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Institute of Barley and Malt Sciences (IBMS) Board Approves Multi-State Research and Outreach Efforts

A Barley Production Specialist Position and Regional Outreach Committee were both approved

Minnetonka, Minn. - At the October 17 Board meeting, the IBMS Board of Directors approved the creation of a barley production specialist position to be based out of the MonDak region (northwestern North Dakota and eastern Montana). North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) and Montana State's Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) at Sidney, Montana will be the home for this position, which will be under the direction of Dr. Richard Horsley, barley breeder at NDSU. The main focus will be barley production research and best management practices. The goal is to have this position filled by January 2008.

Also approved at the meeting was the formation of a regional outreach committee to enhance communication efforts between stakeholders within barley production areas. The committee will consist of representatives from all stakeholder parties, including barley producers, industry officials, extension education and university research personnel. Karen Hertsgaard, Information Specialist for the IBMS and Scott Heisel from the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) will coordinate the committee. More than 20 individuals from Idaho, Montana and North Dakota have expressed willingness to serve on the committee. A leadership group of nine individuals (three from each state) will be formed to direct the activities of the larger committee. Outreach committee efforts will also help outreach efforts of the USDA-CSREES funded Barley Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) on barley genomics. A key element for the Barley CAP is the dissemination of research efforts to all stakeholder groups, particularly students and extension education personnel.

Members of the IBMS Board include Jim Broten - ND Barley Council, Alain Caekaert - Archer Daniels Midland Company, Mike Davis - AMBA, Doug Eden - Cargill Malt, Don Fast - Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, Jim Hettinger - Molson Coors Brewing Co., Clark Kaufman - Idaho Barley Commission, Steve Malin - Anheuser Busch Inc.