



*Saville
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SUMMARY - SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES – JUNE 1, 2017

Introduction

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

- the size of the 2017 harvest of maize grain and maize silage
- the percentage of the 2017 maize harvest which was sold as at June 1, 2017
- the sowing intentions for the spring of 2017

The data from 66 survey farms as at June 1, 2017 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 2017 and there will have been changes since this time.

At the 1st June 2017:

- Average yields of maize grain (10.2 t/ha) and maize silage (18.9 t dry matter (DM)/ha) for the 2017 harvest were down on last season (at 11.7 t/ha and 21.1 t DM/ha respectively).
- The maize grain harvest was 52% complete as at June 1, 2017 (as compared to 73% complete at the same time last year), reflecting difficult harvest conditions in many areas. The estimated total tonnage of 160,700 tonnes (including unharvested grain) was down 24% on last season's harvest tonnage, as a result of a lower yield (13% down) from a lower harvest area (12% down). About 88% of the total crop had been sold, leaving 18,600 tonnes unsold as at June 1, 2017 (as compared to 44,900 tonnes at the same time last year, and 34,600 tonnes at the same time the previous year). Spring 2017 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2017 were an estimated 26% up on last season.
- The maize silage harvest was 100% complete as at June 1, 2017 on all surveyed farms. The estimated total tonnage of 913,000 tonnes DM was down 7% compared to last season's harvest, as the result of a lower yield (10% down) from a slightly increased harvest area (3% up). About 50% of the total silage crop had been sold or used, leaving 457,000 tonnes DM unused/ unsold as at June 1, 2017 (as compared to 365,000 tonnes DM at the same time last year, and 458,000 tonnes DM at the same time the previous year). Spring 2017 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2017 were slightly up (3% up) on last season.

Table 1. Detailed estimated national figures for the 2017 harvest, plus sold tonnages, for maize grain and maize silage as at June 1, 2017.

	Units	Maize grain	Maize silage
Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2017		18	51
2016 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2016 harvest	Ha	17,993	46,875
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2016 harvest	Tonnes	210,325	987,287
2017 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2017 harvest	Ha	15,795	48,300
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2017 harvest	Tonnes	160,726	913,252
Estimated NZ total hectares already harvested by June 1, 2017	Ha	7,826	48,300
Estimated NZ total tonnes already harvested by June 1, 2017	Tonnes	83,327	913,252
Estimated NZ total hectares yet to harvest as at June 1, 2017	Ha	7,969	0
Estimated NZ total tonnes yet to harvest as at June 1, 2017	Tonnes	77,399	0
2017 crop already harvested (by June 1, 2017)			
Sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2017	Tonnes	62,856	324,599
Sold at spot/free price by June 1, 2017	Tonnes	3,160	
Used on own farm (2017 harvested maize only) by June 1, 2017	Tonnes	510	131,975
Unsold/ unused stocks on hand (2017 harvested only) on June 1, 2017	Tonnes	16,801	456,678
2017 crop yet to be harvested (as at June 1, 2017)			
Unharvested crop sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2017	Tonnes	75,564	0
Unharvested crop unsold/ unused as at June 1, 2017	Tonnes	1,835	0
Total sales (2017 harvest): includes unharvested grain			
Sold (of total crop) by June 1, 2017 (includes used on farm)	Tonnes	142,090	456,574
Unsold/ unused (of total crop) on June 1, 2017	Tonnes	18,636	456,678
Comparison of hectares and tonnages between last two harvests			
Estimated % change in hectares, 2016 to 2017 harvest	%	-12.2	3.0
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2016 to 2017 harvest	%	-23.6	-7.5
Comparison of yields (tonnes/ ha) between the last two harvests			
NZ-wide yield, 2016 harvest	T/ha	11.7	21.1
NZ-wide yield, 2017 harvest	T/ha	10.2	18.9
Comparison of unsold/ unused tonnages between the last four harvests			
Unsold/ unused (of total crop) on June 1, 2017 (as above)	Tonnes	18,636	456,678
Unsold/ unused at the same time last year (AIMI report, June 1, 2016)	Tonnes	44,883	365,115
Unsold/ unused at same time, previous year (AIMI report, June 1, 2015)	Tonnes	34,645	457,641
Unsold/ unused at same time, year before that (AIMI report, June 1, 2014)	Tonnes	23,869	386,917

In Table 1 above, the estimated 2017 harvest tonnes of maize grain were 24% down on the 2016 harvest, as a result of two factors: reduced harvest hectares (12% down) and reduced yield (13% down). For maize silage, harvest tonnes were down 7% on the previous season, with a small (3%) increase in harvested hectares more than offset by a 10% lower yield.

Unsold stocks on hand of maize grain (18,600 tonnes), as at 1 June 2017, were considerably down on the same time in the previous two seasons (see the last few rows of Table 1). Unsold/ unused maize silage stocks on hand (457,000 tonnes DM) were 25% higher than at the same time last year, but virtually identical to those at the same time the previous year.

Table 2. Maize sowing intentions as at June 1, 2017, in comparison with previous years' estimates.

	Maize grain (ha)	Maize silage (ha)
Number of survey farmers who intend to sow in the 2017/2018 season	16	52
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2016 harvest	17,993	46,875
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2017 harvest	15,795	48,300
Estimated NZ total sowing intentions for 2017/2018 season (for harvest in 2018) (hectares)	19,911	49,892
Estimated % change in sowings, 2016/17 to 2017/18 seasons	26.1	3.3

As at 1 June 2017, maize grain sowing intentions (hectares) for 2017/18 were 26% up on last season, which was, in turn, down on the previous season (Table 2). On the survey farms, 16 growers intended growing maize for grain this coming season, as compared to 18 growers this last season (Table 1).

For maize silage, sowing intentions (hectares) for 2017/18 were slightly up on last season (3% up). On the survey farms, 52 growers intended growing maize for silage this coming season, as compared to 51 growers this last season (Table 1).

Summary results in June each year – graphs

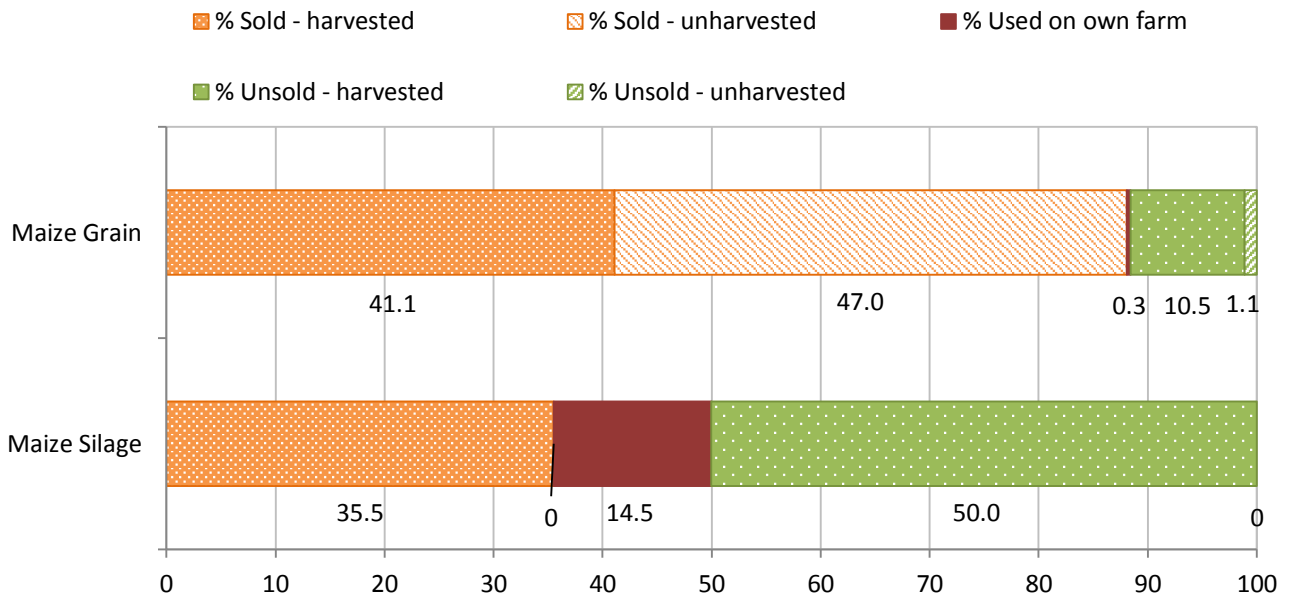


Figure 1. Percentage of maize crop sold, used on own farm and unsold/unused from the 2017 harvest, including unharvested grain, as at June 1, 2017.



Figure 2. Harvest tonnages and sales for maize grain by June 1 from 2013 to 2017. Unharvested grain is included. (Data are sourced from annual June AIMI Maize reports.)

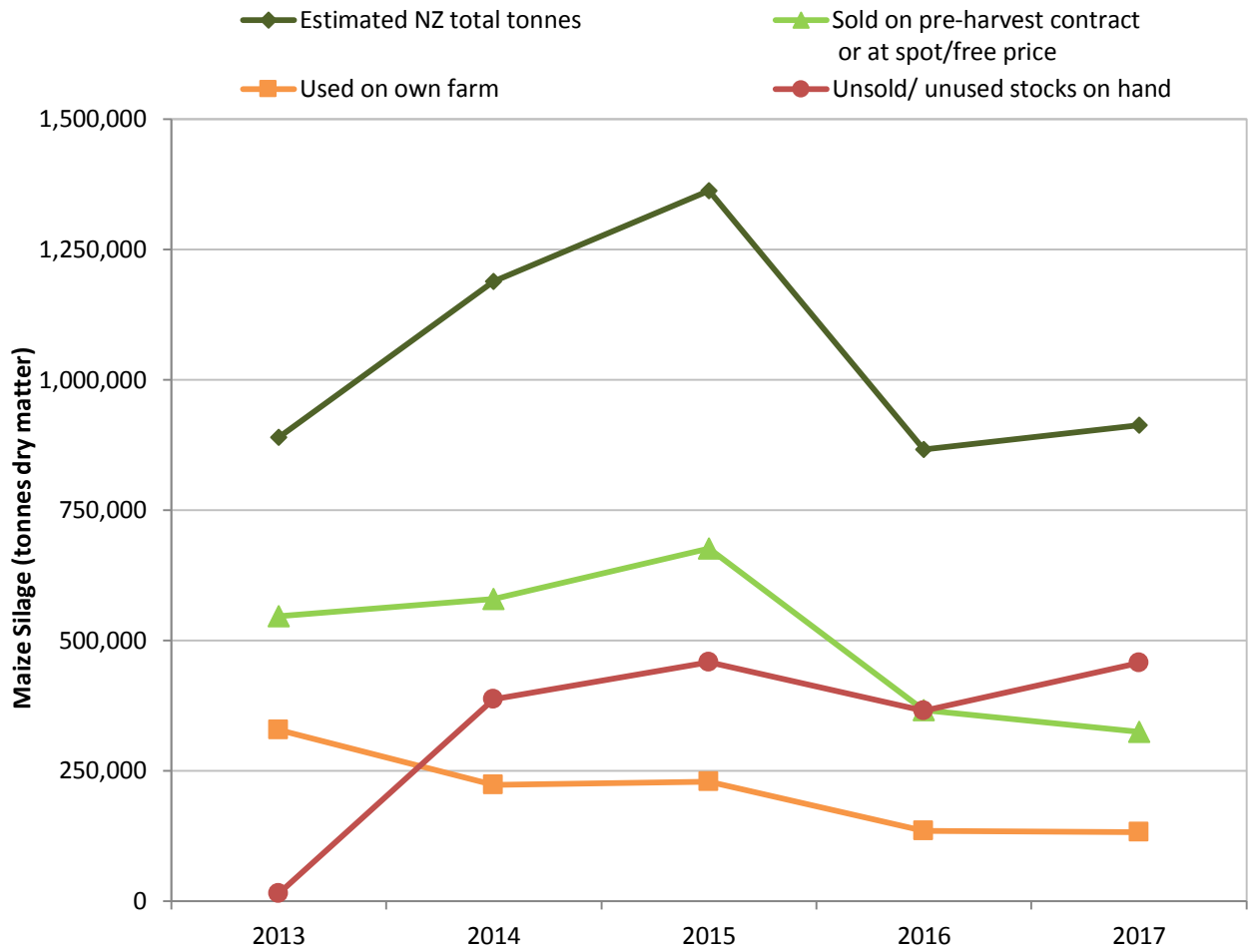


Figure 3. Harvest tonnages (dry matter) and sales for maize silage by June 1 from 2013 to 2017. Unharvested grain is included. (Data are sourced from annual June AIMI Maize reports.)

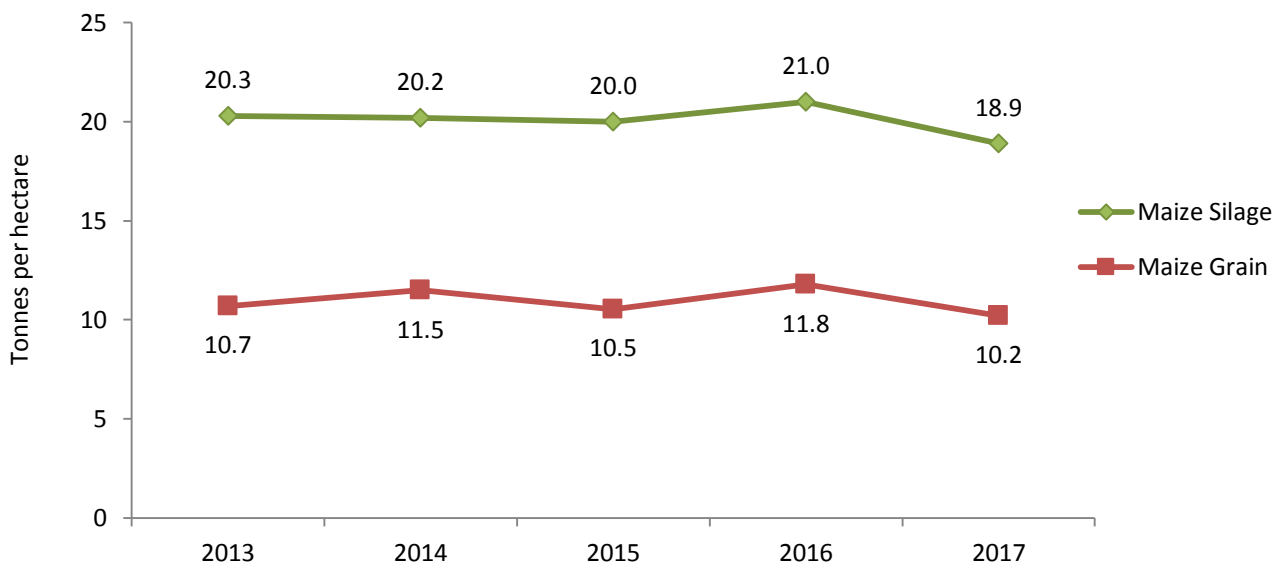


Figure 4. Comparison of estimated NZ-wide yields (tonnes per hectare) from 2013 to 2017. (Data are sourced from annual June AIMI Maize reports.)

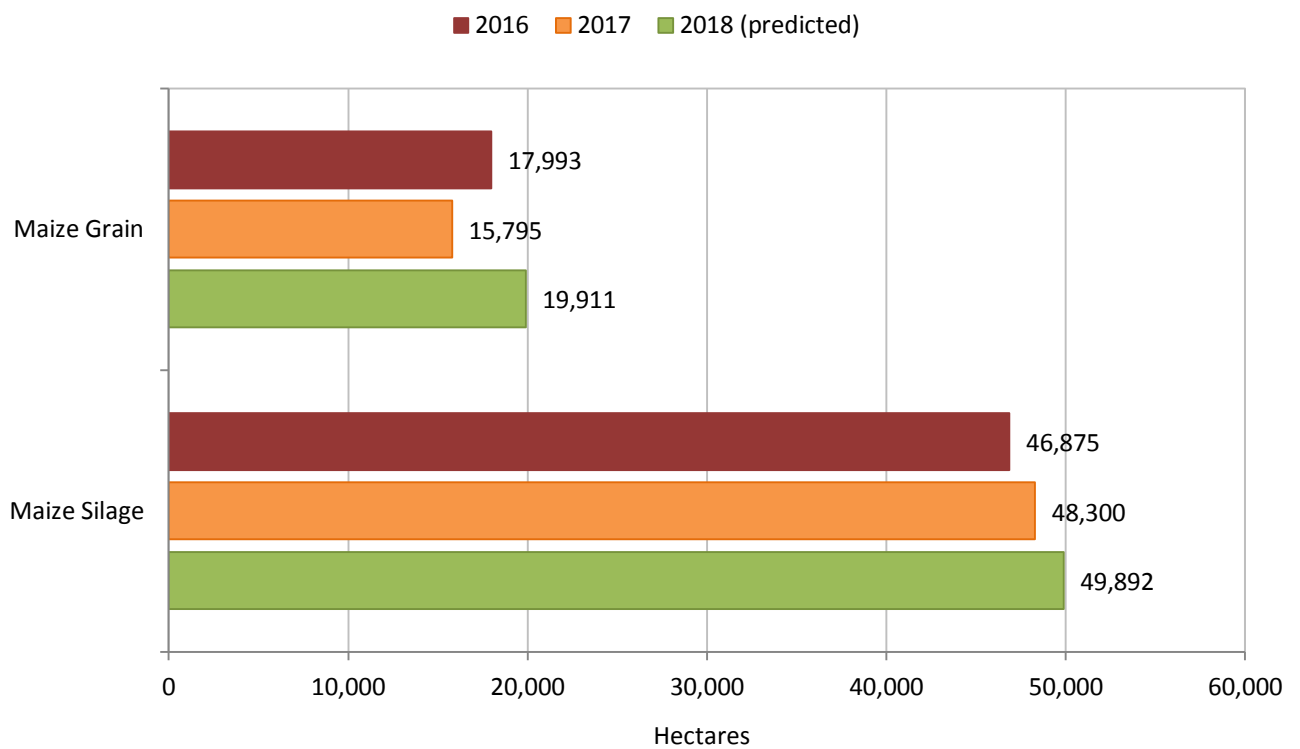


Figure 5. Estimated national hectares of maize grain and maize silage for the 2016, 2017 and predicted 2018 harvests, as at 1 June 2017. This is a precise, matched comparison based upon a common (the current) set of survey respondents.

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