a smooth manner throughout the load, resulting in inequitable collection of grain at different points in the load where the probe movement “halts or slows”;
- Probe inserted too slow through the load, resulting in excessive sample collected;
- Probe inserted too rapidly, resulting in insufficient sample collected; and probe suction continues while probe is located at the bottom of the load, resulting in excessive amount of material collected from that area in comparison to other areas of the load.
- **If suction is too high, too great a quantity of sample is obtained and the potential exists to draw loose dust and smaller material in the load. This would create a non-representative sample.**
- If suction is too low, grain cannot be drawn through the probe and into the sample collection device.
- Due to operational difficulties of using the vacuum probe (i.e., Workplace Health and Safety rules preventing the samplers from leaving the sampling platform), probe cannot be inserted into the entire depth of the load.