



MINNESOTA WHEAT

RESEARCH & PROMOTION COUNCIL

Current Research Priorities

Priority will be given to research proposals related to:

Spring Wheat Variety Development

- Public breeding program support in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- Increasing the capacity of the University of Minnesota's breeding program
- Increasing the efficiency of regional breeding programs

Spring Wheat Production

- Fertility management
 - N management to economically maximize yield and protein content
 - P, K, S and other nutrient management strategies
- Seeding rates
- Variety selection
- Crop rotation
- Crop protection
 - Disease management, with priority given to the management of Fusarium head blight and bacterial leaf streak
 - Pest management
- Site specific management
 - Tailoring the above production practices to specific soil types or environments within a field

MN Wheat Disease Survey

- Continuing the annual wheat disease survey throughout MN in collaboration with NDSU

Environmental Quality and Soil Health

- Incorporating cover crops into spring wheat production
- Understanding the role of spring wheat for improving soil health
- Incorporating conservation tillage into systems including spring wheat
- Protecting or improving soil water quality in spring wheat rotations
- Reducing nutrient and water runoff in spring wheat rotations
- Reducing soil erosion in spring wheat rotations

Cereal Chemistry

- Understanding digestive sensitivities related to wheat
- Spring wheat protein and baking quality
- Herbicide residues in harvested grain

This year, the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council (MWRPC) has about \$240,000 to fund proposal requests that begin in 2021. Proposals are funded for one to three years. There is no award limit, however funded proposals usually range in size from about \$25-55,000 for annual expenses, and the average is about \$37,000. Large proposals not strictly related to improving wheat production may be less likely to be funded since they may be ranked with lower priority than projects addressing more pressing issues related to wheat production.

In the past, the MWRPC has not limited proposals to wheat-only projects. We will also consider multi-year projects that have a systems-wide perspective that analyze how production practices in one year can affect other crops in the rotation. With the low wheat prices in recent years and many farmers finding it difficult to make a profit growing wheat from a strictly cash-sale perspective, proposals that investigate potentially profitable impacts of wheat on other aspects of the operation are favorable (i.e. distributing seasonal workflow, weed control in subsequent crops, straw value, cover crop value, etc).

However, for multi-year proposals that include multiple crops, we prefer that wheat is included in each year of the project rotation, and we also prefer to see additional funding supplied by other organizations or commodity groups. For example, for a multi-year project in a wheat-corn-soybean rotation, we would prefer to see at least one location or plot planted to wheat for each year of the project, and to see additional funding supplied by organizations like MN Soybean, AFREC, NC-SARE, MDA, etc. These are currently not hard requirements, but failure to do so will have a negative influence on proposal ranking.

Please contact Melissa Carlson at mcarlson@mnwhet.com or by phone at 952-738-2000 if you have any additional questions.