

USDA Removes Soybeans of Other Colors Grade Determining Factor from Standards

Effective September 1, 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has removed soybeans of other colors (SBOC) as an official factor for the United States Standards for Soybeans, a move welcomed by many farmers and grain traders.

The USDA reported receiving public comments unanimously in favor of modifying the criteria used to define the grades of yellow soybeans. The change was also supported by research conducted in 2022 by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), which compared protein and oil in a sampling of yellow soybeans graded U.S. number 3 and U.S. number 4 due to a previous SBOC grade and found "no significant differences in official protein or oil results when compared to samples grading U.S. number 1 or 2."¹

SBOC is not a factor used by other major soybean-exporting countries, which put American farmers at a disadvantage in the global market. In some cases, the SBOC factor also led to extra expenses for farmers who needed to do additional inspections of harvested grain.

Removal of the SBOC designation also brings more peace of mind to farmers planting Enlist E3[®] soybeans. Some growers observed seed coat color variation with Enlist E3 soybeans, caused by natural compounds in soybeans. The removal of this grading factor further confirms that harvested grain from Enlist E3 soybeans is comparable in nutrition, oil and meal composition and isoflavone and iron levels to soybeans without the Enlist[®] trait.

Expressing agreement with public comments received on the SBOC issue, the USDA stated, "The needs of the trade in soybeans requires this change for U.S. soybeans to be competitive in the export market, and the available data shows that SBOC does not affect soybean quality."¹

The change, which was expedited by the USDA, is great news for your customers as they begin harvest and look to maximize their earnings at market this year.

SOYBEAN GRADING

Key criteria evaluated and reported by the Federal Grain Inspection Service:

- Heat damage
- Total damaged seeds
- Foreign material
- Splits

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For full details
about the
changes visit:



¹ "United States Standards for Soybeans." Federal Register. July 14, 2023. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/07/14/2023-14856/united-states-standards-for-soybeans>.