

## SUMMARY – SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES – JUNE 1, 2014

### Introduction

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

- the size of the 2014 harvest of maize grain and silage
- the percentage of the 2014 maize harvest which was pre-sold or used as at June 1, 2014
- the planting intentions of maize growers for the upcoming 2014/2015 season

The data from the 66 survey farms as at June 1, 2014 was scaled up to the national level using the most recent Agricultural Production Statistics (2013) and maize seed sales for the same season. Of the 66 growers, 22 grew maize for grain, corresponding to 9% of the area sown for maize grain production in NZ, and 51 grew maize for silage, corresponding to 3% of the area sown for maize silage production in NZ. As with all surveys, there is a margin of error which needs to be considered in relation to this report.

#### At the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014:

- Survey estimates suggest there was an *increase* in hectares of maize harvested for grain from 2013 to 2014 of approximately 3,000 ha (16% increase) as compared to a similar-sized *decrease* of about 3,000 ha between the two preceding seasons. In terms of maize grown for silage, the survey estimated a 7,000 ha *increase* in hectares (13% increase) from 2013 to 2014 as compared to a similar-sized *decrease* of about 7,000 ha between the two preceding seasons.
- Average yield of maize grain on the survey farms in 2014 was 12.9 t/ha, slightly up on 2013 (when it was 12.1 t/ha on the same farms), and average maize silage DM yield was 20.2 t/ha, very slightly down on 20.4 t/ha in 2013.
- As a result of the increased areas and higher or similar yields, the estimated total tonnes produced increased by 24% for maize grain and by 12% for maize silage between the 2013 and 2014 harvests.
- The estimated total NZ tonnage of maize grain harvested in 2014 was 249,000 tonnes, and of maize silage was 1,189,000 tonnes DM.
- In terms of timing, 80% of the maize grain harvest had been completed by the 1st June 2014 (compared to the very similar figure of 79% on 1st June the previous year).

- Approximately 89% of maize grain had been sold under pre-harvest contract by 1st June 2014 (compared to 88% on 1st June 2013), with a further 2% sold by spot /free price (compared to 2% on 1st June 2013). The remaining 10% was unsold grain (compared to 10% on 1st June 2013). These figures include the estimates for the unharvested maize grain, and are almost identical between the two years.
- Approximately 49% of the maize silage tonnes DM had been sold by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 (compared to 61% by 1st June 2013), and a further 19% had been “used on own farm” by 1st June 2014 (compared to 37% by 1st June 2013), leaving 32% of the total maize silage crop unused by 1st June 2014 (compared to a meagre 2% on 1st June 2013). The 2013 figures were a reflection of the severe drought in the North Island that autumn, and the 2014 figures reflect a return to a more normal situation.
- Planting intentions for maize grown for grain as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014, for harvest in 2015, indicate the area sown could be slightly *up* (up 8%) (compared to a prediction of an 11% *decrease* in plantings as at 1st June 2013), while the forecasted area to be sown in maize grown for silage could be slightly *down* (down 3%) (compared to a prediction of a 9% *increase* in plantings as at 1st June 2013).

## Estimated national figures for 2013 and 2014 as at June 1, 2014

	Units	Maize grain	Maize silage
<b>Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2014</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>2013 harvest</b>			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2013 harvest	Ha	18,600	52,153
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2013 harvest	Tonnes	201,700	1,063,551
<b>2014 harvest</b>			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2014 harvest	Ha	21,592	58,920
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2014 harvest	Tonnes	249,211	1,189,042
Estimated NZ total hectares harvested by June 1, 2014	Ha	17,630	54,698
Estimated NZ total tonnes harvested by June 1, 2014	Tonnes	199,501	1,104,599
Estimated NZ total hectares still to harvest as at June 1, 2014	Ha	3,963	4,222
Estimated NZ total tonnes still to harvest as at June 1, 2014	Tonnes	49,710	84,443
<b>2014 crop already harvested (by June 1, 2014)</b>			
Sold on pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2014	Tonnes	179,875	575,104
Sold at spot/free price by June 1, 2014	Tonnes	4,130	223,220
Used on own farm by June 1, 2014	Tonnes	516	223,220
Unsold/ unused stocks on hand (2014 harvested maize only) on June 1, 2014	Tonnes	14,980	306,275
<b>2014 crop still to be harvested (as at June 1, 2014)</b>			
Unharvested crop sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2014	Tonnes	40,821	3,801
Unharvested crop unsold/ unused as at June 1, 2014	Tonnes	8,889	80,642
<b>Total sales (2014 harvest): includes unharvested grain</b>			
Sold (of total crop) by June 1, 2014 (includes used on farm)	Tonnes	225,342	802,125
Unsold/ unused (of total crop) on June 1, 2014	Tonnes	23,869	386,917
<b>Comparison of hectares and tonnages between last two harvests</b>			
Estimated % change in hectares, 2013 to 2014 harvest	Ha	16	13
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2013 to 2014 harvest	Tonnes	24	12

## Planting intentions for the 2014/2015 season

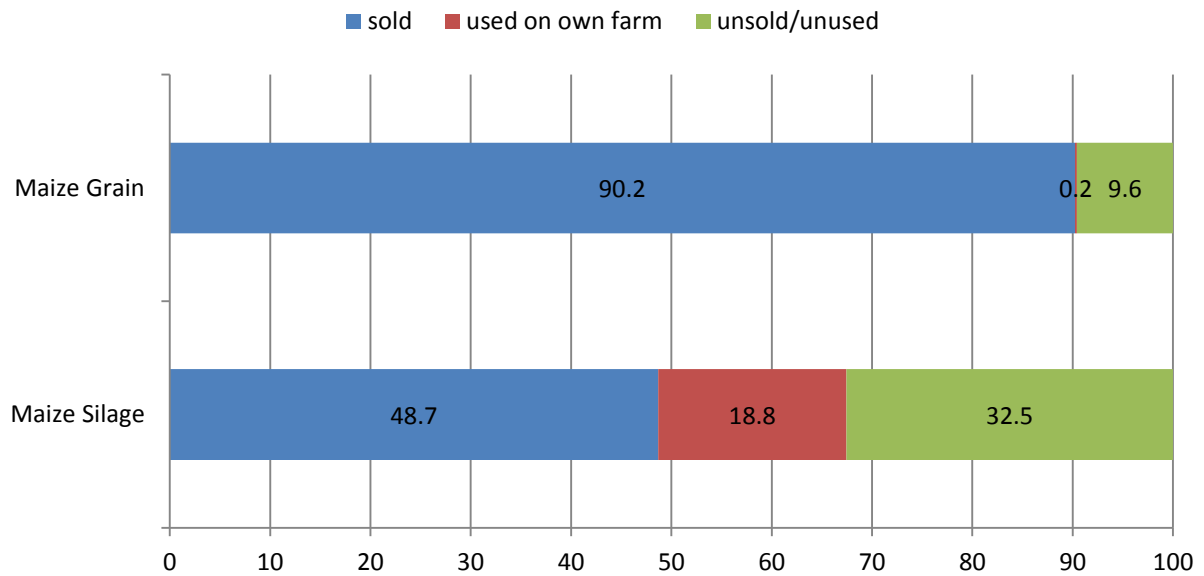
	Maize grain (ha)	Maize silage (ha)
<b>Number of survey farmers who intend to sow in the 2014/2015 season</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>52</b>
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2013 harvest	18,600	52,153
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2014 harvest	21,592	58,920
Estimated NZ total planting intentions for 2014/2015 season (for harvest in 2015) (hectares)	23,267	57,210
Estimated % change in plantings, 2013/14 to 2014/15 seasons	7.8	-2.9

Note: for maize grain, these estimated national hectares were obtained by scaling up the survey total hectares for each question so that the 2013 national total hectares match the most recent (2013) Agricultural Production Statistics. For maize silage, the scaling up was done on the basis of maize seed sales (after adjustment for seed sown for maize grain, maize seed production, grazing and unsown/wastage). Like all survey estimates, these national hectares are not exact, and have an associated margin of error.

Summary results as at June 1, 2014 – presented in graphical form

Percentage of maize crop sold, used on own farm, and unsold/unused from the 2014 harvest as at June 1, 2014

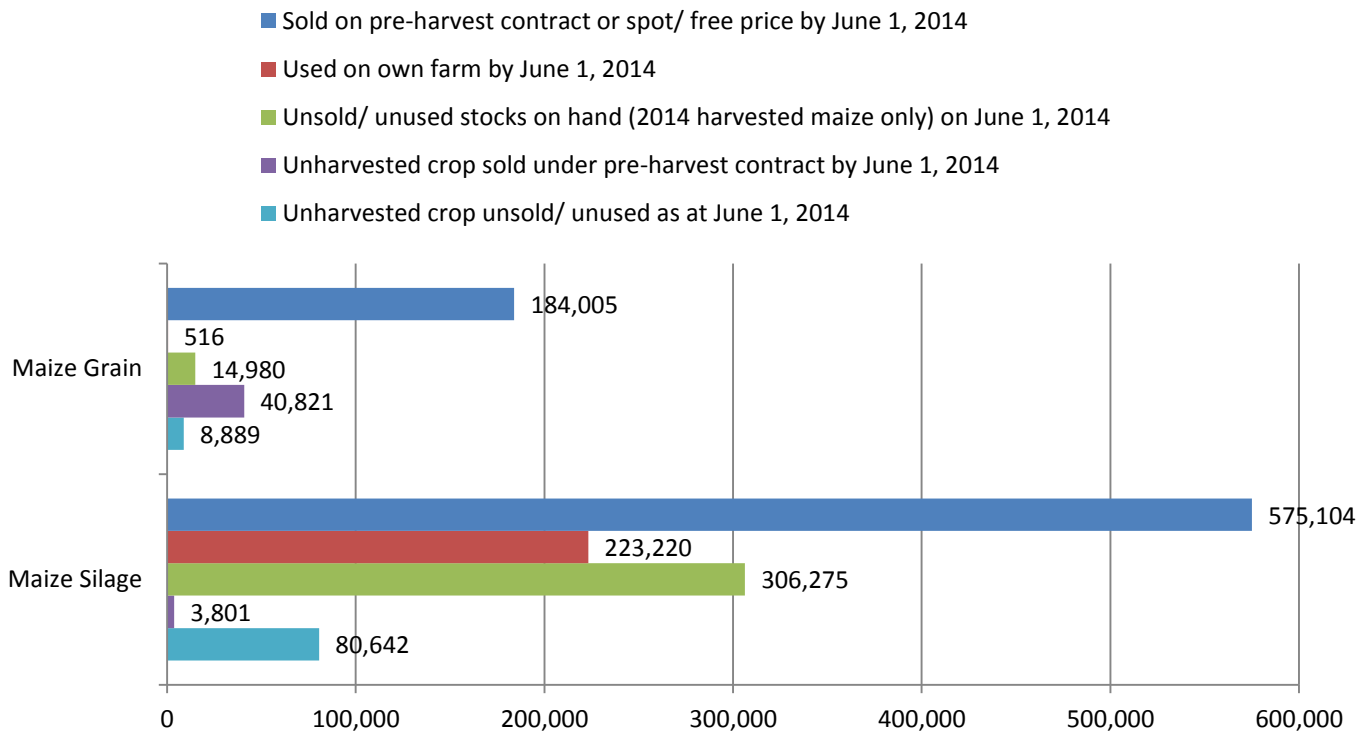
The graph below relates to the percentage of the 2014 harvest crop sold, used on own farm, and unsold/unused as at June 1, 2014. Note that this graph takes account of the unharvested maize.



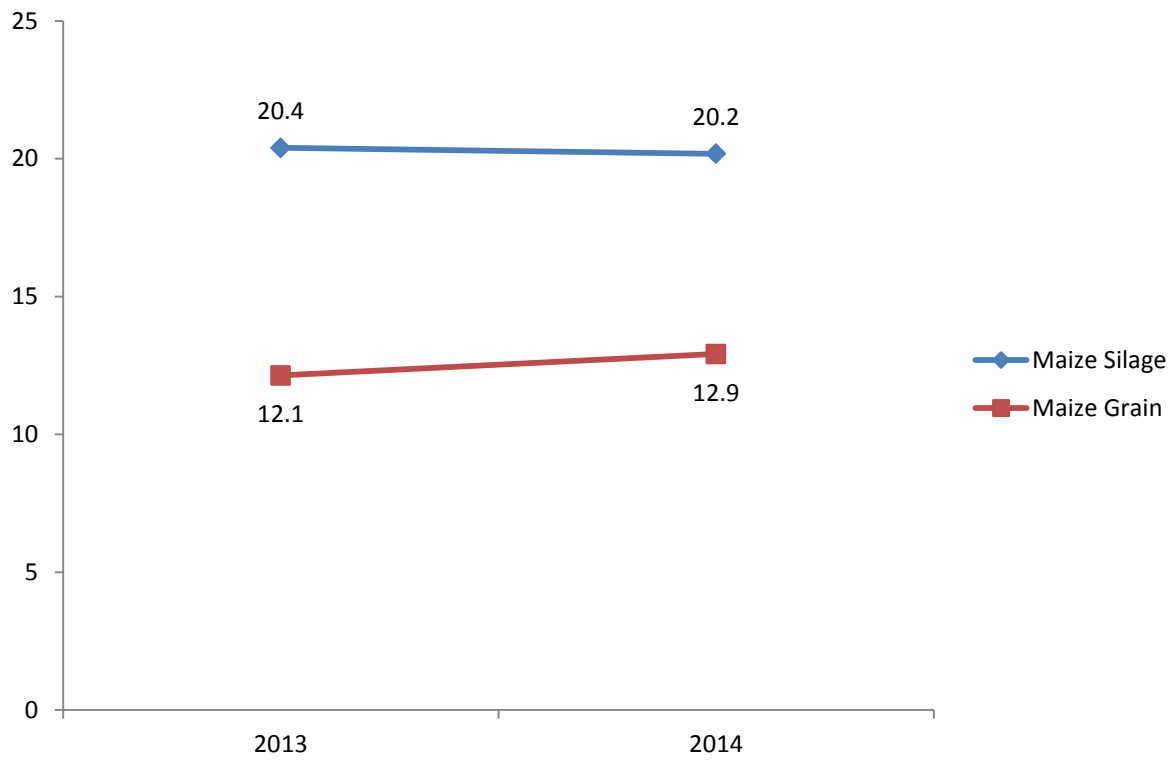
Note: All survey figures have an associated margin of error.

## Estimated national figures for 2014 as at June 1, 2014

The graph below relates to the estimated national tonnage (a) sold on pre-harvest contract or at a spot/ free price, (b) used on own farm, (c) unsold/unused stocks on hand, (d) unharvested crop sold under pre-harvest contract and (e) unsold/unused unharvested crop, for maize grain and maize silage as at June 1, 2014. Note that the first three categories include harvested crop only, while the last two categories are for unharvested crop. These figures are also presented in the first table above.



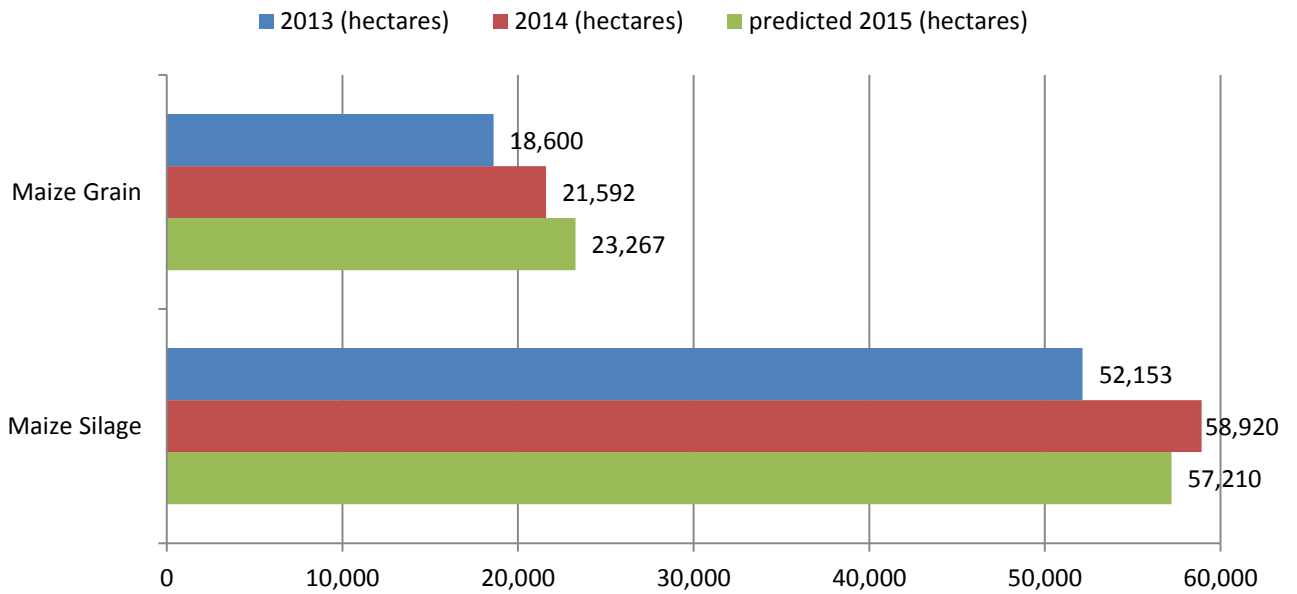
### Comparison of maize yield (tonnes per ha) on survey farms between harvests



Note: these are estimated NZ totals derived from the survey, and have an associated margin of error.

## Spring planting intentions as at June 1, 2014

The graph below presents the estimated national hectares of maize grain and maize silage for the 2013, 2014 and predicted 2015 harvests. These figures are also presented in the second table above.



Note: these are estimated NZ totals derived from the survey, and have an associated margin of error.