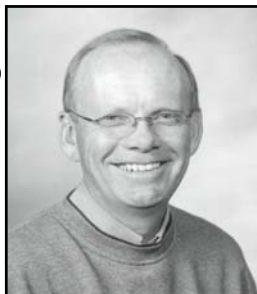


AGRONOMY NEWS

 **Grasslands for Tomorrow**

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Conservation Reserve Program – CP37 The Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative By Rick Warhurst, Ducks Unlimited Manager, Conservation Programs (ND, SD)

In August 2006 the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a new conservation practice, CP37, the Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative. This CRP practice allows producers to restore up to 100,000 acres of wetland-grassland complexes by December 2007. The objective in North Dakota and in South Dakota is to restore 40,000 acres of wetlands habitat and the grassland buffer around the wetlands in each state. CP37 is targeted to areas that support greater than or equal to 25 breeding duck pairs per square mile. Maps have been provided to each County Farm Services Agency Office that show the eligible lands in that county. The restored wetland and grassland habitats will filter water runoff, recharge groundwater supplies, protect drinking water, reduce downstream flooding and provide vital habitat for breeding waterfowl and other wildlife species.

In addition to the duck pairs requirement, eligible land includes cropland that has been cropped four of the six years from 1996 through 2001. The land must be legally and physically capable of being cropped. The offered acreage must include wetlands that have been cropped and adjacent upland acreage. Up to 10 acres of adjacent upland acreage can be enrolled for every wetland acre. The acreage of non-cropped wetlands in a field may be used to determine upland acres eligible for enrollment.

Cost share assistance is available for grassland and wetland restoration efforts on lands enrolled in CP37. **Grasslands:** The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will provide up to 90% cost sharing on grass seed and required management practices (light disking, burning, interseeding, clipping and removal) if the landowner allows public access to the CRP for the life of the contract. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will also provide an additional one-time upfront incentive payment of \$1 to \$4 per acre per CRP contract year depending upon location within the state if landowner allows public access to the CRP for the life of the contract. **Wetlands:** The USDA will fund up to 75% of the cost of hydrology restoration to the wetland. Ducks Unlimited will pay up to 25% of the actual wetland restoration cost (includes hydrology restoration and sediment removal as deemed necessary by USDA).

In nearly all instances, this 25% cost-share will cover the landowner cost for the restoration work. The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust will provide one-time incentive payments in addition to conservation partners' cost-share on all wetland restorations at the following rate: \$30 per restored wetland acre or \$150 per restored basin. DU and NDNRT will make payments directly to landowners/producers when confirmed by FSA/NRCS field offices that the wetland restorations have been completed. Wetland restoration consists of the physical restoration of wetland hydrology.

CP37 is a continuous sign-up CRP practice. The sign-up period opened on October 2, 2006 and runs until December 31, 2007. Contact your Farm Services Agency Office to learn more about enrollment in this new CRP conservation practice. Contact ND Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6371, Ducks Unlimited at 701-355-3500 and NDNRT at 701-223-8501 concerning cost-share and incentives funding for CP37.

Winter Cereal Sponsors

Ducks Unlimited

Bayer CropScience

Syngenta Crop Protection

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

North Dakota Game & Fish Department

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Day, Marshall, James River, Ransom and
Wild Rice Conservation Districts**

North Dakota Dept. of Health 319 Program

**NDSU and SDSU Cooperative
Extension Service**

**2006 Winter Wheat Variety Performance and Response to Foliar Fungicide
Kidder County, North Dakota**

Blake Vander Vorst, DU Regional Agronomist

This trial was planted on September 29, 2005 on ground previously planted to flax north of Steele, ND on the farm of **Tim DeKrey**. Starter fertilizer was not used in this trial. There was not any soil moisture at seeding. The soil was very firm and the drill did not adequately place the seed in some of the wheel tracks, but the stand was quite uniform by late spring. There were two replications for the individual plot treatments. Please keep this in mind as you evaluate the data. Plots were seeded at a rate of 90 pounds/acre using a Great Plains 3P605NT drill with seven-inch spacing. Weeds were controlled with Affinity Tankmix and Starane (0.6 + 3 oz./acre) applied at the 4-5 lf stage on May 5, 2006. Stratego (4 oz./acre) was added to the herbicide when the fungicide treated plots were sprayed. Plots were fertilized with UAN (28-0-0) on April 7 and May 5, 2006 at 35 GPA and 17.5 GPA, respectively, using stream bars. Soil test N was 29 lbs in the top two feet of soil bringing the total nitrogen available to 185 lbs/acre. The Olsen phosphorous test was 8 ppm and the organic matter was 4.5%.

Variety performance of winter wheat varieties with and without Stratego™ fungicide applied at the 4-5 leaf stage, Kidder County, 2006.

NO FUNGICIDE BU/AC		FUNGICIDE BU/AC		VARIETY AVERAGE BU/AC		TEST WEIGHT LBS/BU	
NuDakota ¹	56.0	Jagalene	61.1	NuDakota ¹	58.1	Jagalene	63.73
Jagalene	53.6	NuDakota ¹	60.3	Jagalene	57.3	Buteo	62.70
Millennium	52.5	Millennium	59.4	Millennium	55.9	Millennium	62.55
Alice ¹	50.8	Wesley	56.3	Alice ¹	53.3	Expedition	62.48
Jerry	47.2	Alice ¹	55.8	Wesley	50.6	Alice ¹	62.35
Radiant	47.0	Harding	54.1	Harding	49.8	Wesley	61.45
Harding	45.6	SD97059-2	53.8	Jerry	49.3	Harding	60.85
Falcon	45.2	Expedition	53.4	Radiant	48.9	Jerry	60.78
Wesley	44.9	Falcon	52.3	Falcon	48.7	Radiant	60.73
SD97059-2	42.9	Jerry	51.4	SD97059-2	48.3	SD97059-2	60.70
Expedition	42.4	Radiant	50.8	Expedition	47.9	NuDakota ¹	60.48
Buteo	42.2	Buteo	46.4	Buteo	44.3	Falcon	59.70
Average	47.5	Average	54.6	Average	51.0	Average	61.53

¹Hard white wheat varieties

The yield increase due to fungicide application was fairly consistent among the varieties. This was not expected with the winter wheat planted in flax stubble and the extremely hot and dry conditions that followed fungicide application. There were some April and early May showers and Tim DeKrey said there were a fair number of mornings with heavy dew prior to the fungicide application. There was also small grain residue on the soil surface from the crop preceding the flax. Yield increases due to fungicide application appeared to be inconsistent in 2006 depending on location. **Partner Thank You's: Steele Farmers Elevator for UAN; Bayer Crop-Science for Stratego fungicide; Dupont for Affinity Tankmix herbicide; NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center and Dr. Blaine Schatz for plot harvest.**

**U.S. and Canada Spring Wheat
Acres in Jeopardy
November 15, 2006**

It's beginning to look like the first casualty in the race for acres in 2007 could be hard red spring wheat. Farmers all across the Dakotas and western Minnesota can forward contract 2007 corn for \$3 a bushel. That is attracting a lot of attention among farmers.

I've had conversations with farmers as far north as the Canadian border who had 150 or more bushels per acre corn in 2006. That's a gross return of \$450 per acre. They would need 100 bushel per acre wheat at the current new crop wheat price to match corn, and that's impossible. They also are now covered by crop insurance, so their financial risk of a poor crop is substantially reduced. One seed dealer reportedly sold 3,000 bags of short-season corn seed this week alone.

The two new ethanol plants in North Dakota are located in the western third of the state, well away from traditional corn country. Talk is there will be substantially more corn planted in those areas as well.

Six dollar new crop (2007) soybean prices as well as strong canola and sunflower prices will also drag acres from spring wheat unless the new crop spring wheat outlook changes and there is plenty of time for that to happen. There's a growing school of thought that this will accelerate an ongoing long-term trend to more row crops and less small grains production. Ethanol and higher corn prices are rapidly expanding the gap in returns per acre.

The same economics will be present in Canada as farmers there are also watching the gap in returns per acre between wheat and canola widen. We've written before about the need to increase canola acres in Canada by at least two million acres (up to three million by some accounts) because of new biodiesel plants and increased exports to Europe. Oats and barley prices are also outpacing the wheat market.

**Winter Wheat Insurance
Coverage Prices**

A popular crop insurance choice among U.S. producers is called CRC or Crop Revenue Coverage. This is a product that guarantees revenue per acre based on historical yield averages (a 10-year rolling average), two price point calculation periods, and the percentage of coverage the producer elects to purchase.

Perhaps the most critical part of this complicated equation is the price guarantee. The winter wheat guarantees first price point is established by taking the average of the July 2007 KC (for HRW) and Chicago (for SRW) futures markets from mid-August through mid-September. This calculation was just completed and the average price for HRW will be someplace between \$4.50 and \$4.60 per bushel.

The important consideration about this initial calculation is that it also becomes the price floor for insurance coverage. The next calculation period occurs during harvest next summer. If prices are higher at that point, the price guarantee will go up. If prices are lower, this \$4.50 to \$4.60 price will be used. The significance is that this is a historically high price protection level and will encourage producers to plant wheat even if conditions are dry.

Editors note: ND and SD producers in spring wheat counties will have to use spring wheat CRC prices because winter wheat is considered spring wheat in these counties.

Winter Wheat Gaining Favor -- The economics for winter wheat keep looking better and better. North Dakota State University Extension farm management economist Andy Swenson thinks more farmers should consider winter wheat. "The yields have gone up faster than spring wheat in this state; it looks pretty good, relative to spring wheat," said Swenson. "It looks like most areas of the state, especially the south-central and north-central part of the state, it looks like more folks should be looking at winter wheat."

Source: *Red River Farm Network*

**Spring Wheat Variety Performance and Response to Foliar Fungicide
Ransom County, 2006**

Joel Ransom and Scott Meyer, NDSU Extension Service, Fargo

This trial was planted on April 25 on ground previously planted to soybean about 6 miles south of Lisbon on the farm of Randy Mairs. The experimental design was a randomized complete block with a split plot arrangement, with fungicide treatment as the main plots and varieties as the subplots with three replications. Plots were seeded at a rate of 1.2 million viable seeds/acre. Weeds were controlled with the labeled rate of Puma, Bronate and Starane applied at the 3-4 lf stage. Plots were fertilized with 150 lbs/acre N as urea prior to planting. Plots receiving fungicide were treated with Folicur™ at 4 fl oz/A plus NIS (Induce) at 0.125% v/v when the majority of the varieties were at the Feekes 10.5.1 stage (early flowering). The trial was harvested with a plot combine on August 14.

Variety performance of spring wheat varieties with and without Folicur™ applied at early flowering, Ransom County, 2006.

Variety	No fungicide			Folicur™ at flowering			Average		
	Yield	Test Wt	Protein	Yield	Test Wt	Protein	Yield	Test Wt	Protein
Alsen	55.9	58.2	15.3	56.2	57.2	15.3	56.0	57.7	15.3
Steele, ND	69.6	59.1	15.0	67.1	59.0	15.2	68.3	59.1	15.1
Glenn	58.0	61.1	15.6	63.4	61.4	15.2	60.7	61.3	15.4
Howard	64.9	58.3	15.1	65.8	58.4	15.2	65.4	58.4	15.1
Briggs	52.9	57.6	15.3	59.6	59.1	14.5	56.2	58.4	14.9
Granger	60.9	57.9	15.2	66.0	57.9	15.2	63.5	57.9	15.2
Traverse	65.4	56.8	14.0	72.0	57.0	14.2	68.7	56.9	14.1
Oklee	51.3	58.1	16.3	58.8	59.4	15.8	55.0	58.7	16.0
Ulen	55.7	55.6	15.6	58.7	57.5	15.4	57.2	56.5	15.5
Ada	58.4	57.2	15.3	59.3	58.5	15.1	58.9	57.9	15.2
Granite	48.4	52.1	16.4	61.5	51.8	16.5	55.0	52.0	16.5
Trooper	68.0	58.4	14.4	69.0	57.0	14.0	68.5	57.7	14.2
Big Red	50.6	56.2	15.0	61.4	56.4	15.1	56.0	56.3	15.1
Rush	51.4	59.6	15.8	57.9	60.5	15.6	54.6	60.1	15.7
Knudson	64.8	57.7	14.4	64.4	58.6	14.2	64.6	58.1	14.3
Freyr	62.7	56.4	14.5	67.2	56.8	14.8	65.0	56.6	14.7
Kelby	55.7	58.8	15.7	59.6	60.2	15.5	57.6	59.5	15.6
Banton	61.9	60.3	15.5	61.4	60.0	15.4	61.6	60.2	15.5
Snowbird ¹	53.3	54.5	15.3	53.7	52.2	15.4	53.5	53.4	15.4
Lolo ¹	71.1	54.8	13.8	75.6	48.5	13.8	73.4	51.7	13.8
Average	59.0 ²	57.4 ²	15.2	62.9	57.4	15.1	61.0	57.4	15.1
LSD 0.05	11.3	3.4	0.7	11.3	3.4	0.7	8.0	2.4	0.5
c.v.							11.3	3.7	2.7

¹Hard white wheat varieties

²The difference between the no fungicide and fungicide means was not statistically significant

2007 Research Sites

The following are the winter wheat research locations and subject matter areas being studied by Ducks Unlimited, SDSU, NDSU, other partners and the Conservation Cropping Systems Project.

Andover, SD – 2.5 miles east on the north side of Highway 12 on the Kevin Anderson farm. Kay Ruden, SDSU, is conducting a fungicide study with eight timing treatments across four winter wheat varieties. BASF, Bayer CropScience and Syngenta Crop Protection are providing support. There is also a winter wheat variety demonstration containing new materials from SDSU, AgriPro, WestBred and the breeding programs in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada. The two new SDSU variety releases (Alice and Darrell) are included along with an experimental winter wheat. A Clearfield winter wheat variety (Norris) from WestBred was supplied by Unity Seed Co. of Casselton and is also included at the Ellendale, ND site.

Forman, ND – 1 mile south on Highway 32 on the Arlen Hanson farm. The study consists of 10 no-till crop rotations on a heavy silty-clay soil in a higher rainfall environment. Crops include corn, soybean, winter wheat, spring wheat, flax and alfalfa. Fall strip-till is compared to no-till seeded corn in one of the comparisons. There is also a single disk verses a shank opener comparison for small grains and soybeans. The web site is <http://notillfarm.org>

Lisbon, ND – 7.5 miles south on Highway 32 at the Randy Mairs farm. Dr. Joel Ransom, Dr. Marcia McMullen and Scott Meyer are comparing foliar fungicide treated to untreated winter wheat and spring wheat varieties. BASF and Bayer CropScience are providing support for this site.

Ellendale, ND – NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center and DU are cooperating in a winter wheat trial 7 miles east of Ellendale on Highway 11 on the Larry Anderson farm. There are three winter wheat varieties planted in spring wheat, flax, pea and soybean stubble. Each variety in each of the prior crops will receive 3 fungicide timing treatments. Syngenta Crop Protection is providing support.

The same 14 winter wheat varieties planted at the Andover site are planted at the Ellendale site. Dr. David Franzen, NDSU, has a trial comparing the effects of chloride fertilization and fungicides and their relative effects on disease on two winter wheat varieties.

New Locations for 2007

There will be two new locations established for the 2007 season by Kent McKay and Lee Novak from the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center thanks to the Bayer CropScience/CropLife/DU partnership.

Roseglen, ND – 6.5 miles west on the south side of Highway 37 on the Don and Edith Bauman farm.

Kent McKay has established 6 winter wheat research trials. The trials consist of:

- ... Seed treatment trial
- ... Variety by fungicide trial with 10 varieties
- ... Variety by fungicide timing trial
- ... Eleven treatment nitrogen source - timing trial
- ... Protein enhancement trial on the new SDSU HWWW variety Alice
- ... Jump Start seed inoculant trial with various levels of phosphate starter fertilizer

Berthold, ND – 2 miles east on the north side of Highway 2 on the Alan Lee farm.

Kent McKay established 4 winter wheat research trials at this site. The trials consist of:

- ... Seed treatment trial
- ... Variety by fungicide trial with 10 varieties
- ... Variety by fungicide timing trial
- ... Jump Start seed inoculant trial with various levels of phosphate starter fertilizer

Reminder

All "Agronomy News" issues can be found at Ducks Unlimited's [website](http://www.ducks.org/agronomy):

<http://www.ducks.org/agronomy>

Also, email Janell at jrath@ducks.org and let her know if you would like to receive it by [email](#). Agronomy News will arrive 7-10 days sooner if you choose to receive it by email.

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Meeting Dates

December 5 & 6, 2006 – Ag Horizons Conference, Ramkota, Pierre, SD.

<http://www.sdwheat2.org/files/AGH2006agenda.pdf>

December 13 & 14, 2006 – Prairie Grains Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Grand Forks, ND. <http://www.smallgrains.org/>

January 9, 2007 – NDGGA Annual Meeting, Bismarck Civic Center, Bismarck, ND. <http://www.ndgga.com/>

January 31 & February 1, 2007 – SD No-Till Conference, Huron Event Center – Crossroads Hotel, Huron, SD. <http://www.sdnottill.com/>

February 1, 2007 – Best of the Best in Wheat Research & Marketing, NDGGA – ND Wheat Commission – NDSU, Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND.

February 2, 2007 – Best of the Best in Wheat Research & Marketing, NDGGA – ND Wheat Commission – NDSU, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

February 6, 2007 – Best of the Best in Wheat Research & Marketing, NDGGA – ND Wheat Commission – NDSU, Airport International Inn, Williston, ND.

February 7 & 8, 2007 – Manitoba North Dakota Zero Tillage Farmers Association Meeting, Victoria Inn and Convention Centre, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. <http://www.mandakzerotill.org/> (information not on web page at this time)

February 15, 2007 – Best of the Best in Wheat Research & Marketing, NDGGA – ND Wheat Commission – NDSU, Doublewood, Bismarck, ND.

February 27, 2007 – NGPRL & Area IV SCD Research Farm Research Results Annual Meeting, Seven Seas, Mandan, ND.

Agronomy News

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