Non-Tariff Measures - Grain

[Images appears of a split screen showing Fiona Simson on the left of the screen talking to the camera and a wheat field on the right of the screen and text appears: Fiona Simson, President, National Farmers’ Federation]

Fiona Simson: The grains that are produced on Australian farms and delivered to markets around the world make up a major part of our agricultural exports.

[Image changes to show Fiona Simson on the right of the screen talking while a video of grain moving through a process and over a conveyer belt and then into bags of wheat plays on the left]

It is expected that over 15 million tonnes of Australian wheat will be exported by 2019 worth over $5 billion in value.

[Image changes to show Fiona talking on the left of the screen while images move through of a male testing the wheat, Will inspecting the wheat, and trucks moving around the silos]

With over 60% of Australian grain exported it’s vital that producers meet the non-tariff measures of importing countries.

[Image changes to show Fiona talking on the right and images move through of employees testing the wheat, and then Duncan operating some machinery on the right]

However, where these requirements are overly costly, or form a barrier to trade, we’re working with the Australian Government to remove or reduce their impact.

[Image changes to show Fiona on the left talking to the camera and images move through of wheat storage areas, silos, trucks carrying grain, and grain being poured on the right of the screen]

Together the Government and industry are working to ensure that non-tariff measures for Australian exports are fair and reasonable so we can continue to deliver our highly valued grains to markets around the world.

[Images move through of a blue and cloudy sky, a kelpie dog running across a farmyard and a wheat crop waving in the wind]

Narrator: Australia is known for producing some of the highest quality wheat in the world.

[Camera zooms in on the crop and then the screen splits to show an aerial view and a facing view of the wheat crops and then the screen resumes into one image of the sun setting over a wheat crop]

Like all exporting goods, grains such as wheat have a number of different non-tariff measures or NTMs which must be met before they can be exported.

[Images move through of a grain processing plant and the screen splits to show silos on the left of the plant and then the screen resumes into one image to show sample wheat being placed on shelves]

NTMs are used by countries including Australia for a range of legitimate reasons including protecting bio-security and consumer safety.

[Images move through of Duncan working on his header and then grain being assessed in the processing plant and text appears: MRLs are a type of government NTM]

Australian farmers meet many NTMs every day by ensuring their crops meet maximum residue limits or MRLs for the fertilizers and pesticides they use.

[Camera zooms in on a male operating the test machinery and then images move through of a train moving through a large silo area, and then the grain pouring through on a conveyer belt]

For example, responsible use of these products provides confidence to importing countries that Australian grains meet their standards and supports continued export market access.

[Images move through of a male employee pouring wheat through his hands, wheat moving along a conveyer belt, and a large field of wheat waving in the wind and text appears: Moisture content is a commercial requirement]

Wheat farmers also work to meet commercial requirements such as grading for quality and moisture content.

[Images move through on a split screen of a view looking down on a header, the header in operation, and a wheat field, and then the image changes to a single view of a wheat field]

Australia’s grain farmers understand and respect the role that science-based and transparent NTMs play in our export supply chain.

[Images move through of an aerial view of a wheat field and the camera zooms in on the wheat in the field]

Where NTMs are seen to be a barrier to trade the Government is working with industry to consider how to best address them.

[Image changes to show Duncan walking through a wheat field and then the image changes to show Duncan smiling in front of his header in the wheat field and text appears: Duncan, Wheat Farmer]

Duncan: I’m a fourth generation farmer in Australia. Prior to that they were farming in Scotland.

[Image changes to show Duncan standing in front of his header and talking to the camera]

This year we’ve got just over 700 hectares of wheat in.

[Image changes to show wheat fields]

It’s all precision ag.

[Image changes to show a split screen displaying stalks of wheat, and then the image changes to show Duncan in the cab of his header on the left, and a full view of the header in operation on the right]

We go between last year’s rows of crop, stubble.

[Image changes to show a split screen showing different views of Duncan operating his header and then the image changes to show an aerial view looking down on Duncan operating his header]

We sow the wheat into the ground.

[Image changes to show a split screen showing a side and facing view of Duncan walking through his wheat crop and then picking a head of wheat and rolling it in his hands and text appears: Freedom from weeds, diseases and pests are government NTMs]

After that the crop emerges and then from there it’s just monitoring the crop to see if there’s any weeds or diseases or pests coming in.

[Images move through on a split screen of the header in the wheat crop again, Duncan putting fungicide in his equipment, the processing plant, silos, and trucks transporting the grain]

Once the crop’s matured we come back in with a final fungicide to keep it green and to make sure that there are no disease issues which might cause issues when we’re exporting the grain out of the country.

[Image changes to show the sun shining through a wheat crop and then the camera zooms in on the wheat waving in the wind and then the image changes to show an aerial view of a processing plant]

Australia’s renowned for its low moisture content in its wheat which is really beneficial for the flour mills.

[Image changes to show Will smiling at the camera and text appears: Will, Country Quality Manager]

Will: The grower, he will deliver his grain to one of our receival points.

[Image changes to show Will talking to the camera and then images move through of grain storage areas, wheat being moved through a sampling process and testing process and text appears: Sampling also monitors for pests, a government NTM]

There the grain is representative sampled and then in our sample huts it’s, they’ll do a quality assessment on it which actually grades the grain into various sort of quality profiles.

[Image continues to move through on a split screen of the sampling and testing of the grain and the image shows Will looking through a microscope at grains of wheat]

We do a lot of different sorts of testing here. MRLs is one of those.

[Images continue to move through of employees at work in the testing area and looking at a computer screen]

We facilitate the testing.

[Image changes to show Duncan talking to the camera and then images move through of employees at work in the testing area again and text appears: MRLs are a type of government NTM]

Duncan: That’s a maximum residue limit it can have for it to be exported or used on the domestic market.

[Images move through of Duncan working with his equipment and header and then operating a computer screen in the cab of the header]

They’re all different because different chemicals have different upper limits.

[Images move through of Duncan driving his header and then a wheat field]

It must be under that to be safe for human consumption.

[Images move through of grain moving on a conveyer belt, Will talking to the camera, a side of the jetty wheat storage area, grain moving through a hopper, and a bug in a wheat crop and text appears: Biosecurity requirements are government NTMs]

Will: When we export grain we have to meet phytosanitary certificate requirements which is an importing country requirement so, we don’t deliver insects or defects.

[Images move through of an aerial and close-up view of a wheat crop, a windmill by a wheat crop, and then Will talking to the camera]

Australia’s got a reputation as a clean and green and high-quality grain so we need to do everything we can to make sure that we enhance that reputation.

[Image changes to show Duncan picking a wheat stalk, and then the image changes to show an aerial view of wheat crop]

Duncan: Most of the varieties of wheat or segregations of wheat will end up in Asia.

[Images move through on a split screen showing a transport ship next to a jetty on the left and then a close-up of the transport ship on the right]

So, Indonesia, Vietnam and some will probably even end up in Malaysia.

[Images move through of Duncan walking towards his header and climbing up into it, Duncan in the cab driving the header and then Duncan talking to the camera]

I think Australian farmers strive to be some of the best in the world and I think we are.

[Image changes to show the sun setting behind a wheat crop and then the image changes to show the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources logo appearing above the web address: http://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/non-tariff-measures]

Narrator: To find out more about the Government’s work on NTMs visit the Department’s web page.