

## 2021 National Grower Survey - On Farm Storage

**Note** – this is an extract regarding on farm grain storage from the National Grower survey. As such it has an inherent margin of error because it's a survey.

### GRDC Grower Survey:

Conducted regularly since 1993, the GRDC Grower Survey provides insights relating to grower attitudes to corporate measures and KPIs, as well as farm practices implemented on Australian grain farms.

Data for the project is collected via Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) interviews with 1201 grain growers randomly selected from GRDC's database. In total, 238 growers from the western region participated. The sample is stratified by agroecological zone (AEZ) and data weighted to represent the true geographical spread of grain growers. In the western region, the margin for error is  $\pm 5.6\%$  for the entire sample.

### On-farm grain storage:

Questions asked:

- Do you store any of your grain on farm?
- What is the total tonnage capacity of your on-farm grain storage?

Key findings:

- Consistent with results from 2017 and 2018, approximately 9 in 10 growers store grain on farm.
- There is, however, significant variation by region (91% in the north to 86% of western respondents) and production segment (95% producing greater than 5,000 tonnes to 85% producing less).
- Among those storing grain, since 2013, the average storage capacity has trended upwards. On average, 2,193 tonnes of grain can now be stored on these farms.
- Notably, grain storage capacity varies from 3,159 tonnes among northern growers to a much lower 1,000 in the west.
- Similarly, younger growers storage capacity (2,756 tonnes) is significantly greater than those aged 60+ (1,756 tonnes).

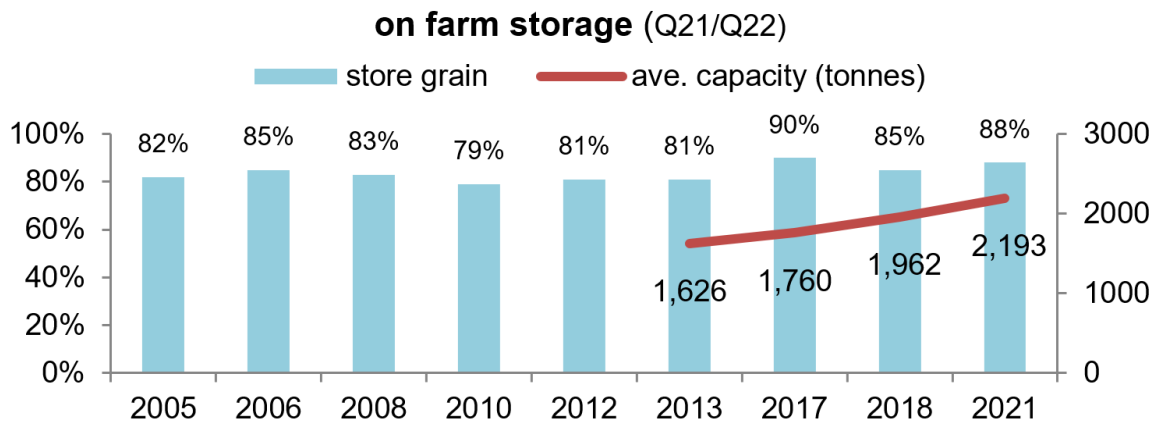


Table 28

store grain on-farm (Q21)	% mentioned (base: variable)									
	total		region			tonnes produced				
	2018 n = 1200	2021 n = 1201	northern n = 494	southern n = 469	western n = 238	<5000 n = 711	5,000-9,999 n = 227	10,000-14,999 n=98	15,000-24,999 n=45	25000+ n = 27*
Store grain on-farm (base: all respondents)	85%	88%	91%	87%	86%	85%	93%	96%	94%	100%
Average storage capacity (tonnes) (base: respondents storing grain and able to answer)	1,760	2,193	3,159	1,747	1,000	↓ 1,003	2,351	4,361	5,844	17,139

↑ statistically significant increase since 2018; ↓ statistically significant decrease since 2018 \* Caution small sub sample

## Sealed silo usage:

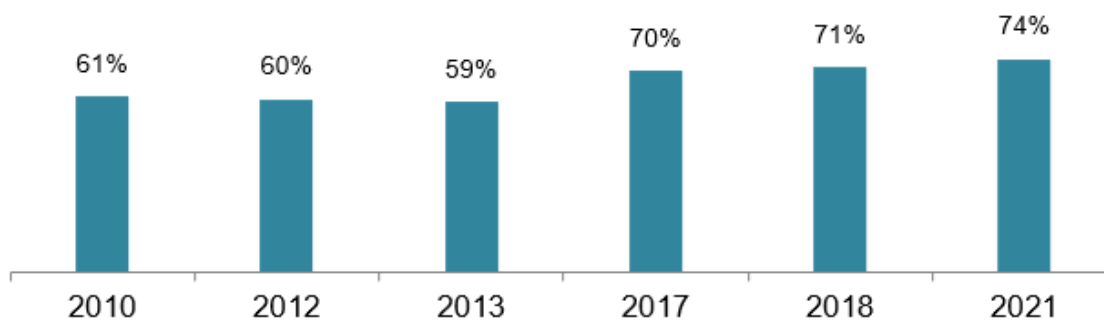
Question asked:

- What proportion of the farm storage capacity is in sealed silos that are compliant with the Australian Standard AS2628-2010 relating to sealing requirements for insect control?

Key findings

- Among those storing grain, proportion of farms using sealed silos compliant with Australian standards for insect control has trended upwards since 2013 (now 74%).
- Notably, the practice is significantly more widespread among western growers than northern and southern counterparts and those producing greater than 5,000 tonnes of grain rather than less.
- Similar to 2018, 42% of on-farm grain storage is in sealed silos compliant with Australian Standards, but this result remains significantly greater than in 2017 and may be trending upwards.
- In total, sealed silos represent ALL grain storage capacity on 14% of farms (who store grain), but this is again more widespread among western growers (21%) than northern (12%) and southern (12%) respondents.

### store grain in compliant sealed silos (base: store grain; Q23)



## Reason for storing grain:

Question asked:

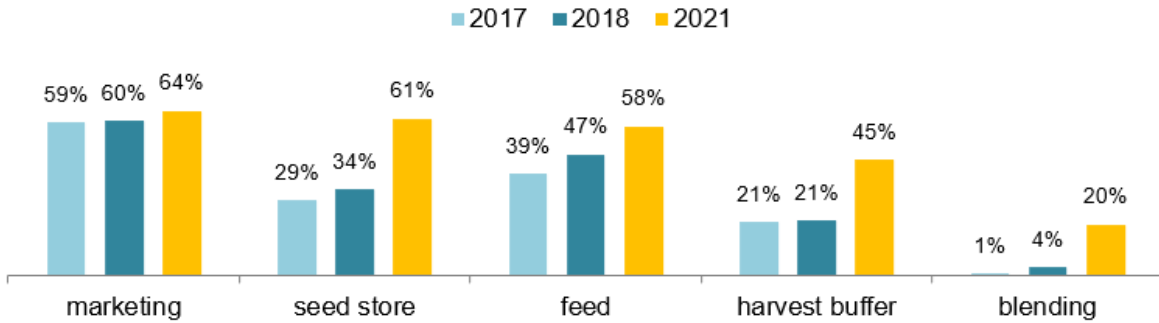
- What is the main reason for having on-farm grain storage?

Key findings:

- While marketing purposes remain the most common reason for storing grain on-farm, compared to 2018, seed and feed storage, allowing a buffer at harvest and grain blending are significantly more likely to be mentioned.
- Northern and southern growers are significantly more likely to store grain for marketing and harvest buffering than western counterparts.

- Conversely, western growers are more likely to store grain for feed and seed purposes than those in the north and south.

**reason for storing grain** (base: respondents storing grain on farm; Q23)



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