

SUMMARY - SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES - MAY 1, 2012

Introduction

As part of the Arable Industry Marketing Initiative, Opinions Market Research Ltd conducted a survey of 62 arable farmers to provide information as at May 1, 2012, on the 2012 harvest production and sales channels, plus 2012 spring planting intentions of maize grain and maize silage in New Zealand. A separate April 1, 2012 survey was conducted and reported previously in relation to wheat, barley and oats.

Summary of Key Points

At the 1st May 2012:

- There was an increase in hectares of maize harvested for grain (of approximately 6000 ha; 32.5% increase) and silage (4500 ha; 10.1% increase) from 2011 to 2012.
- Average yield of maize grain in 2012 was 10.5t/ha, 2.4t/ha less than in 2011, and average maize silage DM yield was 18.7 t/ha, 2.1t/ha less than 2011.
- As a result of the larger area but lower yield, total tonnes produced increased by only 7.9% for maize grain and decreased by 1% for maize silage.
- The estimated total NZ tonnage of maize grain harvested in 2012 was 227,000 tonnes, and of maize silage was 923,000 tonnes.
- The grain harvest was running very late with only 34% of the harvest completed by the 1st May 2012; by comparison, 91% of maize silage had been harvested by this date.
- Approximately 40% of maize silage had been sold by 1st May 2012, with the remaining 60% presumably intended for use on farm.
- Planting intentions for maize grain at 1st May 2012 for harvest in 2013 indicate the area could be down as much as 53%, while the forecasted area in silage remains static.

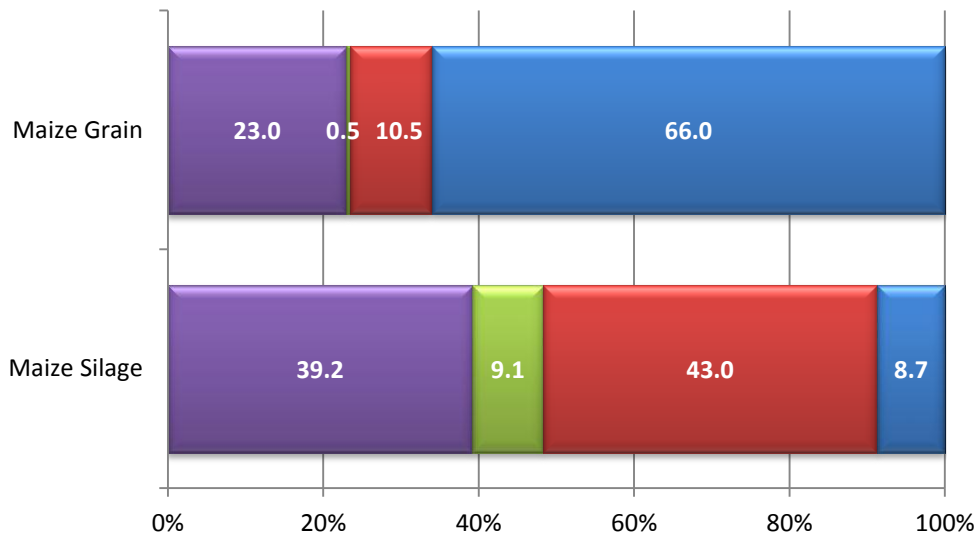
Estimated national figures for 2011 and 2012 as at May 1, 2012

	Units	Maize grain 17	Maize silage 48
Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2012			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2011 harvest	Ha	18,500	44,778
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2011 harvest	Tonnes	210,200	932,389
2012 harvest			
Hectares already harvested in 2012 (by May 1, 2012)	Ha	8,944	43,871
Tonnes already harvested in 2012 (by May 1, 2012)	Tonnes	77,335	842,364
Hectares still to harvest in 2012 (as at May 1, 2012)	Ha	15,564	5,407
Tonnes still to harvest in 2012 (as at May 1, 2012)	Tonnes	149,505	80,296
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2012 harvest	Ha	24,508	49,278
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2012 harvest	Tonnes	226,840	922,660
Sold on contract by May 1, 2012	Tonnes	52,194	361,656
Sold at spot/ free price by May 1, 2012	Tonnes	0	
Used on farm by May 1, 2012	Tonnes	1,222	84,376
Unsold (from 2012 harvest to date) on May 1, 2012 (includes silage intended for use on the grower's own farm)	Tonnes	23,919	396,332
Still to harvest on May 1, 2012 (sales status unknown)	Tonnes	149,505	80,296
Estimated % change in hectares, 2011 to 2012 harvest		32.5	10.1
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2011 to 2012 harvest		7.9	-1.0

Note: for maize grain, these estimated national figures were obtained by scaling up the survey totals for each question so that the 2011 national totals for each crop match the most recent (2011) final Agricultural Production Statistics. For maize silage, the scaling up was done on the basis of maize seed sales for the 2010/2011 season (2011 harvest) (after adjustment for seed sown for maize grain, maize seed production, grazing and unsown/wastage). Like all survey estimates, these national figures are not exact, and have an associated margin of error.

Percentage of crop sold, unsold, used on farm and still to harvest as at May 1, 2012

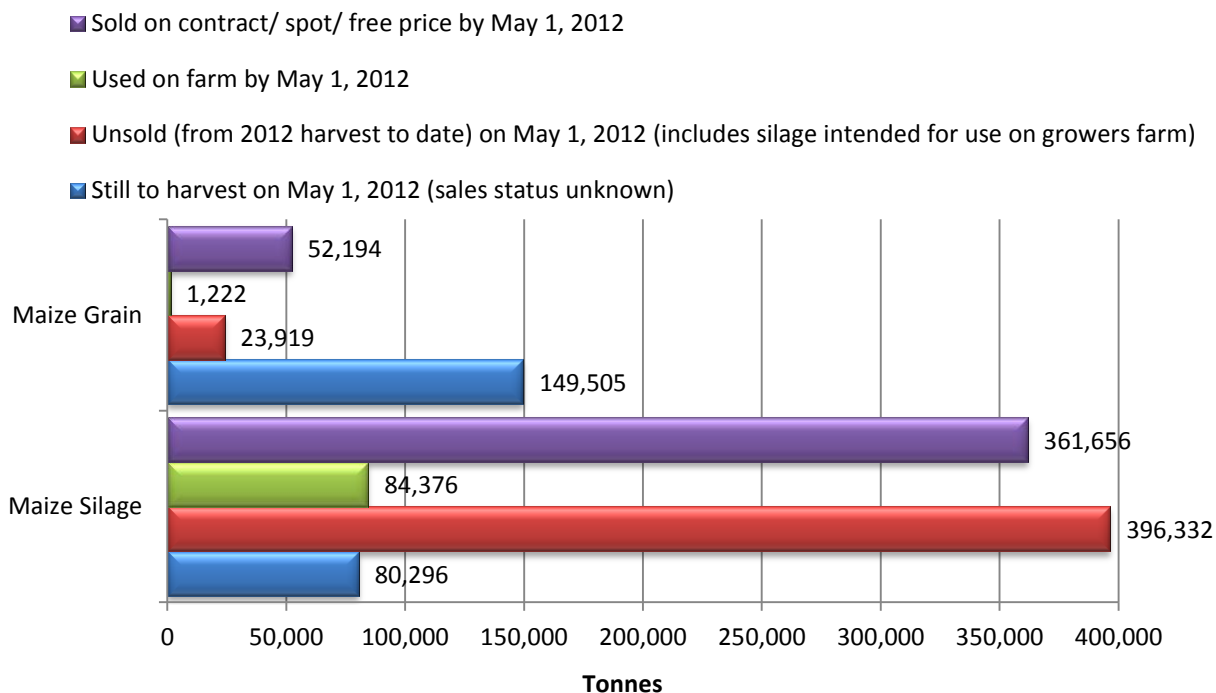
- % Sold on contract/ spot/ free price by May 1, 2012
- % Used on farm by May 1, 2012
- % Unsold (of total crop, from the 2012 harvest to date) on May 1, 2012
- % Still to harvest on May 1, 2012 (sales status unknown)



Note that for maize silage, “unsold” includes silage intended for use on the grower’s own farm, but as yet unused.

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

Estimated national figures for 2011 and 2012 as at May 1, 2012



Note: the graph above presents the estimated national tonnages of the 2012 harvest of maize silage and maize grain, plus tonnage sold, used on farm, and unsold (including, for silage, unused as yet on farm), as well as tonnage of crop still to be harvested as at May 1, 2012.

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

Spring planting intentions as at May 1, 2012

	Maize grain (ha)	Maize silage (ha)
Number of farmers in the survey who intend to plant this crop in 2012/13	14	48
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2011 harvest (2010/11 season)	18,500	44,778
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2012 harvest (2011/12 season)	24,508	49,278
Estimated NZ 2012/ 2013 planting intentions (for harvest in 2013)	11,389	49,457
Estimated % change in hectares, 2010/11 to 2011/12	32.5%	10.1%
Estimated % change in hectares, 2011/12 to 2012/13	-53.5%	0.4%

Note: for maize grain, these estimated national hectares were obtained by scaling up the survey total hectares for each question so that the 2011 national total hectares match the most recent (2011) Agricultural Production Statistics. For maize silage, the scaling up was done on the basis of maize seed sales for the 2010/2011 season (2011 harvest) (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