

Title An alternative approach to assessing pest problems in stored grain.
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Abstract

Conventional surveys of pest problems in stored grain can be expensive and time consuming. As an alternative, data were collected using the intake inspection records from five intervention grain stores and two maltings. The results were based on samples collected from incoming loads and other information that was gathered at the same time. Assessments based on about 200 000 tonnes of barley sold into intervention during a single storage season showed that less than 2.5% of the grain was rejected because of infestation. Almost half the grain delivered had received some form of chemical treatment before despatch to the store. Data on delivery of grain to two maltings were monitored over a 5-year period and showed that, although just below 3% of loads were rejected, less than 1% of rejections were caused by infestation. The implications of this approach to collecting information and the significance of the results are discussed.