

# Newsheat

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Summer 2011

## Working with Bayer CropScience

by P. Stephen Baenziger

In December, 2010, NUtech Ventures, the nonprofit corporation responsible for bringing technology to market by building partnerships between University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) researchers and the private sector, and Bayer Crop Science, an innovative crop science company in crop protection, non-agricultural pest control, seeds and traits, signed a licensing agreement to improve wheat breeding and wheat varieties that will be grown by American wheat producers.

The key parts of the agreement were that Bayer Crop Science would have non-exclusive access to UNL's wheat germplasm, the genetic and breeding stocks used to develop new varieties. The agreement is in accordance with principles for collaboration approved by the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates Joint Biotechnology Committee. The University of Nebraska continues to own its germplasm and will release new varieties as it always has. In return for this access to our germplasm, Bayer Crop Science funded the first Presidential Chair at the University of Nebraska, named in honor of our Nebraska wheat growers; and agreed to support UNL research and education programs.

Furthermore, it will establish its first North American wheat breeding station near Lincoln, NE. The breeding station will be a major benefit in numerous ways—high quality jobs, internships for students, a major breeding effort in Nebraska to increase progress in creating new varieties, and access to technology.

The agreement is the newest part of a strategy that UNL has had

to foster economic development, research, education, and outreach that would lead to a more profitable and competitive wheat industry. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has had a long standing arrangement with BASF, providing access to the Clearfield® technology which has led to the release of two popular cultivars, Infinity CL and Settler CL. In 2009, UNL began a collaboration with ConAgra that allowed us to return to testing wheat cultivars in McCook, NE, and collaborate on improving wheat quality. In the future, we hope to work with other companies and stakeholders (our largest grant to breed wheat is to develop varieties for the organic market) as an integral part of the "People's University".

Why did we develop and support this strategy? Currently, about 65 percent of the wheat grown in Nebraska has been developed by the University of Nebraska in cooperation with the USDA-ARS. Clearly we have been successful in meeting our objectives of providing superior varieties with excellent field performance and end-use quality to help make the wheat industry more competitive. However, looking forward, it is clear that more investment in wheat is needed and the investment will most likely and sustainably come from the private sector.

For example, there are seven to eight times more corn breeders than wheat breeders and the technology and progress in corn is higher than in wheat. In addition, in corn over 90 percent (probably closer to 95 percent plus) of those corn breeders work in private industry. With this in mind, we embrace and support the new commercial interest in wheat genetics

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## In this issue...

Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive response to the inaugural edition of *Newsheat* – a quarterly newsletter for and about the Nebraska wheat producer. As a current member of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association (NWGA) you are receiving this issue and all current members will continue to receive upcoming issues. A membership renewal form can be found on page 11.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please send an email with your request to [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com). Topic suggestions and comments are also welcome.

In this edition you will find articles relating to association activities, state and national issues affecting agriculture in Nebraska, and valuable crop information.

Calls to action and items regarding federal budget cuts and Farm Bill discussions have been sent directly to members who have submitted email addresses. These updates allow members to take timely action by contacting state and/or national elected officials. Make sure you have shared your email address with us so can be included in these updates.

You can also follow NWGA activities on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWheat>) and Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/#!/NebraskaWheat>) which you can connect to via the Nebraska Wheat website at <http://www.nebraskawheat.com>.

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Wow, here we are six months into the year already with wheat harvest just around the corner, at least for the people that still have wheat. The storms these past few weeks have been just as hard on the wheat crop as the drought was getting the wheat to emerge from the ground.

NWGA will be out and about this summer and fall with the mobile baking lab attending events such as the National Festival of Breads, Iowa State Fair and Nebraska State Fair along with other festivities. If you have an interest to stop in and “Roll in the Dough” pun intended, contact the growers and see where the closest event is or just show up at the State Fair.

Although we have participated in Husker Harvest Days for many years, we are now officially members in the commodity building with corn, soybeans and sorghum. We want to encourage producers and future producers to stop out and visit with us. We will be talking more about insect and weed control along with crop rotation and all the benefits to help you maximize your yields. I know Husker Harvest Days hits right when some are planting wheat, but if it is a rainy day or you can spare a day come out, stop by and visit with us.

Save the date—August 9, NWGA will be holding a golf tournament at the Bayside Golf Course in Ogallala. Wheat harvest will be over and we want to get all the farmers together to share yield stories and celebrate. We will have the tournament and then a meal to sit and visit more afterwards. Watch for details in the mail and by email. You can get updates on our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter.

Something to start thinking about with all the decline in wheat acres is the reduced amount of checkoff dollars coming in due to more ground going to corn. There has been talk of possibly needing to raise the checkoff. The checkoff is, of course, what funds the Nebraska Wheat Board. Checkoff dollars fund wheat research. As we move forward and lose acres, we want to be able to have new varieties that can yield more and are less susceptible to disease. If you have concerns or want to visit about the checkoff or any other wheat issues please contact any of the NWGA officers. We are here for you and welcome hearing from you. My email is [skullivan@wirelessinet.net](mailto:skullivan@wirelessinet.net).

Again, good luck with wheat harvest, and on behalf of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association, we thank you for your continued support and encourage you to contact us with any ideas or issues you see.

*Shawn Sullivan*



The rains finally showed up in western Nebraska in May, and now in June it looks like we will have a decent wheat crop. There has been some hail here that has claimed some wheat and it seems we lose bushels every day with these storms. The wheat harvest will come to a stop as it progresses north from Kansas and we are about 10 days to 2 weeks later here. I don't think producers will even think about starting harvest until after July 15 and there will be a lot of growers still cutting in August.

The news out of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas is a lot fewer bushels; too bad some areas of the country have to suffer drought and others have too much water. Fewer bushels of wheat should keep demand up from elevators and the basis should continue to narrow with elevators competing for wheat to fill obligations. We have lacked competition in recent years with an abundance of wheat available to elevators—competition is good for everyone including wheat growers. It makes us all better. The basis in my area (Dix) is at \$1.05 and under that is better than the \$1.95 that we saw six months ago, but in my opinion \$1.05 is still too high. Basis levels in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas have been around \$0.70 which is a little more realistic.

You can send any comments or concerns to me at my email [markdaum@daltontel.net](mailto:markdaum@daltontel.net). I wish all you Wheat Growers a safe and bountiful harvest!

*Mark Daum*



The development of biotech wheat is supported by NAWG and all of the state wheat boards and grower associations including NWGA. Biotech wheat is being developed by several companies in the United States as well as Canada and Australia. It is difficult to predict when the first biotech wheat seed will be available to producers, but there will almost certainly be some products available in the next five to ten years.

I have spoken with some wheat producers who have voiced concerns about biotech wheat raising the production costs and lowering the value of wheat. Other producers are looking forward to better drought tolerance and increased disease resistance. I would welcome any comments and or questions on this issue and you can send me an email at [MTJRFarms@gmail.com](mailto:MTJRFarms@gmail.com).

*Michael Thomas*



NWGA is continuing to monitor EPA actions and their decision on changing dust regulations or leaving the standards the same. I hope you will take the time to contact your Congressman and share your comments.

You are probably aware that Senator Johanns has been very active in talking with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and is strongly suggesting no new regulations on regulating farm dust or farm ponds. He is also pressing the agency to consider the costs of its proposed regulations before enacting them—something Ms. Jackson has stated the agency does not do at this time. Just another example of an issue being considered is the installation of 20 mph speed limit signs on private county unpaved roads.

If you have comments on an environmental issue, please feel free to email me at [jdchristensen@atcjet.net](mailto:jdchristensen@atcjet.net).

*Dayton Christensen*



**Bill on Duplicative Pesticide Permits Approved by Senate Ag**

June 21, 2011 — The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) applauds the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee’s approval Tuesday of H.R. 872, which will remove duplicative and onerous new permitting requirements for pesticide applications.

Committee Members took the action with a voice vote at a business meeting called to review the bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives in late March.

When finalized, the bill will amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act to clarify Congressional intent and eliminate the requirement for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for applications of pesticides approved for use under FIFRA.

The new requirements emerged following a January 2009 ruling by the Sixth Circuit Court saying pesticide discharge is a point source of pollution subject to additional regulation under the Clean Water Act.

The decision is set to go into effect in October following two and a half years of stays intended to allow agencies across the country to determine how it will be implemented.

The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the ruling will affect approximately 365,000 pesticide applicators that perform 5.6 million pesticide applications annually – which will require a new level of paperwork and processing the federal government and few local entities are prepared to deal with.

If a legislative solution is not achieved when the new requirement goes into effect, farmers running afoul of it could be subject to fines of up to \$37,500 per day.

“We are happy to see the Senate taking action on this important legislation,” said Wayne Hurst, NAWG president and a wheat producer from the Burley, Idaho, area.

“Wheat farmers work hard to comply with the extensive processes in place to ensure the products we use on our farms are safe. New requirements added by the Sixth Circuit Court would only create paperwork for us and government officials without adding any additional measure of safety for the public. We urge quick completion of this bill.”

H.R. 872 has achieved widespread bipartisan and bicameral support from Congressional leaders concerned about increasing regulation without environmental benefit and burdening government officials and farmers with new and complicated requirements in a time of tighter budgets.

NAWG staff and grower leaders have worked extensively over the last year to educate Members and their staffs about the problems presented by the Sixth Circuit decision and to help formulate a lasting solution.

For more about this issue, please visit [www.wheatworld.org/environmentalregulation](http://www.wheatworld.org/environmentalregulation).



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# Major Ag Coalition Writes U.S. Leaders on Farm Budget Cuts

June 17, 2011 — A coalition of 113 agriculture organizations wrote the three highest ranking U.S. officials this week to express strong opposition to disproportionate cuts to agriculture programs in the quest to reduce the country's debt load.

The letter, sent Tuesday to President Barack Obama, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), repeated calls made by a broad spectrum of farm groups since the beginning of the year that acknowledge the need to reduce federal spending while emphasizing the need for fairness.

Total agriculture-area spending, including food and nutrition assistance programs, accounts for just over 2 percent of the federal budget. Farm program spending – often the first area to be mentioned in budget cutting discussions – accounts for less than 1/4 of 1 percent of the total federal budget.

Still, agriculture programs have faced a series of cuts in recent years, most recently of \$6 billion during the renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement between USDA and crop insurers, completed last year.

If these cuts continue, programs that support a stable U.S. food supply, well-managed land and long-term agriculture research investments could be imperiled.

"While our members support efforts to bring down the deficit and debt in an orderly and comprehensive manner, we cannot in good

faith support deficit reduction efforts that target U.S. farmers and ranchers and rural America for disproportionately large cuts to the small percentage of the mandatory budget devoted to supporting agriculture," the letter said.

The groups writing also decried any requirement that cuts be implemented in the coming fiscal year, before the writing of the new farm bill slated for 2012, and said any policy decisions or mandated cuts should be determined by the Congressional committees of jurisdiction.

Members of the House attempted to violate this regular order during this week's FY2012 agriculture appropriations bill debate, and it has become common practice among those who are inclined to deeply cut into the safety net to discuss cuts to farm programs well before the five-year contract with producers laid out in the 2008 Farm Bill expires.

Wheat groups signing onto the letter included NAWG and NAWG-affiliated state wheat grower organizations in Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Wheat farmers from many of these states are facing dramatic weather challenges this growing season, causing reduced plantings and yields throughout the middle of the country.

The letter coincides with increased work by a bicameral and bipartisan group chaired by Vice President Joe Biden charged with coming up with a long-term plan for deficit reduction, which is necessary to proceed with efforts to raise the debt ceiling. The Biden group met three times this week and will reportedly meet three times next week as well.

The full letter from the ag groups is at <http://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/budget-broad-ag-coalition-on-debt-deal-cuts-20110614.pdf>.



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\* The schedule is subject to change without notice.  
\*Visit [www.neagclassic.org](http://www.neagclassic.org) for a complete list of program speakers.

For questions and updates on the Nebraska Ag Classic, please call:  
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Conference Coordinator, Ginger Jelinek (402) 450-5189  
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# Good Soil Starts with Good Seed

*Guest supplied article*

By Rich Russell, Regional Sales Agronomist  
Arrow Seed Co. Inc.

With wheat harvest fast approaching or already underway you have many management ideas and practices to consider. Should I store grain on the farm? Have I made good marketing decisions or have more bushels yet to sell? Watching and checking varietal performance of new wheat varieties, and deciding which set of leading varieties to select. Do I need a soil test before fall planting? And you are making nutrient need decisions and applications.

You are also making decisions on how you will manage the wheat stubble and residue and consider what you can do for your fields during the fallow period. Cover crops are a great way to prepare your seed bed during this fallow period. Over the past years more and more acres of wheat stubble have been kept clean with herbicide applications and the corn yields have become more consistent. With Cover crops you now have an opportunity to improve on the traditional eco-fallow, or organic production system and enhance your economic return.

In the traditional eco-fallow or in any fallow period, soil biological activity slows as these microorganisms need new, growing roots in the soil to continue the cycle of decomposition and nutrient cycling.

Organic matter content has been in a steady decline nationwide ever since soils were broken out from native prairie sod. With cover crops we now have a way to start to rebuild your soil's organic matter. Soil organic matter is the decomposed plant residues and microorganisms. Organic matter is the key measurement to soil quality and greatly affects the ability of soils to hold and give back nutrients (Cation Exchange Capacity), the rate of water infiltration, and water holding capacities.

Cover crops are seeded into the wheat stubble with the goal of providing benefits to both the soil and to the next planted crop. Soil benefits include building up soil structure and tilth. Good soil quality is an inherent desire of landowners and growers who wish to provide their crops with the highest possible yield potential, thus providing a more sustainable long term future for soil quality.

Extending the number of days of new root growth increases soil biological activities and improves the soil environment for beneficial organisms. Soil is filled with bacteria, fungi, protozoa, arthropods, molds, algae, nematodes and worms, all working to naturally cycle nutrients and develop soil organic matter, further enriching the soil and providing a perfect place for your future crops to survive.

SoilBuilder™ cover crops from Arrow Seed include a diverse™ mix of grass plants, brassicas and legumes that are known for establishing themselves quickly. Studies show the right mix of seeds matter because cover crops add more value when multiple plant types are used. A balanced stand with various leaf types and root structures enhance the soil building effort. A balanced stand maximizes shading, provides soil coverage with above ground biomass, provides erosion control, uses soil water from various depths, and increases snow retention on the field.

A variety of objectives or goals can be achieved, you may want to focus on one or two objectives, but with diverse mixes of cover crop all of these objectives can be met at the same time:

- Soil Stabilization - Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Improved Soil Quality - Increase soil organic matter content
- Nutrient Management - Capture, recycle, and redistribute nutrients
- Grow organic nitrogen - Promote biological nitrogen fixation
- Weed suppression – Shading the soil and filling the space with desirable plant material
- Soil moisture management
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction

Many producers question what will happen to soil moisture, as the main purpose of the fallow period is to collect and store water for the next crop. We have found that soil moisture levels are not a problem because of the use of diverse species mixes in cover crops. In studies of the soil moisture content in Pierre South Dakota and Bismarck North Dakota soil moisture levels were taken at spring corn planting after fall grown cover crops. In both measurements taken at each 6 inches to a total depth of 48 inches there was no difference in these fields compared to fields that had no cover crops. In research taken in 2009 at the West Central Research and Extension at North Platte soil moisture probes indicated similar results to the 3 foot depth. That is after producing the additional biomass, and achieving the goals that are listed above.

The types of species that are selected in cover crop mixes will and should vary across different climate and diverse geographic regions of the state of Nebraska. What works in the panhandle will be quite different from south eastern regions.

More producers each year are reporting the economic benefit of cover crops from increases in corn yield the next season. Producers are also reporting improved planting and soil surface conditions, better residue management, and weed control problems are reduced.

Many management decisions are made on your farm each day. Consider cover crops as an important input to improve the sustainability for your farm. In order to work toward the goal of improving the land we need to feed the soil by keeping it covered with live plants and roots year around. Feed your soil with cover crops in the off-season to improve your ability to 'feed the world' in the harvest season.



## House Passes FY2012 Spending Bill With Cuts, Harmful Changes

June 17, 2011 — The House of Representatives passed its agriculture appropriations bill by a largely partisan, 217 to 203 vote Thursday afternoon following a week of intense debate and maneuvering.

The bill, H.R. 2112, was passed by the House's Appropriations Committee on May 31 and included dramatic cuts to agriculture research and a series of amendments that would modify 2008 Farm Bill adjusted gross income (AGI) limits and payments to Brazil as part of a World Trade Organization case settlement.

Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) protested those amendments at the bill's hearing before the Rules Committee on Monday, arguing they were out of the regular order, in effect trying to legislate via an appropriations bill.

Ultimately, votes on the House floor were unsuccessful on the AGI issue and a similar amendment that would have capped total benefits a farmer could receive at \$125,000.

An amendment from Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) to prohibit funding for implementation of the Market Access Program (MAP) failed by a solid margin in a 101 to 314 vote.

In the final series, two votes to cut discretionary spending across the board also failed.



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However, an amendment from Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.) to effectively defund the settlement payments to the Brazil Cotton Institute passed in a 223 to 197 vote, creating an enormous problem for many U.S. exporting industries should the Senate adopt a similar measure.

The final bill cut discretionary spending by more than 13 percent, which follows severe cuts in the FY2011 budget, particularly in areas like research. Since FY2010, USDA's research funding has been cut an estimated 20 percent.

Debate on the appropriations bill lasted much of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and largely centered on nutrition spending, which accounts for the vast majority of total bill outlays.

As preparations for the 2012 Farm Bill begin, both the deep cuts and the extended debate were reminders that there are many Members of Congress who are seeking to dramatically reduce spending for important agriculture-related programs.

NAWG asked its state associations and grower Board members to call their Members of Congress multiple times this week and appreciates those who undertook these vital grassroots outreach activities.

For its part, the Senate has yet to take up a budget resolution as leaders there wait for the outcome of ongoing negotiations to establish a long-term plan to deal with the nation's debt while raising the U.S. debt limit.

The status of all amendments to the House appropriations bill is accessible at <http://repcloakroom.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=246543>.



## Crop Connection Key Part of Annual Nigerian Trade Team

ARLINGTON, Virginia -- Eight representatives from one of the United States' top customers for wheat, Nigeria, will travel to Nebraska and Kansas June 26 to July 2 to survey the current HRW crop and obtain firsthand information on crop quality, supply and demand.

Members of the Nigerian trade team, sponsored by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), represent some of the largest milling companies in Nigeria. Nigeria is the only country that imports all six classes of wheat and was the top overall buyer of U.S. wheat in 2009/10.

USW organized the annual trade team visit in cooperation with the Nebraska Wheat Board and the Kansas Wheat Commission. During their visit, team members will meet directly with wheat producers on and off the farm, tour wheat research facilities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kansas State University and discuss operations and outlook with other wheat industry representatives.

In addition to its educational value, trade teams can also provide specific opportunities to increase demand for U.S. wheat. For example, as result of contacts made on a trade team visit in 2008, Flour Mills of Nigeria, the world's second largest miller, began importing U.S. hard white wheat to produce specialty blended flour. Today, Flour Mills of Nigeria is the world's leading hard white wheat importer, purchasing 140,000 MT in 2009/10 in addition significant amounts of hard red spring, soft red winter, hard red winter and durum.



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... continued from page 8

"We have a very good working relationship with the Nigerians," said USW Sub-Sahara African Regional Vice President Ed Wiese. "Knowing cultures, getting to know people on a personal basis, adds a lot to the type of work that we do. It's one important addition to the nuts and bolts type of work that we do every day."

USW opened an office in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2001. This in-country presence and a long-term commitment to technical training and exchanges have combined to build strong Nigerian loyalty to U.S.-origin wheat.

For more information, view the "U.S. Wheat and Nigeria: A Trade Success Story" video at <http://bit.ly/mtuNcV> or the "Export Market Development: A Vital Partnership with U.S. Wheat" video at <http://bit.ly/mO62Le>.

USW is the industry's market development organization working in more than 100 countries on behalf of America's wheat producers. The activities of USW are made possible by producer checkoff dollars managed by 19 state wheat commissions and through cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information, visit [www.uswheat.org](http://www.uswheat.org) or contact [www.nebraskawheat.com](http://www.nebraskawheat.com).



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Harvest Moon, INC. - Goodland, KS - 785-899-5979  
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# Wide Rows Squeeze Wheat Into Rotations

By Larry Reichenberger

Adding a crop like wheat to the corn/soybean rotation would be a good trick – especially if you could do it without adding new equipment to the machine shed. That's the magic that farmers in several areas are trying to master. One of those areas is in south-central Nebraska. A few farmers there are planting wheat in 15-inch rows rather than the standard 7- to 8-inch rows so they don't have to own a grain drill. "We plant wheat with our soybean planter," says Clatonia farmer Randy Huls.

"We like having wheat in our crop rotation. It's good for the soil and also gives us a place to go with our hog manure when corn and soybeans are in the field. But we never grow a lot of acres of wheat and don't want to have money invested in additional seeding equipment, so we plant it in the wide rows," adds Huls.

Huls plants wheat with a Kinze planter with interplant pusher units on a 15-inch spacing. He uses the 15-row unit to plant soybeans and simply adds a Seed Right disc, along with the soybean plate, to plant wheat. "There are several farmers around here doing it," says Jeff Miller, sales manager with Miller Sales, the Kinze dealer in Clatonia. "We've provided the wheat plates to those who have Kinze planters, and we do custom planting for some of those who don't own Kinze."

## **Metering Small Wheat Seed**

The Seed Right disc is a filler plate to prevent small-seeded wheat from leaking by the soybean plate in each planter row unit. The disc was developed seven years ago by Convoy, Ohio, farmer Larry Hak.

"We've probably sold 8,000 of them. But interest is increasing because we sold half of those last year alone. In addition to producers wanting to plant wheat, there's also interest from those wanting to plant radishes and turnips as cover crops. A planter does a better job than a drill at metering and planting these small-seeded crops," says Hak. The discs sell for \$24.95 each and only fit Kinze planter units. Another developer is known to be working on a design to fit John Deere's metering system, however.

Scranton, Kansas, farmer Earl Thompson has compared yields on his 15-inch wheat with the traditional 8-inch rows. "In 2008, we did three side-by-side tests and found little difference. The drilled wheat was better in two fields and the planted wheat was better in one. Overall, the wide-row wheat averaged 44 bushels per acre and the traditional 8-inch row wheat averaged 44.6 bushels.

"We like wheat in our crop rotation because the residue helps in our no-till program," says Thompson. "But we don't grow enough of it to justify investing in a no-till drill. So we put the wheat discs in our 16/31-row Kinze planter. The only problem we've had is with seeding rates. In order to get the 1.3 million seeds per acre that we want, we've got to get five to six seeds in each cell of the 60-cell soybean plate. You've got to drive slow – 5 mph or less – to fill each cell."

Thompson says filling individual seed boxes with wheat seed is also a hassle. "We've recently traded our Kinze for a John Deere planter with a central seed hopper, but we're looking for a way to plant wheat with it."

## **Researchers Find Advantages**

University agronomists have also turned some attention to wide-row wheat. "We've got many farmers interested in using soybean planters to plant wheat in 15-inch rows instead of the traditional 7.5 inches," says University of Kentucky researcher Jim Herbek. "In tests at two locations last year, we found an average loss of about 5% for the wide rows in 90- to 100-bushel wheat. We think a yield loss of up to 10% is acceptable."

At the University of Illinois, a team of researchers is finding that having wheat in the crop rotation is helping the yield of the corn and soybean crops that follow.

A recent three-year summary of the results showed that corn grown in a three-crop rotation (soybean/wheat/corn) yielded 4% more than corn in a corn/soybean rotation. Corn in a wheat/soybean/corn rotation produced 6% higher yields. Meanwhile, soybeans in both three-crop rotations yielded 4% more than soybeans in the corn/soybean rotation.

"While the income from winter wheat in Illinois is usually less than the income from corn or soybeans, higher corn and soybean yields in a three-crop rotation have produced net returns equal to or slightly greater than from the corn/soybean rotation," says project director Emerson Nafziger. "Additional advantages of having wheat in the rotation include spreading field operations, reduced soil erosion (due to a winter cover), and slightly greater income stability (because wheat responds differently to weather conditions). The ability to double-crop soybeans following wheat harvest in southern Corn Belt locations increases the income potential when adding wheat to the rotation."

This article including photographs of the equipment and planted rows can be found at [http://www.agriculture.com/crops/wheat/production/wide-rows-squeeze-wheat-into-rotations\\_145-ar16929](http://www.agriculture.com/crops/wheat/production/wide-rows-squeeze-wheat-into-rotations_145-ar16929)

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# THE NEBRASKA WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 95063  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Telephone (402) 471-2358  
FAX (402) 471-3446

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***Thank YOU for your support!***

Thank you for your commitment to the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association! NWGA frequently needs help from its members to influence issues. Sometimes that help is a simple letter or phone call to a legislator; sometime it involves representing NWGA at a meeting, simply sharing your opinion on an issue, help with an NWGA committee or meeting consumers when helping in the Mobile Baking Lab.

Please check below the issue area (s) you would be interested in assisting NWGA in its mission of enhancing profitability for grain producers. Thank you!

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# News wheat

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association  
PO Box 95063  
Lincoln, NE 68509

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and improvement. We embrace healthy competition to make our industry better. Basically, our philosophy is that if you work on wheat, we will work with you. We also believe that as a public university, we create public knowledge, goods, and the human resources to build a more prosperous America and world. Between three-fifths and three-fourths of all the breeders we educate will work in private industry, so providing them access to closer collaborations in the private sector is critical to their education.

**A** rebirth in private sector wheat breeding is currently underway. Bayer Crop Science, a world leader in cotton, canola, rice, and vegetable seeds, has purchased or formed collaborations with wheat seed and biotechnology companies globally. Monsanto recently purchased Westbred and formed partnerships with Kansas State University and Virginia Tech. Limagrain has developed a North American headquarters in Fort Collins, CO. KWS has entered the U.S. market also. More private seed companies are coming. These companies are in addition to the long standing wheat breeding programs of Pioneer, Syngenta/AgriPro, and numerous smaller companies.

**W**hat are our expectations from these collaborations? Simply, we expect better varieties and technology, and more choices. All business, public and private, is based upon value returned for the cost of their goods. It would be foolish to say that growers may not pay more for seed from some suppliers, but as long as they have choice, they can determine if they get more value from the added cost. The popularity of our Clearfield® wheat varieties with a higher cost, but greater value is an example of paying for technology that many growers think is well worth the additional cost.

**T**he University of Nebraska remains committed to providing new varieties (in fact the Presidential Chair assures that as long as there are amber waves of grain, wheat breeding and genetics will continue at the University of Nebraska), especially for those markets where industry may not see sufficient economic returns for their considerable investment.

**A** few words about the process. Clearly negotiations of this nature require a high level of confidentiality. The University of Nebraska's strategy of fostering economic development, research, education, and outreach is well known. When companies began approaching UNL, we had previously developed a set of core principles and discussed them publically and openly to ensure our stakeholders understood and had an opportunity to provide excellent input, which they did.

**O**nce the negotiations began, we signed confidentiality agreements and negotiated using our public principles. Frankly, this was one of the hardest parts for those of us who believe in the "People's University" and the land grant mission. However, it was completely necessary. Once the negotiations were completed and the results made public, the outcome was reviewed by our stakeholders and compared to our public principles. We stayed true to our principles.

**F**inally, a note of thanks to all involved. I breed wheat and that is what I love. The strategy and collaborations could not have been possible without the support of NUtech Ventures (specifically David Conrad and Emily Hatas), who are superb at building public-private partnerships, the support of the University of Nebraska from the President's and Chancellor's offices to the Vice Chancellor and Deans within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and their staff (specifically Dr. Susan Fritz, Dan Duncan, and Jeff Noel).

**S**imilarly, we greatly appreciate working with the excellent team from Bayer Crop Science who helped explain their aspirations and what was needed for the private sector to prosper, and persevered as this agreement was put together. The Nebraska Wheat Board, Nebraska Wheat Growers Association, and Crop Improvement Association provided excellent input as we developed our principles for collaboration and trusted us during these negotiations.

**N**ow, it is back to work, breeding new varieties worthy of Nebraska.

