



Press Release: March 16, 2010

Contact: Karen Hertsgaard

701-793-1146

karen.hertsgaard@ndsu.edu

### **Barley and malting stakeholders work cooperatively to secure research funding**

More than 20 barley researchers, producers and value-added end-users spent three days last week working to secure funding for vital barley research nationwide. After gathering in Arlington, VA for the National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC) Meeting on March 7, the group visited USDA and Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. According to Mike Davis, President of the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) and Executive Secretary of the NBIC, the purpose of the visits was “to discuss and promote adequate funding for agricultural research of importance to barley”.

During the NBIC meeting Dr. Juliet Windes, University of Idaho, was elected Chair and Brian Lacey, Minnesota Barley Research & Promotion Council, was elected Vice Chair. Dr. Windes is the first woman Chair of the NBIC and states that “it’s truly a pleasure to work with such a great group of growers, researchers, and industry representatives that value keeping barley a viable part of our U.S. production. We face huge obstacles in reversing declining barley acreage and ensuring the availability of quality, disease resistant varieties. This committee is key to keeping barley a research priority for the success of our current and future industries.”

Lacey, a farmer from Wendell, MN says that “research is one of our only opportunities to go forward in this industry. Funding for research should be one of the highest priorities for government spending in the agriculture industry.”

More information on the NBIC and AMBA can be found at <http://www.ambainc.org/about/nbic.htm>