

Committee Discussion Topics

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

January 2026 Meeting

Grain Grading Technology

Grain grading technology continues to be an ongoing area of interest for the Committee. A recent FGIS notice allows official agencies to participate in the research and development of technologies intended for future approval. As this process moves forward, the Committee may discuss considerations related to the approval of new instruments, potential safeguards, and related industry impacts, including operational and information technology considerations associated with implementing new technologies. This agenda item may also include discussion of other technologies used within FGIS, such as enterprise systems or tools that may support improvements to the overall cost, efficiency, and accuracy of the grain grading system.

Handbook Updates

Recent handbook discussions include changes to grind requirements for certain mycotoxin analyses, including a 95 percent grind standard for specific methods. These updates were made in response to evolving market needs. Following an update from FGIS, the Committee will use this agenda item to discuss whether there are any concerns or considerations related to implementation of these changes across the grain industry.

USGSA Reauthorization

The U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA) reauthorization is currently pending. FGIS will provide an update to the Committee on the status of the reauthorization. This agenda item will allow the Committee to discuss any potential impacts of the reauthorization and identify topics or considerations that may warrant attention as updates become available.

Export Volume

The Committee would like to discuss how FGIS is planning to staff export locations in the future as the seasonality of the grain export time period increases. The committee wishes to discuss updates and the strategy behind FGIS' workforce management approach staffing plans that is geared towards right-sizing FGIS teams to fit each customer's needs better. These specifics were presented to regional exporters recently and the Committee would like to include this topic for the broader audience.

FGIS Fee Structure and Billing

The Committee seeks an update on these activities. During regional export meetings 4-6 months ago, a main focal point was around understanding how the new user fees were derived and aligning them with the targeted reserves. Ultimately, the new user fees at the time of presentation would exceed the targeted reserves, which created internal questions from FGIS customers.

Calibrating Commercially-Owned Equipment

The instrument accuracy and/or precision of grain quality analysis is critical for FGIS to serve the grain industry, such as for the grain growers, traders, processors, and all the way to customers or consumers. In order to meet the rapid pace, secondary analysis technology, such as whole grain analyzer (WGA) NIR, is routinely used to grade the grains, and this requires calibrations with the primary analyses. Most grain products are not homogeneous, which brings certain difficulty for equipment calibrations. The industry sees a need to share the calibration process, such as frequency and collaborations, among different parties involved.

There are many cross-check programs available nationwide related to grain quality analysis. We may be able to leverage the collaboration resources to improve the secondary analysis instrument calibration efficiency and efficacy. There are no (or limited) official calibration services available. How can we improve on this and serve the industry better?