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Prairie Grains

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Cover Story

The Prairie Grains Conference brought together farm groups, researchers and industry leaders for two days of exhibiting, breakout sessions and meetings in Grand Forks, N.D. A common thread emerged during the Conference: 2022 was a solid year, and the forecast for 2023 is favorable.



It's About Time

Timing, as the saying goes, is everything.

In early December, our community gathered for the annual Prairie Grains Conference. Over the course of several decades, the Conference has endured everything that Mother Nature can throw at the Northern Plains: bone-chilling temperatures, wind, sleet, ice, plenty of snow – and every weather event in between. Thus, we considered ourselves fortunate this year that we only had to brave Grand Forks temps that reached -20. It's all relative: if the Conference had been held just a week later, a crippling December snowstorm would've thrown a major wrench into the proceedings.

Timing was on our side.

Such is life in our little corner of the world, where climate extremes are the norm, and we learn to roll with the punches. Once inside the Alerus Center, engaging with my fellow farmers and industry leaders helped warm our chilly bones. As you'll see in this issue, I believe this was one of our best Prairie Grains Conferences yet. We brought in diverse attendees, attracted new exhibitors onto the trade show floor and had a strong roster of keynote speakers and breakout sessions across many commodities and farm groups. The networking opportunities were plentiful. Thanks to all who attended!

We're turning the page as we enter 2023; the calendar is filling up. Minnesota Wheat has several more events we sponsor this winter – the Small Grains Updates and the Best of the Best, to name a few – along with upcoming board meetings and elections.

I'm also excited to return to St. Paul to visit with legislative leaders with Charlie Vogel and our lobbyist, Bruce Kleven. We haven't held our Day on the Hill since before the pandemic, and I'm pleased Minnesota Wheat advocates will be heading down to St. Paul later in the 2023 Session. The recent elections have changed the legislative outlook in St. Paul for at least the next two years. We know we have an uphill road ahead of us, but there are always opportunities to gain some policy wins, and we'll strive to seize any opportunities that cross our way. First things first, though, about one-third of those elected in 2022 will be newcomers to the Legislature, but we must make the necessary introductions with our elected officials. Unfortunately, we don't have much time on that front.

Our team will also be traveling to the nation's capital later this winter to



Mike Gunderson

advocate for the upcoming Farm Bill alongside advocates across the county, and to visit with our state's congressional delegation. I've been fortunate to establish a relationship with Rep. Michelle Fischbach, who was my representative until this year, when the district lines were redrawn.

My congressman is now District 8 Rep. Pete Stauber. From my conversations with him, it seems clear Rep. Stauber appreciates that agriculture is the lifeblood of the nation's economy, not just Minnesota's. I'm also looking forward to visiting with a longtime colleague – Rep. Brad Finstad – who I've known for nearly 20 years. Southern Minnesota farmers have a strong advocate in Rep. Finstad.

Soon enough, winter's time will be up, and spring will be upon us. Until then, be safe, keep warm, stay engaged and – whether you're reading in print or online – we thank you for supporting Prairie Grains Magazine. We're working for you, all the time.

Mike Gunderson farms in Bejou and is president of the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers. 🌾

TAMING THE BULLS



BY BETSY JENSEN



& BEARS

Who Needs Risk Management?

The more I learn about the collapse of the crypto trading business FTX, the more it reminds me of farmers. I've never had a farmer lose \$10 billion in a week, but the headlines could be straight from my farmers. Let's see if you can relate to a business that lost \$10 billion dollars in just one week. And yes, billion is not a typo.

FTX's CEO said that he wasn't even trying to manage risk. A \$10 billion company with no risk management strategies? If that seems crazy, look at your own business.

Even a small business needs risk management. If you have money and net worth at risk, you need to manage that risk.

As farmers, we have so many tools to manage risk, especially crop insurance and forward contracting opportunities. Crop insurance is widely used, but forward contracting is still a difficult decision for many farmers. Do you consider forward contracting to be a risk management strategy?

The primary concern with not forward contracting any bushels is the prices you paid for inputs. By springtime, we know our input costs.

We have paid for fertilizer, signed land rental agreements, bought seed and know our chemical costs, but we leave

the value of the outputs unprotected. If the price covers your cost of production, you should forward contract something. Even if it doesn't cover your cost of production, forward contracting can help you minimize losses. There are years when prices never exceed the cost of production and risk management becomes minimizing losses instead of maximizing profits.

There is a risk you may oversell. In the Northern Plains, we had significant prevent plant acres in 2022 and what did get planted was very late. I had low yield expectations and felt certain I had oversold. I was able to fill my contracts but those who did not raise enough bushels had to buy it back from the elevator. Depending on the price, some had to write a check to the elevator while others received a check. Either way, it was manageable. If you look at your production history, having to buy back bushels is the exception, not the rule.

When forward contracting, everyone has their own risk tolerance. Maybe you sell right up to your crop insurance guarantee or maybe you just dip your toe in the water by selling a quarter of your crop. It's up to you. What will it take to make you sleep at night? If wheat prices drop two dollars, will you lose sleep?

Another reason why FTX is basically just like the farms I work with is their bookkeeping. The new CEO, John J. Ray III, testified before Congress that FTX basically had no record keeping whatsoever. And they used QuickBooks. Many of the farms in my program admit they don't update their books until the night before I'm scheduled to arrive. And QuickBooks is one of the programs farmers use. As I watched clips from the Congressional hearing, I nodded to myself and thought I could probably fist bump that CEO in solidarity. I don't work with any billion-dollar farms, but thousands, millions or billions of dollars – it's all real money to me.

It doesn't matter if you are a billion-dollar business or just a small farm on the Northern Plains. We need to manage risk. If you read some articles about FTX and shake your head in disbelief, just imagine what someone might say about your farm. No risk management and no record keeping? How do they plan to stay in business for the long run? FTX looked great in the short run. I want a farm that will survive for the long run.

Betsy Jensen is a Farm Business Management Instructor at Northland Community and Technical College. Follow her on Twitter at @jensenbetsy. 🌾

A Fine Art

MN Wheat leaders work to de-commoditize wheat on Southeast Asia visit

By Sydney Harris

Would you pay the same price for a Cadillac Escalade as a Honda Civic? Probably not. Why? Because a Cadillac is a premium product, while a Honda leans towards the economical side. Though both options will get you from point A to point B, the ride won't be the same.

The same concept can be applied to United States wheat.

Traditionally, wheat grown in the U.S. has a high price tag, which can deter international buyers from making purchases when they can import less expensive wheat from other countries. However, nothing beats the superior quality of U.S. wheat, hence the cost.

Ensuring that international customers understand this thought process is key for U.S. Wheat Associate's (USW) marketing efforts, as the national checkoff organization continues exploring potential markets and strengthen existing relationships that have proven to be important for U.S. wheat growers. With 96% of consumers living outside of the U.S. and 50% of U.S. wheat production being exported, proactively developing, maintaining and expanding international markets is important for U.S. farmers.

Enter crop quality tours.

In November 2022, USW hosted a Southeast Asia Crop Quality Tour, where they met with foreign purchasers, giving them an idea of what the U.S. wheat crop looked like, which affects their procurement process. Charlie Vogel, Minnesota Wheat Research & Promotion Council Executive Director Charlie Vogel and North Dakota Wheat Commission Director Scott Huso both participated in the tour.

Words matter, and the USW team sought to change how wheat is perceived in the marketplace.

"The whole purpose of this trip was to work on de-commoditizing wheat," Vogel said. "We're a food ingredient, not a commodity."

Market shares

The tour had three carefully selected locations: Bangkok, Thailand; Jakarta, Indonesia and Manila, Philippines. As the largest market in the world for wheat, Indonesia was selected with hopes of encouraging purchasers to buy U.S. wheat because the recent commodity spike drove them to decrease their purchases.

"Even a small market share in a market as big as Indonesia is big

bushels," Vogel said. "So, it's worth continuing to try to make inroads and find those premium markets."

Not all the destinations on the tour were selected with the sole purpose of expanding markets. With an established relationship with USW, the Philippines was selected to nourish its existing relationship, which is equally as vital to wheat growers as cultivating new relationships. In the past five years, Filipino flour millers have imported an average of more than 2.9 million metric tons of U.S. soft white, hard red spring and hard red winter wheat per year.

"While in the Philippines, we had a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Manila USW office," Huso said. "And they are the No. 1 importer of U.S. wheat, which is a pretty big deal."

The art of relationship-building

At each location, there were two target audiences consisting of the purchasers and the technicians. The purchasers were interested in the statistics of the U.S. wheat crop and how that would affect their operation.

"They want to know if there is a tight supply or if there was a massive crop nationwide so that they know whether

they need to get their orders in or if they can pace themselves," Vogel said.

The other audience – the technicians – are a crucial element of the success of USW. They know how the different wheat performs and are in country to help purchasers solve any issues that may arise during a fairly complex process.

"Baking bread is an art," Vogel said. "Every flour behaves differently, so when you go to mass production it's still an art, but you need a way of taking it from a few loaves to production scale, which is where the technicians prove their value."

An integral aspect of international crop quality tours is putting wheat growers in front of foreign purchasers so that they can learn firsthand how the growing and harvest season went.

"Those one-on-one relationships are invaluable," Vogel said. "It was very good to get growers and purchases together, not through channels of marketers or media."

Continued on Page 8...



During a hectic stretch in November, Charlie Vogel (far right), pictured here with the Minnesota Wheat team during national meetings in Salt Lake City, visited five countries, several states and took 12 flights in 13 days.



Person to person

Vogel was joined on the trade mission by U.S. Wheat Chair and Minnesota farmer Rhonda K. Larson. Larson spent the final months of 2022 conducting wheat quality seminars across the globe, from Southeast Asia to Egypt to Peru.

"We have a lot of great people overseas that are doing all the boots on the ground work," she said. "It was nice for us to go and shake hands with everyone and see everyone in person again."

2022
**CROP
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USW has published its 2022 Crop Quality Report that includes grade, flour and baking data for all six U.S. wheat classes. The report, which is available to download at USwheat.org and is available in multiple languages, compiles comprehensive data from analysis of hundreds of samples conducted during and after harvest by USW partner organizations and laboratories. The report provides essential, objective information to help buyers get the wheat they need at the best value possible. There is quality data on HRW, SRW, HRS, SW and Durum by region and export tributaries. A separate crop quality report on hard white wheat is posted online. The 2022 Crop Quality Report can be downloaded in multiple languages. USW also shares more detailed, regional reports for all six U.S. wheat classes, including hard white (HW), on its website, as well as additional information on its sample and collection methods, solvent retention capacity (SRC) recommendations, standard deviation tables and more.

Huso was one of those growers. For Huso, it not only was an opportunity to build personal relationships with the people buying his wheat, but also opened his eyes to the drastic difference in cultures.

“Traveling to the different cities and gaining a different perspective was incredible,” said Huso, who raises a variety of crops in Aneta, N.D. “For example, when we were in Jakarta, I spoke during the crop quality seminar and put into perspective that Jakarta has a population of almost 11 million, while I grew up and farm in a town of 230. They couldn’t even fathom it.”

While meeting buyers was a highlight, Huso also valued the relationships built with other growers on the trip.

“We spent a lot of time together on this trip and it was wonderful to have great discussions about what they do on their farm that might be different from what I do on mine,” Huso said. “I look at those things as great learning opportunities.”

As Minnesota Wheat’s executive director, Vogel has an inside perspective of the value of the checkoff system and views crop quality tours as an opportunity to showcase the wise, long-term investments that benefit wheat growers across the state and nation.



A long way from home: Minnesota farmer and US Wheat Chair Rhonda K. Larson talks about her farming practices during an event in Southeast Asia.

“The importance of these tours is twofold. One is for bringing growers to the destination countries so they can meet the purchasers and answer questions,” Vogel said. “The other reason I think it’s important for Minnesota growers is so that they can see the value in how their checkoffs are being used and that there is real value in going there to proactively market our crop.”



Free Admission and Parking

2023 International Crop Expo

Wednesday, February 22nd ~ 9 am to 5 pm

Thursday, February 23rd ~ 9 am to 4 pm

Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND

www.cropexpo.com

Keynote Speakers:



SharkFarmer - Rob Sharkey

1:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 22

“Navigating Uncertainty”

Rob Sharkey, known as The SharkFarmer, is not your average Illinois grain farmer. He’s a disruptor who is unwavering in his ability to directly address difficult topics. His provocative style parallels a story-based structure, which resonates with thousands of weekly, global listeners of his podcasts and TV shows.

Rob has had a lifetime of up’s and downs – as a farmer he experienced the hog crash of the 90s and most recently, the unimaginable loss of his 17-year old son in an automobile accident. Yet, he has found ways to remain positive through all the curveballs life has thrown at him. Rob uses light humor to connect with his audience, uplifting and motivating farmers and ag businesses in a time of uncertainty. His message can be described as “powerful” and “just what I needed to hear right now.”

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Brian Carroll, Director of Grand Farm

(moderator)

1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 23

“Grand Farm’s AgTech Ecosystem - What the heck is it and why does it work?”

Grand Farm enables technology to feed the world by facilitating innovations to solve some of the world’s largest challenges in agriculture. Grand Farm’s approach combines an ecosystem of relevant stakeholders including growers, startups, established companies, and education and research institutions. In this discussion, Grand Farm Director Brian Carroll engages with panelists from the Grand Farm ecosystem to explore their experiences.

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Check website for program times.

Seminar Topics

Soybeans / Dry Beans

Wednesday

- Understanding Delta-T and its Impact on Pesticide Efficacy
- Make and Take Home a Tractor First Aid Kit
- Where’s The Market Heading in 2023? (Joint Session with Small Grains)

Thursday

- International Market Outlook by North Dakota Trade Office
- Dry Bean Production Research and Recommendation Updates
- Bean Disease Update
- Current Trends in Machinery and Land Sales (Joint Session with Small Grains)

Potatoes

Wednesday

- Potato Agronomy Management Studies 2021
- Late Blight Spore Trapping Network for MN & ND
- Potato Breeding and Cultivar Development
- Potato Insect Management 2022
- Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Data Organization

Thursday

- United Potato Growers Potato Outlook
- Minnesota Certified Seed Report
- North Dakota Certified Seed Report
- Nitrogen Principles for Potato Production
- Dormancy break in seed tubers

Small Grains

Wednesday

- Considerations for the 2023 Fertilizer Season
- Waltzing Through 2022 Crop Production
- Waterhemp Research and Management
- Where’s The Market Heading In 2023? (Joint Session with Beans)

Thursday

- What’s going on in the Markets?
- Hybrid Wheat Update
- Management of Cereal Diseases
- Current Trends in Machinery and Land Sales (Joint Session with Beans)

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GLOBAL IMPACT

USW Trade Policy Team keeping close eye on US wheat opportunities, distortions for 2023

By U.S. Wheat Associates

When clatter around trade policy gets noisy, Dalton Henry likes to quiet things by breaking down issues affecting the exporting of U.S. wheat into two basic categories.

“Everything has potential to be either an opportunity or a distortion,” said Henry, the vice president of policy for U.S.

Wheat Associates (USW). “In general, USW’s Policy Team spends every day looking at situations around the world that impact U.S. wheat and sorting out which category they fall under. Then we work on solutions.”

Market access is a centerpiece of trade policy. As with any agricultural product, tariffs, export barriers and other trade policies can increase the cost of U.S. wheat for the entire supply chain and customers who sit on the buying end of that chain.

Ultimately, USW’s Policy Team – Henry and Director of Trade Policy Peter Laudeman – is tasked with helping smooth the process of transporting wheat grown by U.S. farmers to customers around the world.

Where trade agreements do exist, the team monitors them to ensure they are properly implemented and followed. It also keeps an eye on human and environmental health regulations around the world to make sure U.S. wheat trade

isn’t interrupted. And the team plays a big role in monitoring the use of wheat in U.S. international food assistance programs.

An example of a trade policy success by USW was realized about a year ago, when it teamed with USDA to show the Vietnamese government why eliminating a 3% tariff on imported U.S. wheat would help ease food inflation while benefiting Vietnamese flour millers.

Australia and Canada, the largest wheat suppliers to Vietnam, had duty-free access to Vietnam under regional trade agreements. The decision at the end of 2021 to remove the tariff on U.S. wheat also helped level the playing field in what is a fast-growing market.

Food assistance: A policy team focus

Laudeman, who joined USW in August 2022, brought with him diverse experience working for both U.S. growers and the crop protection industry.

In addition to trade policy work alongside Henry and his work on biotech and plant breeding innovation, Laudeman is providing USW with leadership on food assistance and development.

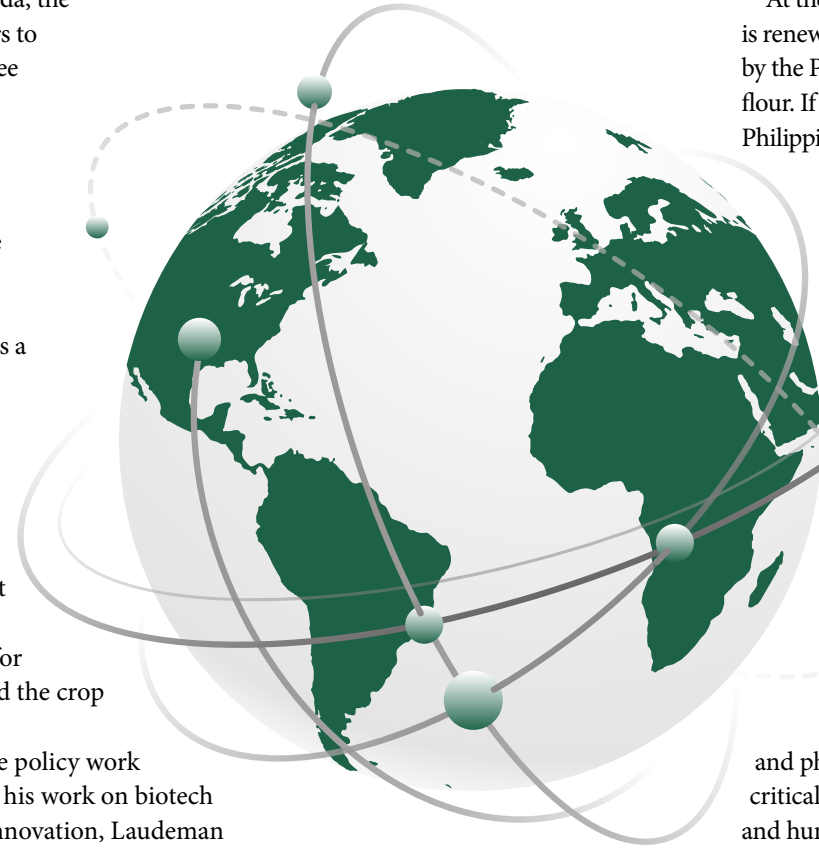
“A lot of people don’t realize our food aid markets, where the U.S. government is purchasing and donating commodities, makes up a top 10 U.S. wheat export market,” Laudeman said. “The USW Policy Team makes sure that all regulatory mechanisms are functioning properly when we send U.S. wheat food aid, either as emergency support or on a developmental basis.”

In his role, Laudeman also spends a lot of time working closely with professional economists. As a believer in the notion that trade policy is inherently economics-based, it’s a natural connection for him. He regularly monitors USDA databases

and other data sources to assure USW can analyze trade data.

It’s not all numbers and calculators, he emphasized.

“My role is very relationship-based and USW’s relationships with other commodity organizations are vital because many times we need a strong agricultural coalition to work on some of these trade issues that impact us,” he said.



continues to hold more than 50% of the world wheat stocks domestically, and that weighs heavily on global wheat prices.”

India’s domestic price support programs also stands out as a red flag in the coming year, Henry noted. He listed Turkey is a third “distorter” because of its ongoing policies that encourage dumping of wheat flour and underreporting data to the World Trade Organization.

At the top of Henry’s 2023 “Wish List” is renewing anti-dumping duties imposed by the Philippines government on Turkish flour. If the duties are not renewed, the Philippines milling industry will be hurt and up to \$100 million in U.S. wheat imports could be lost.

And not going away in 2023 are non-tariff barriers to trade, which represent the fastest-growing barrier impacting wheat trade, according to Henry.

Examples of non-tariff barriers are rules like maximum residue limits (MRL) on pesticides and limits on weed seed species or insects. Many sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations are critically important to protecting plant and human health, but many countries are using them to protect domestic producers – creating obstacles to trade for U.S. wheat.

Breaking down those obstacles is the goal.

“Trade policy work requires us to be in constant contact with a wide range of regulators and non-government organizations,” said Henry. “Ultimately, the goal is the same – to make sure we are doing everything we can to help keep wheat trade flowing between the farmers we represent and our values customers around the world.”

US Wheat represents state organizations across the nation, including the Minnesota Wheat Research & Promotion Council, North Dakota Wheat Commission, South Dakota Wheat Commission, and Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 🌾



USW Vice President of Policy Dalton Henry (right) discusses issues and policies facing U.S. wheat with Rhonda K. Larson (middle) and Director of Trade Policy Peter Laudeman (left). Photo courtesy of U.S. Wheat Associates.



Committed to Conservation: Minn. Farmer Gains ‘Peace of Mind’ from MAWQCP

Murray County farmer Bryan Biegler and the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) are a perfect soil health match.

“It was a simple process to sign up,” said Biegler, a past president of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. “The (MAWQCP) gives you a guideline on how well you’re doing with practices on your farm and a peace of mind that you’re doing the right things on your farm to improve soil health.”

Biegler was an early convert to the MAWQCP. He joined the ag community in advocating for legislative support for the program. He enrolled in August 2016 and now sits on the MAWQCP Advisory Committee. Biegler became certified because he was determined to improve his soil management practices after witnessing too much erosion in his fields on the fourth-generation farm that he operates alongside his wife, Lauren, and their three children.

“I thought, ‘I got to make a change,’” said Biegler, who’s been farming since 1992. “That was my starting point and it’s been a good program.”

The Bieglers experimented with strip tillage for a year and decided to go all in. The Bieglers use strip till, vertical tillage and no-till on all their acres and use cover crops as much as they can.

“To be honest, it was a fairly easy process to go through,” said Biegler, who grows corn and soybeans. “I was doing a lot of the practices already, just needed a couple tweaks. It was pretty seamless.”

The MAWQCP connects farmers with local conservation district experts to identify and mitigate any risks their farm poses to water quality. Producers going through the certification process have priority access to financial assistance. After being certified, each farm is deemed in compliance with new water quality laws and regulations for 10 years. The MAWQCP currently has five endorsements



In February 2022, Minnesota farmer Bryan Biegler participated in a Water Quality Panel alongside Ag Commissioner Thom Petersen, MAWQCP Project Manager Brad Jordahl Redlin, Rep. Paul Anderson and Minnesota Soybean Growers Association Vice President Darin Johnson. The video can be viewed on the MDA’s YouTube page.

available to certified producers: Climate Smart Farm, Soil Health, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife and Irrigation Water Management.

“There are so many benefits to enrolling,” Biegler said. “I’m glad to give guidance and stay involved.”

More than 1,285 producers are currently certified in the voluntary program, covering more than 940,000 certified acres and implement more than 2,500 new conservation practices. These practices reduce 43,000 tons of sediment of each year, 127,000 tons of soil and cutting nitrogen loss by nearly 50%. Gov. Tim Walz and the MDA plan to certify one-million acres of farmland in Minnesota in 2023.

“This program works on every level,” Gov. Walz said at the 2022 MN AG EXPO, “and it works because producers are at the center of it, producers help write it and producers help execute it.”

Farmers and landowners interested in becoming water quality certified can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.

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MyLandMyLegacy.com





PROVING WHEAT'S WORTH

South Dakota Wheat groups prepare for year ahead

By Sydney Harris

With two organizations representing South Dakota wheat growers – the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association (SDWGA) and the South Dakota Wheat Commission (SDWC) – 2022 saw many accomplishments, and anticipation for the coming year is high.

SDWGA, formerly known as South Dakota Wheat Incorporated, had a year filled with positive developments, starting with unveiling a new title to better characterize their association.

Throughout 2022, SDWGA traveled to 10 communities throughout the state, where they hosted regional district meetings. These meetings had a strong membership drive component and gained more than 20 new memberships. Additionally, any person who invested in a membership was entered into a drawing for a PerkinElmer grain analyzer. The lucky winner was Paul Patterson.

“The regional district meetings give me the opportunity to meet with growers to explain the benefits of becoming a member, as well as educate them about the upcoming Farm Bill,” SDWGA Executive Director Caren Assman said. “It was also where we launched our new name.”

The Ag Horizons Conference, which SDWGA co-sponsors with eight other

organizations, was held in late November.

At the conference, SDWGA held its annual meeting to close out the year. During the meeting, officer elections were held, and resolutions were brought forth.

“The first resolution that was brought forward was the Right to Repair,” Assman said. “It stalled out, so we’ll see if it gets brought back up again.”

The SDWGA also voted to support the CRP Improvement Act. Introduced by Sens John Thune (R-S.D.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), the bill aims to strengthen current legislation by raising the CRP base from \$50,000 to \$120,000, among other important policy changes to the law.

“As a longtime supporter of CRP, this common-sense legislation would help improve the multiple-use benefits of this important conservation program, including wildlife habitat and livestock forage potential,” Sen. Thune said. “After receiving valuable feedback from South Dakotans, it is clear that we need to make changes to ensure that CRP continues to be an effective option for producers and landowners.”

The Conference wasn’t all work and no play. With 22 speakers and four keynote speakers, attendees had ample opportunities to sit back and hear from

industry experts.

“The four keynote speakers that we had were excellent,” Assman said. “Our keynote speakers were Mark Jirik from the Northern Crops Institute, Ed Usset from the University of Minnesota, Kevin Doyle from CHS and Wes Chambers with Farm Credit Services of America.

In 2023, SDWGA is eager to advocate for South Dakota wheat growers in Pierre and Washington, D.C.

“Our legislative session starts the second week in January,” Assman said. “We always pay close attention to land taxes, but I haven’t heard of any other issues that have come forward yet. So, it’s kind of a wait and play it as it comes forward.”

Checkoff update

While SDWGA is busy advocating for wheat growers at the capital, SDWC focuses on wisely using checkoff dollars to boost the bottom lines of the state’s wheat industry.

“Our biggest expenditure with checkoff funds is research at South Dakota State University and supporting the development of future varieties,” SDWC Executive Director Reid Christopherson said.

Over the last decade, South Dakota has lost wheat acres, and SDWC is focused

on developing varieties that will continue to prove their worth and compete with other crops.

“As we look at the tremendous improvement in genetics in row crop commodities, we are certainly interested in continuing the development of new varieties that will have good yield and disease resistance,” Christopherson said. “We are also very focused upon really telling the story of how wheat fits into a crop rotation and what it can do for soil health, which is a concept that has become

very strong throughout South Dakota.”

South Dakota wheat acres are represented by a 50/50 split of winter wheat and spring wheat. In 2022, growers battled dry conditions.

“The winter wheat crop for the most part went well. We certainly were short on rain, but yields were strong, and disease was low, which is a byproduct of drier conditions,” Christopherson said. “Spring wheat was more troublesome because the further north you went in the state, the more the crops were affected by drought.”

Unfortunately, dry conditions will once again be a major element affecting the 2023 crop.

“The winter wheat crop has already been planted for the next year and is facing extreme dryness,” Christopherson said. “As of Dec. 1, the subsoil moisture was 84% short or very short, causing slow emergence in the winter wheat crop, which has translated into some decreased crop condition ratings. In early April we will start talking about spring wheat, though some producers have already put in some spring wheat through dormant seeding.”

As the heart of winter descends upon South Dakota, there isn’t a lot to do besides wait to see the hand that Mother Nature deals.

Time will tell.

“Until next April comes and we get through the spring thaw, we really won’t know for sure where we’re at,” said Christopherson. “The biggest concern is that half of the crop is already in the ground, so it’s too late to go back and plant more winter wheat.”



The South Dakota Wheat Commission invests checkoff resources into wheat variety development; wheat production and management; disease; weed and pest control; new technology; crop quality; and market research. Photo courtesy of SDWC.



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Prairie Grains Conference 2022

Chilly Temps, Hot Research

Nearly 800 farmers and industry leaders from across the Northern Plains braved the elements and traveled to the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D for the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference. The region's farming community networked, walked the trade show floor, attended meetings and absorbed the latest innovations in wheat, barley and soybean research. The two-day Conference looked to the future of agriculture and featured a deep roster of breakout sessions, keynote speakers and grower gatherings.

The Conference is held by Minnesota Wheat, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association and Minnesota Barley. It is also co-sponsored by dozens of farm groups and agribusinesses. We thank our industry partners for their longstanding support of the Prairie Grains Conference.

The Prairie Grains Conference returns to Grand Forks Dec. 13-14, 2023. 🌾

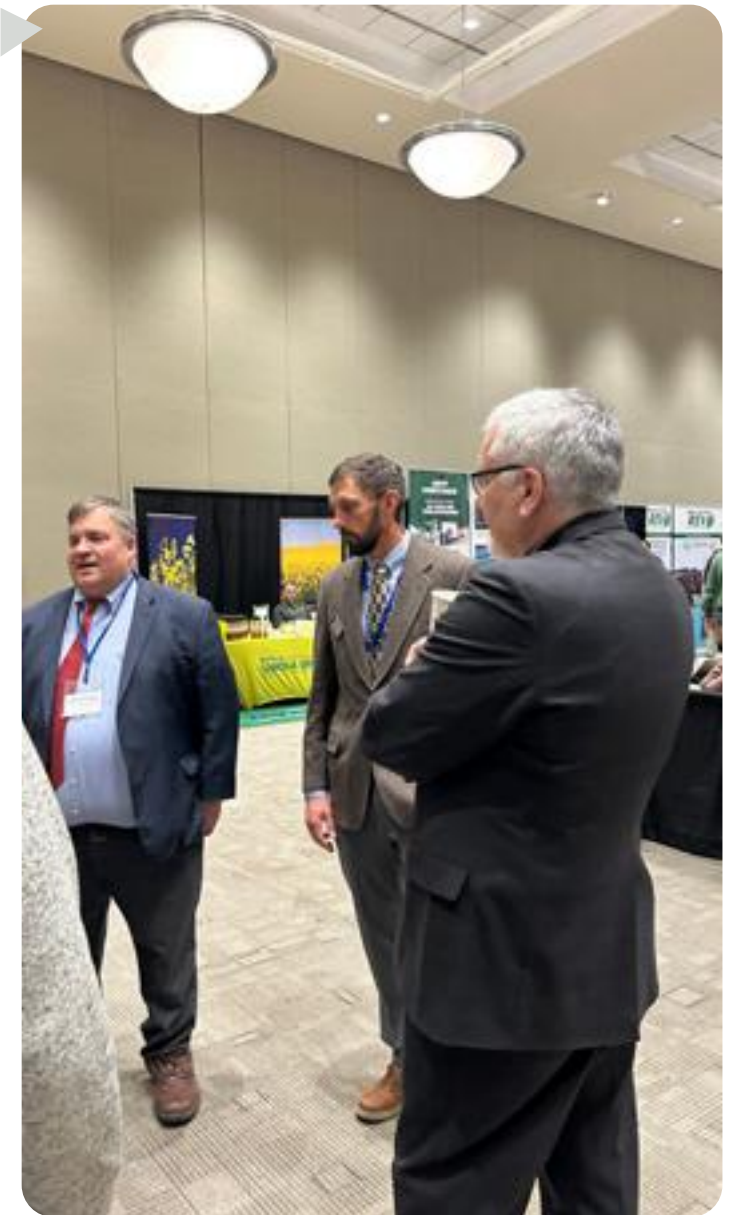
NDAWN Director Daryl Ritchison delivers a hopeful weather outlook during his keynote presentation. "I'm pretty optimistic about 2023. It looks very promising during the growing season."



Photos by Drew Lyon.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen (left) visits with Minnesota Wheat CEO Charlie Vogel (middle) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar's Outreach Director, Chuck Ackman, on the trade show floor.

MWR&PC Vice President of Research Melissa Carlson (left) engages with University of Minnesota Associate Professor Walid Sadok during the Wheat Research Reporting Sessions on day 2 of the Conference.



On the first morning of the Prairie Grains Conference, regional farmers discuss the benefits and challenges of using no-till or reduced tillage and cover crop practices on their farms.



Paul Gerdes, CHS nutrients director of sales at CHS, Inc., gives an overview of the economic landscape for 2023. Gerdes reviewed how geopolitical relations, railway labor issues and low river flows affect price volatility, supply risk and logistics.

MWR&PC Chair Tim Dufault (left) and MAWG President Mike Gunderson (right) take notes during the 10th Annual On-Farm Research Summit.



Read all about it! The 2022 Prairie Grains Conference featured a revamped look to the annual Minnesota Wheat Research Review Book.





Northern Crops Institute Director Mark Jirik looks into the near future while presenting at the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference. Photos courtesy of NCI.

Five-year forecast

NCI director looks ahead in Prairie Grains Conference keynote



By Sydney Harris

There might not have been a fortune teller at the Prairie Grains Conference, but keynote speaker Mark Jirik, director of the Northern Crops Institute (NCI), looked into his crystal ball and delivered projections on what the next five years may foreshadow for advancements in the agriculture industry. His presentation was a recap of The Next Five Years Executive Conference, which NCI hosted in September 2022 and brought in several industry leaders from across the country during the eight-hour seminar.

“We said that we need to have a conversation and talk about what are some of the challenges and some of the opportunities that we’re facing in the next five years,” Jirik said. “We look at big-bucket items.”

Jirik’s presentation focused on wide-ranging topics that will continue to impact agriculture, including: geopolitical matters, sustainability, consumer habits, global food production, trade barriers, supply chains and energy usage.

To set the stage, Jirik outlined the predicted global situation, concentrating on population growth – which is expected to increase by a billion to 8.6 billion people by 2030 – and compared it to what we have accomplished in the past. Even in the Midwest, where there isn’t a large population compared to other parts of the world, it’s clear that the general population is growing while the number of farmers is decreasing.

“The world has changed. You can see it in agriculture and farms,” Jirik said. “Globally, we’ve done a fantastic job for a long time. The people who said 50-60 years ago that we are going to have people dying

The Peltier Complex opens in 2024 and will be home to NCI and numerous NDSU research departments, helping to create modern solutions to complex challenges.



Trade teams are a cornerstone of NCI. In 2019, the group hosted nearly 400 trade teams. With the pandemic receding, more than 100 international groups visited NCI-related farms in 2022.



“The story of food production is about converting energy into food,” Mark Jirik says.

Working on behalf of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, NCI works on the promotion and market development of crops grown in the region. Its mission is to “support regional agriculture and value-added processing by conducting educational and technical programs that expand and maintain domestic and international markets for northern grown crops.” NCI was founded in 1973 and has collaborated with more than 133 nations.

of starvation were completely wrong.”

Historically, farmers and the agriculture industry have increased production and provided for a growing population despite the odds stacked against them, such as reduced acres. In the next five years, producers are going to have more uphill battles. Jirik said that producers are up to the challenge.

“The projections are that we’re going to have more people in need of food and more instability,” Jirik said. “But we’ve shown that we can step up to the challenge and for the last 60-80 years we’ve done just that. And the U.S. farmer has led that charge.”

Sustainability: What’s it all mean?

Sustainability was another relevant topic that was addressed at the Conference. Thirty years ago, sustainability wasn’t a word used in everyday conversation. Today, it is quickly becoming a buzzword and important factor in business decisions, but is also prone to losing its meaning.

“Whenever sustainability is brought up in conversation, I get a little defensive,” Jirik said. “I would argue that we do as good of
Continued on page 20...



Throughout the year, NCI offers in person courses and online webinars, including an eight-day course for importers that focuses on the mechanics of grain merchandising.

a job here as anyplace in the world. Nevertheless, even if we don't want to talk about sustainability, the consumers do."

During an NCI course, Jirik had a conversation with a group of feed millers from the Philippines about the affordability of feed. The second topic of that conversation was about who certified that the product bought from the U.S. was sustainable.

"It was a little jarring to go from that idea of affordability to sustainability," Jirik said. "And it isn't necessarily a comfortable one but it's one that as agriculture we need to have the conversation because sustainability is driving investing decisions. For example, there are people making investing decisions based on ESG (environmental, social and governance)."

Like many words, sustainability can be defined several ways. The United Nations has defined it as "meeting the needs of the present without detracting from the opportunities of the future."

"The question is, 'How do people actually want to define sustainability?'" Jirik said. "And to me, that's a major question."

'A very busy place'

Jirik addressed the energy usage in agriculture as it related to renewable diesel. Much like the idea of sustainability, biodiesel and renewable diesel weren't common in our lexicon 30 years ago. Today, it has changed how the agriculture industry operates, especially the soybean industry.

"Soybeans are roughly 18-20 percent vegetable oil and is balanced by protein. Historically, you crush

CHANGING DYNAMICS

Biodiesel and renewable diesel are both low-carbon diesel-replacement fuels produced from renewable feedstocks such as used cooking oil, animal fats, inedible corn oil, soybean oil and canola oil.

Biodiesel is produced through esterification or transesterification, a simple process that reacts a fat or oil with a small amount of methanol to produce a finished fuel. Biodiesel can be used in all engines and equipment up to 20%, and many engines up to a 100% blend.

Renewable diesel is produced through hydrotreating, a process similar to a traditional refinery operation. This high-heat, high-pressure process produces a fuel that is chemically indistinguishable from conventional diesel. Renewable Diesel is a "drop-in" fuel that can be used in all engines and equipment up to 100%.

Unlike in the early days of biodiesel and diesel, when smaller companies helped fuel growth, "the people that are putting in the renewable diesel facilities are the majors," Jirik said. "The dynamics have changed ... The scale is a lot different, and part of it is consumers."

The increased demand for soybean oil and renewable diesel bodes well for the four states NCI represents, Jirik said.

"An explosion is happening," he said. "For our region, it has major implications. This region is especially adaptable. ... It's a huge opportunity."

soybeans for meal and oil was the byproduct," Jirik said. "That story has changed. Now, we're crushing soybeans for the oil because of the demand that they're seeing from this market."

In the coming years, demand for biodiesel and renewable diesel isn't likely to go away. They are options that are better for the environment, tying in the sustainability component and can be implemented now to create a cleaner climate.

"You can see the explosion for renewable diesel happening," Jirik said. "I asked a colleague how it compared to ethanol, and he said that it is exactly like the demand we saw for ethanol, only it happened five times faster."

NCI has made a concerted effort in recent years to reach more customers through a range of mediums. In 2022, more than 3,000 industry participants – including hundreds of international customers – joined NCI's in person and online courses; webinars; special events; and trade. In 2024, NCI will move into the 158,000-square foot Peltier Complex at North Dakota State University, making it the largest non-athletic building on campus.

"NCI has gotten to be a very busy place," Jirik said.

There is no doubt that in the next five years, the agriculture industry is going to juggle multiple concerns to continue providing for the world. If past is prologue, Jirik is confident

that farmers will step up, adjust and thrive.

"The producers that we serve are extremely adaptable," Jirik said. 🌾

Did you miss out on the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference? You're in luck! Video highlights from the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference are available on Minnesota Wheat's YouTube page.



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10 years of research excellence

On-Farm Research Network looks back on 2022 projects during 10th anniversary



FEATURE



Melissa Carlson is vice president of research at Minnesota Wheat and oversees the On-Farm Research Network. The Prairie Grains Conference allows the OFRN to deliver results to producers and receive feedback.

By Prairie Grains Magazine Staff

For a decade, Minnesota Wheat's On-Farm Research Network (OFRN) has become a respected research program that brings together researchers to take a closer look at producer-related selected research topics in large plot settings. OFRN Research Coordinator Melissa Carlson and Project Lead Chris Matter showcased the highlights from the six projects included in the OFRN Report during the 10th annual OFRN Summit at the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference.

Copper at Tillering on Wheat

The first project Carlson spotlighted was a first-year trial that assessed how adding foliar copper sulfate to wheat fields below a critical soil test level of 0.4 ppm could affect yield.

"Some consultants and farmers in the area noticed they were seeing copper deficiencies on mineral soils," said Carlson, Minnesota Wheat's vice

president of research.

A wet spring forced the OFRN to downscale this project from eight to two plots. Ele-Max was donated by Helena Agri-Enterprises and was applied alone, and plots were one sprayer width wide by the full length of the field, with treatments repeated four times in randomized complete block. During harvest, one combine pass from each plot was weighed.

Key takeaways:

- At Beltrami, foliar copper at tillering increased yield by about 4.1 bushels
- No response at Roosevelt plot (possibly due to low rainfall)
- Tissue testing before and after application will be added in 2023
- A few more sites and years of testing are needed before we can draw conclusions

Long-Term Elevated P and K Fertility

In the fourth year of this ongoing trial, the OFRN team sought to determine optimum levels of Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) in a high-yield, long-term sequence of spring wheat and soybeans in northwest Minnesota using university small-plot trials coordinated by Dave Grafstrom at the Magnusson Research Farm in Roseau, and large-plot on-farm research trials in Baudette and Elbow Lake.

The small plot treatment rates that included various units of P and K and a combination of both P and K in both wheat and soybeans, plus an untreated control were applied broadcast and incorporated prior to seeding. In-season data included stand-count, relative chlorophyll index, plant height, and plant tissue analysis. Harvest data collected included yield, protein, oil, test weight, harvest moisture and a complete soil analysis for residual nutrients.

Carlson said she hopes to have a summary from the four years of this trial available to growers later in 2023.

Small Plot Observations

- No statistical differences in wheat yield or quality compared to the control
- No statistical differences in soybean yield or quality compared to the control
- K deficiency detected in soybean leaves in the control plots in 2022
- P deficiency detected in soybean pods in the control plots in 2022
- Soybean aphids had a preference for soybean plants that were showing K deficiency symptoms in 2022, but not the healthier plants in the higher-fertilizer treatments

2019-2022: What did we learn?

- A positive wheat yield response to P and the combination of P&K in three (2019, 2020, 2021) of the four years
- A positive soybean yield response to P and the combination with K in one (2020) of the four years
- Post-harvest soil tests indicate P levels can be built up or depleted depending on applied rate of P
- Post-harvest soil tests indicate K levels unchanged regardless of applied K rate

Nitrogen (N) Rates on High-Yielding Wheat Varieties

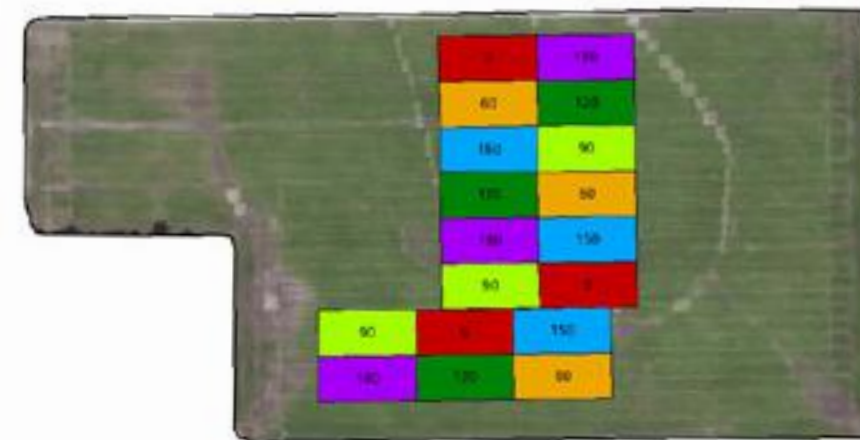
In the first year of this study, OFRN used two sites to compare the yield, protein, and profitability response of modern, high-yielding varieties to increasing N rates. In 2023 and beyond, OFRN hopes to compare sites with high-yielding, lower quality varieties to sites with lower yielding, higher-quality varieties.

"Our idea is, over the course of the next several years, to collect data from a lot of locations to look at the interaction between nitrogen rates and variety," Carlson said. "That's our main goal from this project."

N rates of 0, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180 pounds N (broadcast as spring urea in 2022) were broadcast in one-acre plots using a prescription map. Prior to harvest, wheat protein was collected by hand sampling, walking in a line, continuously collecting wheat heads from across the entire plot. The producers harvested their fields as normal, and yield data for each plot was extracted from the yield map. A partial-profit analysis was calculated to account for the cost of urea applied, protein premiums or discounts applied and yield.

Key takeaways

- At the East Grand Forks location, residual nitrate increased with applied N rate. The most profitable application was 60 pounds of N, while the least profitable treatment



N rates were applied by embedding the 140-foot x 400-foot plots into a prescription map and broadcast with a spreader.

was 150 pounds of N. This site received approximately 9.3 in of rain during the growing season, and the variety was WB9590.

- In Red Lake Falls, the highest yielding treatment received 180 pounds of N, while the lowest yielding treatment was the 0 pounds N control. Residual soil nitrate, grain protein content and residual nitrate increased with applied N rate. This site received approximately 12.4 in of rain during the growing season, and the variety was WB9590.

"It was a pretty good year to begin this trial," Carlson said. "I'm looking forward to collecting more sites and more data; we're definitely going to be continuing this trial. We'd like to get more sites and more varieties to collect."

Visit mnwheat.org to see the full 2022 OFRN Report, along with past yearly reports.

Melissa Carlson contributed to this report. 🌾

OFRN: A DECADE OF RESEARCH

Since launching a decade ago, OFRN has covered a wide range of research topics that investigate agronomic challenges facing producers, while helping to improve grower profitability.

"We've come a long way," Carlson said. "Moving forward, we're trying to make progress."

- Seeding Rate AMS in Wheat
- Variable Rate N
- Flag-leaf Fungicide
- N-stabilizers
- Vertical Tillage
- Protein Mapping
- ESN vs. Urea
- Soybean Seeding Rate
- Greenseeding Into Rye/SoygreenRx Application
- Oats with Soybean
- Elevated P+K
- Topdress UAN
- Plant Growth Regulators
- Foliar Copper
- Polyhalite vs. AMS
- Rock-rolling Wheat
- Volunteers as Cover Crops
- Optimal N rates

Playing the percentages

PG Magazine columnist offers advice during tax season



By Sydney Harris
Ag Management Solutions

In a fairytale world, there would be peace on earth, no one would go to bed hungry and farmers could accurately predict commodity markets.

Alas, this is real life – and farming is as real as it gets. In the real world, we expect the unexpected. And for farmers, this means creating a plan to mitigate risks.

It's easy to agonize over when to sell crop. Anyone who has ever had supper with a farmer knows that market talk is a kitchen conversation staple. But during one of the many breakout sessions at the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference, Betsy Jensen, a Farm Business Management Instructor with Northland Community and Technical College, encouraged the audience to shift their line of thinking.

"I want you to think about, 'Why should I hold and not why should I sell?'" said Jensen, a columnist with Prairie Grains Magazine (see page 5).

With an overwhelming number of factors to juggle, Jensen addressed the most important variables to consider when developing a marketing plan.

"You need to know your cost of production, when you need cash and your storage capacity," she said.

Though it may be frustrating and more than a little stressful, navigating commodity markets always carries some amount of risk. At the end of the day, it's important to create a

personalized plan that will allow you to sleep a little easier at night.

"It's not making the home runs, it's managing risk," said Jensen. "You have to ask yourself, 'Is there some percentage you would sell that you feel comfortable with to get yourself on the board?'"

With winter descending upon the Northern Plains – temperatures were frigid throughout the Conference – tax season is here, and farmers are busy meeting with advisors to determine where they fall in the tax brackets. Because of elevated commodity prices, some growers are choosing to hold onto larger amounts of their grain to defer income to the new year.

"I'm not saying that it's right or wrong because I don't like paying taxes either," Jensen said. "But what's going to happen is that next year you're going to have to pay the piper. So, if nothing else, pull out your balance sheet from a year ago to look at what you had for crops. Then, look at today's balance sheet and make sure that you calculate your grain inventory, which helps you when looking at how much to defer and how much to carry forward."

Before listeners joined the closing reception, Jensen left them with words of wisdom to keep in the back of their minds.

"We can't have high prices forever," she said. "So, when the cookie platter goes around the table, remember to grab a few for yourself." 🌾



The envy of ag

NDGGA touts 'E-Tour' efforts during annual meeting



By Drew Lyon

The tone of the North Dakota Grain Growers (NDGGA) Annual Meeting sounded similar to many discussions taking place at the 2022 Prairie Grains Conference: It's not how you start; it's how you finish. A soggy spring culminated in a surprisingly bountiful harvest for the state's grain producers.

"Everybody had a good quality crop," said Tony Schneider, a director with the North Dakota Barley Council, a supporting partner of NDGGA. "Things are moving positively despite the late start."

NDGGA and its supporters gathered at Prairie Grains Conference to celebrate 2022 achievements and finalize 2023 policy resolutions. North Dakota Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong all delivered video remarks from their Washington, D.C. offices.

"You've been exposed to some of the strongest headwinds thrown at the economy," Sen. Cramer said. "You all persisted in the face of adversity to provide the food, fuel and fiber that drives our modern economy."

The Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE) briefed growers on its conservation policy efforts. NDGGA lobbyist Jim Callan, who was recently made The Hill's annual Top Lobbyists list, gave an update on the legislative climate in Washington, D.C. Callan ensures NDGGA has a strong presence in the nation's capital, building relationships with congressional leaders, committee members, agency officials and the Biden administration.

"We're becoming very reputable in D.C. We're in many ag coalitions," Callan said. "We're winning. We're getting regulations and legislation done and getting our voices heard."

Callan relayed that industry peers look at NDGGA's annual "E-Tour" with the EPA – which continued in 2022 and will

be the subject of a future Prairie Grains article in summer 2023 – as the gold standard.

"The E-Tour gives us a lot of credibility," Callan told NDGGA members. "It's an enviable position to be in because it benefits them, and it benefits you. Kudos to you."

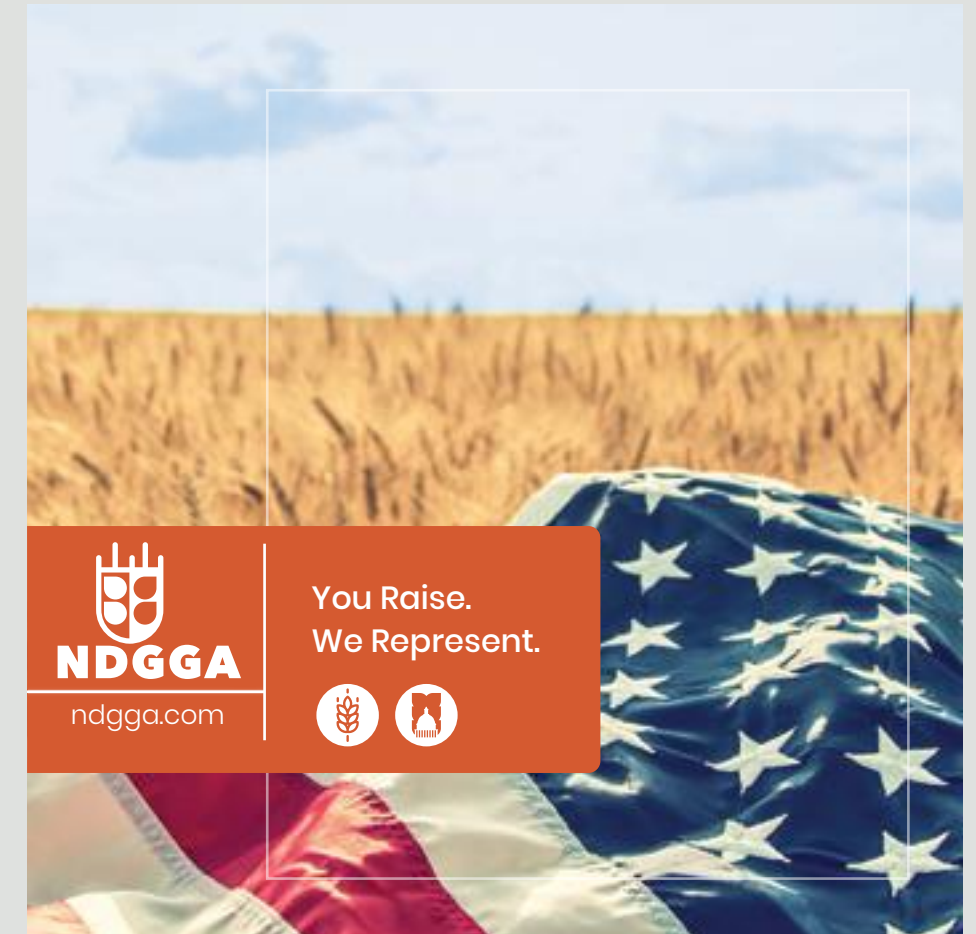
The 2022 tour stopped at local farms, North Dakota State University, the Big Iron Farm Show and featured equipment rides, aviation demonstrations and seed treatments. Education is a top priority.

"The E-Tour provides EPA representatives an opportunity to experience firsthand the equipment and practices we use, which helps them make educated decisions when it comes

to drafting policy that affects us," Past NDGGA President Tony Bernhardt said. "Our tour has become one of the most sought-after tours of its kind among EPA officials."

During the meeting, Dickinson farmer Ed Kessel was elected president, while Ryan Ellis and Dean Knell will serve as first and second vice presidents. NDGGA plans to have a busy agenda once again in 2023 by working on both state and national policy priorities.

"I think every farmer and rancher in North Dakota should be a member of NDGGA," Schneider said, "because if you farm here, the good work you guys do, the work Jim does in D.C. – their work has affected you positively." 🌾



NEW YEAR, NEW VIEW

Montana Grain Growers starting 2023 with momentum

MGGA Executive Vice President Alison Vergeront welcomes attendees to the organization's 67th Annual Convention.



By Sydney Harris

The end of a year is a busy time for farm groups, and the Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) was no exception to close out 2022. Before the holiday festivities kicked into high gear, growers gathered to reminisce and plot the year ahead at MGGA's Annual Convention and Trade Show in Great Falls.

"The convention went really well," said MGGA Executive Vice President Alison Vergeront. "We're very thrilled with the numbers and overall turnout."

At the 2022 Convention, MGGA partnered with Northern Pulse Growers and Pacific Northwest Canola to bring the #FarmersHelpingFarmers-themed convention to Montana growers. Bringing more groups into the fold helped create a more well-rounded show.

"MGGA represents all grains, not just wheat and barley, so this year we decided that we want more representation," Convention Chairman Nathan Keane said.

"It was very nice to be able to partner with the Northern Pulse Growers as well as Pacific Northwest Canola," Vergeront said. "One of the biggest highlights of this year's convention was having the three big associations under one event."

Traditionally, MGGA board meetings take place on the Friday after annual convention and during those meetings, officers take a step up in their role and new officers

are elected. Members passed policy resolutions for 2022-2023 and elected new officers during the Annual Convention. Keane, who farms in Loma, was elected president. He replaces Kalispell grower Tryg Koch, who now moves to past president. Boyd Heilig from Moore will serve as vice president, Klayton Lohr from Shelby will serve as treasurer and Steve Sheffels from Great Falls was elected Secretary.

Reelected for a second four-year term as MGGA Directors Adam Billmeyer of Hogeland, Eric Hanson from Gilford and Trevor Schock of Vida were all reelected to four-year terms.

"We now have a new slate of officers," Vergeront said. "It's a huge element that we do at the end of the year that kicks off our next year."

Looking ahead

With the convention in the rearview mirror, MGGA is driving forward in 2023. In Montana, legislative sessions occur every other year for 90 days, and 2023 is slated as a legislative year. The session began Jan. 2 and concludes after 90 working days. MGGA also has one eye on D.C. policies, as the next Farm Bill is a key legislative priority, and plans to have a presence in the nation's capital through its affiliation with the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG).

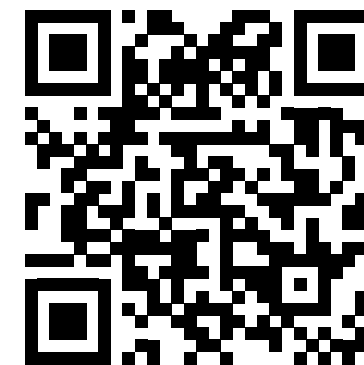
"We've got a big legislative year

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Becoming a member of MGGA helps move Montana agriculture forward. MGGA members represent over 5.5 million planted acres across the state and provide direction to the organization through an elected board of directors and an annual policy development process.

Support is needed and appreciated in order to maintain an effective organization working for the needs of Montana grain producers. MGGA dues, which start at just \$20 a year for students and \$150 annual for producers, are an investment in your industry. Make a difference by joining today!

Scan to join



coming up," Vergeront said.

During those Farm Bill discussions, MGGA will be advocating for protecting crop insurance, much like farmers across the nation.

"That crop insurance safety net is a huge priority of ours," Vergeront said. "We want to ensure that those coverages are in there and we will be working with NAWG to keep pushing on that."

When it comes to policy at the state level, MGGA could be advocating from a mostly defensive position but is confident legislative wins are within reach.

"As of this morning, there are over 3,000 bill drafts in the state legislature and that number continues to grow," Vergeront

said. "It's just kind of sit and wait at this point. By the middle of January, we will know more about what the legislature is going to look like."

As 2022 drew to a close, MGGA reflected on the progress made in the past year, and how they can apply what they have learned in the new year. The MGGA officer team struggled to pick just one. It was a good problem to have, Vergeront said.

"We had a fireside chat with our officers at convention and I asked them to go around and say one thing that we accomplished that they're proud of," Vergeront said. "We had a list of about 30 things by the end because it's so hard to choose just one thing."

In Vergeront's eyes, one of MGGA's biggest accomplishments

Continued on page 28....

NOW HIRING

MGGA is seeking an executive director for the Montana Pulse Crop Committee (MPCC). The position will be responsible for various administrative, analytical, communications and market development activities to support the Committee. Applicants will be eligible for up to three years of funding.

"We as an association look forward to filling this position in order to serve the pulse growers in Montana," Vergeront said. "Pulse growers are our members, and we are excited to get more involved in the pulse industry."

Cover letters and resumes can be sent to mgga@mgga.org.

The MPCC mission is to invest in and deliver support for marketing, research, education, and policy development programming that improves return on investment for the pulse producers of Montana.

of 2022 happened while at Commodity Classic. During the weeklong trade show conference, MGGA leaders visited at length with colleagues from Minnesota Wheat and Prairie Grains Magazine.

“We brought forth policy to the National Association of Wheat Growers from our Montana Grain Growers policy book and we were able to shape the national policy with our state policy,” Vergeront said. “We’ve brought forward three resolutions that are now sitting in national policy books. Being able to have an impact and play a role in shaping agriculture policy on the national level is so rewarding.”

MGGA will be busy advocating for farmers in the new year and there is no doubt that it will come with a few challenges. Luckily, they aren’t strangers to working hard and will continue to do what they can to protect farmers and look forward to another year of representing Montana growers. 🌾



New MGGA President Nathan Keane – a native of St. Paul, Minn., who now farms with his father-in-law on a fourth-generation homestead near Loma, Montana – addresses the crowd at the Annual Convention.

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11 Bu./A Yield Advantage vs. Untreated in High Disease Pressure Trials*

*20 2019 Trials: IN (1), KS (1), KY (1), MI (1), MN (4), ND (8), OH (1), PA (2), WI (1)

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ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Performance may vary, from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil, and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on their fields. Not all products are registered in all states and may be subject to use restrictions. The distribution, sale, or use of an unregistered pesticide is a violation of federal and/or state law and is strictly prohibited. Check with your local dealer or representative for the product registration status in your state. Bayer, Bayer Cross, and Prosaro® are registered trademarks of Bayer Group. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. For additional product information, call toll-free 1-866-99-BAYER (1-866-992-2937) or visit our website at www.BayerCropScience.us. Bayer CropScience LP, 800 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63167. ©2023 Bayer Group. All rights reserved.

ACROSS THE PRAIRIE

By Prairie Grains Magazine staff

Broadleaf crop variety trial data now available

Researchers from the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station annually conduct variety evaluations at the Research Extension Centers and cooperating producer's fields. Through these trials, data about flax, canola, field pea, dry bean, sunflower and soybean yield and quality traits is generated and published.

The variety selection guides summarize the results of variety trials conducted in 2022. Summary guides for all major crops can be obtained at www.ag.ndsu.edu/varietytrials/variety-trial-results. The PDF guides can be downloaded

and printed. On the same page, variety trial results for major and minor crops can be found by each test location. Printed copies of selection guides also can be obtained from NDSU Research Extension Centers, Extension county offices or from Agriculture Communication at NDSU.

With so many varieties to choose from, variety selection can be challenging. The variety selection tool found at <https://vt.ag.ndsu.edu/> is designed to assist farmers with finding the most appropriate variety for their farm by accessing, sorting and visualizing variety trial data. The variety tool is part of the NDSU Ag Hub.



"The selection guide series with variety information about North Dakota's main broadleaf crops including soybeans, is a very good source for decisions on which variety to grow in 2023," says Hans Kandel, NDSU Extension broadleaf crops agronomist.

NAWG director named to EPA advisory committee

The U.S. EPA announced the appointment of Clay Pope, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) board member and Oklahoma wheat farmer, to serve on the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The FRRCC serves an important role and provides independent policy advice and recommendations to the EPA on a variety of issues that impact farmers across the United States.

"NAWG is excited about having Clay Pope serve on the EPA's advisory committee, which plays a key role in telling the story about how wheat producers are having a positive impact on the environment and have increased resource-efficient practices in land, water and energy use," NAWG President Nicole Berg said. "This announcement is good news for farmers across the country."

Montana Wheat and Barley Committee names new director

The Montana Wheat and Barley Committee (MWBC) has announced Keven Bradley of Cut Bank, Montana has been appointed as the director of district three.

District three of the MWBC includes Liberty, Toole, Glacier and Pondera counties.

The MWBC board comprises seven governor-appointed farmers who are tasked with representing the interests of Montana Farmers. Directors' tasks include seeking grower input, addressing industry problems and opportunities, and serving on boards in which the MWBC funds. The mission of the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee is to promote local research and develop trade relationships around the world.

New federal funding broadens resources for beginning farmers

Beginning farmers nationwide will have access to more financial resources thanks to a new federal grant awarded to the University of Minnesota.

The \$750,000 grant from USDA goes to the University's Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM) to support its clearinghouse of information geared toward new farmers. The clearinghouse currently houses nearly 6,000 research-based items, including videos and articles on its site, farmanswers.org.

CFFM has applied for and received USDA funding to aid new farmers since 2014. 🌾

NDSU FOUNDATION SEEDSTOCKS

NDSU Dry Beans

NEW VARIETIES:

- **ND Polar Navy Bean**
- **ND Whitetail White Kidney**
- **ND Falcon Pinto Bean**
- **ND Twilight Black Bean**
- **ND Pegasus Great Northern Bean**

Competitive agronomic performance

- High yield
- Improved disease resistance
- Upright architecture
- Uniform dry down

Other varieties available:

- Eclipse Black Bean
- ND Palomino Slow Darkening Pinto Bean
- Rosie Light Red Kidney Bean
- Talon Dark Red Kidney Bean

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Registered/Certified Seed: 701-231-5400 or www.seed.nd.gov/field-seed-directory

Extension: 701-231-8135 or hans.kandel@ndsu.edu

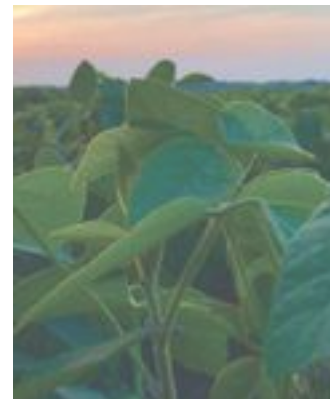
Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 - Alerus Center, Grand Forks

Thursday, February 9, 2023 - Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead



The University of Minnesota Extension and the North Dakota State University, along with the MN Association of Wheat Growers, MN Wheat Research & Promotion Council, MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council, ND Soybean Council, ND Grain Growers Association, and ND Wheat Commission have joined together to present producers with current research information. In this workshop growers will have the opportunity to learn from researchers and extension specialists.



Meetings are free. Registration is requested.

Register online at www.mnwheat.org and click on **Best of the Best** or call (218) 253-4311, ext 7.

PROGRAM

8:20 a.m. Welcome	Hands on Demonstrations:
8:30 a.m. Mortality Factors Affecting Soybean Gall Midge: Predators, Parasitic Wasps, and Cold - Dr. Robert Koch, U of MN Extension, St. Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparing for Scouting New Soybean Insect Pests in your Fields - Dr. Anthony Hanson, U of MN Extension, Morris
9:00 a.m. What Do Cover Crops Do Anyway? - Dr. Anna Cates, U of MN Extension, St. Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Foliar Wheat Disease ID & Importance - Dr. Andrew Friskop, NDSU Extension, Fargo
9:30 a.m. Bacterial Leaf Streak on Wheat - Dr. Andrew Friskop, NDSU Extension, Fargo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Soil Health Demonstration - Dr. Anna Cates, U of MN Extension, St. Paul
10:00 a.m. A Tale of Two Extremes: Drainage Tile in Both a Historic Drought and Wet Spring - Dr. Lindsay Pease, U of MN Extension, Crookston (Moorhead 3:00 p.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yield Monitoring Mayhem - Dr. Robert Proulx, NDSU Extension, Fargo
10:45 a.m. Recent MN Iron Deficiency Chlorosis Research - Dr. Seth Naeve, U of MN Extension, St. Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grasshopper ID and Management - Patrick Beauzay, NDSU Extension, Fargo
11:15 a.m. Maximizing Nitrogen-Fixing Microbes on the Farm - Dr. Barney Geddes, Asst Professor, NDSU, Fargo	2:00 p.m. Expected Weather Patterns for the 2023 Growing Season - Daryl Ritchison, Director of ND Ag Weather Network, (NDAWN), NDSU, Fargo
11:45 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch and Hands on Demonstrations <u>Grand Forks lunch speaker:</u> <i>How to Write a Pre-harvest Marketing Plan</i> - Dr. Ed Usset, Grain Marketing Specialist, U of MN, St. Paul <u>Moorhead lunch speaker:</u> <i>Grain Marketing Outlook</i> - Dr. Frayne Olson, NSDU Extension, Fargo	2:30 p.m. Frequency of and Management Strategies for Weeds Resistant to Herbicides from Multiple Modes of Action - Dr. Debalin Sarangi, U of MN Extension, St. Paul
	3:00 p.m. Minimizing Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome and Rhizoctonia Root Rot - Dr. Dean Malvick, U of MN Extension, St. Paul (Moorhead 10:00 a.m.)
	3:35 p.m. Adjourn

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