



Support Trade Programs in the 2023 Farm Bill

We need SD producers to take a minute to send a request to our Congressional delegation in Washington DC. Simple click on the link and fill out the information. Once that is done, a letter will be sent to Senators Thune, Rounds and Representative Johnson. Take action and help the wheat industry in South Dakota today!

Go to this link below to get started!

<https://wheatworld.org/campaign/support-trade-programs-in-the-2023-farm-bill/>

As a wheat grower in your state, I am asking for support of the Expanding Agricultural Exports Act (S. 176) and Agriculture Export Promotion Act (H.R. 648), which would strengthen the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) programs authorized in the Farm Bill. Because half of the wheat grown in the United States is exported, wheat growers deeply understand the importance of trade and market

development. However, programmatic funding has been stagnant since the mid-2000s. Now is the time to reinvest in these programs to keep up with inflation, overcome sequestration, and ensure the United States maintains a competitive edge over our competitors.

MAP and FMD are incredibly effective and have a significant return on investment. According to an IHS Markit and Texas A&M University econometric study, each dollar invested in these programs saw an average \$24.5 ROI since 1977. The study also notes that if these program funds were doubled – as S. 176 and H.R. 648 propose – the U.S. would generate an additional \$44.4 billion in agricultural exports between 2024 and 2029. If this legislation were to be enacted, the study also found that the farm economy would see net farm cash income increase by \$630 million annually, and the overall economy would increase by \$6.27 billion annually, which would support over 64,000 jobs.



As Congress works to reauthorize the Farm Bill in 2023, additional resources must be made available to leverage this public-private partnership to bolster international cooperation, increase U.S. agricultural exports, and support further job growth throughout the U.S. economy. Therefore, I urge you to cosponsor and support this legislation, so the MAP and FMD programs have the resources they need to help farmers stay competitive globally.

SDSU Winter Wheat Varieties Shine In Wheat Quality Council Evaluations



Dr. Sunish Sehgal

SDSU professor Dr. Sunish Sehgal was honored by Wheat Quality Council (WQC) with the miller's choice Best of Show award 2023. Sehgal won the award for 2022 as well. The honor annually recognizes the wheat breeder of the variety that is most well-liked by US millers participating in the WQC's evaluation program.

The main goal of the SDSU hard winter wheat breeding group is to develop high-yielding wheat varieties with resilience to biotic and abiotic stress and end-use quality for the milling and baking industry. "At SDSU we lay as much emphasis on wheat quality as much on yield," Sehgal said.

Sehgal earned the award for two SDSU candidate varieties SD18B025-8 and SD15007-11, these ranked the best among 28 new varieties entered in the WQC's evaluation program from twelve universities or private wheat breeding companies. Millers from across the nation tested the varieties grown across several locations to determine the winner.

In the last two years in South Dakota Crop Performance Trials across 28 environments over 2 years (2021 and 2022), SD18B025-8 ranked 1st in eastern SD and 2nd in central SD. It was rated resistant to leaf rust and stem rust and tolerant to stripe rust. In USDA Northern Regional Performance Nursery (NRPN) trials 3rd and 4th in the last two years across US northern Great Plains. SD18B025-8 also demonstrated excellent tortilla quality in the WQC test.

It is well known that grain yield and grain protein content is negatively correlated, and protein content is one of the most important constituents in wheat quality. SD18B025-8 break that inverse relationship. I am excited about the excellent yield, great quality, and good disease resistance that SD18B025-8 can bring in one cultivar. SD18B025-8 is being



tested in 2023 and can likely be released for producers in fall 2023.

The majority of funds for SDSU wheat breeding efforts are supported by SD Wheat Commission through wheat checkoff. "I hope we can reciprocate wheat producer's investment and trust through the good varieties that enhance the market value of South Dakota produced wheat and builds repo with the milling and baking industry," said Sehgal.

Winning the WQC award is great but winning two years in a row is a superb feeling, as the award recognizes the comprehensive nature of variety development and the efforts of the entire SDSU wheat breeding team said, Sehgal. Last year Dr. Sehgal received the Miller's choice award for his most recent release 'SD Midland' a hard red winter wheat variety with premium milling and baking qualities. The foundation seed can be ordered from Jack Ingemansen SDSU Foundation Seed (jack.ingemansen@sdstate.edu) and the certified seed is available from seed growers listed by South Dakota Crop Improvement Association (SDCIA) <https://www.sdscrop.org/seed-directories>.





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CP-KCS Merger Approval Disappoints National Wheat Organizations

In public comments submitted to the STB on the proposed sale in February 2022, USW said the market power held by the Class I railroads has serious implications for U.S. wheat's competitiveness compared to other major exporters. NAWG shared similar public comments with the STB in February 2022, which outlined how reliant wheat is on rail and how decreased rail-to-rail competition hurts shippers and growers alike. Now, this merger takes the U.S. rail system from seven to six Class 1 railroads.

USW and NAWG believe the STB has given a green light to rail consolidation without regard for the consequences on agricultural shippers from lack of competition in the U.S. rail sector.

"U.S. rail industry consolidation has led to poorer, not improved, service for agricultural shippers," said USW President Vince Peterson. "In addition, we see extreme disparity in rates for wheat shippers. Rail rates over the last decade have increased exponentially and rates for wheat are higher than rates for other commodities even with similar handling characteristics.

Those higher rates make U.S. wheat less competitive in the global market at a time when higher prices already hurt our competitiveness."

"NAWG is disappointed by today's STB announcement and maintains our concerns that the merger of CP and KCS will impede competition in the rail market and increase rail rates," said NAWG CEO, Chandler Goule. "With 50 percent of wheat being exported, wheat is heavily reliant on rail transportation to move across the United States. Since the merger was announced in 2021, NAWG has filed four public comments with the STB opposing the merger, citing a myriad of concerns on the impact to competition, unfair access to competing wheat producing countries, and changes to tariff provisions that could impact wheat farmers."

USW and NAWG believe the STB must conduct more rigorous oversight of rail rates and service issues going forward. The STB should also aggressively pursue policies designed to inject competition such as reciprocal switching – a proposal that the STB ironically shelved last year because Class 1 rail service was severely challenged for agricultural shippers.

We look forward to working with both the new CP-KCS railroad and the STB on addressing the disparities wheat shippers face going forward.

Vernalization In Winter Wheat

Winter wheat goes through a process called vernalization where plants need to sense exposure to cool temperatures for about 6-8 weeks to switch from the vegetative phase to the reproductive phase that leads to flowering/heading and grain production. Planting winter wheat in good moisture is ideal and helps with a good establishment. However, winter planting is sometimes delayed due to wet season and in other situations winter wheat is planted in dust, due to lack of moisture. If the winter wheat did not emerge in the fall, the producers may feel anxious about vernalization and grain production. Below are the three scenarios if winter wheat did not emerge in fall:

1) If the winter wheat is planted very late, the seed germinates and the coleoptile elongates but the plants did not emerge out of the ground, one need not worry about vernalization, as these plants have vernalized and will reach the flowering stage. This is common when planting is delayed, and one does not have to worry about grain production under this situation as winter wheat has been vernalized.

2) If the seed did not germinate in the fall due to dry conditions but received rain or moisture during winter, there is still an opportunity for the crop to vernalize if the seed imbibed moisture/swelled. The vernalization process does not need to wait for the plants to emerge, it starts as soon as the seed imbibes water and swells. After imbibing water winter wheat seed will need to stay under day-night temperature 45°F for about seven weeks to get vernalized. So the soil temperature, timing of germination and moisture will determine the outcome. If the winter wheat seeds imbibed moisture by late January, it is likely to vernalize and produce seed.

In the above two situations winter wheat did not get the opportunity to produce tillers in fall so the yield in the above two situations will likely be intermediate between spring wheat and winter wheat. Early N application in the spring can help during green-up and facilitate tillering and vigorous growth.

3) If winter wheat seeds never got any moisture and never swelled. If early or mid-February it is likely that winter wheat may not get vernalized or if the temperature stayed above 45F for several days. You can find if winter wheat is vernalized at Jointing stage (Note: In jointed winter wheat there is a visible first node (growing point above it) above the soil surface. The winter wheat attains jointing stage (Feekes 6) usually in late April to early May in South Dakota). The winter wheat that is not vernalized will not be jointing and will not flower but can be harvested for forage. Under prolonged cool spring conditions (March-April), vernalization can also happen in the spring season.

Treated Seed Safety Reminder

There is zero tolerance for treated seed kernels in the commodity grain channel when the treated seed tag states the seed is not for food, feed, or oil purposes.

As planting begins across the South Dakota, farmers should be reminded about the importance of taking precautions to ensure treated seed does not enter the grain supply. Seed treatment technologies are an effective agronomic tool that provide seeds the necessary protection for a strong, healthy start but must be handled properly.

Disposal of Excess Treated Seeds

1. Small Quantities of Pesticide Treated Seed
 - Return excess treated seed to its original seed lot containers if the seed is intended for storage and subsequent planting.
 - Plant in fallow or other non-cropped areas of the farm in accordance to the seed treatment product label.
 - Unless restricted by label language, excess treated seed may be double planted in the turn rows at the end of the field or within a portion of the field.
2. Off Farm Disposal of Seed Not Acceptable for Planting and/or Larger Quantities of Pesticide Treated Seed
 - Consult with your state and local authorities to ensure your disposal plan is in compliance with all appropriate regulations.
 - Disposal facilities will be required to have an EPA permit to accept pesticide treated seed. Whether a waste management facility, power plant, cement kiln, ethanol plant, or municipal landfill is permitted to dispose of seed treated with a particular pesticide can only be confirmed by contacting the facility. Your seed supplier may



also be aware of EPA permitted disposal facilities in your area.

The contacts for both solid and hazardous waste disposal in each state can be found online at [Links to Hazardous Waste Programs](#) and [U.S. State Environmental Agencies | US EPA](#)

Update From Albany Farms

It's hard to believe it has been nearly 6 months since our last update from Albany Farms, Inc. At that time, Albany Farms was running one line and producing cups. They are excited to share with the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association that the plant is actively producing on two lines as of March 1, 2023. Albany Farms, Inc is producing both pillow packs and cups of their Twisted Noodles ramen soup! There are plans for a third line (another pillow pack) to be in place in 2023. At that point, Albany Farms will have three lines up and running, and producing ramen noodles 24 hours a day, 6 days a week.

Future plans include building on to the current plant and adding up to three additional lines. There is no date at this time for the construction to take place. Last time we talked with Bill Saller, CEO, he spoke about a potential for a flour mill to be purchased and placed on the plant grounds. When we spoke earlier this week, he stated that the plan for the flour mill is still in the works, but the date for arrival and start up is to be determined.

Angie Besler, Human Resources & Communications Manager, said that the Belle Fourche, SD plant currently has 105 employees working on the production line, warehouse/forklift, maintenance, quality control and sanitation teams. Future expansion plans are to have between 300 and 500 employees. If you are interested in learning more, or joining their team, Besler states the best way to apply is to go to the website <https://www.albanyfarms.com/career>



or email her directly at angbesler@albanyfarms.com.

If you're interested in purchasing Twisted Noodles locally, you can find them at Target in Sioux Falls (east side), Lynn's Dakota Mart in Belle Fourche and Sturgis, Leuder's Grocery in Belle Fourche, Custer and Hot Springs Lynn's Dakota Mart and Spearfish. Later in 2023, you will be able to find Twisted Noodles at additional retailers nationwide! You can find all flavors: chicken, beef, veggie and spicy chicken in both packaging types (see pictures). There's a flavor for everyone!

Albany Farms, Inc would be very interested in speaking with the local wheat producers about future opportunities to contract to purchase wheat crops. Bill Saller states that his goal is to have 100% domestically produced ramen noodles ~ and part of that is by utilizing the best wheat in the country, right here in South Dakota! If you are interested in starting a discussion, please send an email to angbesler@albanyfarms.com.



USDA's Simplified Direct Loan Application is Now Available for all Producers

A new, simplified direct loan application is now available for all producers seeking a direct farm loan from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The new application, reduced from 29 to 13 pages, provides improved customer experience for producers applying for loans and enables them to complete a more streamlined application.

Producers now also have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or prepare a traditional, paper application for submission to their local FSA farm loan office.

Coupled with the Loan Assistance Tool released in October 2022, the simplified application will provide all loan applicants access to information regarding the application process and assist them with gathering the correct documents before they begin the process. This will help farmers and ranchers submit complete applications and reduce the number of incomplete, rejected, or withdrawn applications.

The simplified direct loan application and Loan Assistance Tool are the first of multiple farm loan process improvements that will be available to USDA customers on farmers.gov in the future. Other improvements that are anticipated to launch in 2023 include:

- An interactive online direct loan application that gives customers a paperless and electronic signature option, along with the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns.

- An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local Service Center to pay a loan installment.

Producers can explore all available options on all FSA loan options at fsa.usda.gov or by contacting their local USDA Service Center.



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2023 Wheat Yield Contest

Seven Districts will award two prizes each

1st - \$500 2nd - \$300

www.sdwheat.org to apply

May 15, 2023, is the application deadline for spring and winter wheat.



Sponsors:

SD Wheat Growers Association

CHS River Plains

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State application: wheatinc@midco.net

National application: <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/>

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By Stan Wise, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Small Grains Can Increase Profitability

When Cronin Farms partner Tregg Cronin takes the long view of his operation, he knows that including a small grain in his rotation can lead to higher profitability.

“Consistently we see a yield bump following that year of wheat and, in our case, following those two years of wheat,” Cronin said. “When you look at it as a system over a three- or five-year time frame, for us especially, the net returns on that whole system almost always outweigh just a simple corn-soybean rotation.”

Cronin Farms near Gettysburg, SD, employs a diverse rotation including corn, soybeans, spring wheat, winter wheat, oats, sunflowers, alfalfa, a forage blend and cover crops.

Cronin said that last year was a good example of a yield advantage following a small grain. He said that in 2022, corn yields in his area often varied by crop rotation.

“In my immediate neighborhood, we saw differences on corn of 20 to 50 bushels an acre, depending on the rotation that the farmer implemented,” he said. “So, if it was corn on soybean stubble, in a simple corn-soybean rotation, some of those yield differences between a field like that and a field of corn planted on two years of wheat stubble, it was as much as 50 bushels an acre. And so, when you start looking at a 50-bushel yield advantage at \$5, \$6 — in some cases, depending on when you sold it — \$7 corn, all of a sudden, yeah, that wheat didn’t really drag on your farm, and in fact, it probably made your year.”

Increased corn yields aren’t the only reason the Cronins plant small grains.

“The big benefit for us, I mean, right off the bat is always moisture retention,” Cronin said. “That stubble, as you know — most people know by now — it does such a great job of keeping the soil a lot cooler, which reduces evaporation, and especially in the central and western part of the state where moisture is almost always our limiting factor.”

Cronin believes that a diverse rotation is just as important as no-till practices when it comes to building soil organic matter. After years of soil health management practices, Cronin Farms has built healthy soils that help them perform well in the good years and weather the bad years.

“When all the stars line up and you’ve got that healthy soil that’s really working for you — you’ve got that extra organic matter or you’ve got that available organic matter — it kicks into gear, and that’s where you see the top end yields that exceed your goal by 10, 20, 30, 40 bushels an acre in some cases,” he said. “Even in a tough year, in a drought year like 2021, we still had fields where I know we add more yield than what we should have based on the rainfall we had because, again, our soils have added water carrying capacity. We’ve got the residue in place to hold what we do get.”



Courtesy photo
Cronin Farms plants directly into stubble left by their small grain crops. This crop residue protects the soil, aids moisture retention, and builds soil organic matter.

Cronin said that the state is already entering 2023 short of soil moisture and that water will be important in planting decisions.

“I think dry conditions are going to be on the forefront of every farmer’s mind going into this growing season,” he said. “So, if dryness is your overarching factor, it’s going to take a lot less water to raise a wheat crop than it is corn or soybean.”

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Courtesy photo
Cronin Farms uses stripper combine heads to harvest wheat in order to leave behind useful stubble which will protect the soil, aid moisture retention, and build soil organic matter.

Another big reason to plant a small grain, Cronin said, is the opportunity to break up the season’s workload.

“Corn and soybean farmers in the spring, you try to get everything done in a two-week window, and then the same holds true in a lot of cases in the fall. You’re trying to get all this harvest done in a very small window,” he said. “Whereas, if you’ve got spring wheat harvested in the bin by the middle of August, well, that’s one less thing that you have to deal with come September, October.”

Cronin said that wheat prices are relatively high right now, but before growers decide to plant spring wheat for the first time, they need to have some marketing plans in place.

“What I see, a lot of times, the producer tries something for the first time, and they really haven’t thought about: Where do I get rid of this? How do I get rid of it? When do I get rid of it? What are the quality considerations that I need to meet in order to market this effectively?” And so then they end up with a product that they can’t just haul 5 miles down the road to their local elevator and sell,” Cronin said. “So, I think you really need to look at that marketing task and how you’re going to get rid of it — working with somebody who understands those markets, who can give you some better transparency on where those markets are so that you don’t get picked off because you don’t know any better.”

For more information about adding small grains and other crops to a rotation, contact the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition at 605-280-4290 or sdsoilhealth@gmail.com or the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association at 605-224-4418.