

## NEWS RELEASE

**Wheat Varieties  
July 21, 2004**

### **Alsen is North Dakota's top spring wheat variety**

For the third consecutive year, Alsen was the leading spring wheat variety on North Dakota's planted acreage. Reeder remains second. Briggs and Knudson jump from twelfth and fourteenth in 2003 to third and fifth, respectively. Parshall falls to fourth from third in 2003. These top five varieties account for 63.6 percent of the planted acreage. North Dakota continues to rank first in spring wheat planted acreage in the United States, with 46.1 percent of the nation's total.

Lebsock and Mountrail respectively rank first and second in North Dakota durum planted acreage. Ben falls to third place after leading for five consecutive years. These top three varieties make up 69.4 percent of the planted acreage. Monroe ranks fourth, a climb from sixth in 2003. The leading four durum varieties are all North Dakota releases. Kyle drops one place from fourth last year to fifth in 2004. Once again, North Dakota ranks first in durum planted acreage in the United States, with 69.3 percent of the nation's total.

Jerry has the largest share of the 2004 winter wheat acreage. Following Jerry in order are Wesley, Ransom, Crimson, Elkhorn and Roughrider. These top six varieties are 64.8 percent of the planted acreage. Wesley (second) and Roughrider (sixth) are only separated by 5.0 percent. This year there are more acres in North Dakota planted with winter wheat than in any year since 1990.

The data in this report is based on results of a June survey of nearly 2000 wheat producers conducted by USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Agriculture Experiment Station provided supporting funds for this survey. The NDSU Extension Service provided variety descriptions. Free copies of this publication are available from the North Dakota Wheat Commission, 4023 State Street, Bismarck, ND 58503-0690; telephone (701) 328-5111.

#### **Spring Wheat**

Alsen retains its first place ranking for spring wheat varieties with 28.9 percent of the planted acres. Still leading in all except the three southern districts, it is planted on fewer acres in each district this year.

Reeder is second overall for the third consecutive year, and leads the southwest and south central districts. It has 13.3 percent of the statewide spring wheat planted acreage.

Briggs is third in the state with 7.6 percent of the spring wheat acreage. It is a 2002 South Dakota release with semi-dwarf height, strong straw strength, medium-early maturity rate and leaf rust resistance.

Parshall ranks fourth with 7.1 percent of the spring wheat acreage.

#### **Durum Wheat**

Lebsock ranks first among durum wheat varieties planted in North Dakota for 2004. With 27.9 percent of the planted acreage, it claims the largest share since 2000 when Ben had 29.0 percent.

Mountrail climbed to second overall, though its 21.3 percent of the durum planted acreage is down from 21.8 last year. It leads the northwest district for the third straight year.

Ben is third in the state with 20.2 percent of the durum acreage; its popularity leads the southwest.

Monroe places fourth, and is another variety that ranks higher this year with less acreage. Down slightly from 4.3 percent in 2003, this year's 4.2 percent of durum acreage earns its highest ranking since 2000.

#### **Winter Wheat**

Jerry is the most popular winter wheat variety planted in North Dakota for 2004. It was seeded on 28.3 percent of the planted acreage.

Wesley comes in second with 9.0 percent of winter wheat acreage. The product of a combined effort in Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota, it was released in 2000. Wesley is described as short with medium-strong straw strength, medium-early maturity and fair winter hardiness.

Ransom places third with 7.3 percent of winter wheat acreage, after leading last year with 16.2 percent.

Crimson ranked fourth among winter wheat varieties in 2004. Released by South Dakota in 1997, it has medium height, medium-strong straw strength, a medium maturity rate and fair to good winter hardiness.

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