

SUMMARY - SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES – JUNE 1, 2016

Introduction

The objective of this AIMI survey of maize growers was to determine:

- the size of the 2016 harvest of maize grain and maize silage
- the percentage of the 2016 maize harvest which was sold as at June 1, 2016
- the sowing intentions for the spring of 2016

The data from 75 survey farms as at June 1, 2016 were scaled up to the national level using the most recent Agricultural Production Statistics for maize grain and maize silage. As with all surveys, there is a margin of error which needs to be considered in relation to this report. These figures reflect the position at the 1st June 2016 and there will have been changes since this time.

At the 1st June 2016:

- Average yields of maize grain (11.8 t/ha) and maize silage (21.0 t DM/ha) for the 2016 harvest were slightly up on last season (at 11.4 t/ha and 19.7 t DM/ha respectively).
- The maize grain harvest was 73% complete as at June 1, 2016. The estimated total tonnage of 226,000 tonnes (including unharvested grain) was identical to last season's harvest tonnage, due to a slightly higher yield from a slightly lower harvest area. About 80% of the total crop had been sold, leaving 45,000 tonnes unsold as at June 1, 2016 (as compared to 35,000 tonnes at the same time last year, and 24,000 tonnes at the same time the previous year). Spring 2016 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2016 were an estimated 36% down on last season, not including data from about a quarter of the maize grain growers who were not prepared to make sowing predictions at this stage; these growers mostly cited uncertainty over the price and/or contracts as the reason.
- The maize silage harvest was 100% complete on all surveyed farms. The estimated total tonnage of 866,000 tonnes DM was down 12% compared to last season's harvest, as the result of a higher yield (7% up) from a reduced harvest area (18% down). About 58% of the total crop had been sold or used, leaving 365,000 tonnes DM unused/ unsold as at June 1, 2016 (as compared to 458,000 tonnes DM at the same time last year, and 387,000 tonnes DM at the same time the previous year). Spring 2016 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2016 were slightly down (8% down) on last season; reasons given were an over-supply, silage on hand, poor demand and that maize is expensive to grow.

Table 1. Detailed estimated national figures for the 2016 harvest, plus sold tonnages, for maize grain and maize silage as at June 1, 2016.

	Units	Maize grain	Maize silage
Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2016		26	52
2015 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2015 harvest	Ha	19,778	50,086
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2015 harvest	Tonnes	226,278	985,848
2016 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2016 harvest	Ha	19,266	41,283
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2016 harvest	Tonnes	226,390	865,673
Estimated NZ total hectares already harvested by June 1, 2016	Ha	13,865	41,283
Estimated NZ total tonnes already harvested by June 1, 2016	Tonnes	164,333	865,673
Estimated NZ total hectares yet to harvest as at June 1, 2016	Ha	5,401	0
Estimated NZ total tonnes yet to harvest as at June 1, 2016	Tonnes	62,058	0
2016 crop already harvested (by June 1, 2016)			
Sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2016	Tonnes	150,587	337,507
Sold at spot/free price by June 1, 2016	Tonnes	6,495	28,957
Used on own farm (2016 harvested maize only) by June 1, 2016	Tonnes	509	134,094
Unsold/ unused stocks on hand (2016 harvested only) on June 1, 2016	Tonnes	6,743	365,115
2016 crop yet to be harvested (as at June 1, 2016)			
Unharvested crop sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2016	Tonnes	23,917	0
Unharvested crop unsold/ unused as at June 1, 2016	Tonnes	38,140	0
Total sales (2016 harvest): includes unharvested grain			
Sold (of total crop) by June 1, 2016 (includes used on farm)	Tonnes	181,507	500,558
Unsold/ unused (of total crop) on June 1, 2016	Tonnes	44,883	365,115
Comparison of hectares and tonnages between last two harvests			
Estimated % change in hectares, 2015 to 2016 harvest	%	-2.6	-17.6
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2015 to 2016 harvest	%	0.0	-12.2
Comparison of yields (tonnes/ ha) between the last two harvests			
NZ-wide yield, 2015 harvest	T/ha	11.4	19.7
NZ-wide yield, 2016 harvest	T/ha	11.8	21.0
Comparison of unsold/ unused tonnages between the last three harvests			
Unsold/ unused (of total crop) on June 1, 2016 (as above)	Tonnes	44,883	365,115
Unsold/ unused at the same time last year (AIMI report, June 1, 2015)	Tonnes	34,645	457,641
Unsold/ unused at same time, previous year (AIMI report, June 1, 2014)	Tonnes	23,869	386,917

In Table 1 above, the estimated 2016 harvest tonnes of maize grain were exactly the same as for the 2015 harvest, since the reduced harvest hectares (2.6% down) was compensated for by increased yield (2.7% up). For maize silage, harvest tonnes were down 12% on the previous season, with an 18% drop in harvested hectares partially offset by a 7% higher yield.

Unsold stocks on hand of maize grain, as at 1 June 2016, was up on the same time in the previous two seasons (see the bottom three rows of Table 1). Unsold/ unused maize silage stocks on hand (365,000 tonnes DM) were 20% lower than at the same time last year, and 6% lower than at the same time the previous year.

Table 2. Maize sowing intentions as at June 1, 2016, in comparison with previous years' estimates.

	Maize grain	Maize silage
	(ha)	(ha)
Number of survey farmers who intend to sow in the 2016/2017 season	17	48
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2015 harvest	19,778	50,086
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2016 harvest	19,266	41,283
Estimated NZ total sowing intentions for 2016/2017 season (for harvest in 2017) (hectares)	12,340	38,176
Estimated % change in sowings, 2015/16 to 2016/17 seasons	-36.0	-7.5

As at 1 June 2016, maize grain sowing intentions for 2016/17 were 36% down on last season (Table 2). This is based upon a sample of 17 maize grain growers, all of whom grew maize for grain last season, with no new growers. By comparison, 26 survey growers harvested maize for grain in 2016 (Table 1). Of the 9 growers who grew maize for grain last season but did not commit to it for the coming season, 3 did not intend sowing maize for grain this spring, and 6 were unsure at this stage. Most of the 9 growers cited price as the reason.

For maize silage, sowing intentions were only slightly down on last season (8% down). Sowing intentions were more definite for silage growers than for grain growers, with 48 survey growers planning on sowing maize for silage this spring (Table 2), as compared to 52 who harvested maize for silage in 2016 (Table 1). The four growers who did not plan to sow cited the following reasons: two growers said they had too much on hand from last year, one said they had no dairy farmer requests at this stage, and one cited uncertainty in the markets and indecision as to what to sow at this stage.

Summary results in June each year – graphs

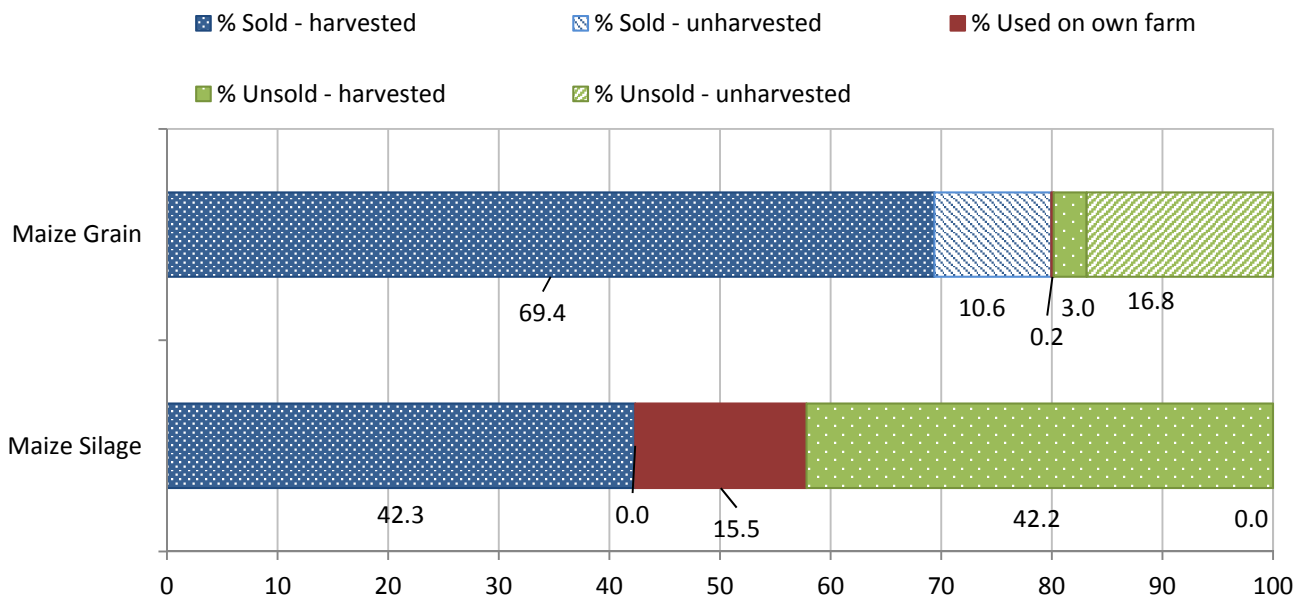


Figure 1. Percentage of maize crop sold, used on own farm and unsold/unused from the 2016 harvest, including unharvested grain, as at June 1, 2016.

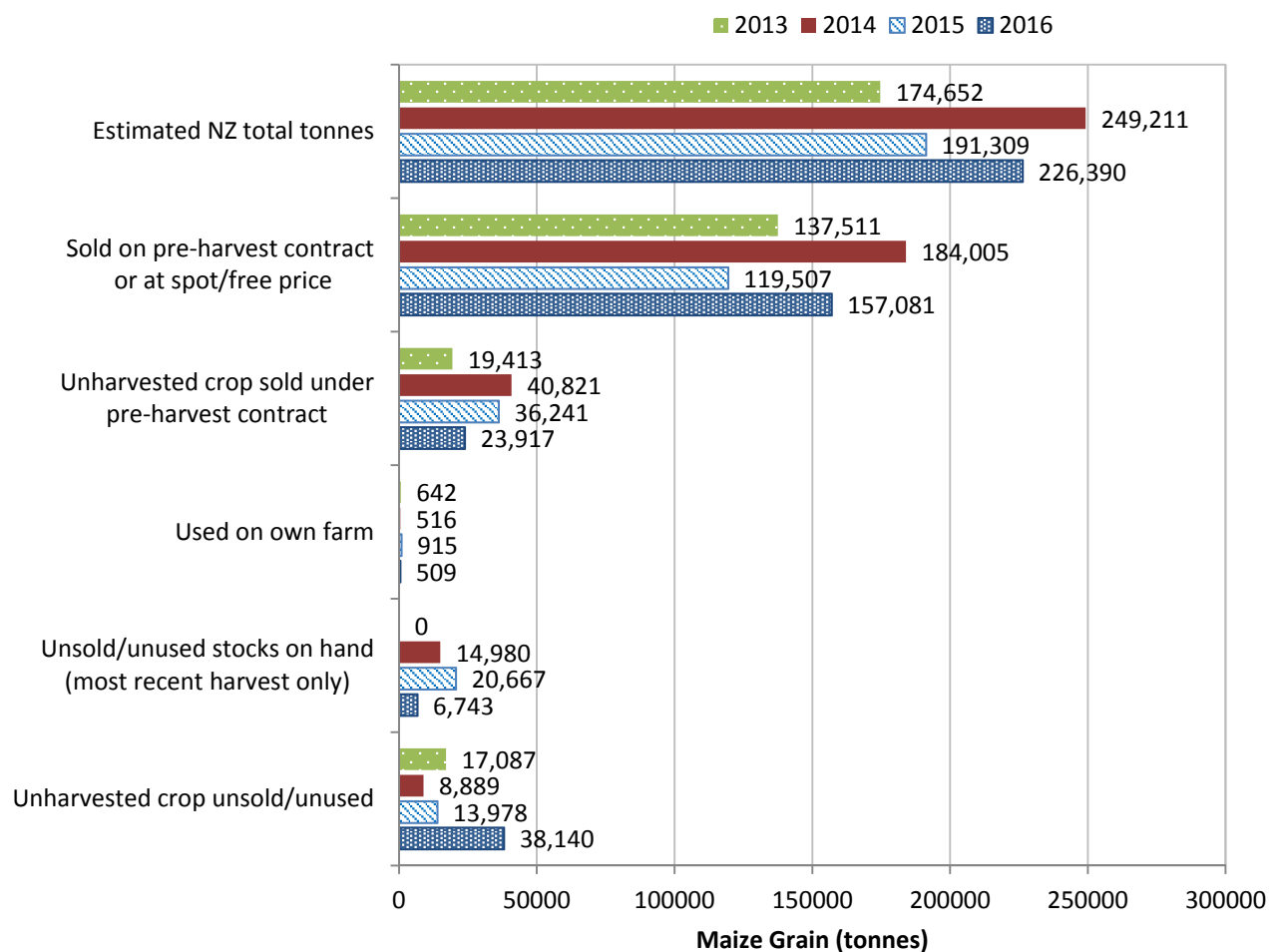


Figure 2. Harvest tonnages (including unharvested grain) and sales for maize grain by June 1 from 2013 to 2016. (Data are sourced from annual June AIMI Maize reports.)

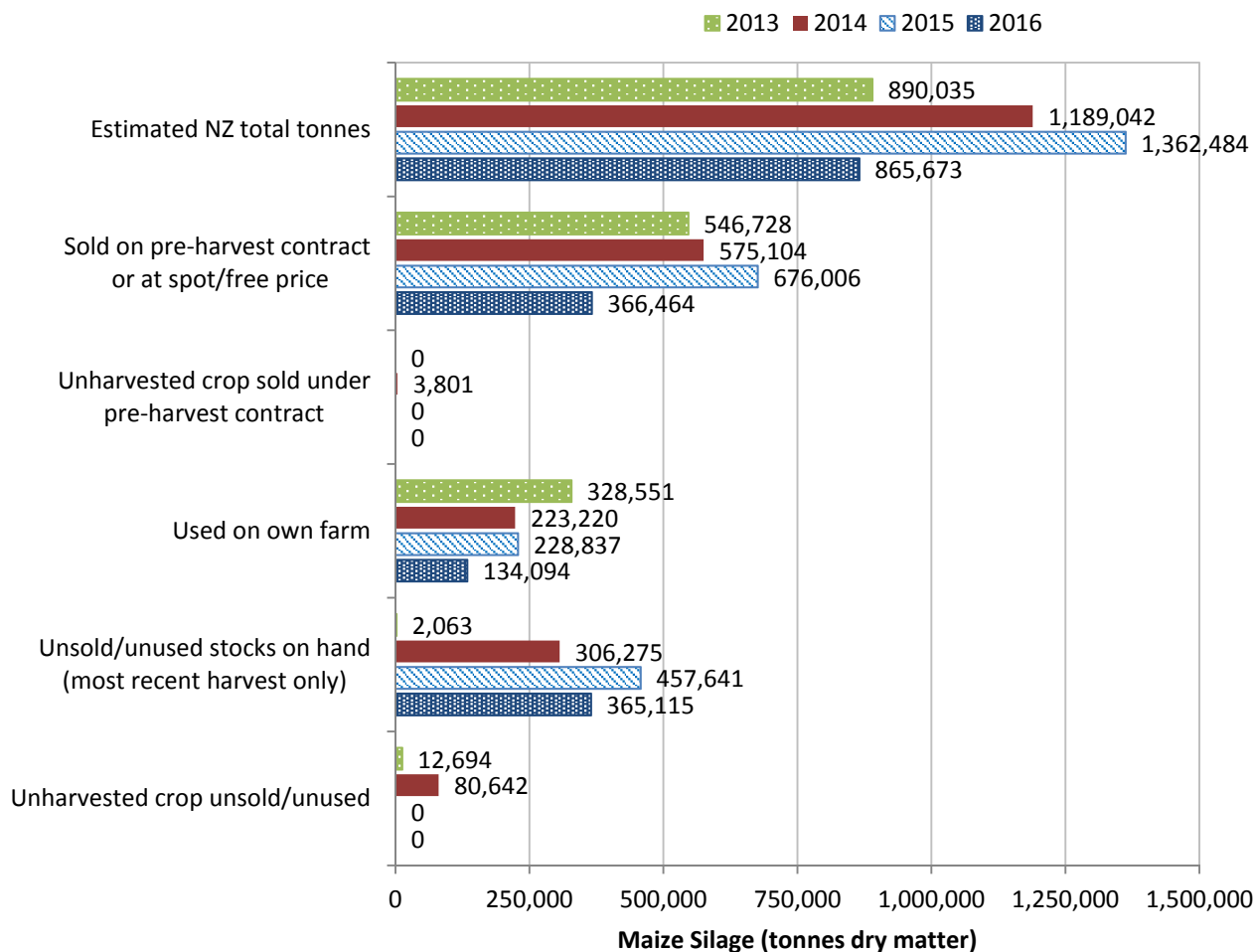


Figure 3. Harvest tonnages (drymatter; including unharvested) and sales of maize silage by June 1 from 2013 to 2016. (Data are sourced from annual June AIMI Maize reports.)

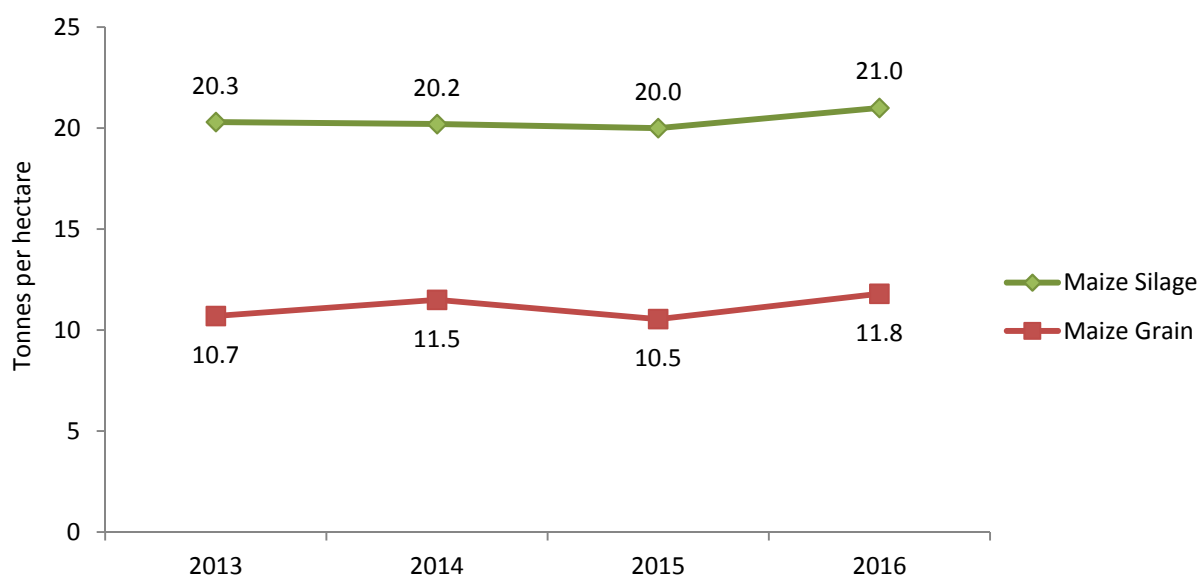


Figure 4. Comparison of estimated NZ-wide yields (tonnes per hectare) from 2013 to 2016. (Data are sourced from annual June AIMI Maize reports.)

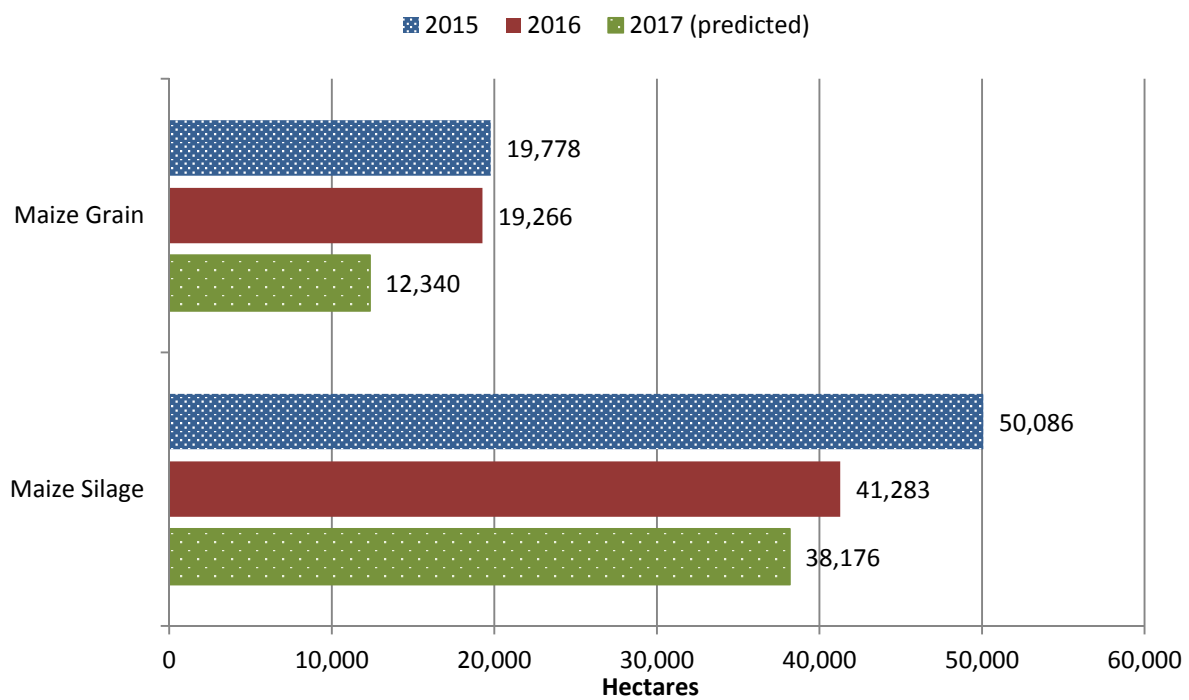


Figure 5. Estimated national hectares of maize grain and maize silage for the 2015, 2016 and predicted 2017 harvests, as at 1 June 2016.

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