

Rethinking Scales for Measuring Peanut Quality

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A consistent, affordable, and wholesome supply of peanuts is critical to the safety and performance of established peanut based products and the development of new applications. Success in the market depends on the capacity of the supply base to reliably deliver the most important quality parameters, which must be well defined for a given application and cost balanced. Depending on grade, market type, etc., a 20 MT lot contains roughly 10- 100 million kernels. Despite these large kernel counts, lot quality is often defined with single kernel resolution. For example, the frequency of contaminants in a high oleic lot, frequency of kernels with a given defect, or the frequency of kernels not meeting a defined oil content (maturity), could all result in finished product quality that limits performance at best, or drives consumer complaints at worst. Despite the inherently understood importance of single kernel chemical data on incoming lots, this data has been historically limited, due to technological, time and/or cost constraints. New technologies and systems should be developed to provide this data, which will promote a new paradigm in ingredient quality, drive more differentiation/value in the supply base, and catalyze new market applications.