

January 6, 2011

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

Ag Commissioner and Weatherman to Speak During Wheat Show Breakfasts

North Dakota's Commissioner of Agriculture, Doug Goehring and Joshua Scheck, Science and Operational Officer with the National Weather Service are scheduled to speak during the Tuesday and Wednesday breakfasts of the Wheat Show on February 8 and 9.

Commissioner Goehring, who was recently elected to a four year term, will speak on several important agriculture issues. He is a strong proponent of developing foreign trade as he believes exports will be vital to the growth of agriculture in North Dakota and the Midwest.

As former president of the board of Nodak Mutual Insurance Co. and director of American Agricultural Insurance Co., Commissioner Goehring is a recognized authority on crop insurance. He has been a strong advocate for improved crop insurance agricultural-based renewable fuels. Commissioner Goehring will speak during the Tuesday breakfast on February 8th.

It has become a tradition to include a weather forecast for the coming growing season. This year the Wheat Show Planning Committee secured Joshua Scheck of the National Weather Service, Bismarck. During last week's telephone conversation Joshua indicated the current outlook calls for a delayed spring melt and later than normal crop planting. During the Wheat Show he will be able to give more details and expand his forecast into summer months.

Joshua also indicated current long range forecasts indicate the possibility of frequent rain showers during the early summer months. This prediction ties very closely with another topic to be discussed during the Wheat Show. That is "Are Fungicides on

Wheat a Good Investment?" Daniel Waldstein and Jeremy Pederson, both area NDSU Extension Agronomists, will report on fungicide studies they have conducted.

Dan will also demonstrate the use of the North Dakota Agriculture Weather Network (NDAWN) as a production tool to improve wheat pest management. We have asked Jeremy to discuss recent research on fertilizer products.

The Wheat Show would not be complete without hearing from Neil Riveland, Supt. of the Williston Research Center regarding the performance of numerous varieties included in his trials conducted throughout the five-county area of northwest North Dakota.

Photographers are again included in this year's event. The post-secondary ag students of the Williston State College are conducting a Photo Contest which features five categories: 1) people, 2) land, 3) equipment-buildings, 4) wildlife, and 5) livestock-companion animals. The photo should be at least 5x7 and be mounted on cardboard-tag board or matted. Photos with frames or glass are not allowed. The photo may be entered at the Airport International Inn on Monday, February 7 between 12:00 – 5:00 pm. Prior to February 7, photos may be left at the Williams County Extension Office, Williston Research Center or the Business Office of Williston State College. Cash prizes and plaques will be awarded to winners in each division. Kim Murphy is advisor to the ag club students and she offers to answer questions about the contest.

For a complete agenda of the Wheat Show activities call this office 701-577-4595 or see our website www.ag.ndsu.edu/williamscountyextension.