

January 7, 2010

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY
WARREN FROELICH
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Wheat Show Agenda Finalized

After nearly 5 months of development and refinement, the agenda for the 57th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show has been finalized.

Recent additions to the educational program include Rebecca Bratter, Director of the U.S. Wheat Associates Policy Program and Paul Sweeney who was recently named as North Dakota's State Conservationist for USDA's National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Ms. Bratter has been asked to discuss two topics: "International Wheat Trade Issues" and "The World's View of Bio-Tech Crops". U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) develops export markets by demonstrating the reliability, choice and value of U.S. Wheat in over 100 countries. As the Director of USW's Policy Program Ms. Bratter has been working in export market development for twelve years. In this position she works closely with the industry and global offices to develop the U.S. Wheat Industry's global policy priorities and ensure continued and future market access for exports of U.S. Wheat around the world. She also ensures that the industry's goals and priorities are presented with U.S. government and multilateral bodies including USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Trade negotiators, and the World Trade Organization. In addition to Wheat's trade policy agenda, Ms. Bratter oversees USW's programs for Food Aid and bio-tech related issues.

USW is funded by U.S. wheat producer check off dollars managed by 19 state wheat commissions and through cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Mr. Sweeney will discuss and answer questions relating to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) of NRCS. CSP is a voluntary conservation program which encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner. It offers participants two possible types of payments. They are 1) annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing activities and 2) supplemental payment-for the adoption of resource conserving crop rotations. The annual payment limitation for a person or legal entity is \$40,000. A person or legal entity cannot exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during any five year period.

I can not conclude this week's column without putting in another plug for the messages of this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Ron Hanson Distinguished Professor of Agribusiness, University of Nebraska. Much of the time (4 hours) allotted to Dr. Hanson will involve the emotional and business issues encountered during the succession of farm ownerships and transition of management control. He also will spend time focusing on improving the communications between individual family members as well as with farm employees by overcoming communication barriers which are often self-inflicted.

Over the years, the Wheat Show Committee has employed outstanding keynote speakers. Dr. Hanson will be unique in that he will have messages which will benefit all members of the farm business team. Thanks to the financial support of the area's agri-

business community, there is no cost to hear any of the speakers making presentations during the Wheat Show.

A detailed agenda of the Wheat Show can now be viewed on our website www.ag.ndsu.edu/williamscountyextension.