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## Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

### **Ministry of Agriculture Announces Results of Testing for GE Wheat**

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals  
Grain and Feed

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**Report Highlights:**

On July 5, 2013, MAFF announced that it had begun testing U.S. Western White wheat for an unapproved genetically engineered (GE) wheat. As the results were negative, Japan began selling its wheat stocks to Japanese industry. The announcement also noted that MAFF tested all library samples covering all classes of U.S. wheat imported between October 2012 and May 2013, and all test results were negative.

## General Information:

On July 5, 2013, MAFF announced that it had begun testing U.S. Western White wheat for an unapproved genetically engineered (GE) wheat. As the results were negative, Japan began selling its wheat stocks to Japanese industry. The announcement also noted that MAFF tested all library samples covering all classes of U.S. wheat imported between October 2012 and May 2013, and all test results were negative.

The press release (in Japanese) can be found at <http://www.maff.go.jp/j/press/seisan/boeki/130705.html>. An unofficial Agricultural Affairs Office translation is provided below.

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July 5, 2013

Press release

### Test Results of Genetically Engineered Wheat to U.S. Wheat

In response to the finding of unapproved genetically engineered (GE) wheat in the US, on July 3, 2013, MAFF started testing the wheat (Western White) which MAFF has been holding from release to the market. The testing method used was developed by MHLW.

All tests thus far are negative.

Because the test results are negative, MAFF will start to sell the wheat.

Further, MAFF intends to resume tenders after we establish the system to test for the presence of unapproved GE wheat.

#### 1. Background

1. On May 29, 2013 (EST), USDA announced the voluntary growth of GE wheat, unapproved by USG and GOJ, in a field of a farmer in Oregon. US-FDA had completed the food and feed safety review of the GE wheat, and there were no findings of the GE wheat in commercial channels.
2. In response to the announcement, on May 30, 2013, MAFF temporarily suspended the sale and tender of food wheat (Western White) and feed wheat (Soft White) grown in the State of Oregon, part of the 3 million metric tons of wheat that Japan imports from the US annually.

#### 2. Measures

1. Recently, MHLW established the testing method for the GE wheat. Accordingly, MAFF started to test for the presence of the GE wheat in question, and requested the testing be conducted by the National Food Research Institute.
2. From the 170 thousand metric tons (MT) of US wheat (Western White) which MAFF imported before suspension, we tested 10,000 MT. All test results were negative.
3. We will continue to test the remaining 160,000 MT and restart the sales as each result is negative.
4. Also, we will resume future import tenders after we establish the testing system to check for the presence of GE wheat before import.

5. We also tested all library samples (58 samples covering 1.2 million MT) covering all classes of US wheat imported between October 2012 and May 2013 and sold to the domestic market. Samples were held as commercial stock. All test results were negative.

### 3. Test results

#### 1) Held by MAFF (Government Stock)

Class	Amount covered by test (10,000 MT)	Number of samples	Test results
WW (Western White)	1	16	All Negative

#### 2) Commercial stock

Class	Amount covered by test (10,000 MT)	Number of samples	Test results
WW (Western White)	25	16	All Negative
DNS (Dark Northern Spring)	51	21	All Negative
SH (Semi Hard)	44	21	All Negative
Total	120	58	All Negative

Note: WW is mostly used for confectionary, DNS for bread, SH for noodles.

(Reference) MHLW's site

Testing method for food developed with genetically modified technique where the safety has not been reviewed:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/yunyu/other/2013/dl/130703-01.pdf>

MHLW monitoring test for imported food:

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/yunyu/monitoring/2013/dl/03-130703-01.pdf>

(Attachment)

Test Results of Genetically Engineered Wheat in U.S. Wheat

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