

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 2/19/2019

**GAIN Report Number:** CH18076

## **China - Peoples Republic of**

**Post:** Beijing

### **MY2018-19 China Corn Crop Quality Fair**

**Report Categories:**

Grain and Feed

**Approved By:**

Michael Ward

**Prepared By:**

Gene Kim

**Report Highlights:**

Overall MY2018/19 corn quality in North East China is rated as better-than-average due to higher-than-average test weights, lower moisture content, and relatively low levels of aflatoxin. FAS-Beijing will discuss the grain and feed supply and demand situation in an upcoming Grain and Feed Update GAIN report.

## Overview

China's corn producers completed the MY2018/19 corn harvest in late October 2018. Challenging conditions throughout growing season delayed the MY2018/19 harvest several weeks and resulted in variable crop quality. Liaoning and Jilin provinces reported fair to good quality corn and parts of Heilongjiang province reported excellent corn quality. See GAIN report CH 18003 for details about MY2017/18 corn crop quality.

Among North East China's three major corn producing provinces, in MY2018/19, Heilongjiang province produced the highest-quality crop ratings. Heilongjiang is the largest corn producing province in China, accounting for nearly 20 percent of national production. Industry stakeholders report that a short growing season in Heilongjiang limits producers to plant varieties of corn planted, which are best suited for industrial processing. These varieties develop denser kernels than other corn varieties produced elsewhere in China, and are more difficult for hogs to digest.

Under normal growing conditions, the Jilin crop is about 12 to 15 percent of China's nation crop, and relatively high quality. In MY2018/19, extremely dry planting conditions in Jilin province, followed by record summer heat, and then torrential rains near harvest time resulted in stunted corn development and caused uneven stands, particularly impacting areas in South Jilin province.

In a normal marketing year, Jilin province supplies a share of its 30-million-ton corn crop to hog producers in the Yangtze River Basin and the Pearl River Delta regions. Hog producers across China prize feeding their sows and young feeder pigs corn from Jilin province. Industry sources note that the gummy texture of corn varieties grown in Jilin province are more easily digested by young hogs than the denser varieties grown in Heilongjiang province. Additionally, the Jilin corn harvest has relatively lower levels of mycotoxin than corn produced elsewhere.

Liaoning accounts for about 7 percent of China's national production. Liaoning province experienced the same growing conditions as South Jilin province. About one-third of MY2018/19 corn harvested in Liaoning province showed signs of heat-stress or mold damage.

The North China Plain produces about 25 percent of the national crop. In the North China Plain, MY2018/19 corn quality ratings are slightly lower than North East China, because of higher moisture content and scattered reports of mycotoxin. Elsewhere, MY2018/19 corn quality is rated as average. Industry stakeholders report that corn produced in the North China Plain is typically processed to produce corn products, or milled into feed for broilers and layers.

### *Test Weights*

Test weight specifications indicate kernel density and mass. In a normal year, North East China's corn crop typically has an average test weight around 670 to 680 g per dL. Grain traders report that MY2018/19 North East China corn test weights are better than average with samples slightly higher than 700 grams per dL. In Hebei province, in the North China plain, the local grain bureau reported an average test weight of nearly 760 g per dL.

### *Moisture*

Trade stakeholders report that moisture content in MY2018/19 corn in North East China is about 22 to 25 percent, down about 5 percentage points from MY2017/18. Some areas heavily impacted by tropical storms near harvest time have reported MY2018/19 corn with a moisture content as high as 35 percent. In the North China Plain, growers harvest corn when it reaches 20 percent moisture. The national standard for moisture content is 14 percent. Therefore, the crop is usually dried twice. First at the farm level, on roads, concrete pads, or in wire cages, and then with coal-fired grain dryers at a buying point or by the commercial end user.

### *Mold Damage*

Industry stakeholders indicate that in MY2018/19 favorable weather has aided grain drying across China. Although tropical storms and inundating rains near harvest time caused challenges for producers in the North China Plain, the overall prevalence of mold and aflatoxin is lower than average.