

SUMMARY – SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES – JUNE 1, 2013

As part of the Arable Industry Marketing Initiative, Opinions Market Research Ltd conducted a survey of 50 maize growers to provide information as at June 1, 2013, on the 2013 harvest production and sales channels, as well as 2013/2014 sowing intentions of maize grain and maize silage in New Zealand.

Summary of Key Points

- Survey estimates suggest there was a decrease in hectares of maize harvested for grain (of approximately 3000 ha; 16% decrease) and silage (7000 ha; 14% decrease) from 2012 to 2013.
- Average yield of maize grain in 2013 was 11.6 t/ha, similar to 2012 (when it was 11.8 t/ha), and average maize silage DM yield was 20.3 t/ha, 1.4 t/ha more than 2012. Although both maize grain and silage yields were affected by drought on some farms in many parts of the country the timing of the drought was late and yields were not seriously affected. Yields in some areas were above average for that area.
- As a result of the decreased areas but similar or higher yields, total tonnes produced decreased by 17% for maize grain and decreased by 7% for maize silage between the 2012 and 2013 harvests.
- The estimated total NZ tonnage of maize grain harvested in 2013 was 175,000 tonnes, and of maize silage was 890,000 tonnes DM.
- In terms of timing, 79% of the maize grain harvest had been completed by the 1st June 2013 (compared to the previous year, when only 34% had been harvested by the earlier date of 1st May 2012).
- Approximately 88% of maize grain had been sold under pre-harvest contract by 1st June 2013, with a further 2% sold by spot /free price. The remaining 10% was unsold grain, which was yet to be harvested (without any pre-harvest contract).
- Approximately 61% of the maize silage tonnes DM had been sold by 1st June 2013, and a further 37% had been “used on own farm”, leaving only 2% of the total maize silage crop unsold at this date. These figures are presumably a reflection of the severe drought in the North Island this autumn, and are in stark contrast to the figures from the 1st May 2012 survey (39% sold, 9% used on own farm, 43% unsold, and 9% still to harvest (sales status unknown)).
- Planting intentions for maize grain as at 1st June 2013, for harvest in 2014, indicate the area sown could be slightly down (down 11%), while the forecasted area to be sown in maize silage could be slightly up (up 9%).

Estimated national figures for the 2013 maize harvest, as at June 1, 2013

	Units	Maize grain 14	Maize silage 39
Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2013			
2012 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2012 harvest	Ha	19,400	50,744
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2012 harvest	Tonnes	211,200	958,370
2013 harvest			
Hectares already harvested by June 1, 2013	Ha	12,985	43,191
Tonnes already harvested by June 1, 2013	Tonnes	138,153	877,341
Hectares still to harvest by June 1, 2013	Ha	3,329	651
Tonnes still to harvest by June 1, 2013	Tonnes	36,500	12,694
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2013 harvest	Ha	16,314	43,842
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2013 harvest	Tonnes	174,652	890,035
Sold on pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2013	Tonnes	134,302	546,728
Sold at spot/free price by June 1, 2013	Tonnes	3,209	
Used on own farm by June 1, 2013	Tonnes	642	328,551
Unsold stocks on hand on June 1, 2013	Tonnes	0	2,063
Unharvested crop already sold under pre-harvest contract	Tonnes	19,413	0
Unharvested crop unsold	Tonnes	17,087	12,694
Total sales (2013 harvest)			
Sold (grand total) by June 1, 2013 (including used on own farm)	Tonnes	157,566	875,278
Unsold (from 2013 harvest) on June 1, 2013 (of total crop)	Tonnes	17,087	14,757
Estimated % change in hectares, 2012 to 2013 harvest		-15.9	-13.6
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2012 to 2013 harvest		-17.3	-7.1

Note: for maize grain, these estimated national figures were obtained by scaling up the survey totals for each question so that the 2012 national totals for hectares and tonnes match the most recent (2012) final 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 figures are not exact, and have an associated margin of error.

Maize planting intentions for the 2013/2014 season

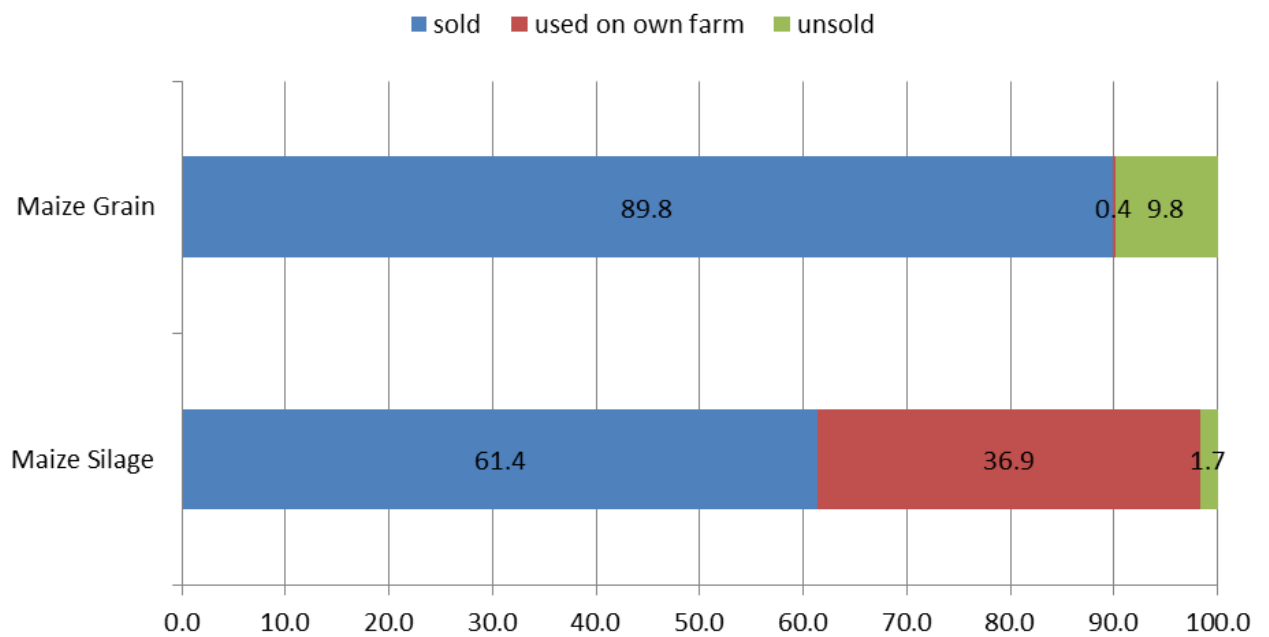
	Maize grain (ha)	Maize silage (ha)
Number of farmers who intend to sow in the 2013/2014 season	14	38
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2012 harvest	19,400	50,744
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2013 harvest	16,314	43,842
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2013/2014 harvest (predicted)	14,563	47,793
Estimated % change in plantings, 2013 to 2014 harvest	-10.7	9.0

Note: for maize grain, these estimated national hectares were obtained by scaling up the survey total hectares for each question so that the 2012 national total hectares match the most recent (2012) 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, 2013 – presented in graphical form

Percentage of maize crop sold, used on own farm, and unsold from the 2013 harvest as at June 1, 2013

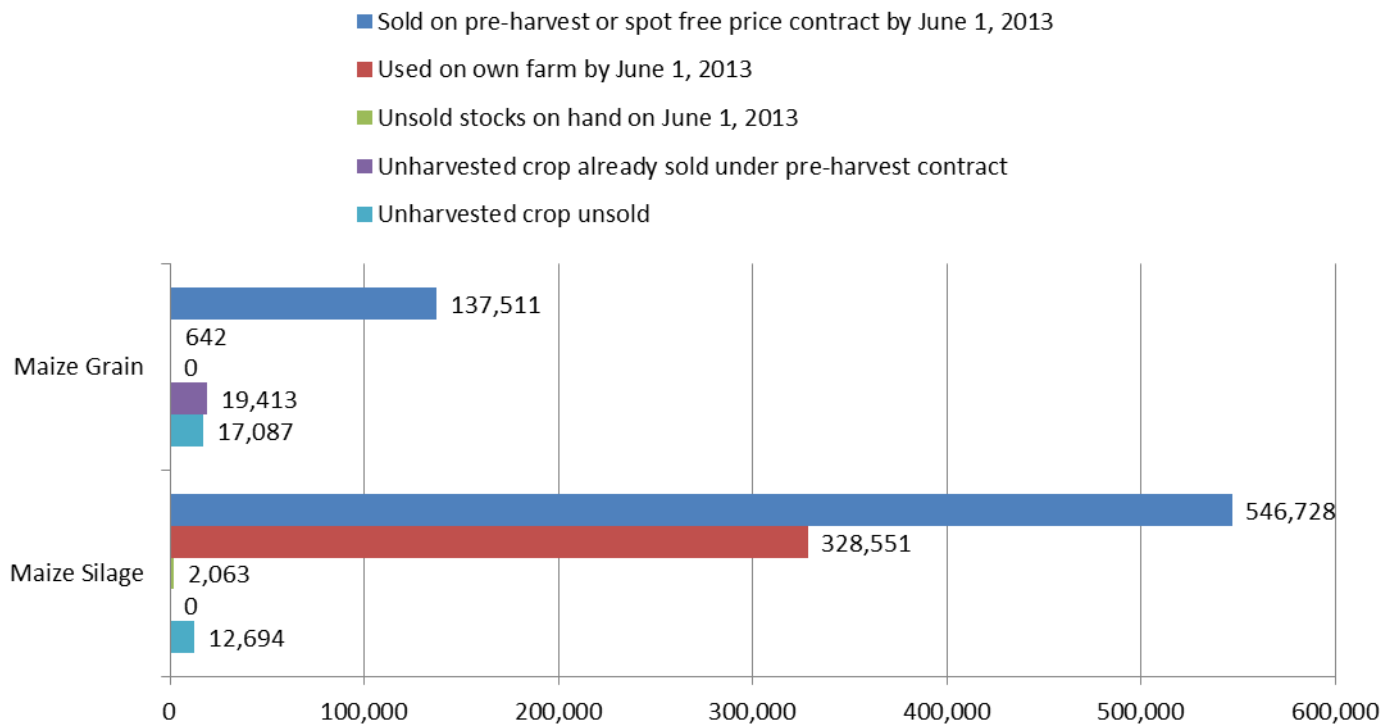
The graph below relates to the percentage of the 2013 harvest crop sold, used on own farm, and unsold as at June 1, 2013. Note that this graph takes account of the unharvested maize.



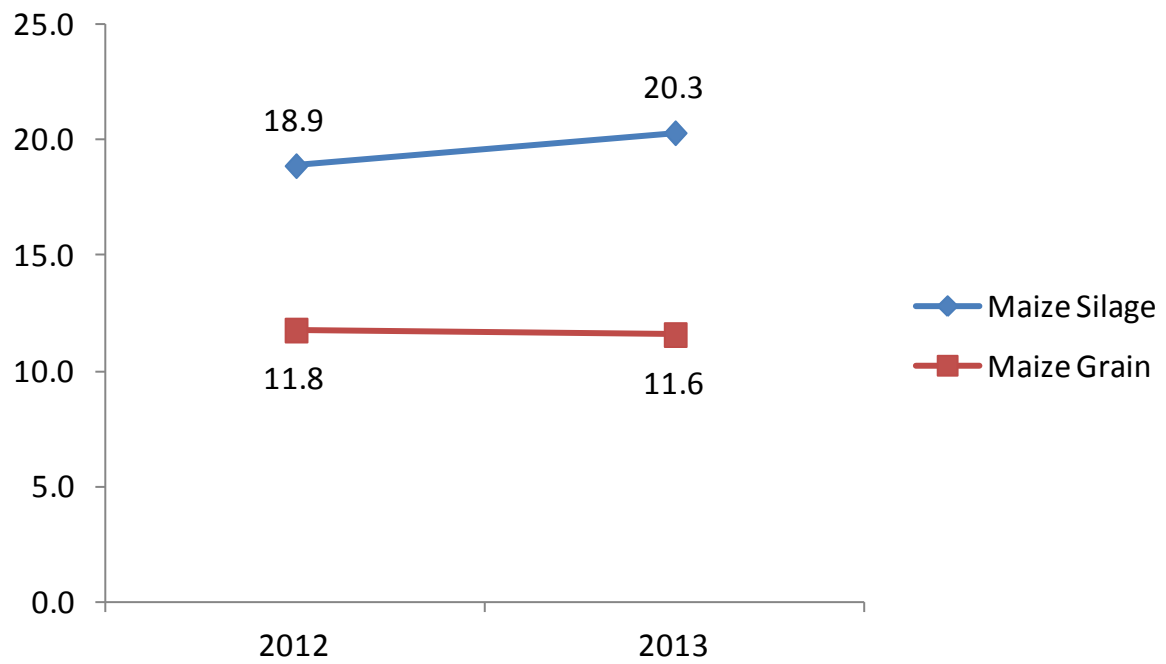
Note: All survey figures have an associated margin of error.

Estimated national figures for the 2013 maize harvest, as at June 1, 2013

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 stocks on hand, (d) unharvested crop sold under pre-harvest contract and (e) unsold unharvested crop, for maize grain and maize silage as at June 1, 2013, as also presented in the first table above.



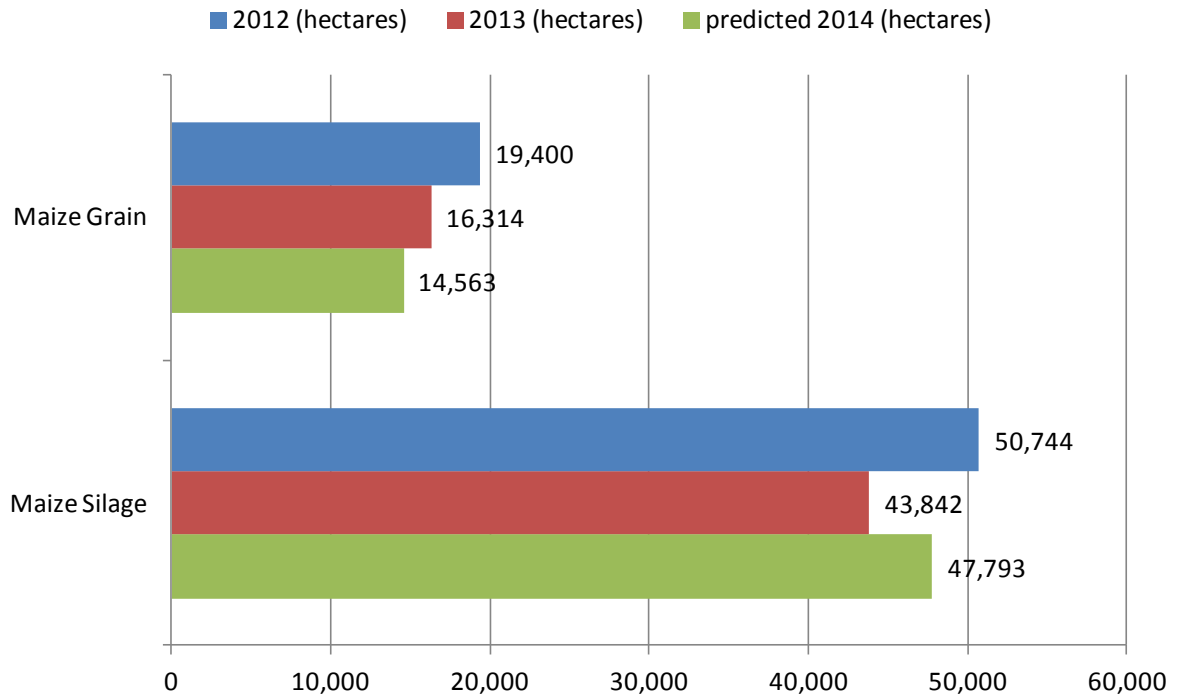
Comparison of maize yield (tonnes per ha) on survey farms between harvests



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

Spring planting intentions for maize, as at June 1, 2013

The graph below presents the estimated national hectares of maize grain and maize silage for the 2012, 2013 and predicted 2014 harvests, as also presented in the second table above.



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