

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY
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WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Ag Outlook Conference Details

January 26th is the date for a special Agricultural Outlook Conference scheduled in Williston at the Ernie French Center located on the Williston Research Extension Center. Several members of the North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics will present information.

Dwight Aakre and Andy Swenson, both farm management specialists, will discuss input costs and projected crop profitability for 2011. Also, Swenson will discuss farm financial trends and outlook.

Frayne Olson, crops marketing specialist will present his outlook on crop markets and how to manage price risks.

Aakre and Swenson will provide a farm program update on the average Crop Revenue Election and Supplemental Revenue Assistance programs, wheat loan rates and an update on crop insurance for 2011.

The conference will end with an outlook on livestock markets by Tim Petry, NDSU livestock economist.

The conference is being made available to the public at no cost by the NDSU Extension Service.

New Durum Variety Seed Available

Durum growers can add a new variety, Tioga, to their list of choices for the coming growing season. A 240 bushel allocation was awarded to the Williams County Agricultural Improvement Association this past spring. The Association's Directors selected three contract growers. Unfortunately some of the 2010 allocation was subjected to the long, wet harvest season, resulting in substandard germination. Thus, total supply of seed is much lower than expected. Larry Berg, Williston, has conditioned his production and he's ready to respond to interested growers. The quality of his seed is good with germination

in the higher 80's. Based on a preliminary test this fall, Troy Kupper, Ray, expects the final germination test on his production to be in the high 70's.

Tioga durum was developed by the NDSU Durum Breeding Program and released by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. It is a result of a cross between the NDSU varieties Plaza and Maier. It has shown excellent yield potential as well as good yield stability across multiple environments. Tioga has the largest kernel size among the predominant grown varieties in North Dakota. Thus, the test weight is very good.

Tioga has been given an overall quality rating of "excellent" by the NDSU Cereal Chemists. This overall quality rating is based on agronomic, milling and spaghetti processing performance. Another feature of Tioga is its good protein content. It has the highest mixograph score and gluten index among NDSU varieties.

This is good news for growers in regions often hit by the FHB disease. The scab tolerance of Tioga is close to that of Divide which is slightly better than Grenora, Alkabo, Lebsock, Mountrail and Pierce. Tioga has a moderate level of resistance to foliar diseases which is similar to Divide and Mountrail.

Although yield tests in northwest North Dakota do not show Tioga as superior yielding when compared to other very high yield varieties, it does offer superior quality and slightly taller stature which may be advantageous during drier years often experienced in western North Dakota.

Seed can be purchased directly from the grower at a statewide price of \$14.60 per bushel as established under seed increase agreements.