



**Spring Linseed Post-Harvest Bulletin** **06/17**

**Update**

Harvest has been a stop-start affair due to wet weather. While there have been very few issues around harvesting, see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijDTAAoveWI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijDTAAoveWI) there have been a few reports of whole bolls not being thrashed. Due to the damp conditions, the boll is not fully dry and is able to flex through the thrashing mechanism of the combine, instead of breaking open. If you have everything as tight as possible in the combine and the concave wires are not bent, there is little more to be done, other than wait for less humid conditions, when the capsules are more brittle. A full drum will improve the thrash so forward speed should be maximised as well as cutting as low down the stem as practical. In most cases though, if the crop is going through the combine...keep going!

Running the harvested crop through a dryer, particularly batch dryers, will help to open up some of the bolls due to the heat and abrasion. In extreme cases, you may have to clean the crop if there are excessive bolls.

**Cleaning and Drying**

Most linseed will be harvested in the 8.5 - 12.0% moisture range - it needs to be 8.5% moisture if it is going to be stored for more than a few weeks.

Damp linseed will deteriorate rapidly above 10.0% moisture.

If drying:

- Maximum temperature should not exceed 55°C.
- Maximum 1 metre depth for on-floor drying, because Linseed has a very high resistance to air-flow.
- Take care when storing/drying damp Linseed in a bin system. The airflow resistance can cause the drying front to stall, causing wet Linseed to 'set'. If possible, rotate from one bin to another.
- Take down to 8.0% moisture, to allow for variations in meter readings.
- Ensure that stored Linseed is cooled to <20°C (15°C or below ideally) when cooler weather conditions allow. This will help prevent mite infestations.
- Ambient air only is unlikely to dry linseed - as the chart below shows. For example, with an air temperature of 15°C and RH of 85% (neither unusual at this time of year), it is not possible to get Linseed below 12.1% moisture (without adding heat).

Equilibrium Moisture Content for Linseed						
Temp (Centigrade)	Relative Humidity %					
	35	45	55	65	75	85
10	6.6	7.5	8.5	9.6	10.8	12.5
15	6.3	7.2	8.2	9.3	10.5	12.1
20	6.0	6.9	7.9	9.0	10.2	11.8

- If Linseed is dry and cool (<8.5% moisture and <15°C), it will store quite happily for > year.

Monitor stored linseed regularly for moisture and temperature increases, as well as mites. To check for mites; put a sample of your Linseed in a plastic bag and leave on a window-sill. Any mites present will migrate to the top corners of the bag. Mites are small (<1 mm) and pinkish coloured. The only proven way to remove mites is to re-dry and clean the crop. End users are becoming more aware of mite contamination and may reject loads if found at the delivery point.

Premium Crops can offer Linseed growers contract cleaning, drying and storage services (details attached).

## Samples

Please remember that it is a contractual requirement for growers to send a Linseed sample for analysis prior to movement. Samples are requested not to make life difficult, but to minimise any issues/costs of claims/rejected loads. All Premium Crops' Linseed samples are tested by **Livelab, Manton Road, Brooke, Leicestershire, LE15 8DF**.

A sample analysis will be sent to you stating any parameter that is out of specification.

If the sample is out of contract specification, a subsequent sample will be requested (once the crop has been dried/cleaned), to confirm that it is OK to move.

Sample bags and pre-addressed envelopes were sent to all growers in July. If these have been misplaced, please email [forwarding@premiumcrops.com](mailto:forwarding@premiumcrops.com) and a replacement will be sent to you.

## Movement

Linseed is a specialist, small volume crop. As such, the quantities that move in any one period are a tiny fraction of those of, for example feed wheat, and are very much dictated by the usage pattern of customers eg Valorex. This may help explain why it is not possible to move all the Linseed at harvest. Where urgent movement is a priority this can be arranged at cost.

## Markets

As with the majority of crops produced in the UK, Linseed stocks are higher than average, keeping prices pegged at a lower level. Brexit has caused a weaker pound over the last year which has provided support for UK producers and increased farm gate prices. Recent talk of increasing interest rates has however reversed this trend, raising the value of sterling.

It is too early to know how the 2017 global harvest has performed since each year this takes place from July to October. These results could alter market sentiment.

With currency recently, the largest influence on price effective marketing is essential, our contracts have out-performed the spot market yet again this year by a considerable margin, in most cases £30-50/t. Selling Linseed into a well-supplied spot market is the worst way to market Linseed.

## Linseed Contracts for 2018

Depending on variety;

50% of the produce at a fixed price of £350.00/tonne ex farm

and/or

50% of the produce at a £50.00/mt premium over the Oilseed Rape price at delivery (the ex farm Rape price is calculated by taking the average delivered price for Rape for England published by HGCA for the calendar month prior to movement, less £20.00/mt to convert to an ex farm basis). Maximum contract price £400.00/mt ex farm

and/or

50% of the produce at the market price at the time of movement (basis Belgian crush price), with a minimum of £300.00/mt and a maximum of £400.00/mt

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