

Harvester Sugar Loss Tests in 2018

Last season MAPS did few harvester sugar loss tests. This was due mainly to the poor state of the crop, mill breakdowns/ bin shortages and bad weather. This year, MAPS encourages you to get a harvester test.

Why do a test?

- This year dollars are tight given the average sized crop and low sugar price. It is vital that as little sugar as possible is left in the paddock
- Past results from MAPS sugar loss tests saw a number of machines losing over 1 tonne sugar/ha (\$360/ha at current prices).
- The higher losses were mostly related to higher fan and forward speeds, which in most cases are easily corrected.

What does a test involve?

- The test takes 3-4 hours, and does NOT interfere with the contractor's normal procedure
- The test usually involves laying out six tarps to collect weigh, and mulch the trash from the extractors. The next step uses a blender, 10 tonne press and refractometer to measure the sugar content. The dollar loss/ha is then worked out. More tarps can be put out to test the effect of making changes to machine operation.

How do I book a test?

- Give Dave McCallum a ring on 0427 326 665 or call MAPS on 07 49636830 to book a harvester sugar loss test or for more information.

