

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service's,
Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

June 20, 2022

Dear AMS Grain Advisory Committee,

In recent years, our industry has been seeing a higher percent of soybeans of other color (SBOC) in the crop due to the E3 trait in the soybean seed supply. Soybeans with this trait under certain stressors can experience a virus-like response in the bean resulting in a seed-hull that is lightly discolored. Being a virus, fungicides cannot eliminate the response. Based on our experience and what we are hearing from the industry, the 2021 crop had a much higher incidence of SBOC.

We cannot speak for other companies, but this issue has created a significant challenge in selling soybeans into the export market. We have had to delay shuttle train billings and accept monetary discounts due to this factor alone.

Consistent recognition and grading of this particular color (smokey gray) is difficult because there are varying degrees of discoloration. We have concerns that the consistency in grading may be an issue between federally licensed graders as well.

While it will take time and research to find remedies to fix this trait issue and determine the true effect of SBOC on processor and export markets, we would look for a more immediate modification to the Soybean Grain Grading Standards. As we read the standards, SBOC and mottled have the same issue of discoloration of the hull but are considered differently in the grading process. We would ask that this type of SBOC be graded and noted consistent with mottled soybeans.

We appreciate the time this committee is dedicating to working through this concern and look forward to industry collaborative input.

Sincerely,

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