

2025/2026 Corn Harvest Quality Report



**U.S. GRAINS &
BIOPRODUCTS
COUNCIL**

20 F St. NW, Suite 900 \ Washington, DC 20001
202-789-0789 \ www.grains.org

Tools for Better Decision Making

Evaluating trends and factors that impact corn quality

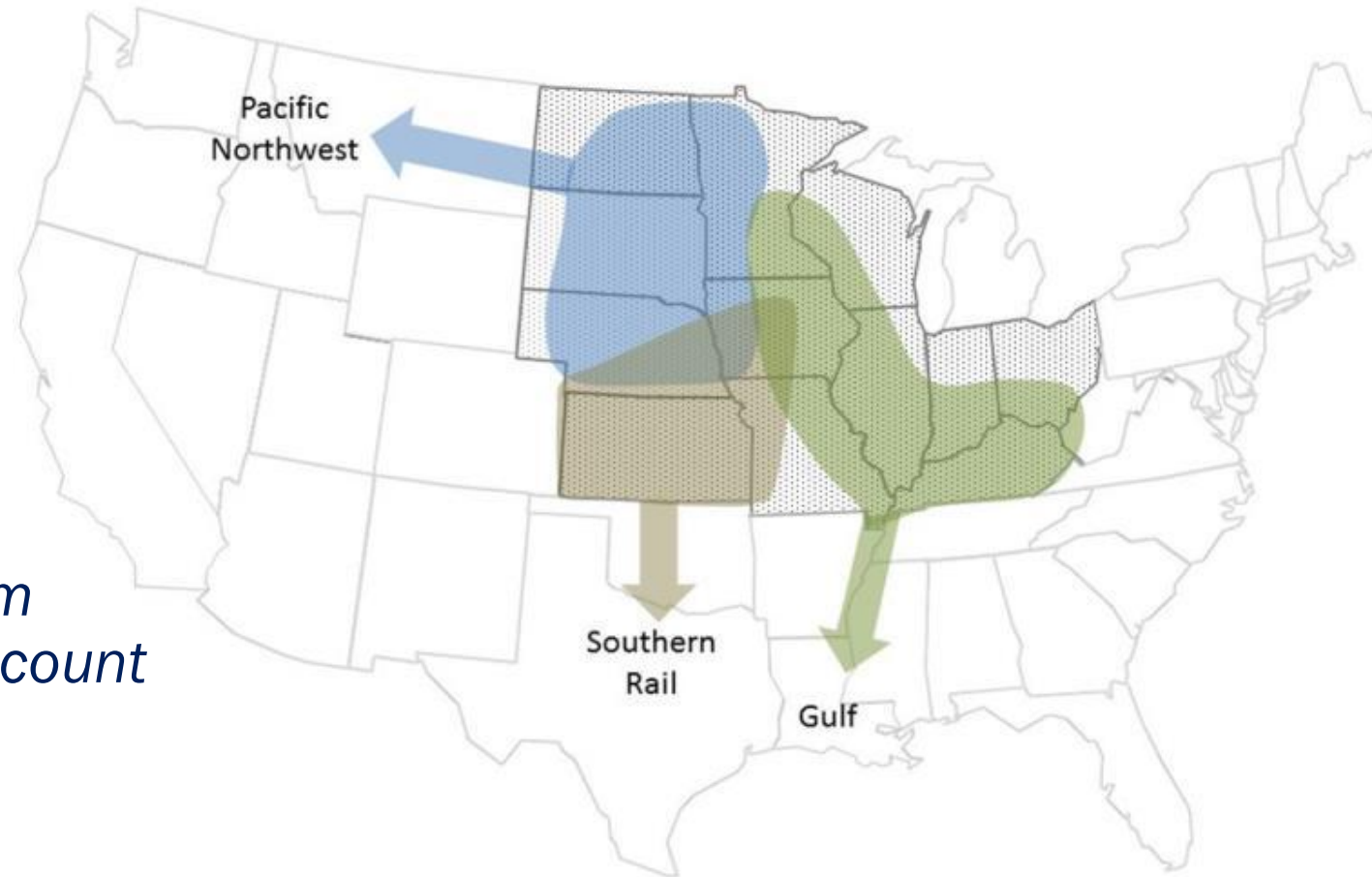
Annual Series: Enhancing knowledge over time

Quality at export affected by many factors in the U.S. grain marketing system

Corn Export Cargo Quality Report in March 2026 will report U.S. corn quality from samples at export points



Export Catchment Areas (ECAs)



*621 samples from
12 states that account
for over 90% of
U.S. corn exports*

Quality Factors Tested

Grading Factors

- Test weight
- Broken corn
- Foreign material
- Total damage
- Heat damage

Physical Factors

- Stress cracks
- 100-kernel weight
- Kernel volume
- True density
- Whole kernels
- Horneous (hard) endosperm

Moisture

Chemical Composition

- Protein
- Starch
- Oil

Mycotoxins

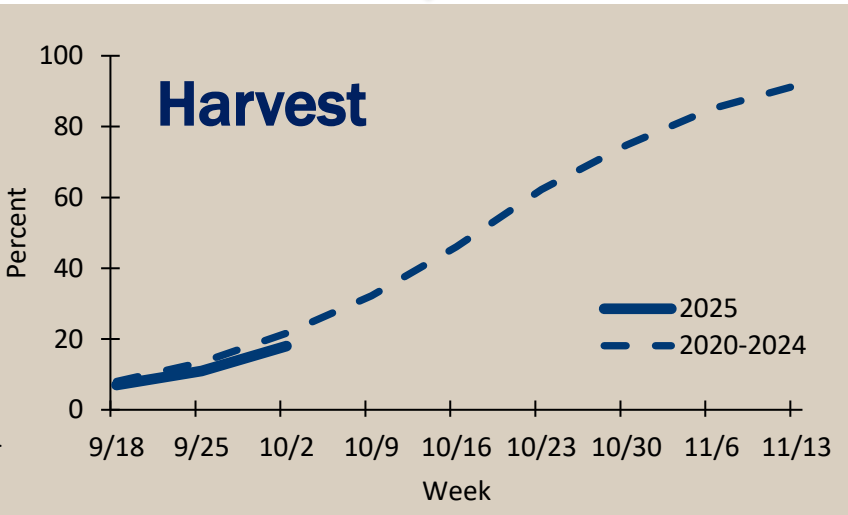
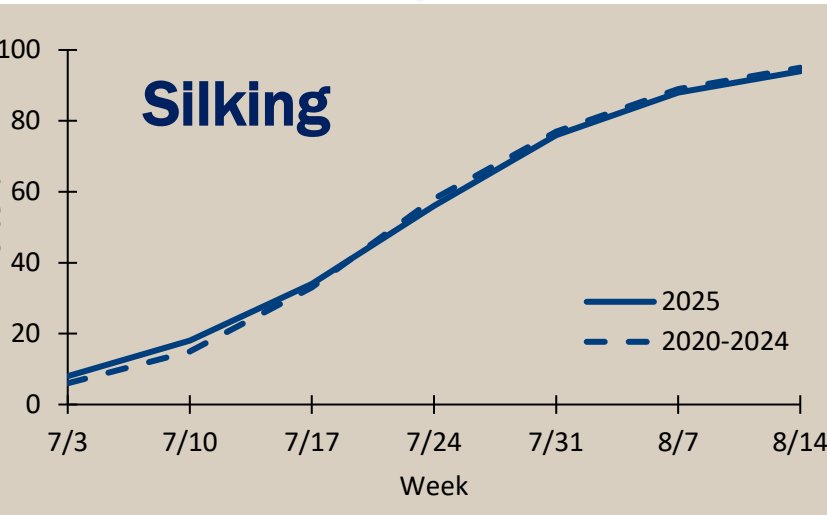
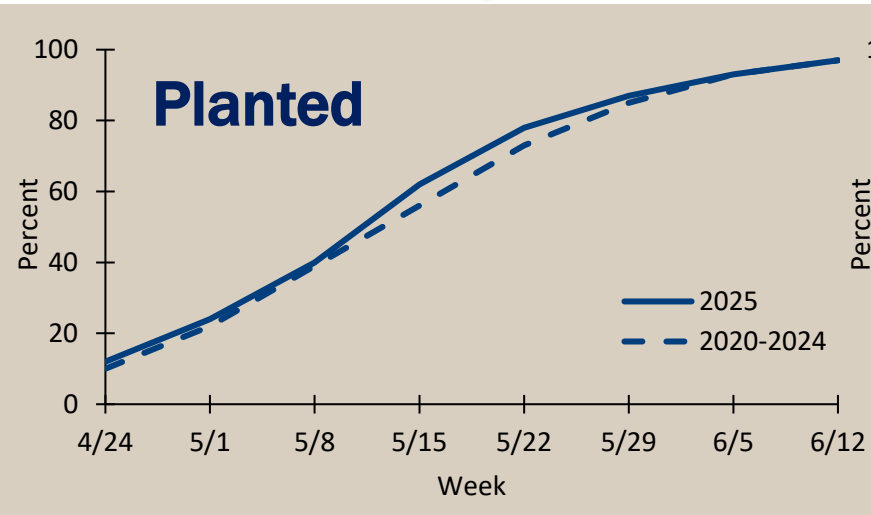
- Aflatoxin
- DON (Vomitoxin)
- Fumonisin
- Ochratoxin A
- T-2
- Zearalenone

2025 Growing Conditions Impact

Planting progress similar to the 5YA despite variable progress in the Gulf ECA

Pollination occurred at a pace similar to the 5YA under mostly wet and warm conditions

Rains in September delayed dry-down in western areas but dry conditions in eastern areas led to timely harvest



Dry conditions in May during early growth fostered deep rooting and healthy plants

Pollination concerns were eased by deeper roots but conditions promoted leaf diseases in some areas

Sufficiently dry weather prevented serious delays and allowed for a careful harvest, keeping BCFM low

2025/2026 Corn Harvest Quality Highlights

Overall Crop	Grade Factors/Moisture vs. 5YA	Chemical Composition vs. 5YA	Physical Factors vs. 5YA	Mycotoxins
<p>71% of crop rated good or excellent condition & highest yields on record projected</p> <p>Harvest about 91% complete as of November 16, lower than 2024 (98%) and the 5YA[†] (94%)</p>	<p>Test Weight Same</p> <p>BCFM Lower</p> <p>Total Damage Higher</p> <p>Moisture Same</p>	<p>Protein Lower</p> <p>Starch Higher</p> <p>Oil Lower</p>	<p>Stress Cracks Similar</p> <p>100-Kernel Weight Lower</p> <p>True Density Similar</p> <p>Whole Kernels Lower</p>	<p>100.0% of samples \leq FDA action level for Aflatoxin\ddagger</p> <p>98.8% of samples below FDA advisory level for DON of 5.0 ppm\ddagger</p> <p>87.2% of samples \leq FDA Fumonisin guidance level of 5 ppm\ddagger</p>

[†]5YA = 2020-2024 crop years

[‡]Action, advisory and guidance levels for corn intended for feed use

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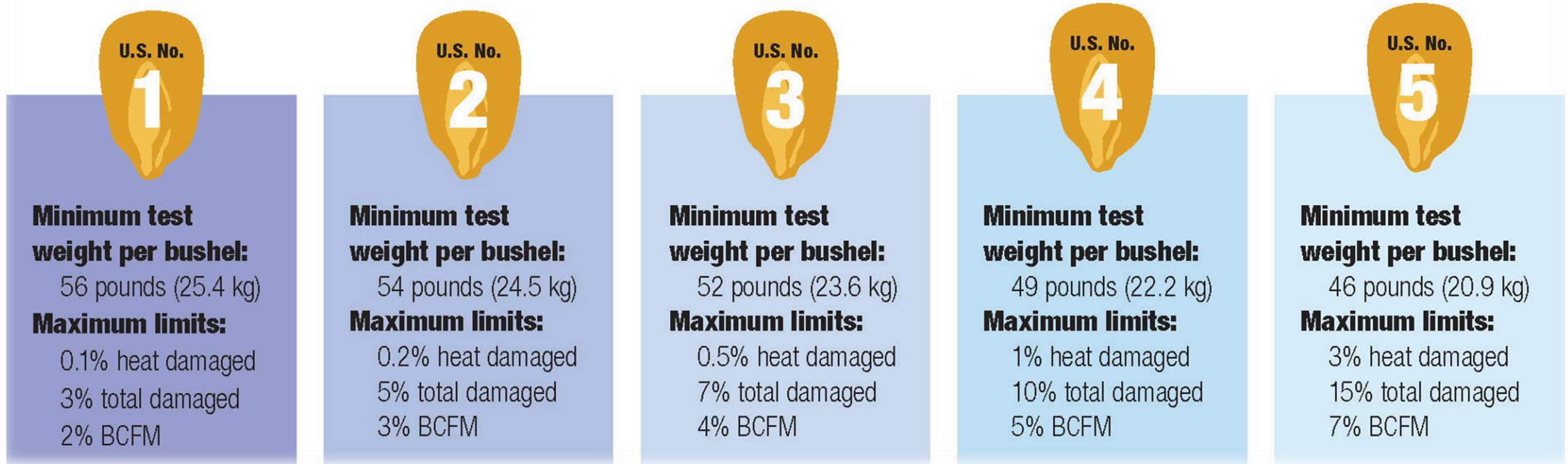
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Grade Factors and Moisture

Test Weight
BCFM
Total Damage
Heat Damage
Moisture

USDA Corn Quality Grades

The U.S. has a reliable and transparent quality grading system.

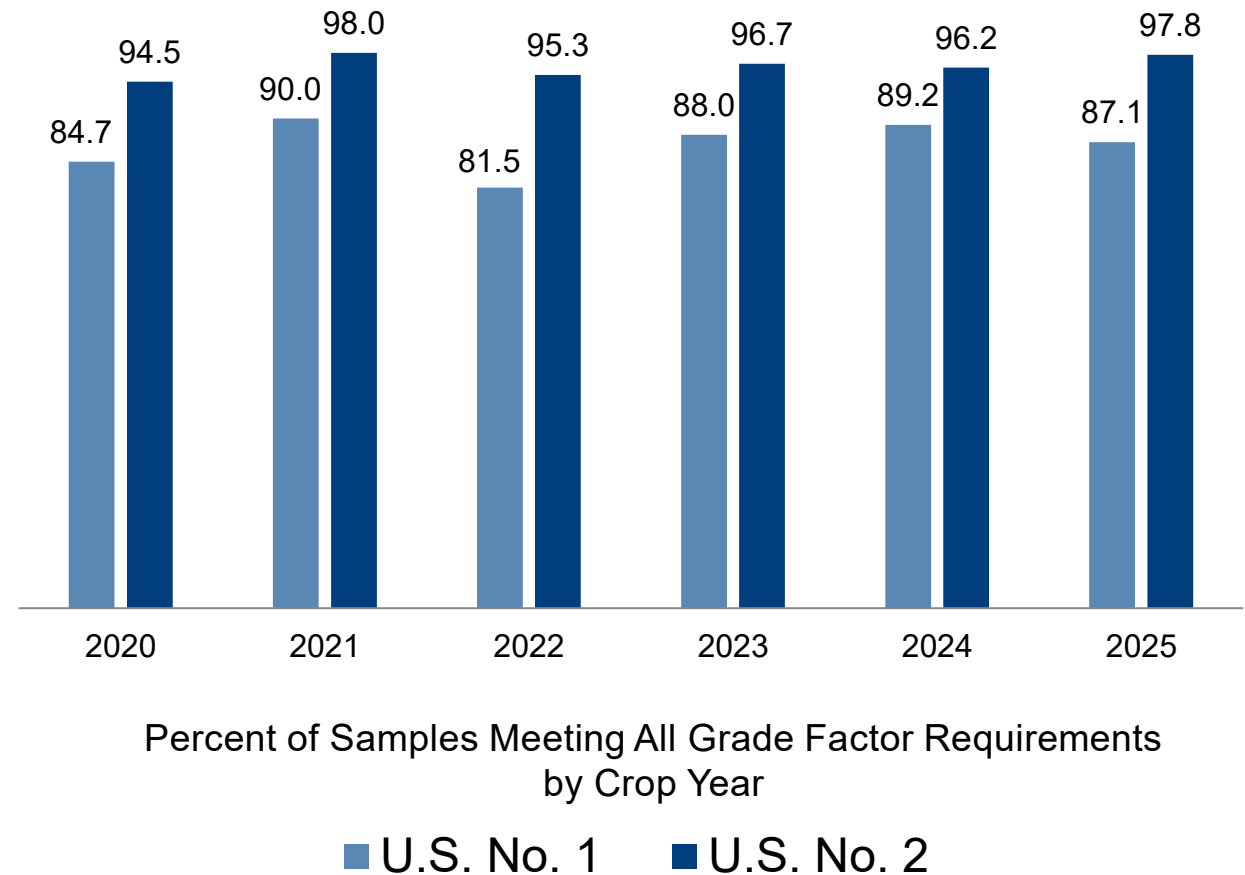


Grade Factors Summary

87.1% of samples No. 1 grade
(89.2% in 2024)

97.8% of samples No. 2 grade
(96.2% in 2024)

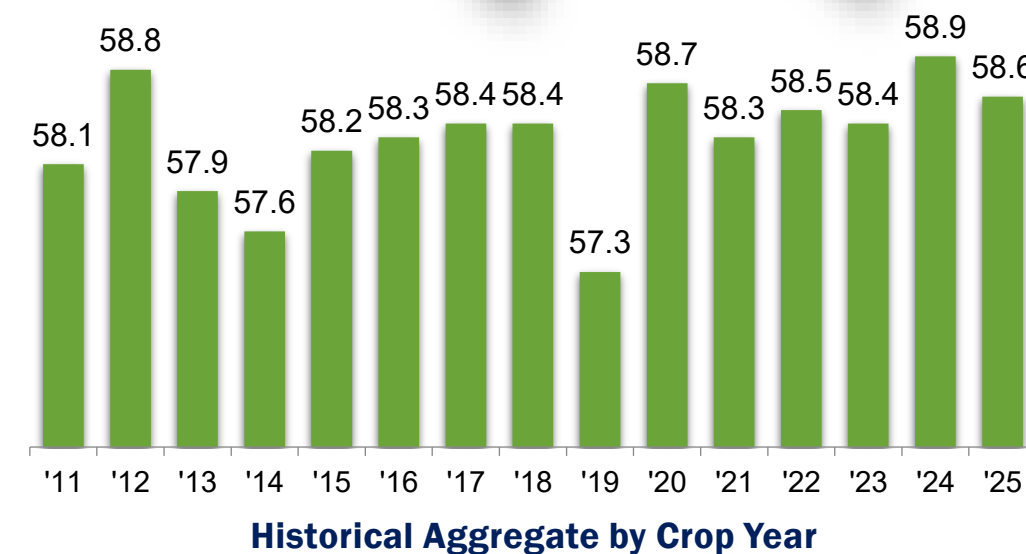
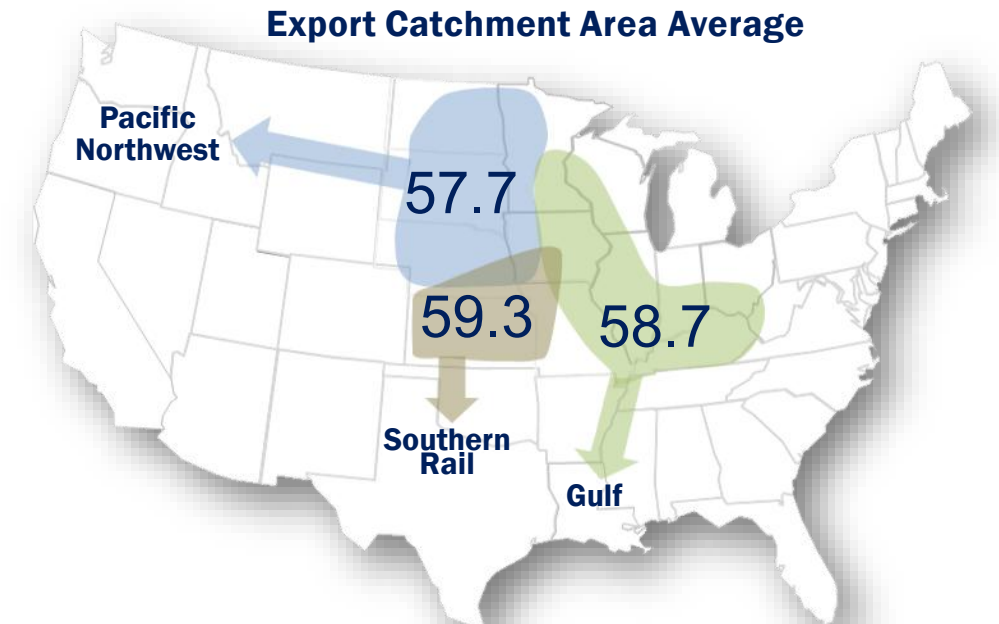
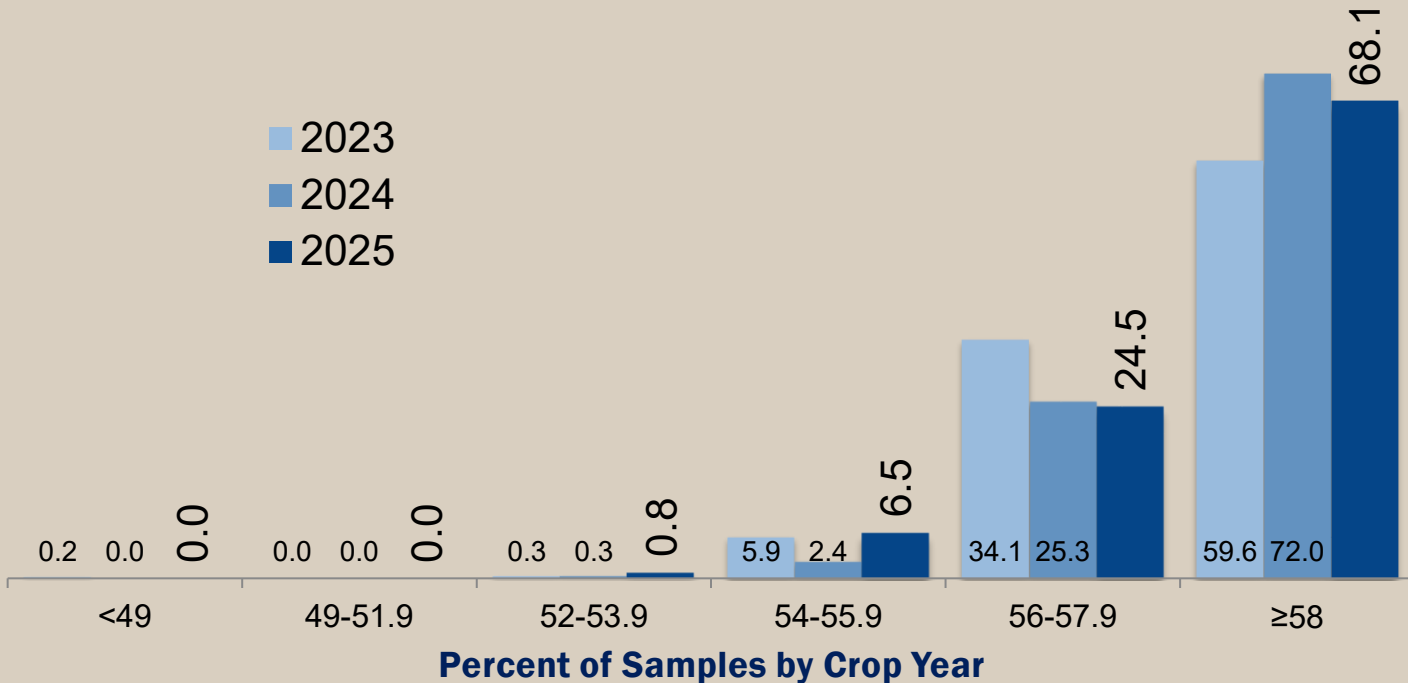
Average aggregate quality
of the samples tested was better
than all grade factor
requirements for
U.S. No. 1 grade



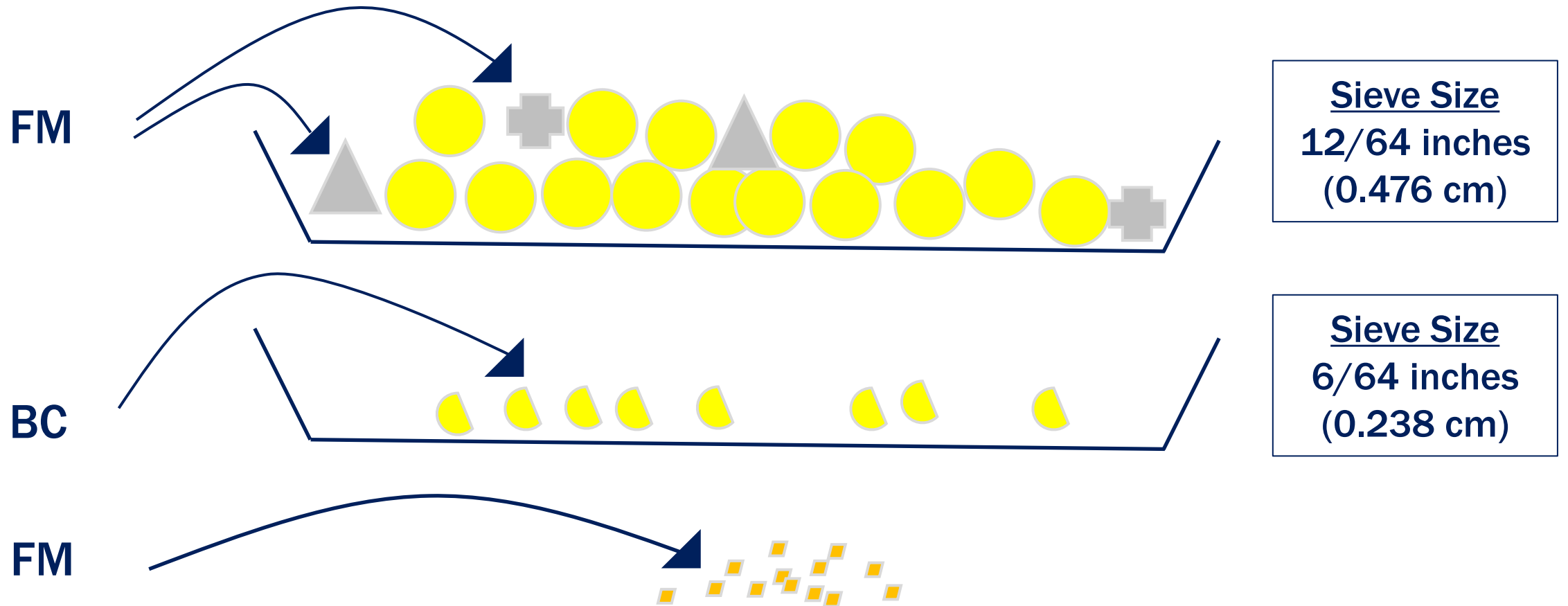
Test Weight — U.S. Units

U.S. Aggregate: 58.6 lb/bu

- Average **same** as the the 5YA (58.6 lb/bu)
- **92.6%** No. 1 grade (97.3% in 2024)



Broken Corn and Foreign Material*

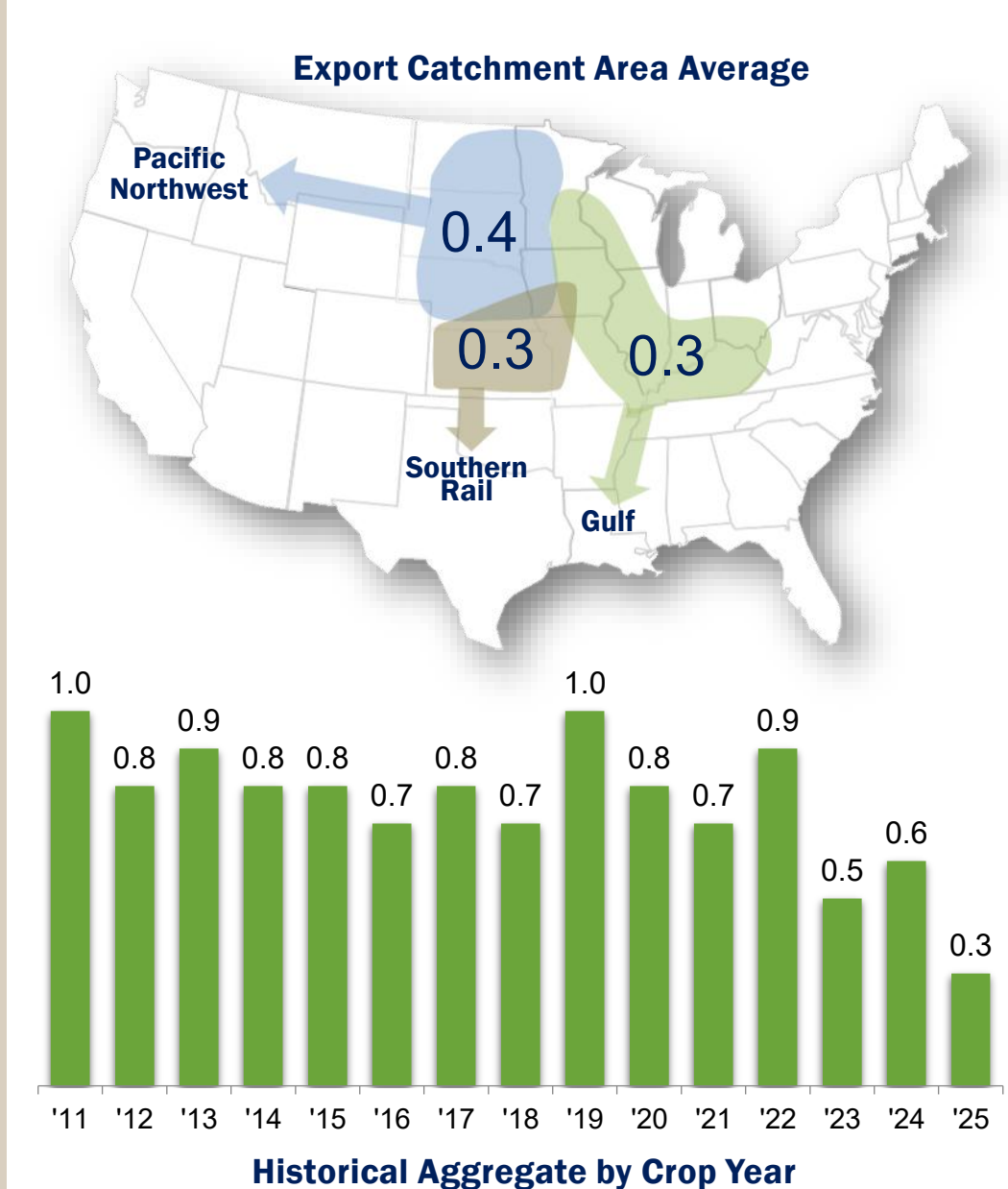
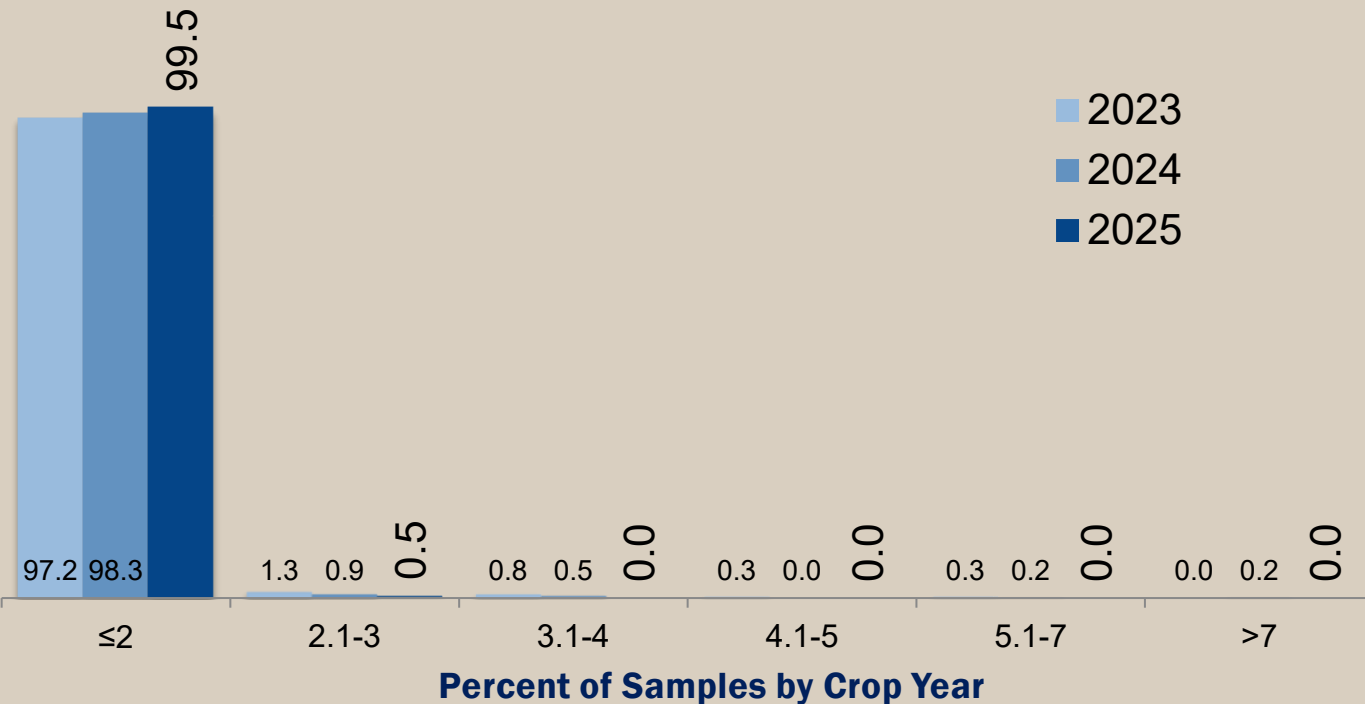


*Measured as percent of weight

Broken Corn and Foreign Material (%)

U.S. Aggregate: 0.3%

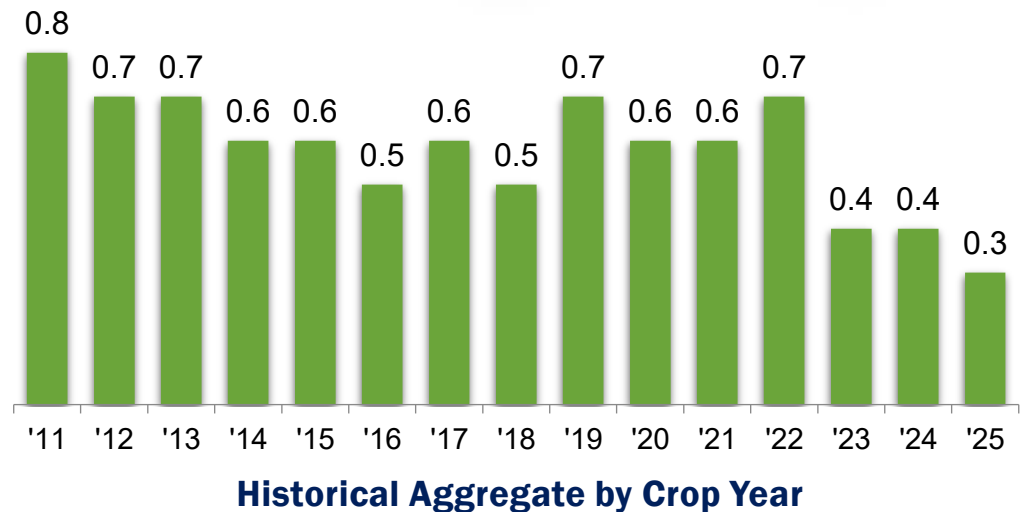
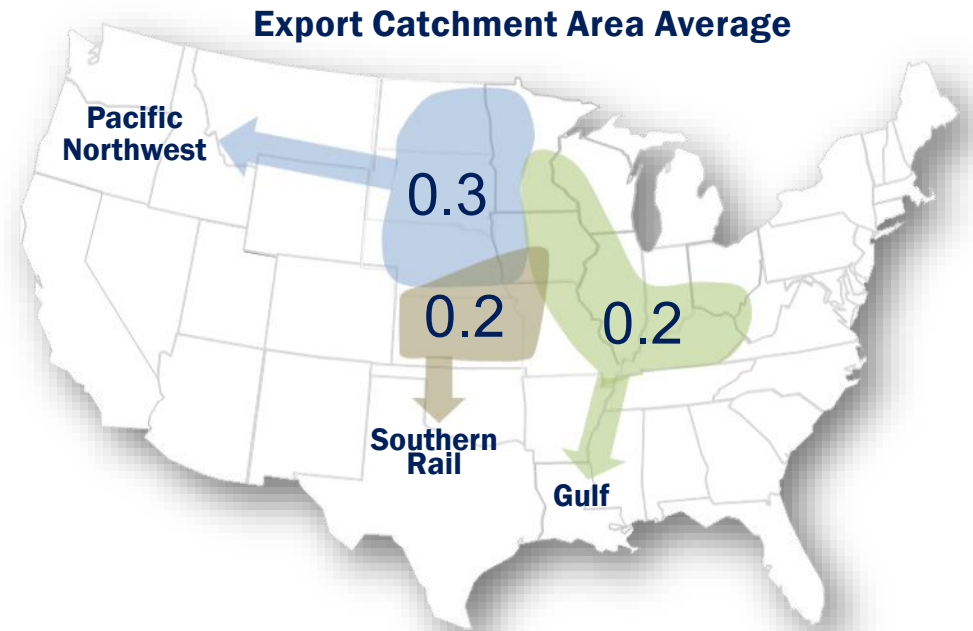
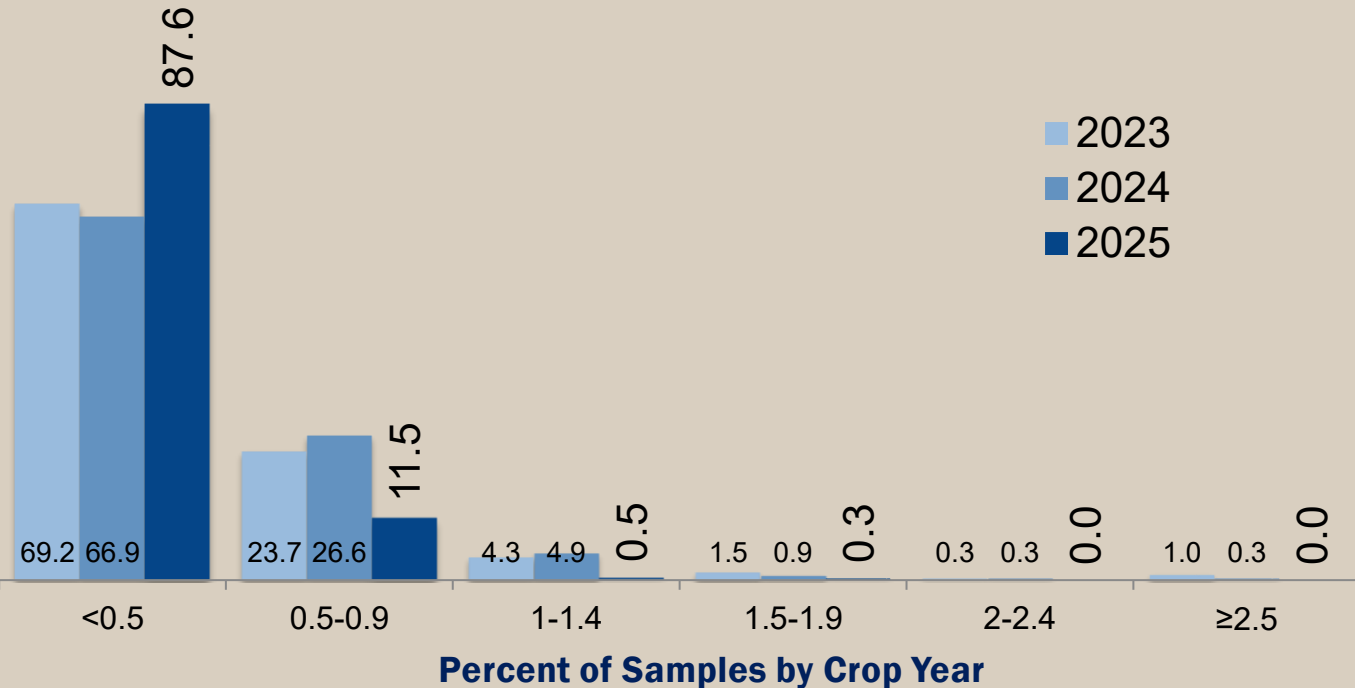
- Average **lower** than the 5YA (0.7%)
- **99.3%** No. 1 grade (98.3% in 2024)



Broken Corn (%)

U.S. Aggregate: 0.3%

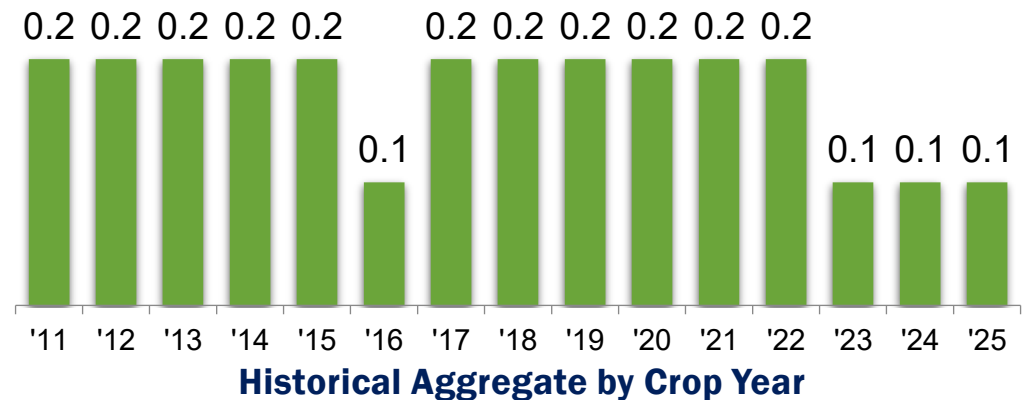
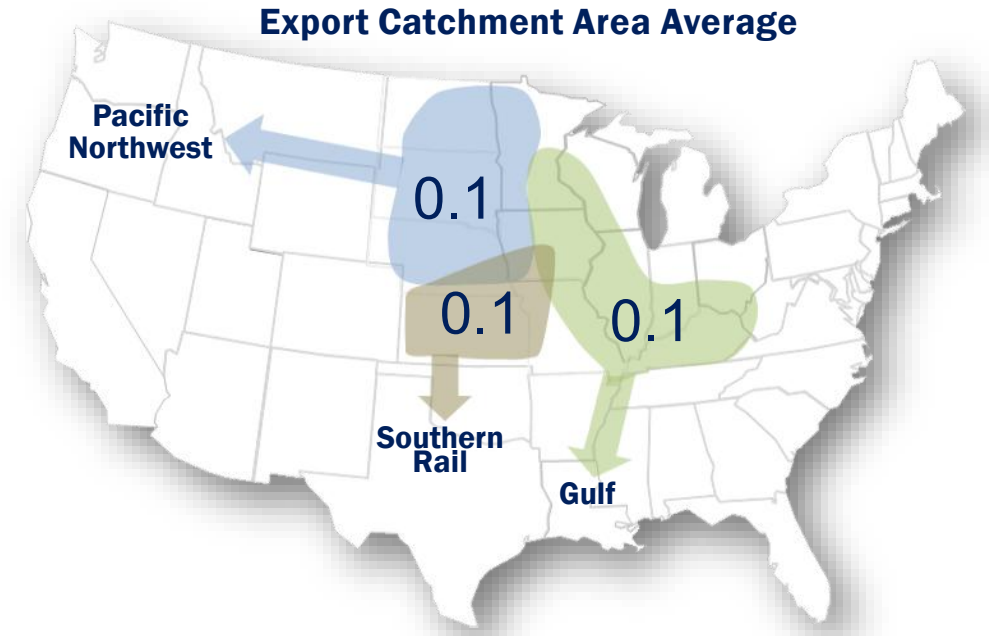
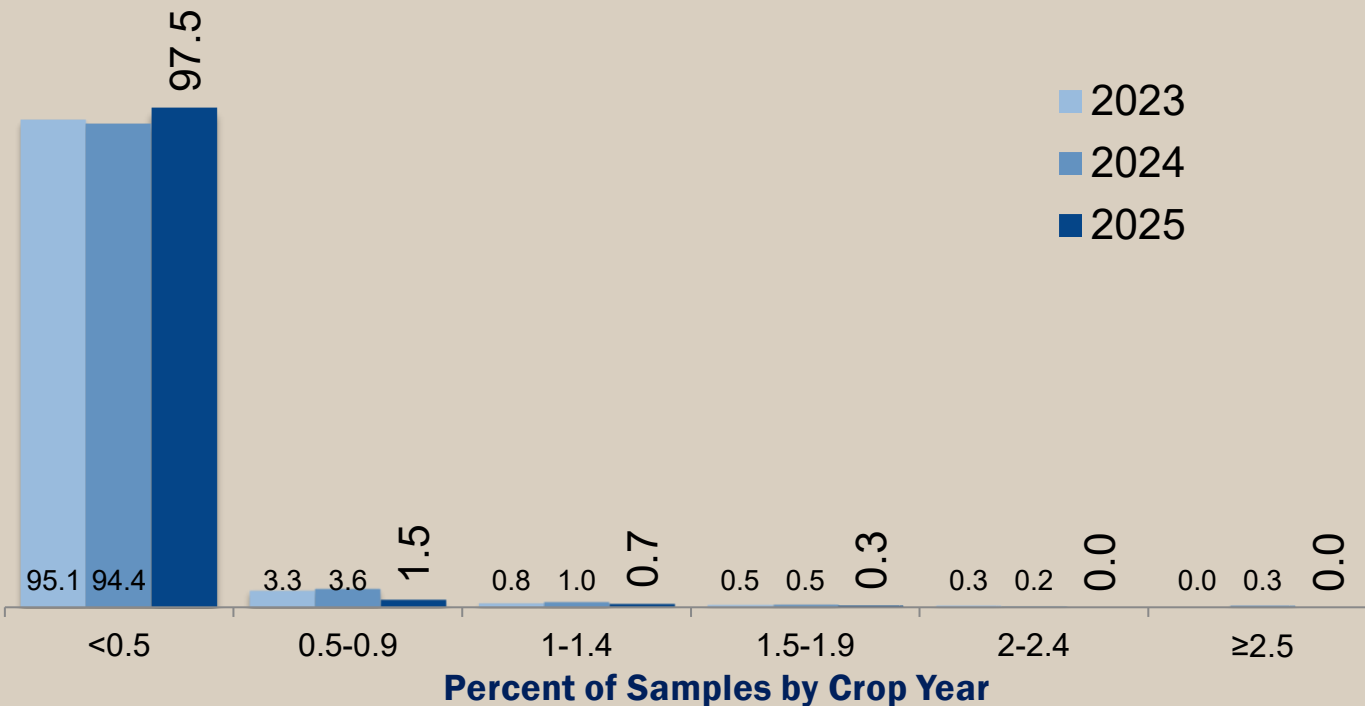
- Average **lower** than the 5YA (0.7%)



Foreign Material (%)

U.S. Aggregate: 0.1%

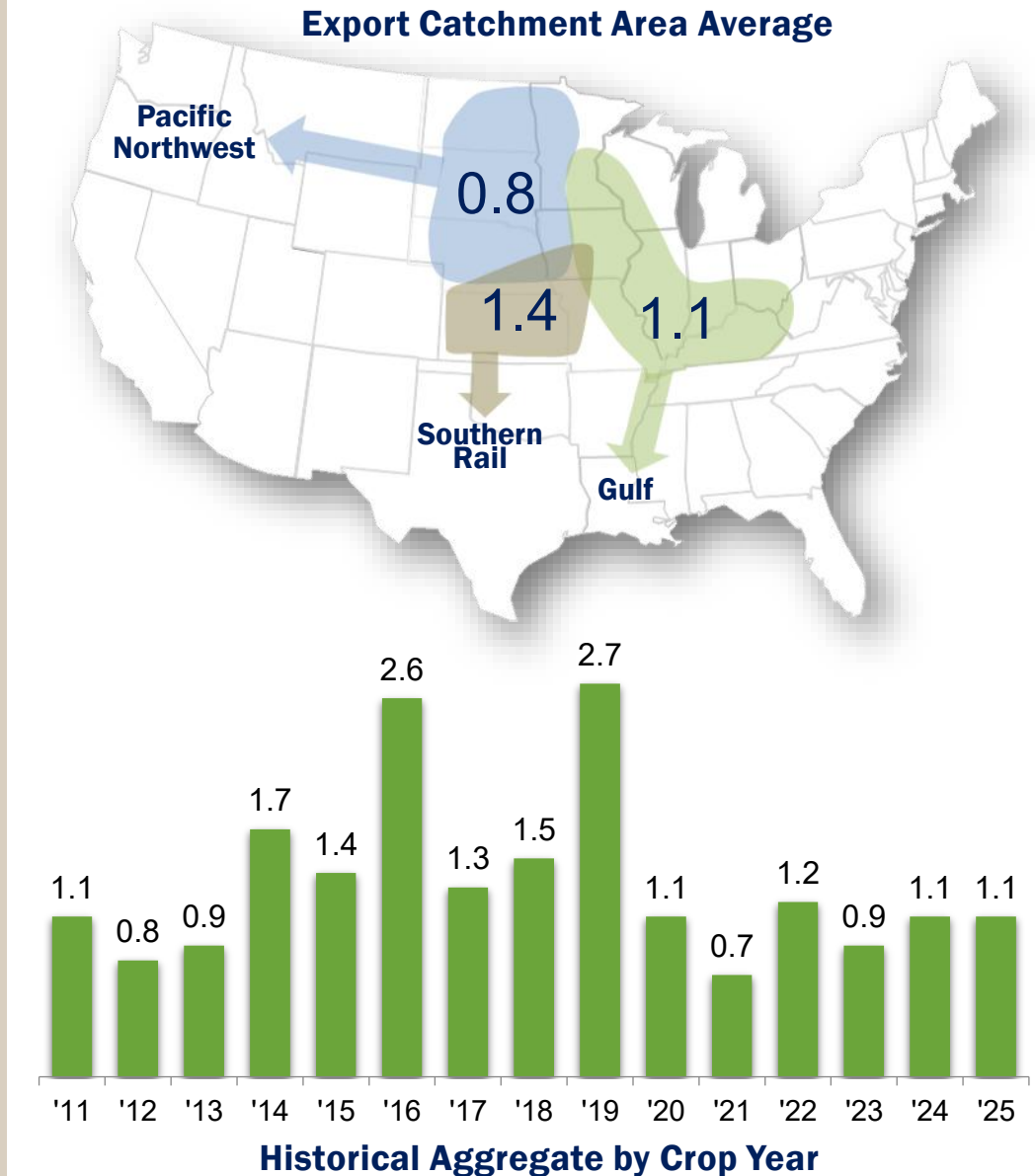
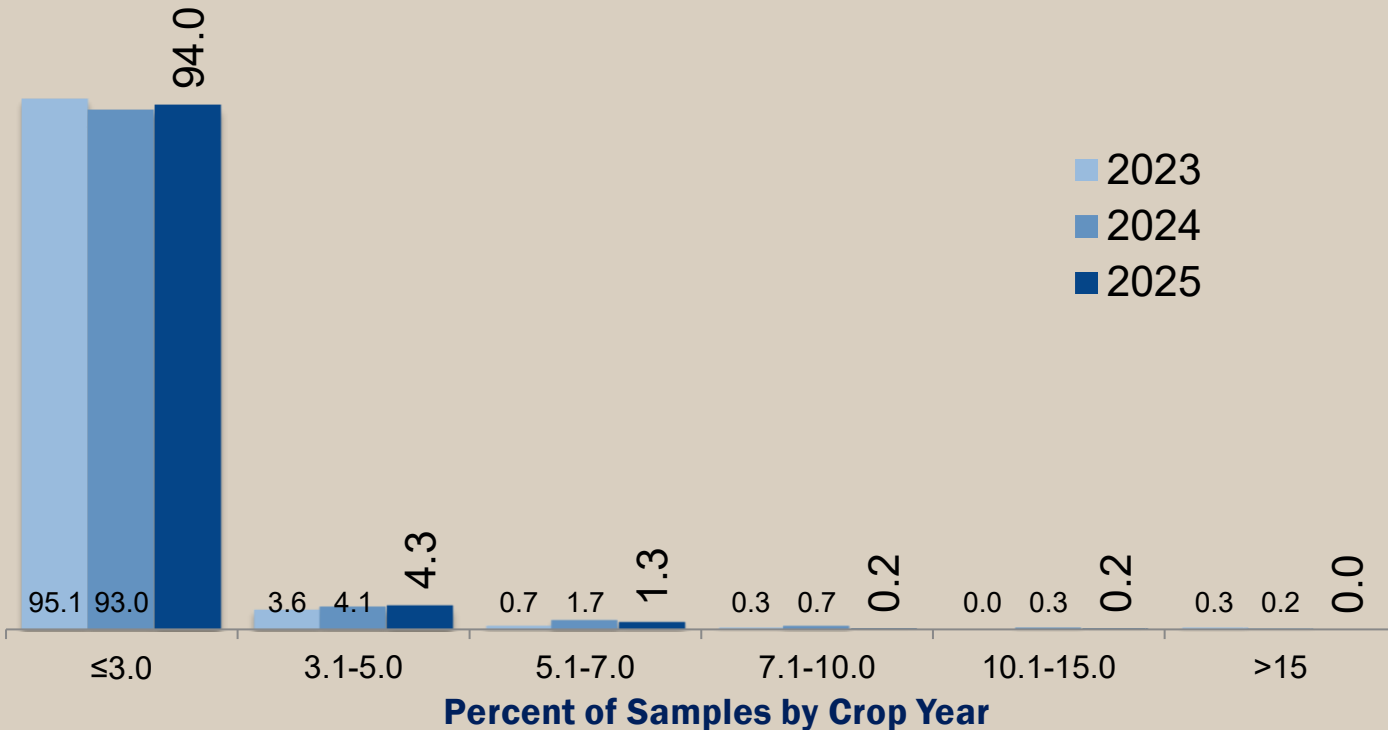
- Average **lower** than the 5YA (0.2%)
- **97.5%** contained less than 0.5% FM



Total Damage and Heat Damage (%)

U.S. Aggregate: 1.1%

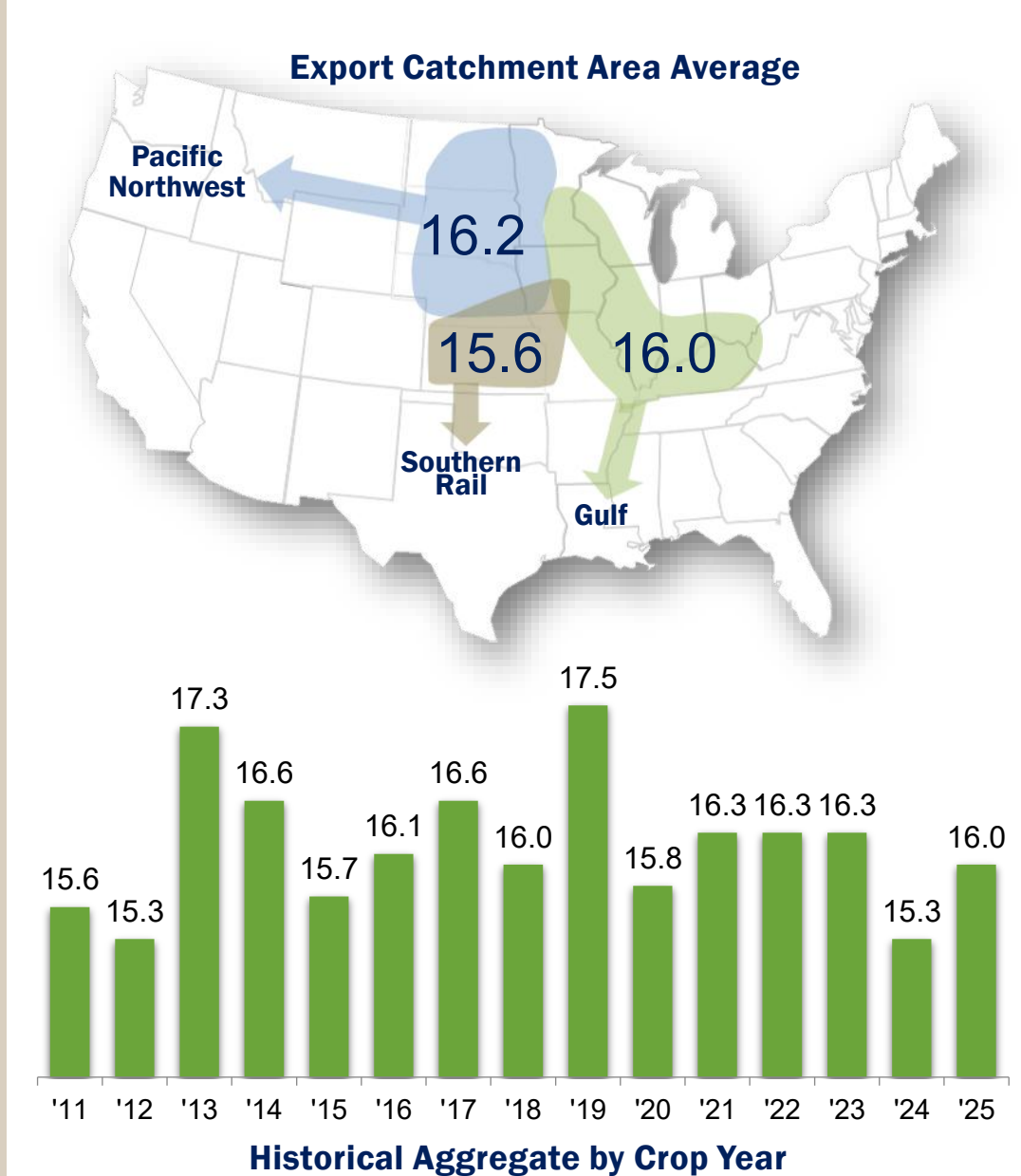
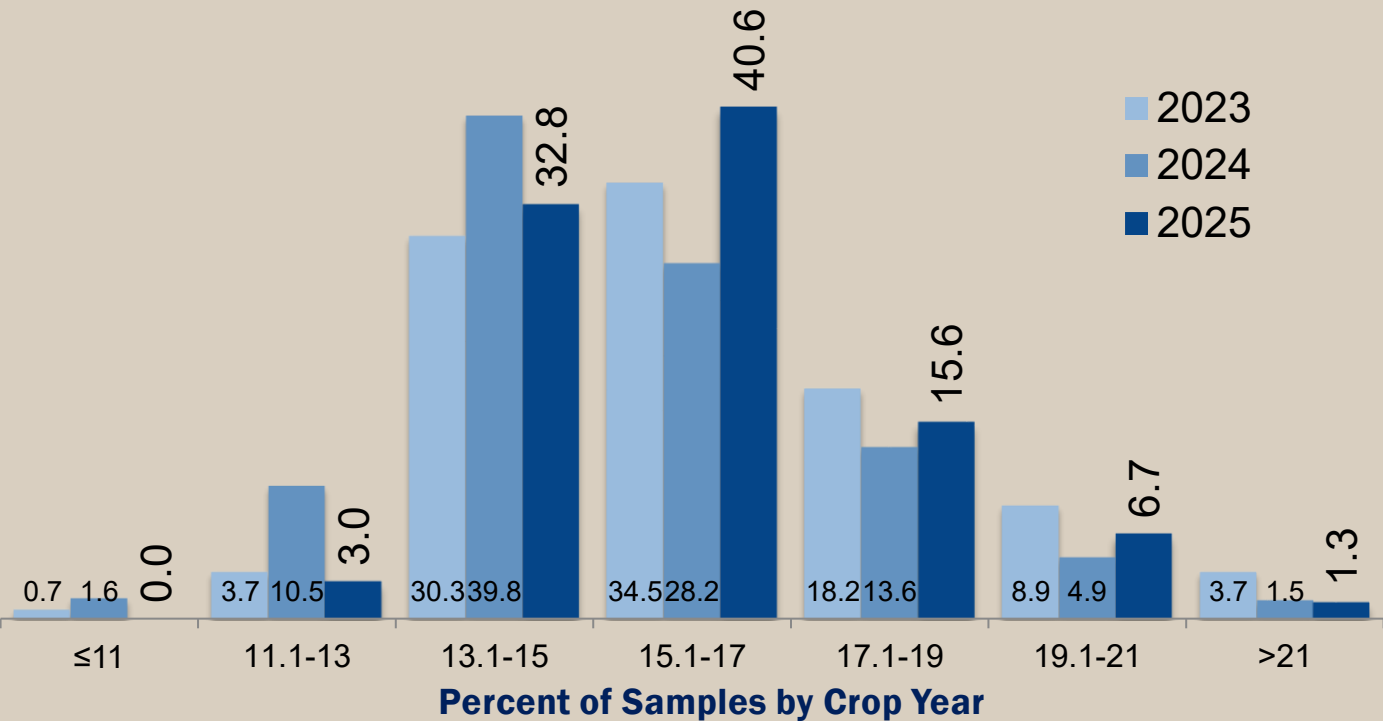
- Average **higher** than the 5YA (1.0%)
- **94.0%** No. 1 grade (93.0% in 2024)
- Average heat damage of **0.0%**



Moisture (%)

U.S. Aggregate: 16.0%

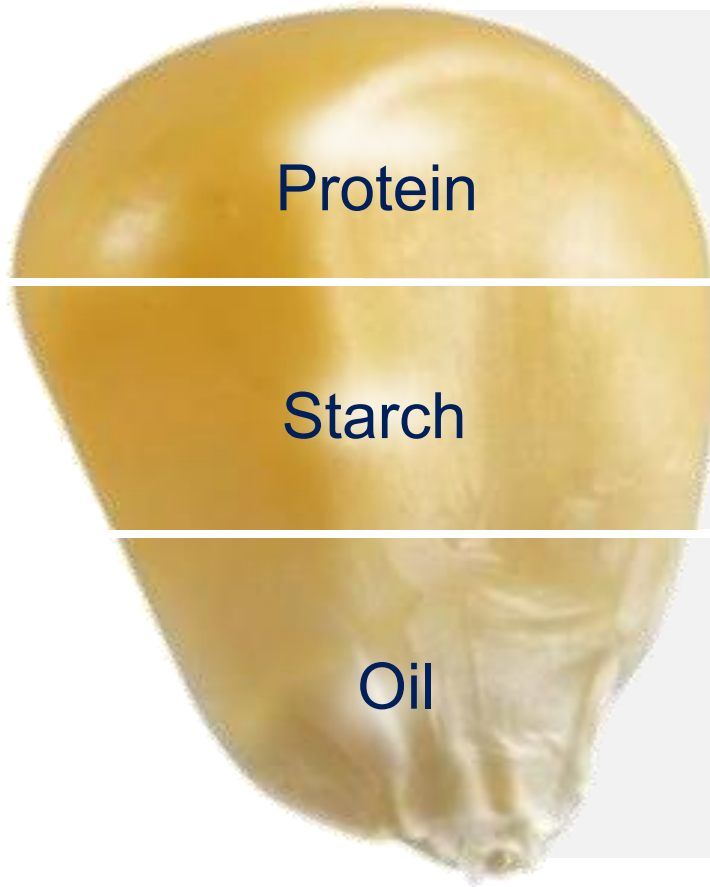
- Average same as the 5YA



Chemical Composition

Protein
Starch
Oil

Chemical Composition

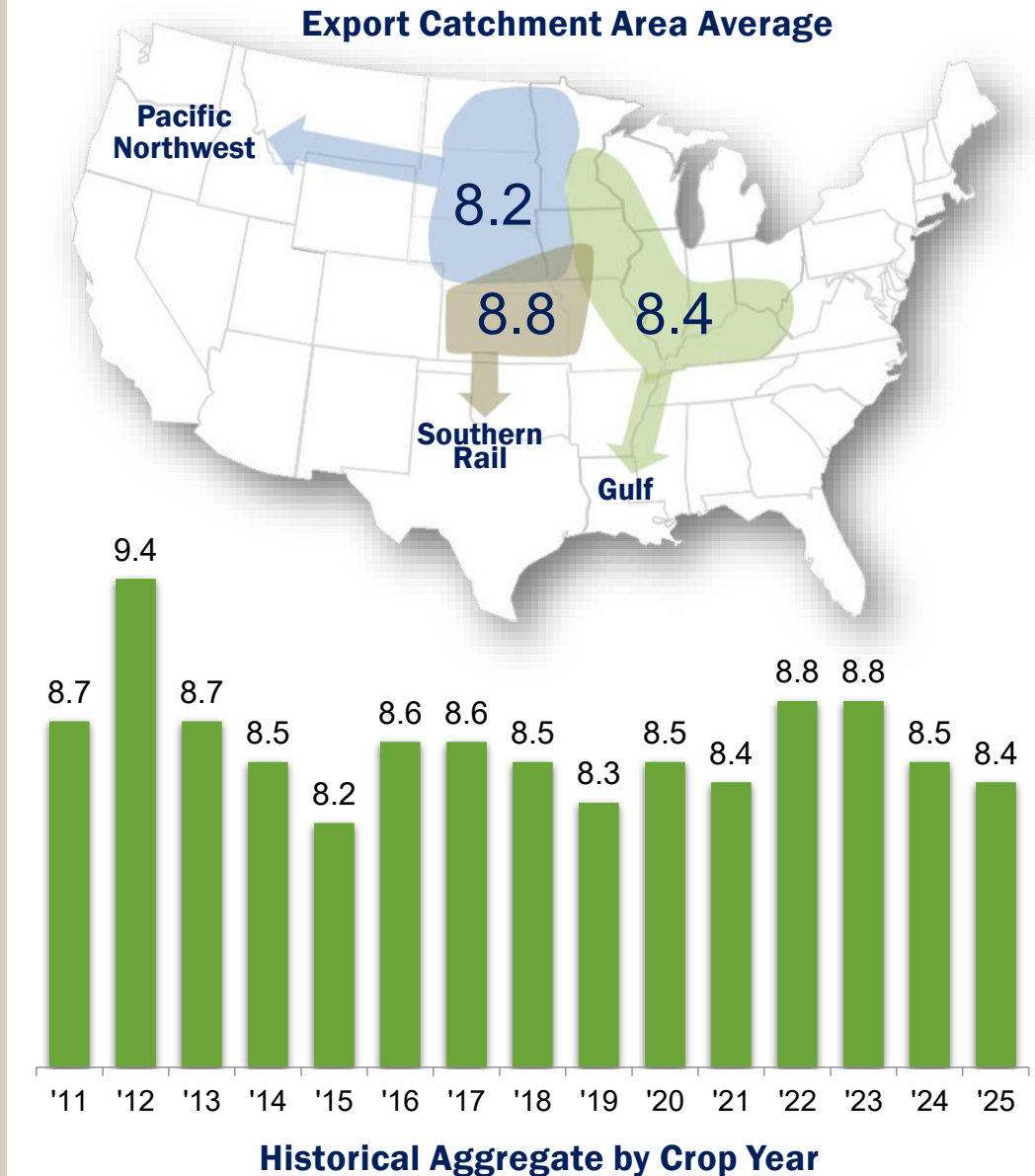
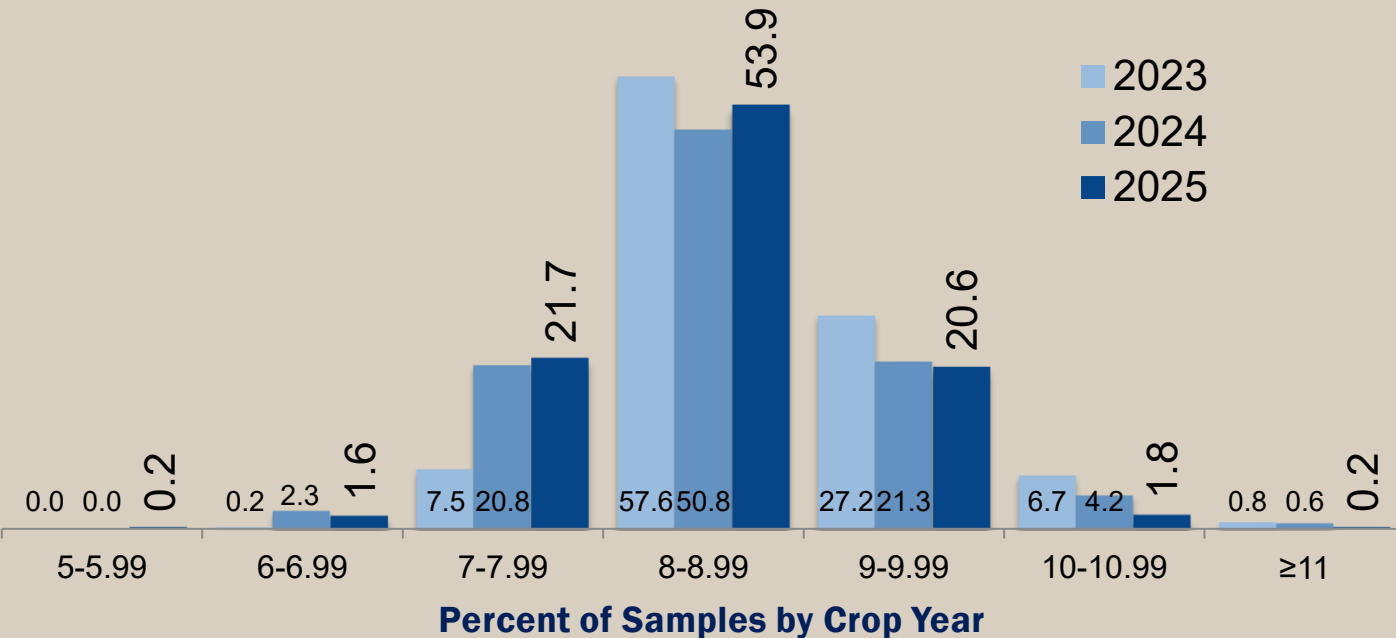


Protein	Important for poultry and livestock feeding Supplies essential amino acids	Influenced by	Genetics, weather, crop yields and available nitrogen during the growing season
Starch	Important for wet millers and dry-grind ethanol manufacturers	Influenced by	Genetics, weather and crop yields
Oil	Important by-product of wet and dry milling Essential feed component		

Protein (Dry Basis %)

U.S. Aggregate: 8.4%

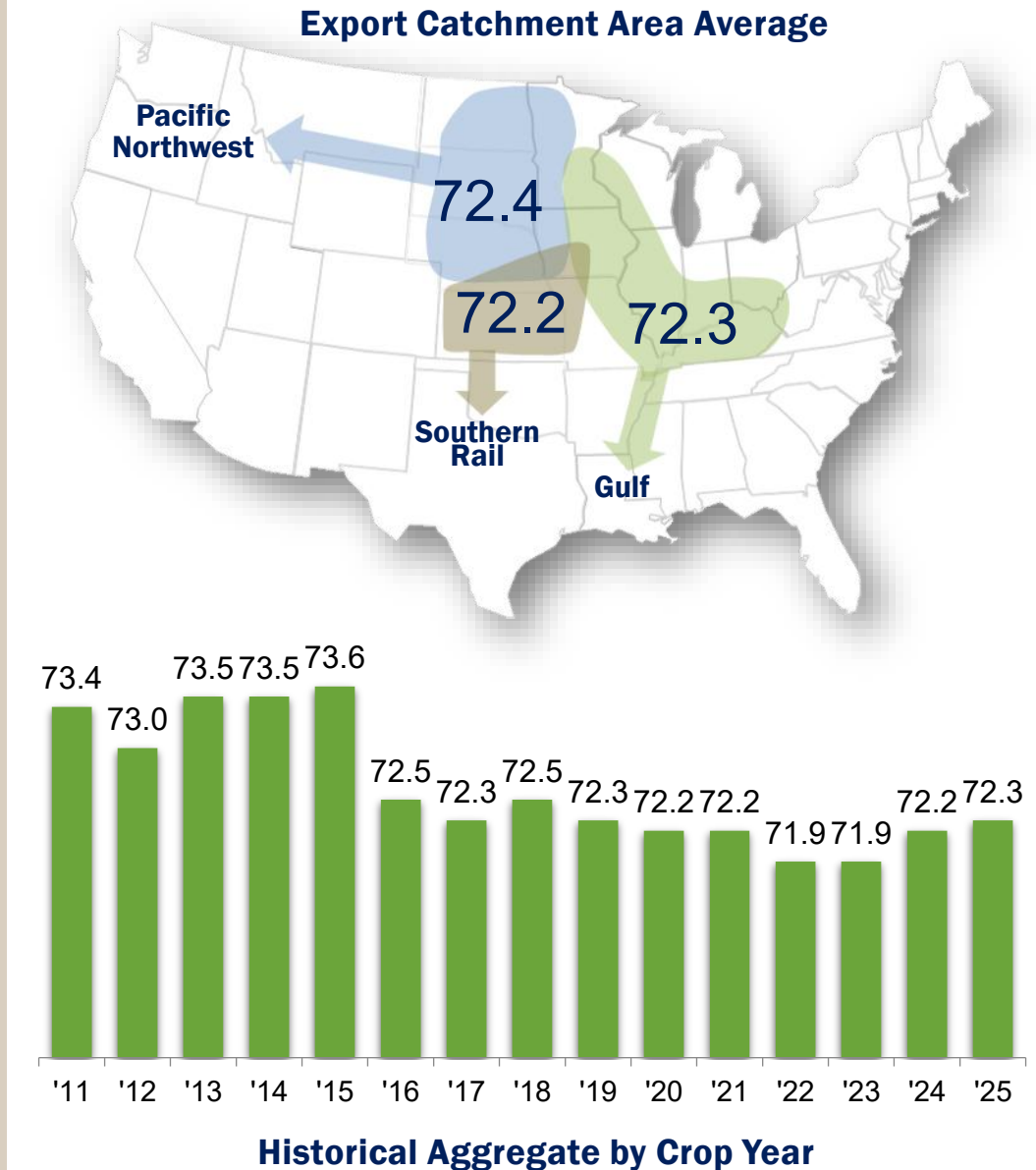
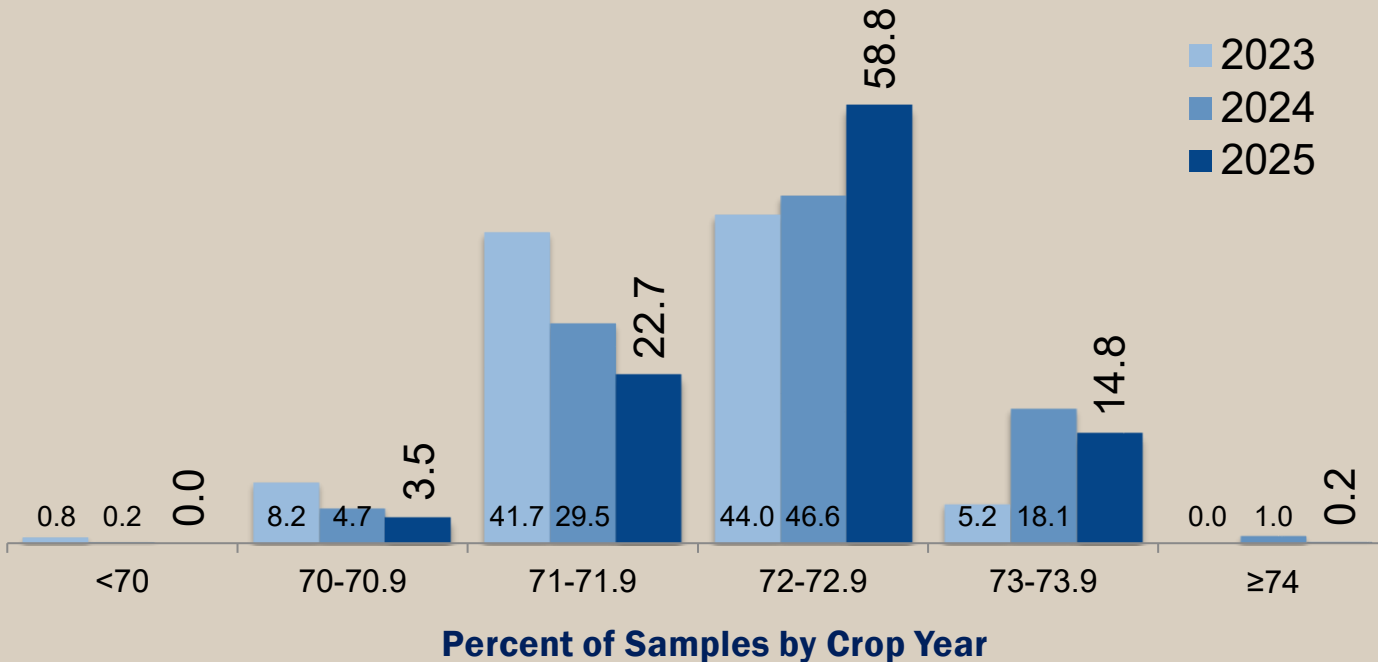
- Average **lower** than the 5YA (8.6%)



Starch (Dry Basis %)

U.S. Aggregate: 72.3%

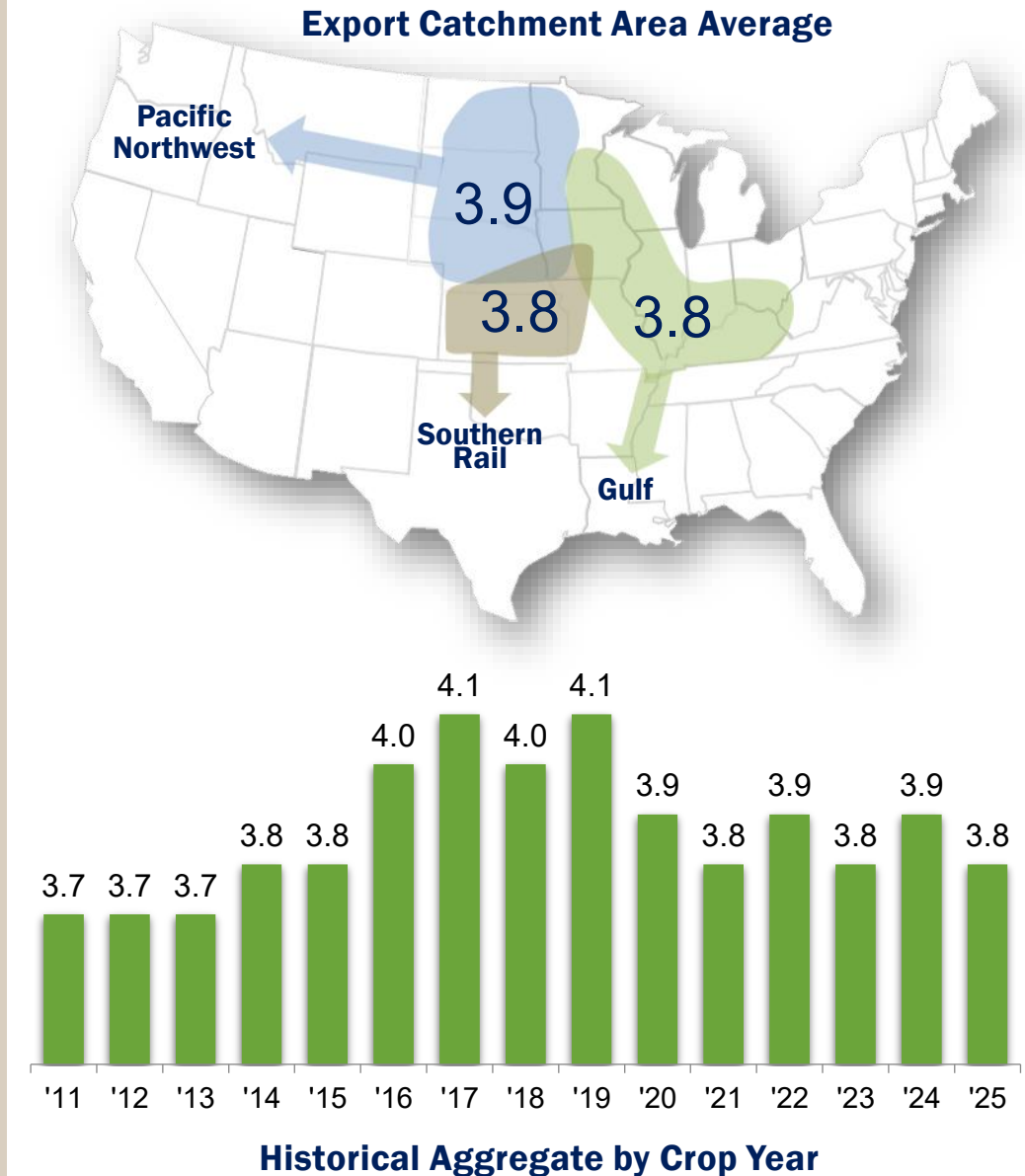
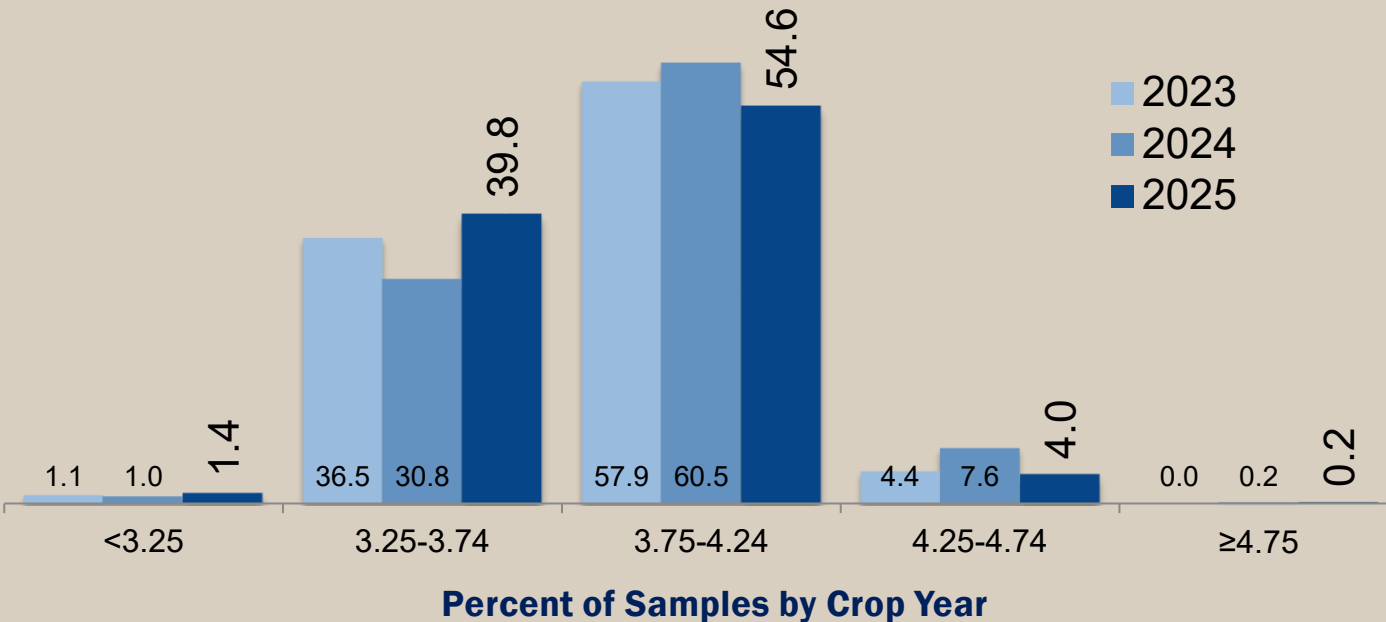
- Average **higher** than the 5YA (72.1%)
- **Gulf** ECA tends to have the highest average starch



Oil (Dry Basis %)

U.S. Aggregate: 3.8%

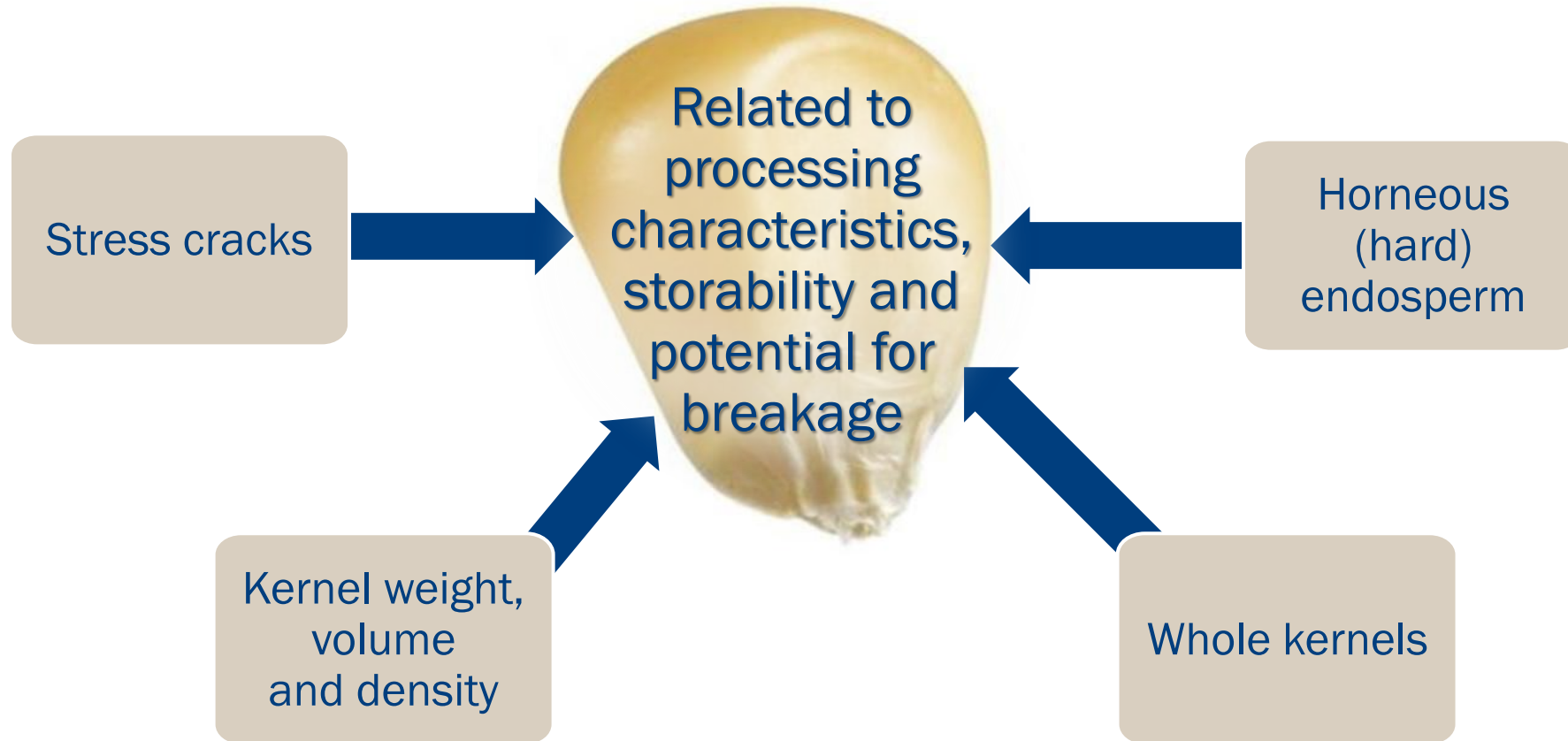
- Average **lower** than the 5YA (3.9%)



Physical Factors

Stress Cracks
100-Kernel Weight
Kernel Volume
True Density
Whole Kernels
Horneous Endosperm

Physical Factors – Overview



Physical Factors

	Number of Samples	Average	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Stress Cracks (%)	621	9.5	8.3	0	96
100-Kernel Weight (g)	182	34.04	3.54	25.50	41.90
Kernel Volume (cm ³)	182	0.27	0.03	0.21	0.33
True Density (g/cm ³)	182	1.258	0.025	1.194	1.323
Whole Kernels (%)	621	90.6	4.9	66.4	99.4
Horneous Endosperm (%)	182	83	3	74	92

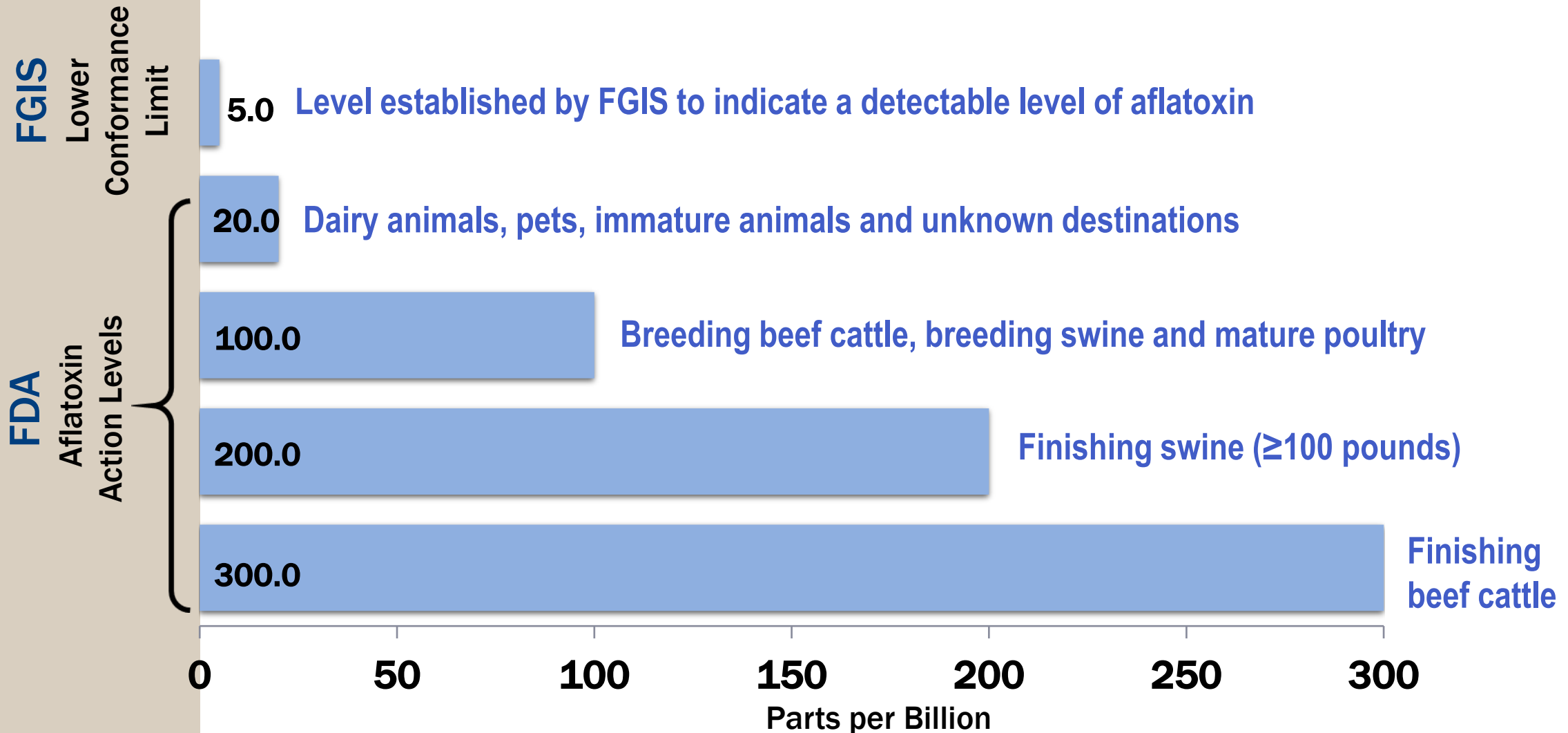
Mycotoxins

Aflatoxin,
Deoxynivalenol (DON or Vomitoxin)
Fumonisin
Ochratoxin A
Trichothecenes (T-2)
and Zearalenone

Mycotoxin Testing

- *Corn Harvest Quality Report* shows **ONLY** the frequency of detection in harvest samples
- *Corn Harvest Quality Report* does **NOT** predict the presence or levels of mycotoxins in U.S. corn exports
- **Targeting a minimum of 25%** of collected samples, the same as in 2023 and 2022 (Target of 180 samples)
- The *Corn Harvest Quality Report* contains the results from 180 samples.

Key Aflatoxin Levels (ppb)

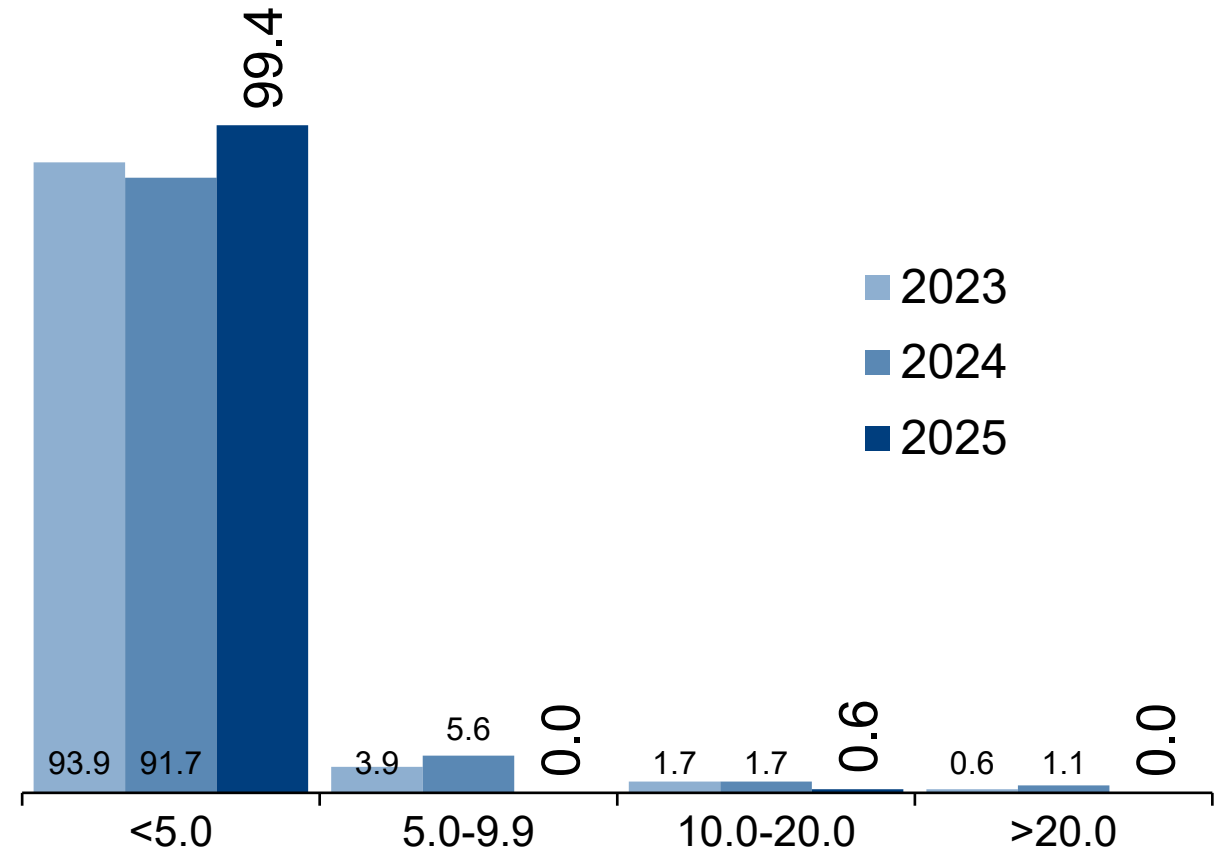


Aflatoxin Testing Results (ppb)

Percentage of samples with no detectable levels of aflatoxin in 2025 was **99.4%**

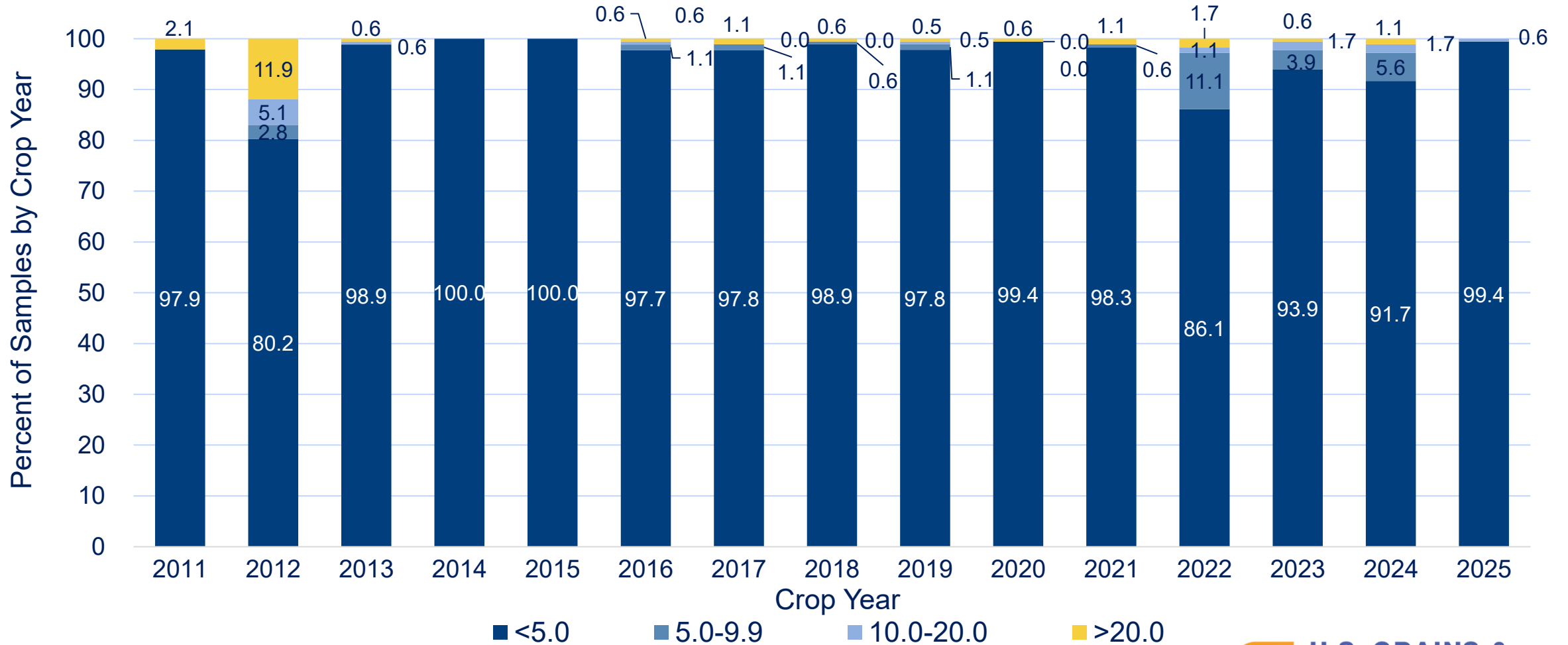
100.0% of samples tested below the FDA action level of 20.0 ppb

Growing season conditions not conducive to aflatoxin development in most areas

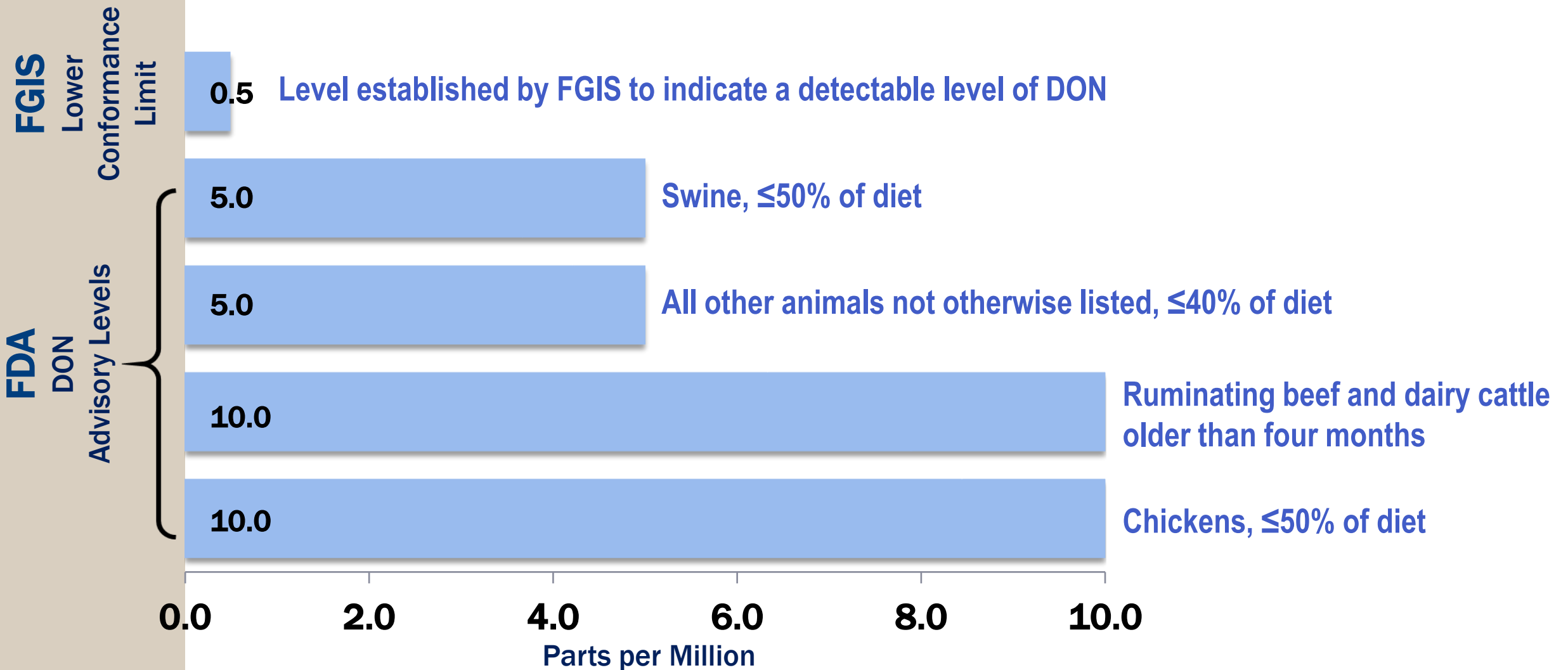


Percent of Samples by Crop Year

Aflatoxin Testing Results (ppb)



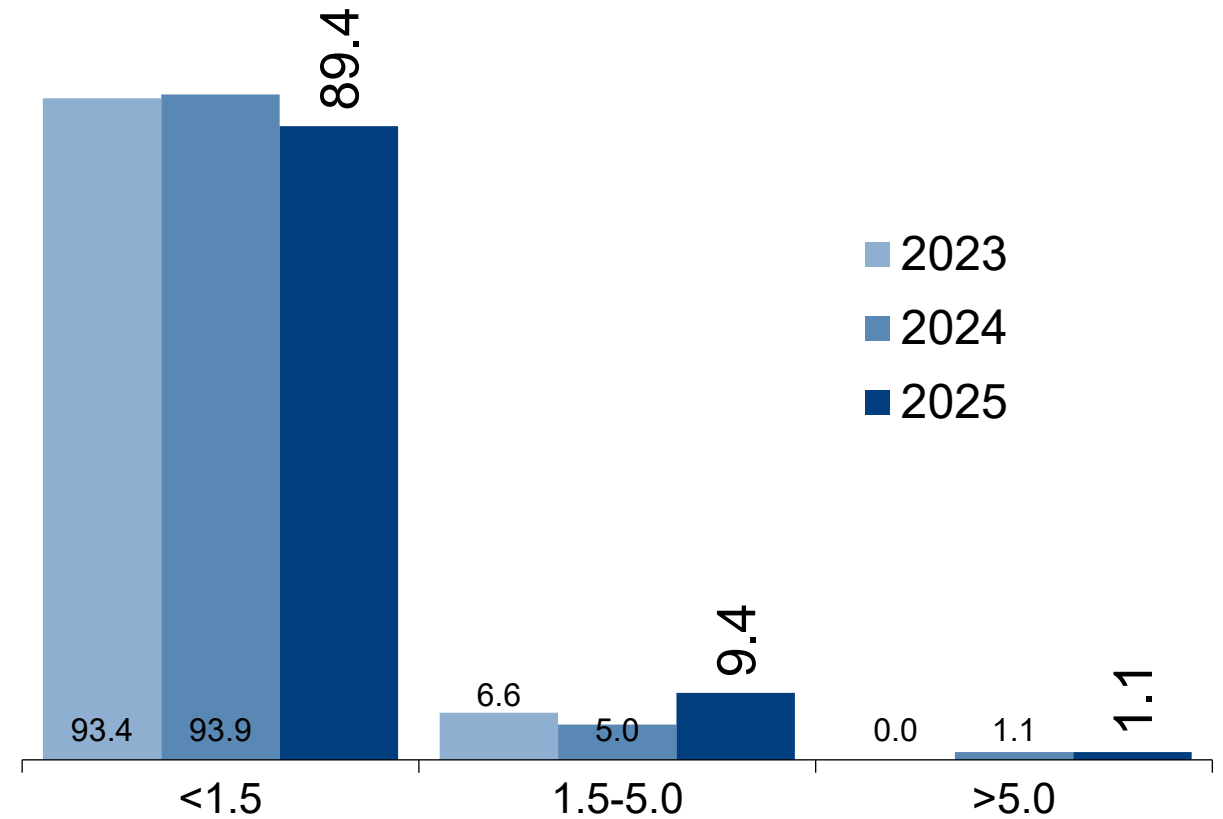
Key DON Levels (ppm)



DON (Vomitoxin) Testing Results (ppm)

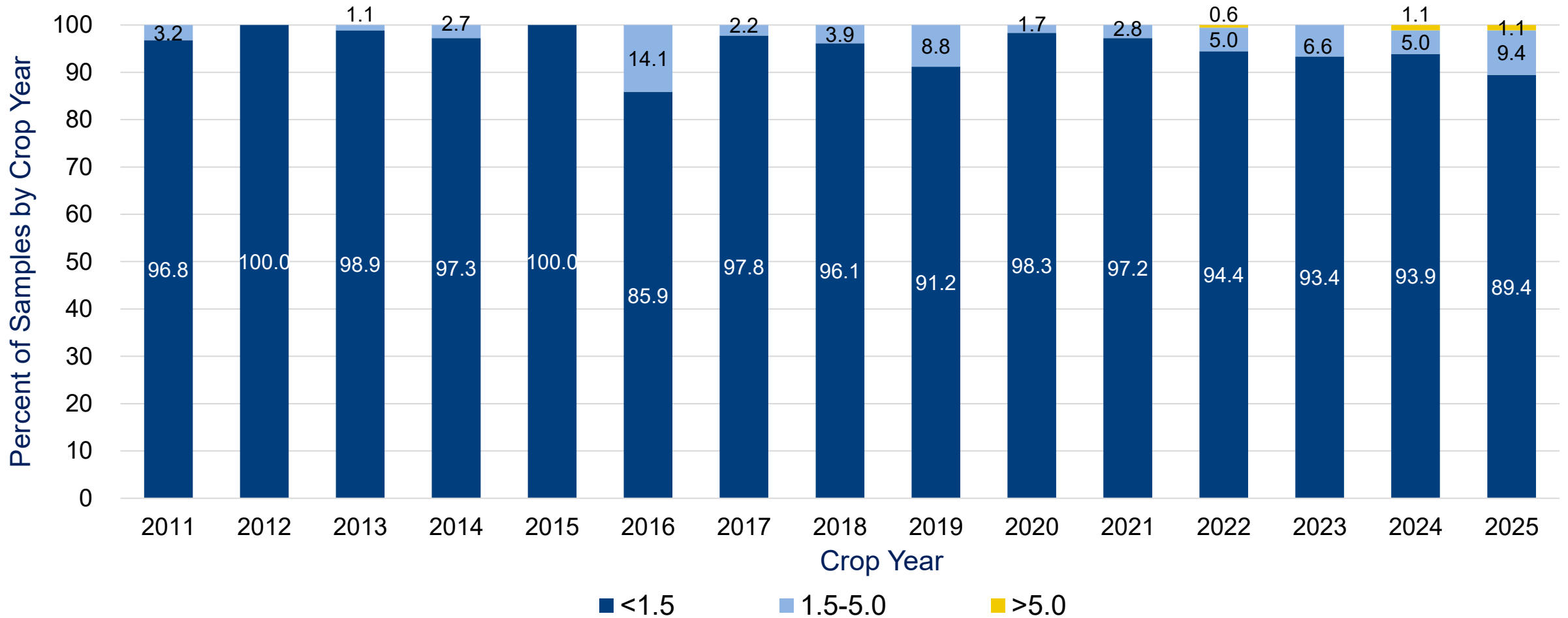
Percentage of samples below 1.5 ppm (89.4%) **lower** than 2024 and 2023

98.8% of samples did not exceed the FDA advisory level for DON of 5.0 ppm

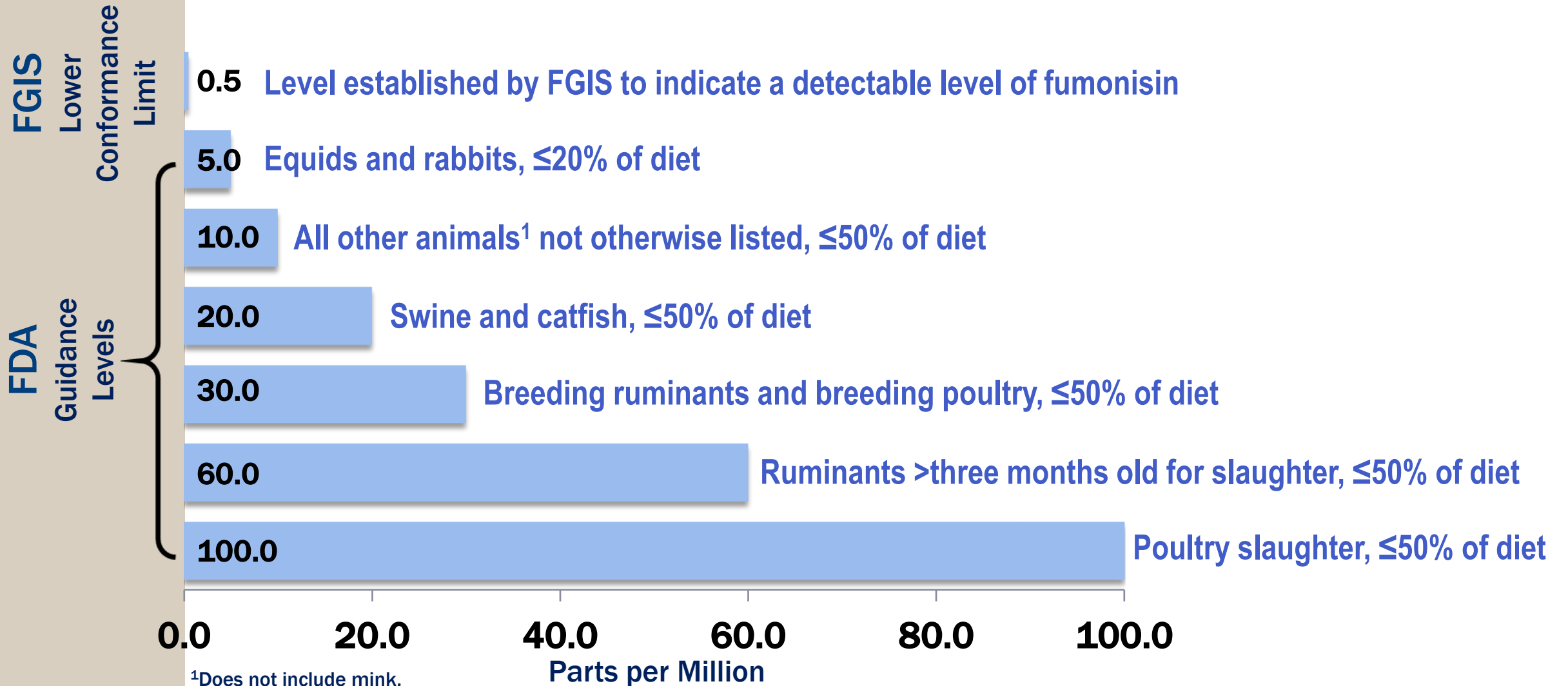


Percent of Samples by Crop Year

DON (Vomitoxin) Testing Results (ppm)

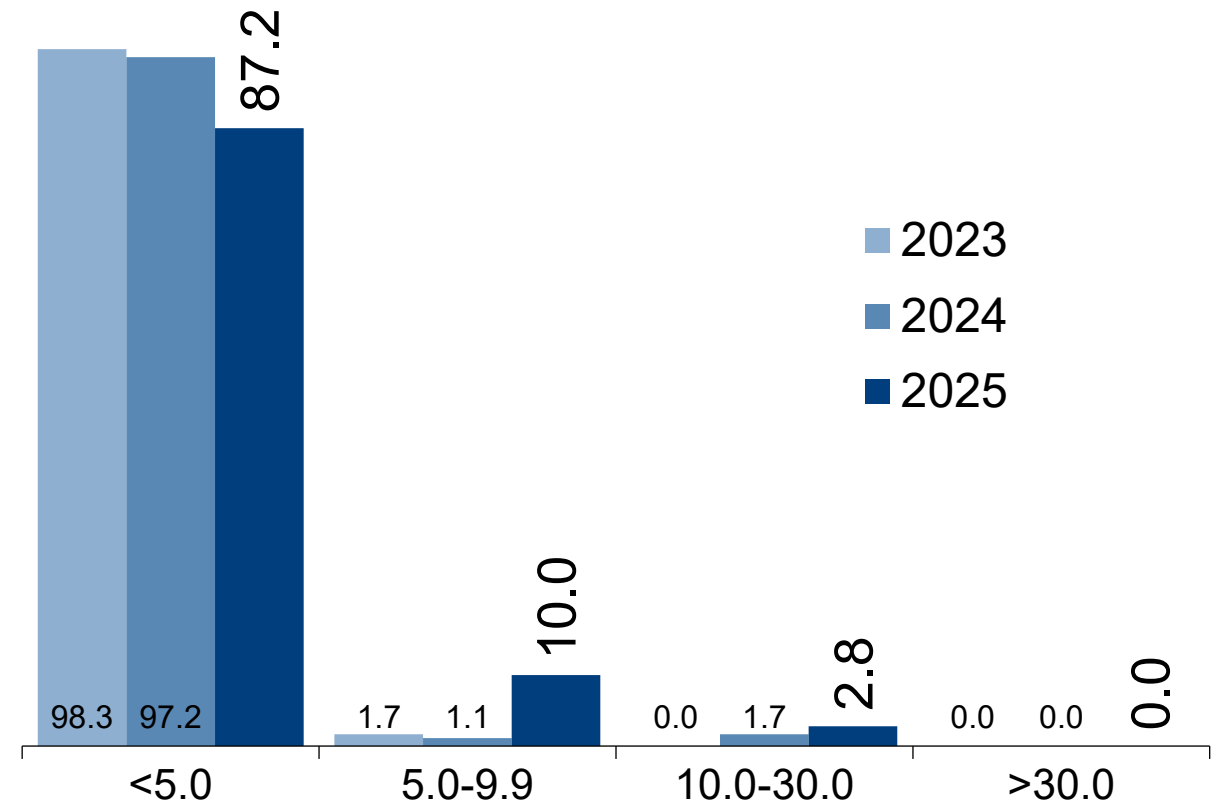


Key Fumonisin Levels (ppm)



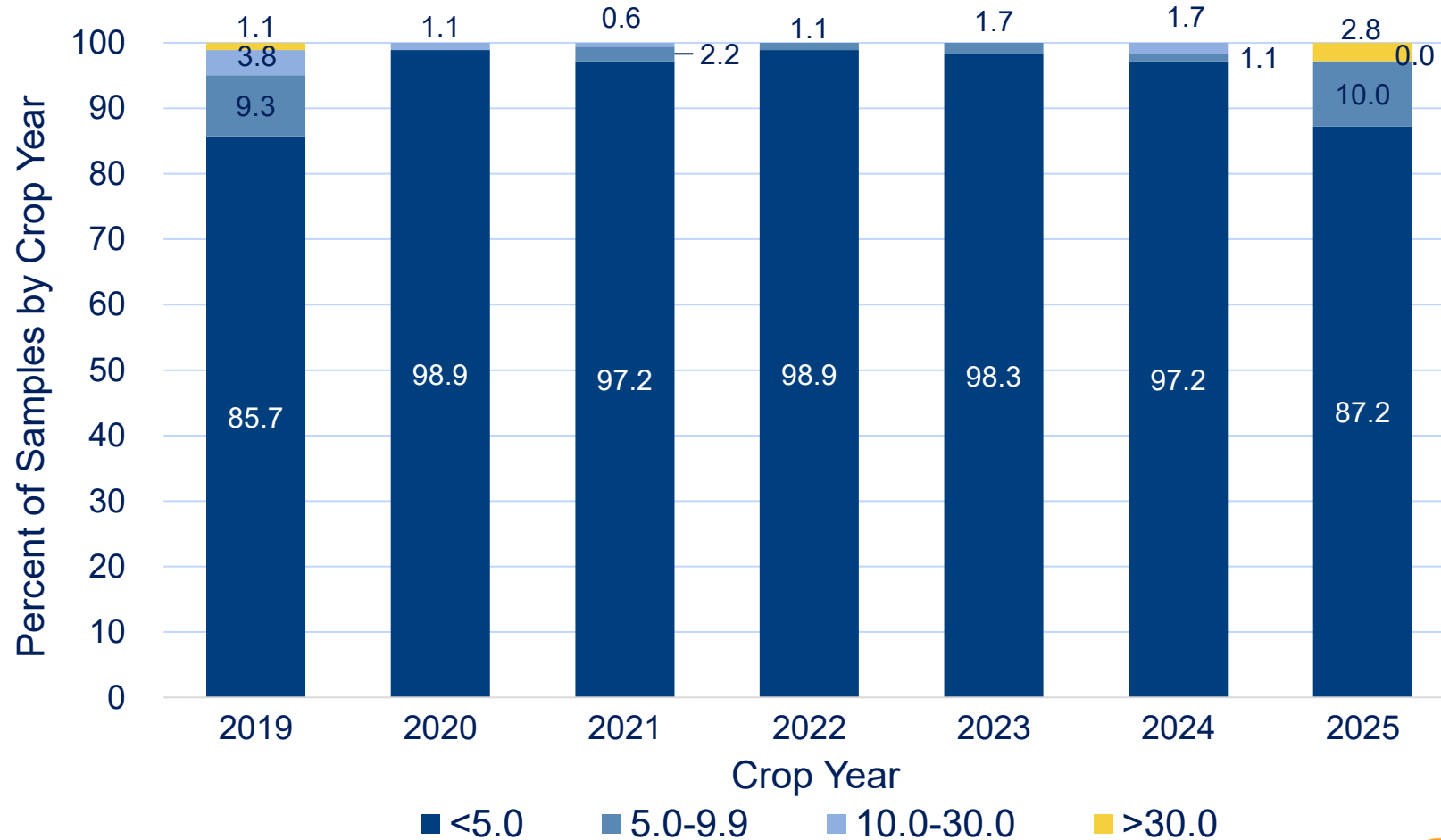
Fumonisin Testing Results (ppm)

Percentage of samples below 5.0 ppm (87.2%) **lower** than 2024 and 2023



Percent of Samples by Crop Year

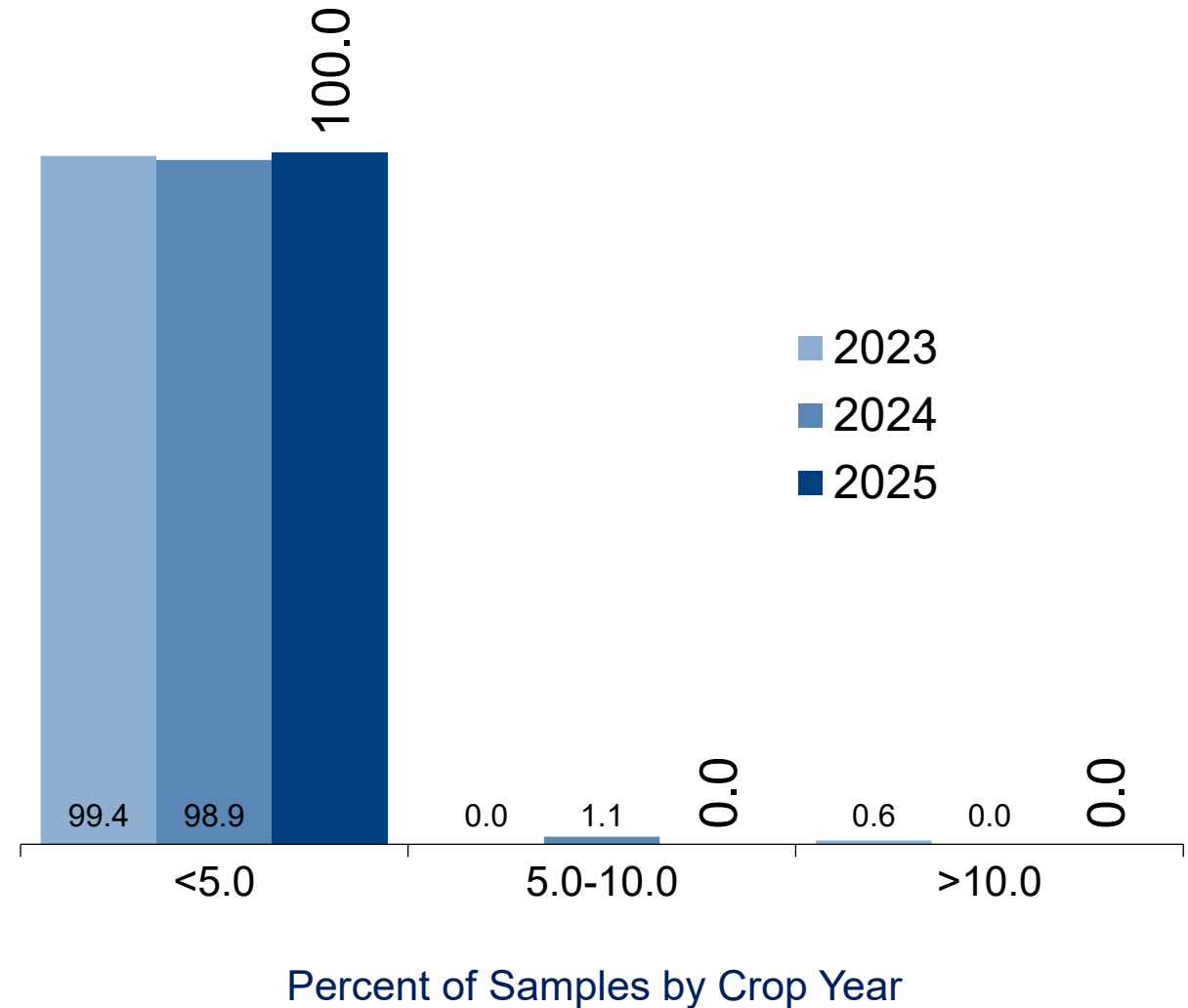
Fumonisin Testing Results (ppm)



Ochratoxin A Testing Results (ppb)

Sixth year of Ochratoxin A testing

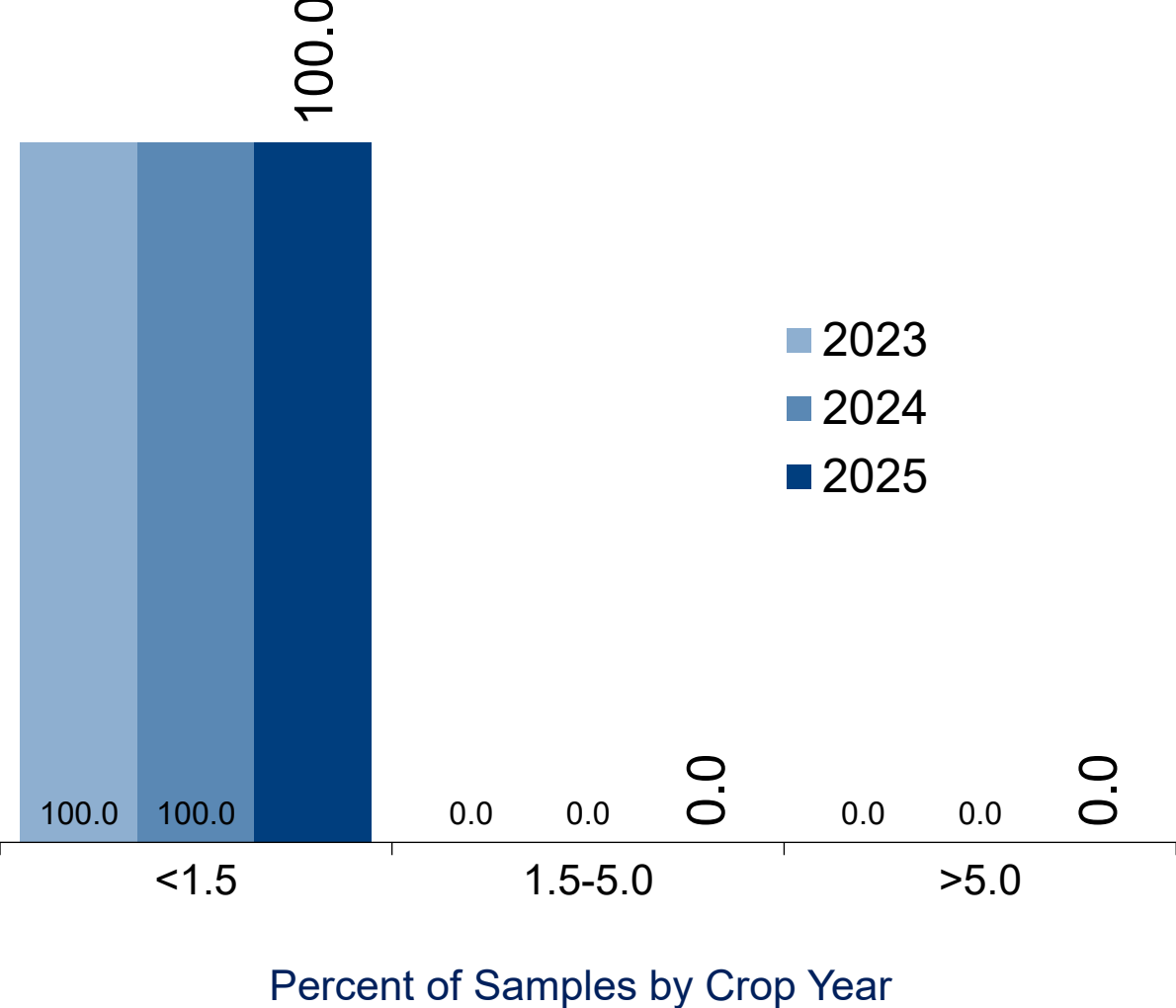
100.0% of samples below 5.0 ppb (European Commission's established maximum level for Ochratoxin A in raw cereals.)



T-2 Testing Results (ppm)

Sixth year of T-2 testing

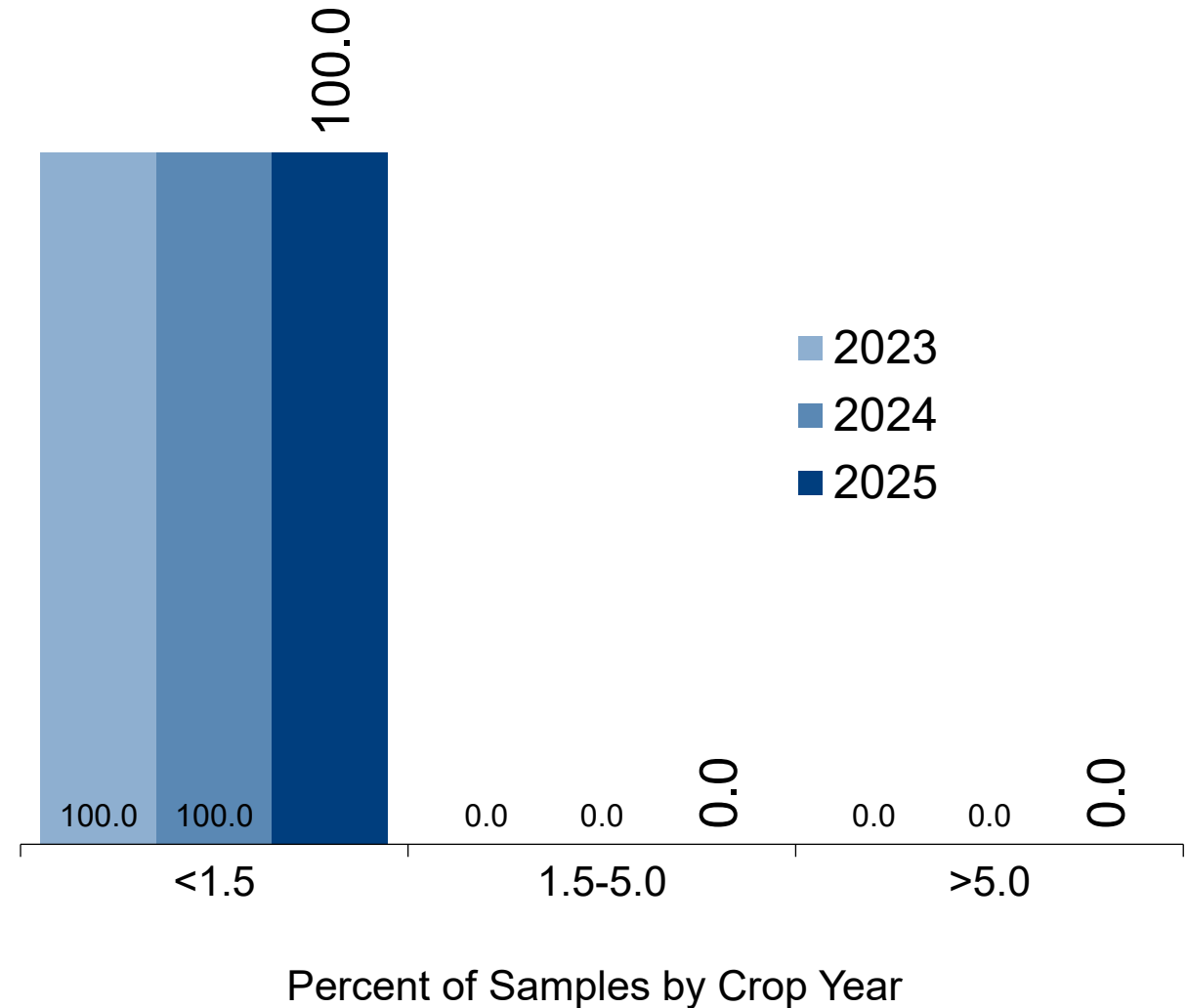
100% of samples below 1.5 ppm



Zearalenone Testing Results (ppm)

Sixth year of
Zearalenone testing

100% of samples
below 1.5 ppm



Other Components of the Report



Quality Test Results

Crop and Weather Conditions

U.S. Corn Production, Usage and Outlook

Survey and Statistical Analysis Methods

Testing Analysis Methods

Historical Perspective

Harvest Report: Conclusions

- 2025 harvest samples were, on average, good with **87.1%** of samples grading No. 1 or better, compared to **89.2%** in 2024 and **88.0%** in 2023.
- Average **BCFM** was the lowest value observed in the report's 15-year history, reflecting growing and harvesting conditions.
- **Test Weight, Moisture and Stress Cracks** were similar to or the same as the 5YA.
- **100-Kernel Weight** and **Kernel Volume** were both lower than the 5YA.
- The growing season was generally not conducive to **Aflatoxin** development, but some portions of the crop were susceptible to **DON** and **Fumonisin** development.

Building a Tradition

Thank You!



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Global Issues Affecting Grain Trade

Cary B. Sifferath



**U.S. GRAINS &
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Latest Global Issues Affecting Grain Trade

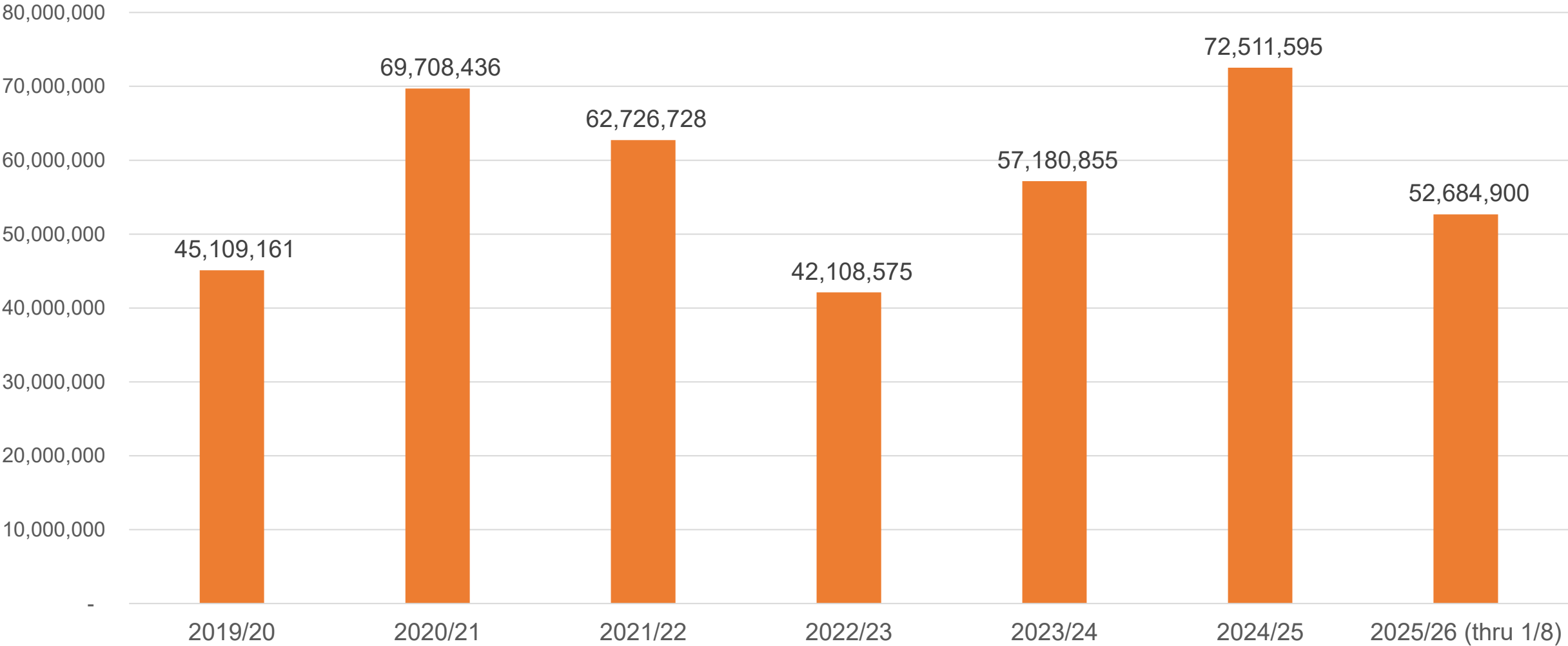
- U.S. Record Corn Supplies & Record Corn Exports
- President Trump's Trade Agenda
- Black Sea & Russia/Ukraine War
- Logistical Issues Are Limited



U.S. Corn Yields, Acres & Production

	Yield bu/acre (MT/hector)	Harvested Area in Million Acres (Million Hectors)	Production bbu (MMT)
January WASDE	186.5 (11.70 MT/hec)	91.258 (36.947)	17.021 (432.3 MMT)
Average Trade Estimate	184.0 (11.54 MT/hec)	89.974 (36.427)	16.552 (420.4 MMT)
December WASDE	186.0 (11.67 MT/hec)	90.047 (36.456)	16.752 (425.8 MMT)
2024/25	179.3 (11.25 MT/hec)	83.046 (33.622)	14.867 (377.6 MMT)

U.S. Corn Export Marketing Year Totals



President Trump's Trade Policy Agenda



- International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA, enacted in 1977)
 - Reciprocal Tariff Rates
 - U.S. Supreme Court Ruling
- Trade Framework Deals Announced
- Trump & Xi Handshake in Busan
- USMCA Review
- Other Noise
 - Venezuela
 - Iran

Black Sea Grain Logistic Issues



- UN backed grain corridor closed in July of 2023
- Attacks on navel vessels in the Black Sea have increased
- Some commercial vessels have been caught up in the attacks

Ukraine's Corn Production & Exports

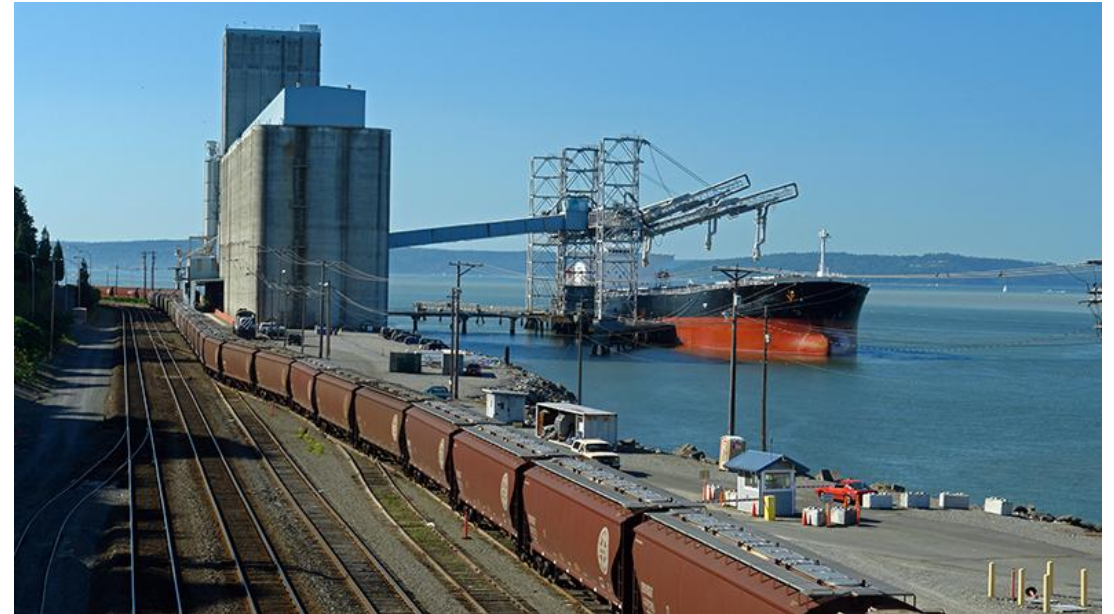
USDA Data in MMT

	Corn Production	Corn Exports
2018/19	35.81	30.32
2019/20	35.89	28.93
2020/21	30.30	23.86
2021/22	42.13	26.98
2022/23	27.00	27.12
2023/24	32.50	29.49
2024/25	26.80	20.02
2025/26 Est	29.00	23.00

*February 24,
2022 is when
Russia's
invasion of
Ukraine started*

Logistical Issues for Grain Exports

- No Panama Canal issues
- Still some attacks on vessels in the Red Sea at the Bab al-Mandeb Strait
- Mississippi/Illinois/Ohio River system water levels
- Corn vs. Soybean shipments out of the PNW



Questions?



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20 F St. NW, Suite 900 \ Washington, DC 20001
202-789-0789 \ www.grains.org