

Prairie Grains

Building Opportunities by Association



Simply *the* Best

Ahead of spring planting, Northern Plains growers gather for research meetings

Read More

- ▶ Meet Mike Gunderson
- ▶ MN releases agricultural license plate
- ▶ South Dakota's Tregg Cronin talks diversification

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fargo, ND
Permit #654

NEW
for 2022 growing season

3 Effective
Active Ingredients

Overlapping Control
of Foliar and
Head Diseases

Lowers DON and
Protects Grain Quality

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)

Flexible Application
Window for Fusarium
Head Scab

The future of plant health
starts here.

When it comes to healthy fields and higher yield potential, Prosaro®
PRO 400 SC fungicide delivers. Visit ProsaroPRO.com to learn more.

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. ©2022 Bayer Group. All rights reserved.



PROSARO®
PRO

PUBLISHER AND CIRCULATION

Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
2600 Wheat Drive • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
218.253.4311 • Email: mnwheat@mnwheat.com
Web: www.mnwheat.org

EDITORIAL

Drew Lyon, Ag Management Solutions
151 Saint Andrews Ct. Suite 710 • Mankato, MN 56001
Ph: 507.388.1635
Email: dlyon@agmngtsolutions.com

ART DIRECTOR

Kaelyn Rahe, Ag Management Solutions
151 Saint Andrews Ct. Suite 710 • Mankato, MN 56001
Ph: 507.388.1635
Email: krahe@agmngtsolutions.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Doug Monson, Ag Management Solutions
151 Saint Andrews Ct. Suite 710 • Mankato, MN 56001
Ph: 507.388.1635
Email: dmonson@agmngtsolutions.com

ABOUT PRAIRIE GRAINS

Prairie Grains magazine is published six times annually and delivered free of charge to members of these grower associations, and to spring wheat and barley producers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. To subscribe or change address, please write or call our circulation department.

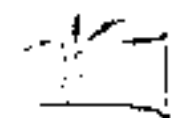
OUR PARTNERS



Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
and Minnesota Wheat Council
2600 Wheat Drive • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
218.253.4311 • Email: mnwheat@mnwheat.com
Web: www.mnwheat.org



North Dakota Grain Growers Association
2401 46th Ave SE, Suite 204 • Mandan, ND 58554
701.222.2216 • Email: danw@ndgga.com
Web: www.ndgga.com



South Dakota Wheat Growers Association
116 N. Euclid, Box 667 • Pierre, SD 58501
605.224.4418 • Email: wheatinc@midco.net



Montana Grain Growers Association
P.O. Box 1165 • Great Falls, MT 59403 • 406.761.4596
Email: erobinson@mgga.org • Web: www.mgga.org



Northland Community and Technical College
1101 Highway One East • Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218.683.8800
Email: ron.dvergsten@northlandcollege.edu
Web: www.northlandcollege.edu

Prairie Grains

March 2022 | Issue 187

5

*Taming the Bulls & Bears:
Regrets, I have a few*

8

*Mike check: Meet MAWG's
newest president*

7

*Mapping it out: Minnesota
releases new legislative
district maps*

12

*Making a difference:
NDSU fills vital farm and
ranch safety position*

22

*Driving diversity: New
South Dakota Wheat
Commission chairman
finds value in crop rotation*

28

*Shining a light: Congress
pushes back against India's
trade-distorting domestic
wheat and rice support*

Cover Story

*In February, producers and researchers
across Prairie Grains' readership
gathered for a host of meetings,
highlighted by the return of the
in-person Best of the Best in Soybean
and Wheat Research conference and the
International Crop Expo.*



Against the Grain

Time will tell

With a little luck – and blessings from Mother Nature – spring will soon be upon us as you flip through the pages of this issue of Prairie Grains Magazine. It's been a long winter up here in the Northern Plains, but as we learn every year around this time, it's always darkest before the dawn.

March also means the return of the in-person Commodity Classic. We're excited to participate in the nation's biggest agriculture trade show and conference, and build connections with fellow producers and commodity groups. During our time in New Orleans, I'll be joining Minnesota Wheat leadership in meeting with grain leaders from throughout Prairie Grains' readership to address how we can continue to grow this magazine into a publication that reflects the diversity of our region. Although Prairie Grains is published by the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, our readership extends to stakeholders in the North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and even Nebraska. That's a lot of ground to cover, and we want to make sure growers and our advertising partners throughout our readership base feel invested in this magazine.

I'm also attending Commodity Classic as part of my role with the National

Association of Wheat Growers. When you become a MAWG member, you also join NAWG, with a portion of your membership dues helping to fund NAWG's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. Along with my MAWG colleague, Tate Petry, I'm honored to represent Minnesota's wheat farmers on the NAWG board. Our board comprises more than 20 state wheat organizations from coast-to-coast. During Commodity Classic, we'll be holding our annual meeting, where we'll approve our legislative priorities for the year, highlighted by our advocacy efforts for the upcoming Farm Bill. This is an important step in our advocacy process. Legislators, of course, have a lot on their agendas these days, but we are committed to informing our elected officials of the issues facing our nation's wheat growers, from record input prices to drought issues to crop insurance.

We are living in perilous times, both at home and abroad. As I write this month's column, Russia has just invaded Ukraine. In our global marketplace, the ripple effects will be felt across the



Mike Gunderson

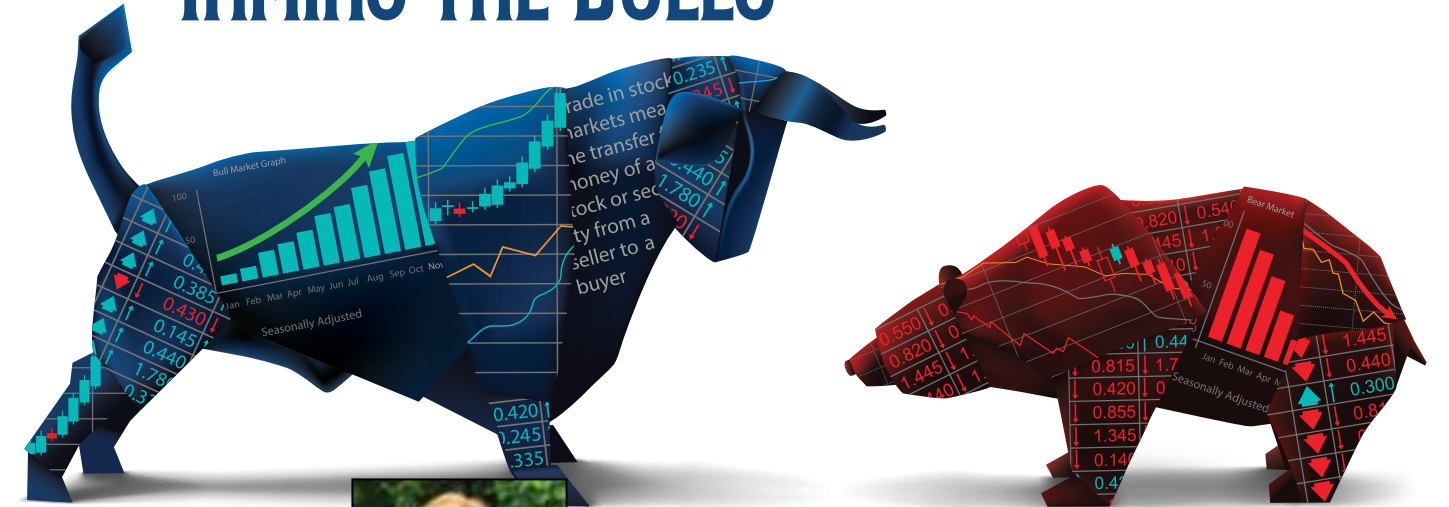
world economy. Russia and Ukraine are two of the world's top wheat exporters, and the conflict could further throw a wrench in supply chains, inflation rates and energy costs. U.S. wheat futures surged during the week of the invasion, hitting prices not seen in nearly a decade. U.S. wheat

producers export more than \$6 billion worth of our commodity each year, with most heading to the Philippines (\$826 million), Mexico (\$778 million) and Japan (\$635 million). This year, USDA is forecasting \$7.8 billion in exports. According to the latest data from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, in our state alone we export more than \$200 million of our crop each year.

The coming weeks and months ahead could be fraught with tumult – but also opportunities. In the interim, we're keeping our eyes on the prize. Though it may not look like it outside as you flip through these pages, spring is just around the corner, and it's arriving just in time.

Mike Gunderson
President, Minnesota Association of
Wheat Growers 🌾

TAMING THE BULLS



BY BETSY JENSEN



& BEARS

Regrets, I have a few

I have spent two months analyzing farmers' 2021 crop year and completing cash flows for 2022. In almost every situation, 2021 ended up more profitable than our initial plan from last spring, despite the crop problems. Many farmers in the Northern Plains collected crop insurance because of the drought. The bushels harvested were less than planned, but the revenue was higher because of prices. Even if they made early sales, higher fall prices meant crop insurance guarantees were higher. The Finpack software I used for analysis has a page called "Planned Versus Actual" and I have been using that sheet to show what we thought was going to happen compared to actual numbers. Even with bushel losses, 2021 often turned out better than we expected.

My mind automatically converts everything to economics, numbers, charts and data. There was a flowery, inspirational post on social media about how people regret the things they did not do, more than the things they did. I would like to see the data on that quote, but let's pretend it is true. We regret the things we did not say, the vacations we did not take, the land we did not buy,

more than the things we did. Will you regret selling wheat for \$8 or not selling wheat for \$8? Which is more likely to be true?

I want you to remember that you will be more profitable if prices rally, and for many farmers 2021 was proof of that. Some were unable to fill their forward sales, had to buy out contracts and still did better than we expected last spring. If you sell wheat for \$8 and it rallies to \$10 this fall, that is a good thing. Take your crop insurance numbers, run a few scenarios with higher fall prices. Are you better off selling for \$8 and watching it rally to \$10? Or feeling smart because you sold for \$8 and it went to \$6? Which is more profitable for your farm?

There has never been a more difficult year to do cash flows. Fertilizer prices are all over the board depending on when farmers bought.

Chemical prices and availability are questionable. All expenses are being increased, from fuel to labor or repairs. I do not anticipate any cuts to our 2022 expenses. We are still a little hesitant about yields because we have limited soil moisture. Can we really use our average yields, or should we trim a few bushels? I

am often creating multiple cash flows for farmers so look at multiple scenarios.

If we use current prices, all my farms have been able to cash flow for 2022. There are not many years I can say that. We have a great opportunity ahead of us if we can get average yields. Even if yields decline, our crop insurance guarantee offers good protection because of the high spring price guarantee. We know the ups and downs of farming, and today it appears that 2022 will be one of the up years.

The best advice I can offer is don't screw it up. Maybe this is a year to use put and call options. If you are afraid to sell, ask your grain buyer about average contracts where they pool bushels and sell a little bit every day. Do what you can to take advantage of the opportunity right in front of us. Imagine it is January 2023. Will we be talking about the things you regret doing, or not doing? What is the bigger risk?

Enjoy the opportunities, even if they come with a few regrets.

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



Surrounded by FFA and 4-H leaders, MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen (left) and Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey (right) show off Minnesota's agriculture-inspired license plates.

FF-yay! New ag-inspired license plates now available in MN

By Prairie Grains Magazine staff

Minnesotans can now honor the state's rich agriculture legacy on vehicles, while also supporting the state's 4-H and FFA members.

The new license plate designs were introduced in February. FFA members and 4-H'ers joined Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and Assistant Agriculture Commissioner Patrice Bailey for the event, along with leaders from both organizations.

"We're excited to have this new license plate that highlights the diversity of Minnesota's ag economy," Commissioner Petersen said. "This is an opportunity for Minnesotans to show their commitment to agriculture while supporting our young leaders in FFA and 4-H."

A contest was held last fall to solicit ideas on the license plate concepts. Inspired by nearly 100 sketches from 4-H'ers and FFA members, the plate draws upon imagery from both organizations. The hands holding seedlings symbolize the 4-H pledge of "my hands to larger service," while the rising sun is a "token of a new era in agriculture" honored in FFA ceremonies.

Leaders of both groups voiced their appreciation for the bipartisan legislation passed in 2021 that created the new plate. The legislation was supported by numerous Minnesota farm advocacy groups, including the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers. The plate became available to Minnesota residents in

February and will cost \$15.50. A minimum \$20 contribution is due with plate purchase and each year afterward at vehicle registration renewal. The funds go toward supporting FFA and 4-H members in Minnesota. The new plate is available at local Driver and Vehicle Services locations throughout Minnesota.

Both organizations expressed their gratitude for support for young people with a license plate honoring agriculture.



"Agriculture is woven into 4-H's past, present and future and it's open to all youth in Minnesota. We plan to broaden and deepen young people's knowledge and involvement in agriculture so that they act on their ability as agricultural learners, leaders, innovators, global citizens and agents of change," said Jennifer Skuza, associate dean for Youth Development at University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota 4-H State Director.

Minnesota FFA Foundation Executive Director Val Aarsvold said the license plates will help her organization continue to grow the next generation of agricultural leaders.

"The Minnesota FFA Foundation ensures that students enrolled in agriculture, food and natural resource classes have access to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, regardless of their economic situation," Aarsvold.

FFA is in 220 rural, urban and suburban schools statewide. 4-H is an out-of-school, hands-on learning program for students in kindergarten through one year past high school. 🌾

MAPPING t OUT

NEW LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS UNVEILED

By Drew Lyon

Ag Management Solutions

The unveiling of new legislative district maps was the talk of the town in St. Paul during the first month of the 2022 Legislative Session.

"That's occupied a lot of oxygen up here," Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers (MAWG) lobbyist Bruce Kleven said. "Those new maps potentially affect everyone."

The new maps now put more than two-thirds of Minnesotans in new legislative districts, but the updated outlines aren't expected to drastically alter the political landscape in St. Paul. Minnesota is one of two states with a divided legislature; the new district maps continue to put both the Democrats House and the Republican Senate majorities in play for either party to win. The number of pairings increased from 30 in 2012 to 38 this year. But the new outlines are likely to spur more retirements. As of late February, 15 senators and 15 representatives have announced retirements, and more retirements are expected in the weeks ahead.

Super surplus

At the start of the session, Minnesota's budget officials projected a record \$7.7 billion surplus. The forecast later increased to nearly \$9.3 billion. Both parties have been exchanging ideas on how to use the surplus dollars. Democrats and Gov. Tim Walz are proposing investments in child care and education, while Republicans are calling for tax cuts and upgrades in public safety.

"Public safety is a non-wheat issue," Kleven said, "but we also want our members to feel safe coming down here if they're coming to Minneapolis."

In his supplemental budget proposal, the governor proposed grain indemnity funding for grain elevators.

"So far, we've only heard the concept, but when the bill comes in, we'll be taking a close look," Kleven said. "We want to see what it means and how it works."

The governor also endorsed \$10 million in drought relief assistance to livestock and specialty crop producers. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture also requested funding to

prepare for foreign animal diseases and \$1 million in resources for noxious weed detection, control and management.

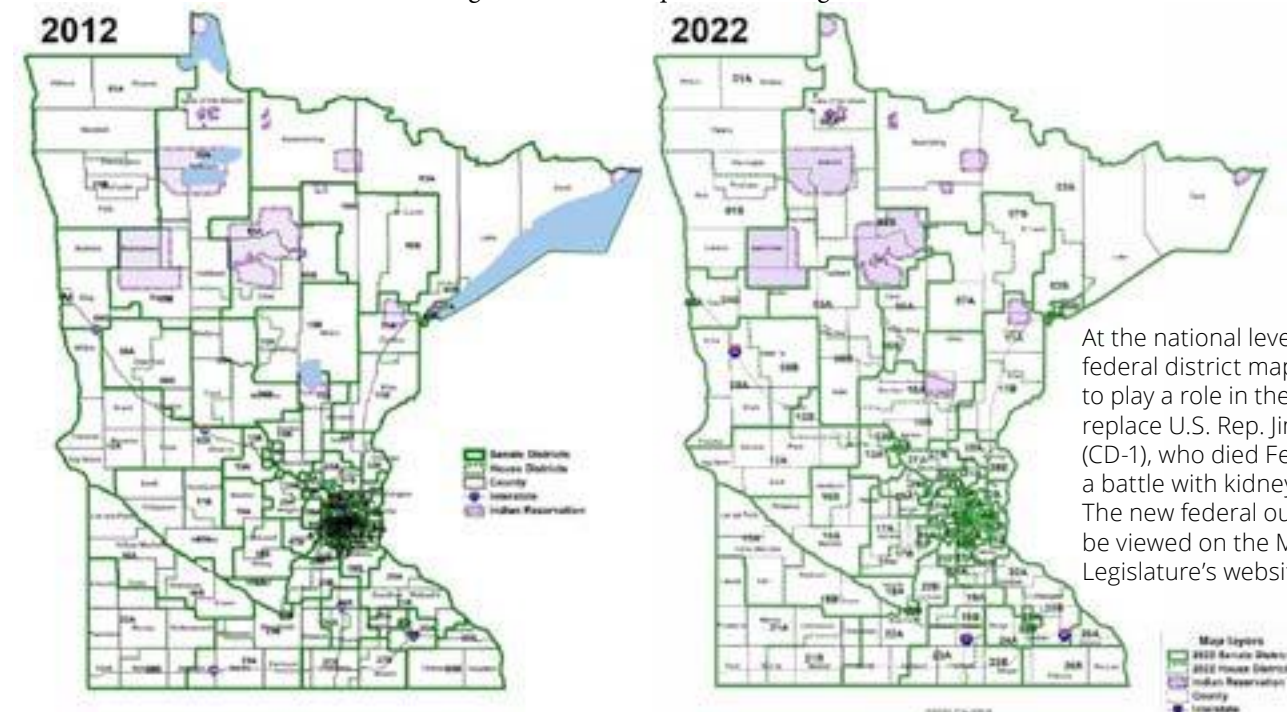
For advocates and lobbyists, the 2022 session has been a much-welcomed step closer to normal. The Senate offices are now entirely open and despite House Speaker Melissa Hortman announcing in October that her chamber would work remotely, House legislators and staffers are beginning to return to in-person work following a steep drop in COVID-19 cases across the state.

"The accessibility has definitely improved since the session started," Kleven said. "We need to talk to the members."

MAWG Executive Director Charlie Vogel said that although there are no current plans to bring grower-leaders down to St. Paul, the organization is keeping a close eye on the proceedings just in case.

"We're going to keep monitoring the activities to make sure our directors have their priorities heard," Vogel said.

The session ends May 17. 🌾



At the national level, the new federal district maps are likely to play a role in the election to replace U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn (CD-1), who died Feb. 17 after a battle with kidney cancer. The new federal outlines can be viewed on the Minnesota Legislature's website.

MIKE CHECK

Gunderson gunning for grower gains

By Drew Lyon
Ag Management Solutions



Winter 2021 has been a season of attrition for northwest Minnesota farmers like Mike Gunderson. When reached by phone at his farm in Bejou in mid-February, Gunderson was preparing for the seventh blizzard to hit the region this winter.

“Been doing a lot of chores and feeding,” Gunderson said. “All this snow – we just keep working on the cattle. It’s getting to be a tough winter here. It’s colder than normal, and the wind blows from every direction and a lot of times in the same day.”

It hasn’t been all the way rough for the longtime producer so far this year. In early 2022, Gunderson was elected the newest president of the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers (MAWG). Gunderson previously served as vice president, and succeeds Gary Anderson, who presided over MAWG for two years. Directors Steve Lacey and Kevin Leiser are now first and second vice presidents, respectively.

“It’s certainly an honor to lead this organization, and I’ve always liked policy development,” Gunderson said. “MAWG has built a reputation as a proactive advocacy group, and I hope to keep us moving in that direction.”

MAWG traditionally sends a bus down to St. Paul during the legislative session for a day on the Hill. Those plans have been scrapped for now, but MAWG is continuing to advocate via committee testimonials.

“We’re keeping our options open if something arises in March or April. Then we can take a carload down to meet with legislators and also set up some meetings back in our district,” Gunderson said.

Gunderson credited MAWG lobbyist Bruce Kleven for making sure the interests of the state’s wheat producers are being heard by legislators.

“Bruce does an excellent job for us,” Gunderson said. “It’s important to have those ag lobbyists there in St. Paul: They rely on each other. Each one has their own specialty, and that’s why we need to be part of more than one organization, because one lobbyist can’t cover it all.”

Gunderson practices what he preaches. He’s a longtime member of Minnesota Farm Bureau and served 12 years as a state director with the policy group. He’s also been a member of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association.

“It’s good to work with different groups because you have a say on their policy,” he said. “I think we need farmers that advocate for ag. When you become a member, you’re promoting ag, your business and putting out the fires that need to be put out.”

On a personal level, Gunderson cherishes the relationships he’s made through his work in advocacy.

“The people you serve with – you make a lot of good friends,” he said. “It’s multifold how much you can do.”

Hundreds of Minnesota farmers are current MAWG members. Because wheat checkoff dollars can’t be used for lobbying activities, Gunderson, who’s been a MAWG member for nearly 20 years, said it’s imperative that more farmers and agribusinesses support MAWG’s mission.

“We’ve got to continue to do things that get our members involved in St. Paul,” he said, “and meet with legislators and tell what we need and what’s good for the farming community.”

Gunderson has one goal that he admitted may be out of his reach.

“I’d like to see our country back to normal,” he said.

Forecasting

Gunderson grows wheat, corn and soybeans alongside his son, Tim, on the fourth-generation farm that’s been in the family for nearly 75 years. Serving on the MAWG board is a partnership for the Gundersons. Mike’s wife, Connie Gunderson, served nine years on the board before retiring in 2018.

“Connie did a fantastic job on the board,” he said. “She set a high bar for me.”

Connie and Mike raised two children, Tim and Amanda, and now are watching their four grandchildren grow.

Continued on Page 10



It’s a family affair: Mike Gunderson’s wife, Connie (right), previously served on the MAWG board.



MAWG leaders visit with their representative in Washington, D.C., Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach.



MAWG leaders, pictured here with Rep. Pete Stauber (left), are eager to resume face-to-face advocacy.

Along with MAWG Secretary/Treasurer Tate Petry, Gunderson also represents MAWG on the National Association of Wheat Growers Board. He currently sits on NAWG's domestic and trade policy and joint trade committees. In early March, he'll travel to New Orleans to attend NAWG's annual meeting at Commodity Classic.

"There's always a lot of market opportunities for wheat, where the U.S. has to stay relevant and you have a few good trading partners," he said. "We've got to stay competitive with the high-quality wheat we produce."

NAWG is currently focusing much of its advocacy push toward the next Farm Bill.

"They're not holding committee hearings yet, so we need to know what our asks are," Gunderson said. "We'll be having some discussion at Commodity Classic and we'll be prepared to go ask what we're working for."

Gunderson has enjoyed getting to know MAWG Executive Director Charlie Vogel and credits Vogel with building relationships with groups from across the region.

"Charlie's gotten very involved meeting with all the other organizations," Gunderson said. "He's been a great leader and as a board, we're pleased with the tone he's set."

Vogel, who joined MAWG in 2019, said Gunderson's even-keeled nature and experience have benefitted the organization. "Mike's down-to-earth, accessible and has a deep



A view of Mike Gunderson's farm in Mahnomen County.

involvement in Minnesota agriculture," Vogel said. "He's very dedicated to seeing us succeed."

Leading up to the planting season, Gunderson is keeping a close eye on crop insurance, input prices and supply chain issues. He's been told by his implement dealers to prepare for parts shortages during planting season.

"That's certainly concerning," he said, "because you can't have all the parts on hand in case something breaks.

As for an early planting season? Looking out his window, Gunderson wasn't feeling optimistic on that front.

"Last year we got in right after Easter, but we've got a lot of snow here," he said. "I don't think it's going to be early but we'd like to get our crops in by the end of April." 🌾

Capture the value of today's best genetics.
Plant North Dakota Certified Seed.

More than 240 varieties of 20 crops

- Known varietal identity
- Field inspected
- Lab tested
- Proven quality
- Superior performance
- Greater profitability

Call your local N.D. Certified Seed dealer to put the best seed to work on your farm.

www.ndseed.com

Become a MAWG Member Today!

The Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers places a high priority on legislative issues such as crop insurance, the farm bill, wheat research funds and water and other environmental issues.

By joining the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, you become an important member of an organization that is committed to providing you with the latest advancements and improvements in the wheat industry.

Choose the type of membership that is best for you and your farm operation. Call the MAWG office at 218-253-4311 to join.

Visit mnwheat.org to join today.

Making a difference



NDSU fills vital farm and ranch safety position

By Sydney Harris
Ag Management Solutions

Angie Johnson is here to help keep North Dakota producers safe.

Johnson is the new Farm and Ranch Safety Coordinator for North Dakota State University Extension, a role that has been vacant for 15 years before Johnson stepped into the role in January.

An NDSU graduate with a degree in Animal Science, Johnson grew up in Galesburg, N.D., where she still resides and raises sheep and cattle with her family. She worked as an NDSU Extension agent in Steele County (N.D.) before transitioning into her current position.

Within her new role, Johnson's focus will be working with county-based Extension agents, who she describes as "incredibly passionate," across North Dakota to tailor farm and ranch safety resources to each county.

"That's the beauty of North Dakota," she said. "We're different from every corner of the state in terms of our productivity and the crops and livestock that are raised."

In addition, Johnson will work to improve North Dakota's farm and ranch safety prevention resources, which haven't been updated in more than a decade. Technology advances rapidly and agriculture is no exception; relevant safety measures are different today compared to 15 years ago.

"By examining the new trends in terms of what we're seeing in accident and injury types, I can work to build resources that address what's happening today," she said. "I focus on what's current in the realm of farm and ranch safety."

Johnson isn't afraid to set big goals for herself in her new position. Her first goal, driven by an increasing number of farm and ranch employees lacking an agricultural background, is to create an educational program to properly train the farm and ranch workforce.

"Taking the time to teach is critical," she said, "so it's a really big goal of mine to strengthen our farm and ranch related employees, including helping our producers be better trainers."

Along those same lines, Johnson is determined to engage



Angie Johnson started her safety coordinator role after the North Dakota Legislature approved funding for the position.

more youth in farm and ranch safety programs.

"I want to focus on offering more youth farm safety prevention programs," Johnson said. "Any 14 or 15-year old that works on a farm or ranch, other than their family's operation, has to be certified through a tractor certification program, so I want to get our teenagers educated."

Johnson's third goal is to work with the North Dakota Department of Transportation to educate the public on how to safely share the road with farm equipment. She realizes that not everyone knows how to react when they meet machinery on roads; this initiative benefits everyone, not just producers, she said.

"I want to learn when accidents are occurring the most and what type of accidents they are," she said, "so that we can help the general public understand what to do when they come across those situations."

At the end of the day, Johnson wants to make sure that everyone gets home safely.

"I have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life," she said. "I consider that an honor. Plus, I get to work for some of the best people in the country – our producers." 🌾



You Raise. We Represent.



Keep Your Focus on the Field

Between weather, fluctuating markets and ever-shrinking margins, you have enough to worry about. The North Dakota Grain Growers Association will represent your interests on regulation and policy issues so you can focus on raising the best crop you can. Let's work together to ensure North Dakota agriculture remains profitable for generations to come.

Become a Member Today

ndgga.com

US Recommended Malting Barley Varieties for 2022

Provided by the American Malting Barley Association

The American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) Board of Directors annually develops a list of recommended malting barley varieties for U.S. growers for the upcoming crop year. AMBA is a nonprofit trade association of more than 60 malting, brewing, distilling and food companies that are end users of U.S. malting barley.

The AMBA Recommended List is intended to provide U.S. growers with guidance as to what varieties the industry may be contracting or purchasing in the coming year. It is not intended as a list of approved or certified malting varieties for the use by brewers, distillers, food companies or maltsters. There may be many suitable malting barley varieties grown domestically or internationally that are not on the list yet have quality characteristics desired by the industry. Some varieties will be used in large quantities and many others are only utilized in niche markets, so producers are encouraged to contact their local elevator, grain handler or processor to gauge market demand for any variety grown in their region prior to seeding.

Changes from the previous year include dropping Conlon

and the addition of ABI Cardinal and Regina. ABI Cardinal, bred by Anheuser-Busch at Global Barley Research in Fort Collins, Colo., delivers competitive yield with an earlier harvest maturity time and a better disease resistance package compared to other major two-row varieties while maintaining excellent brewing quality. ABI Cardinal represents a 12-year journey that Global Barley Research began when switching over from breeding six-row barley for the Midwestern U.S. to two-row. ABI Cardinal is the first generation of materials from this breeding pipeline, which looks to strengthen the productivity and sustainability of two-row barley production in this region. Regina is a German-bred winter variety that is being grown in Ohio and surrounding states. It has proven to be a versatile variety with acceptable quality and agronomic performance.

The American Malting Barley Association is a trade organization, which represents the interests of end users of malting barley, including maltsters, brewers, distillers and food processors. Its work seeks to maintain a stable and high-quality supply of malting barley for our members throughout the U.S. With these changes from last year, the list of recommended malting barley varieties for 2022 is as follows: 🌾

Two-Row Varieties

AAC Connect, AAC Synergy, ABI Cardinal, ABI Eagle, ABI Growler, ABI Voyager AC Metcalfe, Bill Coors 100, CDC Copeland, Charles*, Conrad, Endeavor*, Expedition Explorer, Flavia*, Hockett, LCS Genie, LCS Odyssey, LCS Violetta*, Mayflower Merit 57, Moravian 37, Moravian 69, Moravian 164, Moravian 165, Moravian 170, Moravian 179 ND Genesis, Newdale, Pinnacle, Puin*, Regina*, Thunder*, Wintmalt*

Six-Row Varieties

Celebration Innovation, Lacey Legacy, Quest Thoroughbred*, Tradition

* Winter varieties

Learn more at www.ambainc.org



EYES ON THE PRIZE

Wheat markets offer complications, opportunities for US

By Sydney Harris
Ag Management Solutions

Every year, producers struggle to make sense of commodity markets. During the International Crop Expo in Grand Forks, N.D., Randy Martinson of Martinson Ag Risk Management Group spoke to producers, hoping to demystify last year's trends and explain where markets are heading. Looking back on 2021, Martinson said most producers fared better than expected.

"There weren't that many losers as far as markets were concerned," Martinson said.

Oats reported the largest market gain last year, with a 113% increase. Soybeans grew by 22%, corn rose 34% and spring wheat surged 56%.

Martinson cited three reasons for these increases.

First, Brazil's dry conditions made their corn crop less than ideal. Second, the United States was about two million acres short of its expected planted acres. The initial forecast was 319 million acres, but only 317 million acres of principal crops were planted. Third, even though there were less prevent plant acres and a 12%

increase in planted acres in the U.S., some areas weren't harvested because of the widespread drought.

Addressing the elephant in the room, Martinson explained the impact that Russia has on the wheat market.

"Russia has been a little bit of a thorn in our side as far as exports are concerned," said Martinson.

Twenty-nine percent of wheat exports in the world are sent from the Black Sea region. The mounting tensions between Russia and Ukraine could result in those exports being taken offline – not to mention upending geopolitical relations across the globe. But as a result, U.S. wheat could become more attractive to international buyers.

"Australia and Argentina had big crops, so their exports will pick up," Martinson said, "but there is the potential that some of the need will come to the United States."

A poor winter wheat crop will also impact the market. Though winter wheat acres have increased, the key players –

Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado – haven't enjoyed ideal growing conditions.

"The weather needs to change dramatically in those states," Martinson said. "77% of the winter wheat crop is in some stage of drought, making it the second-lowest rating for this timeframe in history."

Martinson credits the increase in winter wheat acres to high crop insurance prices and double crop acres.

Martinson's main message? Spring wheat needs to buy acres.

According to preliminary USDA estimates, the nation is expected to plant 49 million acres of wheat. 34 million acres of winter wheat have already been planted, leaving room for 15 million acres of spring wheat.

"That means we need to plant an additional 1.5 to 2 million acres of spring wheat," Martinson said. "I don't think we are going to see that happen."

Furthermore, Canada's wheat crop was less than expected. U.S. imports about 100 million bushels of wheat each year, most of which comes from Canada. As a result, there is now increased demand for U.S. wheat acres.

Martinson advised growers to keep their eyes open. The wheat market is far from stagnant.

"We still have a story that's going to be told once we get to April and May as far as wheat is concerned," said Martinson. 🌾



Martinson Ag Risk Management offers a variety of crop marketing and crop insurance packages to their customers.



The University of Minnesota holds a "Pigweed Identification" demonstration at the 2022 Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research.

Research Rewards

By Sydney Harris
Ag Management Solutions

Best of the Best spotlights wheat, soybean research

In February, producers gathered in Moorhead and Grand Forks to learn about the latest in checkoff-sponsored wheat and soybean research at the 2022 Best of the Best. After listening to speakers during the morning sessions, attendees were able to stretch their legs and watch live demonstrations highlighting wheat quality, LoRaWan technology and kernza, a new perennial grain.

Soil and erosion loss

University of Minnesota Extension Educator Jodi DeJong-Hughes kicked off the day by addressing the growing concern surrounding soil and erosion loss. A farmer's topsoil is an asset, and this problem can result in substantial yield and monetary loss. The average monetary cost from soil and erosion costs farmers about \$50.84 per-acre.

"As you lose your soil, you lose your yield potential," DeJong-Hughes said, "and any wind over 13 mph can start picking up soil!"

DeJong-Hughes listed several methods that can help producers protect their soil, such as shelter belts.

Once scattering the countryside, they are now being cleared throughout the area. Though residue is enough to protect the soil in lighter winds, when wind speeds are 30-50 mph, residue isn't strong enough to pull the soil down. But shelter belts are.

"Shelter belts are going down in our areas, but we want to look at repopulating these areas," DeJong-Hughes said. "A 30-foot tree break will give you 300-feet of protection."

DeJong-Hughes also stressed the importance of proper tillage.

"Tillage is one of the most erosive factors out there," she said. "It is more erosive than wind and water combined."

When tilling, it is important to reduce the depth, the aggressiveness, the number of passes and the speed.

However, the most important practice is to cover the soil.

"The biggest one is to cover the soil. I'm not saying 100%, but even 50% would be awesome," DeJong-Hughes said. "It can be cover crops, or just keeping a little bit of your residue on there."

Herbicide carryover

The unusually dry summer of 2021 has increased producers' concerns about herbicide carryover. North Dakota State University Extension Weed Specialist Joe Ikley spoke to these concerns.

"We need moisture to have herbicide breakdown," Ikley said. "Without moisture, the chemical half-life is longer because we don't get chemical breakdown."

There are three main fates of herbicides in the soil: Adsorption, movement and degradation. Generally, movement is preferred in the form of plant uptake, but degradation is a concern because of the drought. Luckily, the warm and wet September in the Northern Plains helped with herbicide breakdown.

"Temperature and moisture drive the degradation process," Ikley said. "Warm and moist is best. Plus, herbicide degradation ceases when the soil is frozen, giving us about a four-month window when there won't be any degradation at all."

Ikley listed Clopyralid (Stinger), Atrazine, and group 27 herbicides as those with greatest carryover concerns. He said that 2022 is not the ideal year to test label rotation intervals.

If carryover is a concern, tillage can further help dilute herbicide concentrations in the soil. Bioassay, the measurement of concentration of a substance by its effect on living plants, can be important and is typically cheaper and more reliable than lab analysis.

Managing high fertilizer costs



North Dakota State University Extensions Claire Keene showcases kernza at the Best of the Best.

Skyrocketing fertilizer prices have been another cause of concern for producers. Dave Franzen with North Dakota State University Extension offered advice on how to balance high fertilizer prices with proper fertility management.

"Our idea is to maximize your profit, not necessarily maximize your yield," Franzen said.

The N Calculator, which Franzen helped create, only goes up to \$1.00 per pound of N. However, he explained a quick way to resolve the issue.

"When I set these calculators up and did the math," Franzen said, "I couldn't imagine a nitrogen cost higher than a dollar per pound. However, dividing the price of both wheat and N by 2 will get you the same recommendation."

The free calculator can be found on NDSU's website or on Google and Apple's app stores as "North Dakota Crop Nitrogen Calculator."

As for other key nutrients, there is a potassium calculator, like the nitrogen calculator. However, there isn't a calculator for phosphate. Based on research in western North Dakota, as the price of phosphate increases, the critical value of whether it is profitable to apply phosphate decreases.

"I think it's always a good idea to put some starter phosphate on wheat," Franzen said, "but if you're thinking about large amounts of phosphate, this isn't the year for that."

To watch a replay of the Best of the Best, visit Minnesota Wheat's [YouTube page](#).

The Best of the Best returned to an in-person event after a virtual pivot in 2021. The research conference is sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, the Minnesota Wheat Research & Promotion Council, the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association, the North Dakota Soybean Council and the North Dakota Wheat Commission.

Farming factors

By Sydney Harris and Drew Lyon
Ag Management Solutions

Experts address production, marketing issues during Best of the Best



Dave Franzen (NDSU Extension), Seth Naeve (U of M Extension) and Dr. Mike Metzger (vice president for Agriculture and Research at Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative) speak on soil fertility at the Best of the Best.

The warm weather during the 2021 growing season was partly felt under the cover of darkness. Sure, high temps hit the Northern Plains last year, but the heat lingered past sunset and through summer nights, creating unusually high average temperatures.

“It stayed warm at night (last year). Small grains don’t like warm nights,” University of Minnesota Extension Small Grains Specialist Jochum Wiersma said. “We’re a cool-season grass.”

Wiersma took a look back on 2021 growing season and set his sights on the region’s 2022 spring wheat and soybean growing season at the 2022 Best of the Best. After a record drought during the first nine months of 2021, moisture in September and October made all the difference for some producers – but it was mostly too little, too late for wheat growers.

“You should be really, really happy that it started raining just before beet harvest,” Wiersma said. “(Otherwise) those piles right now would be in a world of hurt. ... It didn’t help wheat. We lived on borrowed water pretty much the whole year for wheat.”

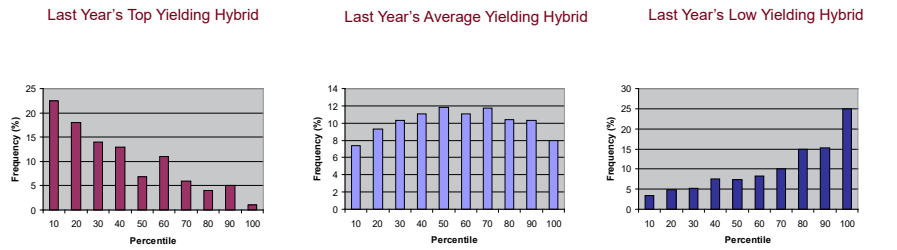
After a promising start, Minnesota spring wheat growers produced an average of 48 bushels per acre, five bushels less than 2020 and down from a record-high average of 67 bushels per-acre in 2017.

“We’re basically in soybean yield territory, which is somewhat depressing,” said Wiersma, who added that some sunflowers growers near Crookston fared even worse. “There was extreme variability across the state.”

Wiersma followed with a variety trials update. The U of M printed its preliminary results in the November/December 2021 issue of Prairie Grains and released their updated yield results in January online at varietytrials.umn.edu.

“Most of the time I can get you reasonable data within days of being on the combine,” Wiersma said.

The Odds of Picking This Year’s Winner on Your Farm Using Last Year’s Data from Your Farm (Single Location)



University of Minnesota Extension
© 2021 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

PICKS (nothing >5 FHB or BLS; >2 PHS)

VARIETY	PLUSES	MINUSES
SY 611 CL2	Balanced	Quality
Linkert	Straw Strength	FHB (5)
MN-Torgy	Balanced, BLS, FHB	
MN-Washburn	Balanced, BLS, FHB	
SY McCloud	Protein	FHB (5)
SY Valda	Yield, BLS, FHB	Quality, Ldg (5)
CP3530	Balanced	Ldg (5)

University of Minnesota Extension
© 2021 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

Images courtesy of Jochum Wiersma.

Wiersma joked about how predicting winners and losers as a researcher can backfire.

“Plant breeders go gray, bald and grumpy as their careers advance,” he said, “and the reason for that is: You think you have a winner and then the next year happens.”

During the conference, leading experts including U of M Extension Agronomist Seth Naeve and North Dakota State University researchers Michael Wunsch and Janet Knodel, dug deep on best management practices.

MN-Torgy, the most recent variety released by the U of M, accounted for nearly 10% of all Minnesota’ spring wheat acreage. WB9590 was the most popular variety, comprising about 17% of the total acreage across 14 locations.

Holding yield trials isn’t just a matter of looking back, Wiersma said. It can help forecast the next season.

“The only reason we do yield trials is not to prove the past,” he said. “That’s the hindsight. You want to sample as many locations as possible (so) you have a feel for next year.”

Continued on Page 20

Excess nitrogen and IDC

Because of dry conditions, many producers are concerned about how excess nitrogen (N) will affect their soybeans. Naeve, whose projects are supported in part by soybean-checkoff funding, presented on high residual N and the management of Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) in soybeans.

“Excess N is another risk factor for IDC in soybeans,” he said.

Excess N increases the PH of the rhizosphere and impedes the exchange of iron in the leaf tissue. Additionally, the soil won't fix as much nitrogen, causing the PH level to rise.

Suggestions to manage IDC included: choosing IDC varieties, increasing populations and applying an iron chelate.

“Unless you have exhausted all other options,” Naeve said, “I don't think it's necessary to change rotations.”



Researchers recommend that growers select a soybean variety with tolerance to IDC.

5465945

Managing white mold

Wunsch addressed proper management of white mold in soybeans, stressing the importance of using the proper droplet size when applying fungicide.

“You can almost double your yield by getting the droplet size right,” he said. “As the canopy becomes more closed, we need coarser droplets.”

Wunsch also illustrated the results of spraying fungicide at various growth stages.

“Fungicides don't translocate into new growth,” Wunsch said, “so you should spray at 100% R2, unless the canopy closes early.”



Researchers recommend that growers select a soybean variety with tolerance to IDC.

5602920

Insect update

Every year, farmers work to keep insects from overrunning their fields. Knodel gave a field crop insect update where she highlighted multiple problem pests such as the two-spotted spider mite, which was worsened by the drought.

“It attacks over 500 different plants, including all of our field crops,” she said. “They can explode quickly with a short life cycle when it's really hot – only five days.”

Knodel doesn't recommend a pre-mix treatment for spider mite control because there are two active ingredients at a lower toxicity rate.

Knodel also touched on grasshoppers, a heightened issue because of the drought, soybean aphids, bean leaf beetles and caterpillars.



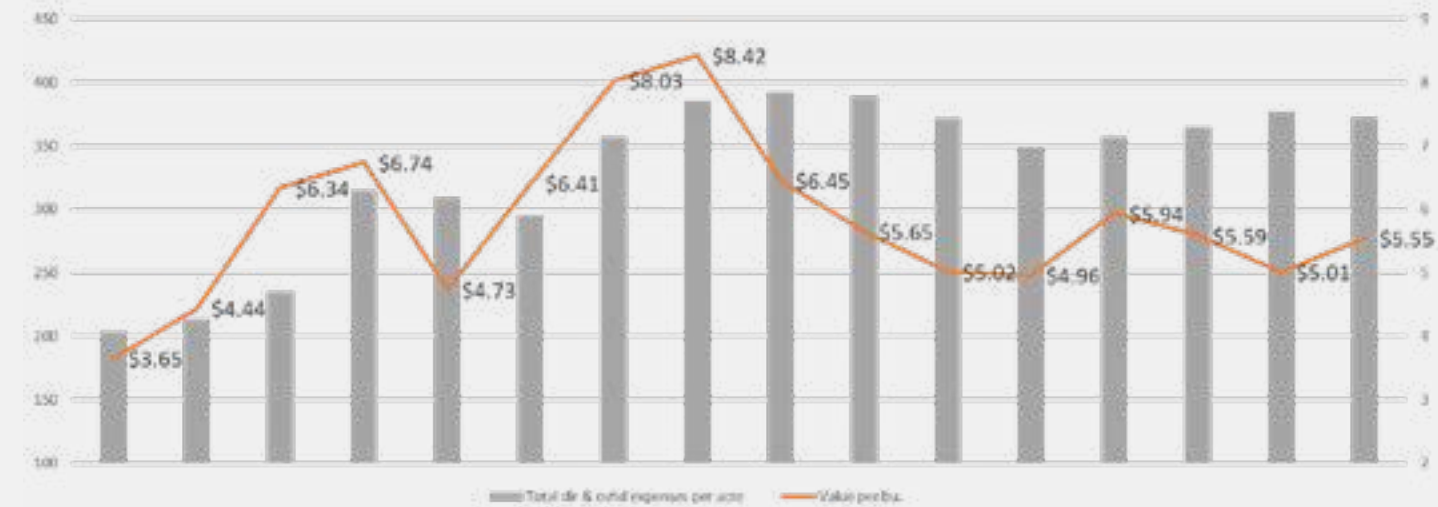
The highest risk of spider mite infestation occurs during drought conditions.

5356811

Projected break-even prices for 2022

Crop	5Yr Yield	Expense/Acre	Break-Even
Corn	178	\$821	\$4.61/bu
Soybean	42	\$427	\$10.17/bu
Wheat	65	\$550	\$8.46/bu
Sugarbeets	29	\$1413	\$48.72/T

MN Wheat Prices and Costs Per Acre



Keeping it simple

Prairie Grains columnist Betsy Jensen arrived at the Small Grains Update in a good mood after taking a look at the morning markets. Prices were up across the commodity spectrum.

“It's always a bummer to talk markets on a down day,” she said.

Jensen is a Farm Business Management instructor at Northland Community & Technical College and has spent the first few months of 2022 helping farmers plan for the years ahead, all part of what Jensen said is her hope that farmers can sleep at night.

“There's a lot of bullishness in the market,” she said.

She covered the gamut in her speech, from addressing input prices to urging farmers to seek mental health assistance. Although land prices have spiked, Jensen cautioned farmers to remember the lessons of the past, in which farmers had to rely on past reserves for six years.

“I'm a huge advocate for working capital,” she said. “You have to have cash on hand. ... Increasing land values can't pay your bills, it can't pay your land payment.”

Jensen advised growers to focus on what they can control – like when to sell their wheat. When she's asked, Jensen said she typically replies: “Why are you holding onto your wheat? ...

In my mind, if I sell my wheat for under \$9.17, I screwed up. There were no lines at harvest, it was clear as a bell.”

She recommended farmers download the FRED (Federal Reserve Economic Data) app on their phones for the latest inflation and interest rates data.

“It's a numbers-lovers dream,” she said.

She also urged a less high-tech approach to growers: Write the highest price received at harvest, or the current price, on an index card and set a bar.

“Get an index card, write the highest price you got at harvest or today's price with a Sharpie, then, put it on your bulletin board for spring wheat. That will be the bar we set through winter,” says Jensen. “I want farmers to set a bar and keep their eyes on the markets. It's nice to have those reminders sometimes.”

Taking regular screenshots of prices for future reference is another handy tool.

“I don't want to be in your office a year from now doing closeouts,” she said.

She stressed that focusing on the factors in farmers' control – and not stressing what we can't control – can make all the difference. Keep it simple: Lock in profits, manage risk, think long-term and get those index cards out. 🍌

DRIVING DIVERSITY

For Tregg Cronin, variety is the spice of life

By Drew Lyon
Ag Management Solutions

T

Tregg Cronin sees agriculture from all sides. The South Dakota farmer and rancher operates his fourth-generation family operation. He also holds an extensive background as a grain marketer and commodities analyst and contributor to DTN/Progressive Farmer.

“It was a very good experience getting into the risk management side before taking over the (farm) responsibilities,” said Cronin, who returned to the family farm in 2013 after a stint as a CHS grain marketer and commodity brokerage with CHS Hedging. “I like straddling between my farming and marketing hat.”

The Cronin’s operation, which Tregg’s great grandparents founded in 1907, is a family affair. Tregg farms with his wife, Sara and son, Morgan, along with his father, uncle and cousins, Corey and Casey. During the pandemic, Tregg and his cousins undertook the complex task of transitioning the farm from one generation to the next.

“It’s been a whirlwind trying to jump through various tax law changes, estate planning changes,” he said. “Doing it all during COVID hasn’t been the best timing. But we’re nearing the finish line. It’s been challenging but rewarding.”

Tregg looks forward to the day when the fifth generation of Cronins can begin overseeing the farm in Gettysburg, South Dakota.

“My cousins and I, all three of us have children, so the fifth generation is on the ground and starting to slowly work on the farm,” he said.

Diversification is a hallmark of the Cronin’s farm. They raise a bevy of crops: spring and winter wheat (and produce seed for both crops); soybeans; corn; oats; and forage mixes for their cattle operation.

“We pride ourselves on having a diverse operation,” he said.

Continued on page 24



Carbon questions

As a farmer and market analyst, Cronin will be monitoring carbon sequestration. It may take a while, but Cronin predicts a seismic shift is bound to happen .

“It’s the wild, wild west out there,” he said. “In the next 10 years, we are going to see more change with that than we can imagine. It’s not there yet, but I think carbon programs are going to be a meaningful part of farmer income.”

The Cronins have stayed ahead of the curve on their soil health practices. Since the 1980s, they've gone no-till. Others are now following their lead. In 2016, the Cronins were recognized for their conservation practices by receiving CHS' Leopold Conservation Award.

"We're pretty proud of that fact as the whole carbon discussion has revved up," he said. "It's been fun to see the push toward no-till farming and carbon sequestration, and know we've been doing that for a while."

In 2021, Cronin also added to his leadership resume when he was named chairman of the South Dakota Wheat Commission, which oversees the state's wheat checkoff program.

"Tregg is a tremendous asset to our organization. He's an extremely talented individual," South Dakota Wheat Commission Executive Reid Christopherson said. "He stepped up very early after coming on the commission."

A 2009 graduate of St. Thomas University, Cronin was appointed to the Commission in 2016 by then-South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Within his first year, he started serving on the Northern Crops Council, which governs the Northern Crops Institute. He was later named chair and served two years leading NCI, one of the nation's leading agricultural research centers.

"I really appreciated Tregg's leadership," NCI Director Mark Jirik said. "He understands the aspects because of his work in commodities, how to grow NCI in that was beneficial to growers in the region."

Jirik commended Cronin for looking beyond the interests of his own operation.

"He could always put on his farmer hat," Jirik said. "Tregg really has a broad view. It wasn't about him; it was about the region."

Breeding benefits

Cronin has embraced the conversation on social media, particularly Twitter, where he jousts and engages with producers and consumers. He's been active on the app since 2011, when he used Twitter for the latest market information. He still finds Twitter a (mostly) positive outlet – as long as you think before tweeting. Plus, he's made friends on the platform.

"Every aspect of the ag industry is on (Twitter)," he said. "You definitely have to have a self-censor just like anything else. ... It's been a great tool. The more open access to information is a good thing, but you've got to know how to sift through things."

Cronin is a big proponent of South Dakota State University's wheat breeding program. The Commission directs wheat checkoff resources into public breeding programs like SDSU's, and Cronin is pleased with the results the research brings back to the farm.

"When you get to see the hands-on aspect of the breeding program between the spring and winter wheat, you get a sense

Follow Tregg Cronin on Twitter at @5thWave_tcronin.



of all the work that goes into bringing a new variety through from a paper to bushels in the field and into your bin," Cronin said. "I'm very proud of the relationship we have, and it's critical in 2022 we continue to make those investments, as more and more companies get into the wheat states."

With checkoff support, SDSU's wheat varieties have consistently been recognized in variety trials.

"Having those public varieties is very important and that's not to disparage private companies," Cronin said. "But SDSU is a top-notch program, and that's where a good majority of our checkoff dollars go."

This year, the Commission will continue its sponsorship of SDSU's crop production trials.

"That's one of the biggest things we sponsor, getting yield and all the characteristics – for free – to the producer," he said.

'A wild ride'

As a closer follower of agriculture markets, Cronin sees a lot of potential complications – and opportunities – in the year ahead: the Russian aggression against Ukraine and its effect on global wheat markets; a lingering drought; a rise in corn and soybean prices; and skyrocketing input costs.

"It's been a wild ride to say the least and unfortunately, we've got so many cross currents," he said. "It's making having an objective opinion on price difficult."



"Wheat has a different set of market dynamics than what corn and soybeans deal with," said grain markets expert and Gettysburg, S.D., farmer Tregg Cronin. "We've got dryness in the Northern and Southern Plains, and everyone needs some moisture before spring."

We stick to a strict rotation so you survive the ups and downs of the market without trying to change your whole farm to bet on one commodity.

Cronin says the diversification of his operation helps him manage market turbulence. In South Dakota, between 20-30% of the state's wheat market is exported.

"We stick to a strict rotation so you survive the ups and downs of the market without trying to change your whole farm to bet on one commodity," he said.

Fertilizer prices, of course, have also been cause for concern. But about 15 years ago, the Cronins installed infrastructure to handle both liquid and dry fertilizer year-round, allowing the operation to take advantage of times of excess supply. That short-term expense has paid off in the long run.

"That's been the best investment we've made in our operation, to handle that product when the market doesn't want it," said Cronin, who advised growers to have a strong relationship with their local retailer. "It's tough having to make copping decisions based on the high price of fertilizer."

He'll also be keeping a close eye on the weather heading into the spring. Right now, Cronin is taking a wait-and-see-approach, and hoping for the best.

"If we get rain, it'll be a good thing for producers, and markets will respond," he said. "That's why we to take it day-by-day until we get into spring." 🌾

THE RIGHT TIME

First load of tariff-free US wheat arrives in Vietnam

By U.S. Wheat Associates

Timing is everything. Following productive talks with the United States last year, the Vietnamese government eliminated a three percent U.S. wheat import tariff on Dec. 30, 2021. On Feb. 6, 2022, the first shipment of U.S. wheat purchased without a tariff arrived at port in Ho Chi Minh City carrying more than 68,350 metric tons of soft white and hard red spring wheat grown in the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains.

“With the import tariff reduced to zero, the Vietnamese buyer saved almost \$1 million on this vessel load of U.S. wheat alone,” said Robert Hanson, agricultural counselor for the USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service, Hanoi. “We thank the Vietnam government for ending the tariff, a decision that will hold the line on food costs and help make U.S. wheat more competitive in Vietnam’s growing market.”

Vietnam imports an average of about 4 million metric tons of wheat per year. Australia and Canada are large wheat suppliers to Vietnam and had enjoyed duty-free access to Vietnam for many years under regional trade agreements.

“The Foreign Agricultural Service worked hard to cut this barrier and level the playing field for U.S. wheat in Vietnam,” U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) President Vince Peterson said. “Vietnam first reduced the U.S. wheat import tariff from five percent to three percent in July 2020. The talks continued until Vietnam published the final decree, and USDA and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced in November 2021 that the tariff would be eliminated.”

However, even with the applied U.S. wheat import tariff, Vietnamese millers doubled U.S. import volume to more than 520,000 metric tons between 2015 and 2021. In addition to soft white and hard red spring wheat, Vietnam imported U.S. hard red winter and soft red winter wheat in 2021. That returned about \$130 million to the bottom lines of U.S. farmers and the wheat supply industry.



“Eliminating the U.S. wheat import tariff came at the right time for Vietnam given the run up in U.S. and global wheat prices,” Peterson said. “We will keep helping Vietnamese customers gain more value with the U.S. wheat supplies needed to meet the growing demand there for better quality wheat foods.”

U.S. Wheat Associates’ (USW) mission is to “develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance wheat’s profitability for U.S. wheat producers and its value for their customers.” USW activities in more than 100 countries are made possible through producer checkoff dollars managed by 17 state wheat commissions and cost-share funding provided by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service.

USW maintains 15 offices strategically located around the world to help wheat buyers, millers, bakers, wheat food processors and government officials understand the quality, value and reliability of all six U.S. wheat classes. Later this year, Minnesota farmer Rhonda K. Larson will become USW chair. For more information, visit www.uswheat.org.

‘Quality’ time

Gov. Walz makes push to certify one-million acres

As Minnesota farmers begin final preparations for the 2022 growing season, Gov. Tim Walz and his administration have their sights set high on Minnesota’s Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP).

“This program works on every level,” the governor said, “and it works because producers are at the center of it, producers help write it and producers help executive it.”

On a frigid January afternoon, the governor returned to his hometown of Mankato to address the farming community at the return of the MN AG EXPO conference and trade show.

“Governor Walz, like all of us, is committed to water quality,” said Minnesota Corn Growers Association Director Harold Wolle, who introduced the governor. “He appreciates the time and effort it takes to get our farmers Minnesota Ag Water Quality certified. ... He understands the importance of ag to Minnesota’s economy.”

During his address, the governor spoke with optimism about the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s goal of certifying one million acres in the MAWQCP by the end of 2022. The governor cited a list of statistics that show the benefits of enrolling in the MAWQCP: Saving almost 41,000 tons of sediment every year; removing 120,000 tons of topsoil and 52,000 pounds of phosphorous; reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45,000 metric tons; and cutting nitrogen loss by 49% -- all while increasing farmer profits by an estimated 20% greater profit.

“That is a success story,” Gov. Walz said. “Ag has always had to adapt to changing situations. ... In every single case, ag has been able to deliver on that.”

The MAWQCP was signed into statute in 2013, piloted in 2014 and began statewide operations in July 2015.



Gov. Walz highlights his administration’s water quality efforts during a speech at the 2022 MN AG EXPO.

The Minnesota Corn Growers and Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, along with other commodity groups, each lobbied in favor of the program. Both Wolle and Mike Skaug, who also introduced the governor, are both Water Quality certified.

“The governor and MDA have been excellent partners with producers when it comes to promoting soil health,” Skaug said.

Farmers can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District to apply for MAWQCP certification and then complete a series of steps with local certifiers using a 100 percent site-specific risk assessment process. By law all data is kept private, and only by signing a formal release can a farmer’s name be released publicly. After becoming certified, farmers receive a 10-year contract ensuring them they will be deemed in compliance with any new water quality laws, an official MAWQCP sign to display on their farm, and other benefits developed by local MAWQCP providers.

“The Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program is a double-win for the state,” Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said. “We see that certified farms have a major impact on our environment for the better; now we also know that those farmers see better economic outlooks which helps our ag economy. I encourage all farmers and landowners to look into the advantages of certifying their land.”

More than 1,150 producers are currently certified in the program, covering more than 815,000 certified acres and implementing more than 2,300 new conservation practices. The governor and MDA hope to celebrate the million-acre milestone later this year.

“The ag groups lead from the front,” Walz said. “When we work together and marry it with the best economic practices, we get results that matter.”

Brought to you by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Shining a light

Members of Congress push back against India's trade-distorting domestic wheat and rice support

By U.S. Wheat Associates

During winter 2022, members of Congress urged Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai to pursue a World Trade Organization (WTO) case against India's trade-distorting domestic wheat and rice support.

In separate letters to agency officials, members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives – including North Dakota Senators Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven and Minnesota Rep. Michelle Fischbach – noted that while India is limited to providing 10% support for crop inputs under its WTO agreement, the government subsidizes half the total cost of

wheat and rice production and recently announced a massive new subsidy for fertilizer. The letter also reminds Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack that the United States counter-notified India's claim that it meets WTO limits on price support. However, India's government continued raising the guaranteed prices it pays to purchase wheat and rice.

"We ask that you swiftly take action to reverse the trend of non-compliance by India with WTO domestic support requirements by initiating a dispute settlement case," the letter stated. "Considering India's activity, we encourage you to initiate the WTO litigation process through a request for consultations."

India's subsidies lead directly to domestic supplies that far exceed India's acknowledged need for stockkeeping – stocks the government cannot store effectively. As a result, the government unloads stocks into the export market, often at prices below what it paid to purchase the wheat. USDA estimates Indian wheat exports for the marketing year ending June 30, 2022, will be 5 million metric tons (MMT). This leaves almost 28 MMT of wheat stocks remaining.

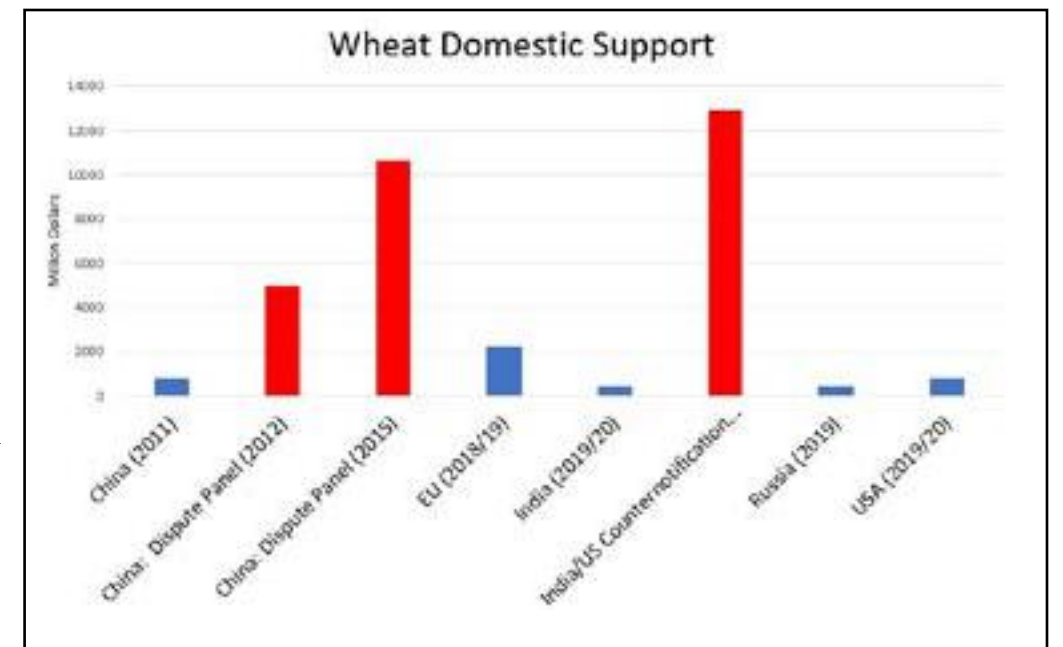
India's wheat subsidies encourage over-production, pushing India into the global export market. As a result, stocks exceeding the government's ability to store wheat periodically distorts trade.

The distortion of international wheat and rice trade from these policies is severe, costing U.S. wheat farmers more than \$500 million per year in lost income, according to a 2020 Texas A&M University study commissioned by USW and USA Rice.

Wrong subsidies, wrong time

Subsidies encouraging over-use of agricultural production inputs are not appropriate when the world is concerned about agriculture's environmental footprint. We ask the question why is India subsidizing fossil fuel and chemical fertilizer use? Why is India subsidizing over-production that encourages the cultivation of more marginal land?

U.S. wheat and rice farmers rely on open markets and fair trade to sustain their ability to feed the world. USW joins members of Congress and the National Association of Wheat Growers in calling on India to adhere to its international commitments and willingness to work with USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to maintain the competitiveness of U.S. wheat in the world. 🌾



The U.S. government submits this data to the WTO as part of a counter-notification. The data shows a wide discrepancy between actual domestic wheat support and the Indian government's submission.



India is the world's second-largest producing country for both wheat and rice.



Providing solutions for your success



(218)-745-4166

747 S Main St
Warren, MN 56762

chsagservices.com

ACROSS THE PRAIRIE

By Prairie Grains Magazine staff

Grants available for value-added agricultural processing

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for its Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Value-Added Grant program.

The program offers designated grants to help Minnesota processors add value to Minnesota agricultural products by investing in the purchase of equipment, production capacity, market diversification, and market access for value-added products.

Applicants must:

- Be an individual (including farmers), business, agricultural cooperative or a local unit of government (including Tribal governments) engaged in value-added processing
- Currently reside in Minnesota or be authorized to conduct business in Minnesota

MDA anticipates awarding approximately \$1,000,000 using a competitive review process. The maximum equipment award is \$150,000, and the minimum award is \$1,000. Grantees are responsible for at least 75% of the total project cost as a cash match. Funding for the AGRI Value-Added Grant will be awarded in one round. The AGRI Value-Added Grant application must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Decisions are expected in early May.



If a grant application submitted during the 2021 AGRI Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant round was not selected, it will automatically be considered for this AGRI Value-Added Grant round. For more information, visit the AGRI Value-Added Grant Program at mda.state.mn.us.

Enlist Duo prohibited in six Minnesota counties

The U.S. EPA has granted new registrations and labels for Corteva Agriscience's Enlist One and Enlist Duo herbicides.

The products are registered for seven years but will not be available to growers in a limited number of Minnesota counties. In Minnesota, Enlist Duo will be prohibited for use in Clay, Marshall, Polk, Redwood, Renville and Stearns due to federally listed endangered species. Please note: Enlist One will still be labeled for use in those counties. EPA is also adding several new requirements to the label to protect these federally listed species and habitats, as well as limit off-target movement and protect pollinators.

These additional restrictions include:

- No applications permitted when rainfall is expected within 48 hours, or when soils are fully saturated
- No irrigation that could produce runoff within 48 hours of application
- Users must select from a list of runoff reduction measures to reduce 2,4-D and glyphosate concentrations in runoff
- Only approved tank mixes, nozzles and spray pressures are permitted
- A downwind 30-foot infield buffer is required to protect sensitive areas

Enlist Duo and Enlist One are herbicides used for post-emergence control of broadleaf weeds in cotton, soybean and corn crops, including those that have developed resistance to multiple herbicides.

North Dakota Wheat Commission announces county elections

Elections to fill county representative positions for the North Dakota Wheat Commission (NDWC) will be held in 11 counties in south central or (District 3), and in 5 counties in the northeast region or (District 6) later this year.



All active wheat producers who reside in the county, and who have not requested a refund are eligible to participate in their county's election. Elected county representatives will then participate in their respective District election to select one producer from their District to serve on the NDWC Board.

The Commission consists of seven producer board members, six of which are producer elected and one appointed by the Governor. The Commission board is responsible for setting the budget and developing policy and programs for market development, research, domestic promotion, and domestic and trade policy. County representatives usually meet once per year at an annual meeting, and serve a vital role in ensuring local issues are included in statewide discussions, and are a resource in helping to establish priorities for wheat checkoff investments.

The term of office for District 3 and District 6 representatives elected this winter will be from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026. There are no limits on how many terms a producer may serve at the county level. Commission positions are limited to three, four-year terms. For questions about the county representative position or Board position, please contact the NDWC at 701-328-5111. Elections are conducted by the NDSU Extension Service. For more information contact local Extension office or visit www.ndwheat.com.

South Dakota Wheat Commission releases 2021 Annual Report

To mark its 60th anniversary, the South Dakota Wheat Commission (SDWC), the organization that oversees the state's wheat checkoff program, has released its 2021 Annual Report. The look back on 2021 reveals an extremely tumultuous year in the wheat industry. Acreage shifts, weather complications, and ongoing COVID impacts on domestic and global societies

all impacted wheat inventories, exports and prices in South Dakota.

In 1961, the South Dakota Legislature passed the South Dakota Wheat Resources Act establishing the South Dakota Wheat Commission. In the decades that followed, the SDWC has effectively managed wheat producer contributions through investments in research, market development and consumer education. The Annual Report can be read at sdwheat.org.

Montana Grain Growers Association and Montana Grains Foundation offering scholarships

The Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA) and the Montana Grains Foundation (MGF) will each offer scholarships to be used for the 2022-2023 school year.

MGGA will award two \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing an agricultural related degree at the college of their choice. Applicants or their parent, grandparent, or legal guardian must be a current producer member of MGGA. MGF will award two \$2,500 scholarships to Montana State University juniors or seniors pursuing a degree in Ag Business, Ag Education, Plant Science or Environment Sciences, and two \$2,500 scholarships to MSU graduate students.



Applications must be received no later than April 1, 2022, and the winners will be announced by May 1. More information and application forms are available by calling the MGGA office at 406-761-4596. 🌾



IT'S NOT JUST YOUR LAND. IT'S YOUR LEGACY.

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program rewards farmers like you for what you do best, taking care of your land and its natural resources.

To get started and learn more, contact your local soil and water conservation district or go to:

MyLandMyLegacy.com

