

To Idaho Barley Producers,

This year the Idaho Barley Commission is celebrating 20 years of service to Idaho barley producers. As current board members, we take great pride in the IBC's work on your behalf and we pay tribute to all of the board members who have lead the way since our creation in 1988. We take our hats off to all of you – our stockholders – who have made our industry one of the strongest anywhere in the world.

For the past two months we have been visiting with many of you at barley townhall meetings. We appreciate this input and we pledge to continue these grower discussions through the year as we gather broad input on future directions we need to take to strengthen our competitive advantages.

Today we want to inform you of immediate steps that we are taking to address potential funding shortfalls that will limit our ability to invest in our future. Based on current income reductions in both FY 2007 and 2008 – arising from the two lowest barley production years in the last 30 years – we have proposed legislation that the Idaho Grain Producers Association will take to the Idaho Legislature to give the IBC authority to set your assessment rate within a range, rather than remain fixed at the current two cents per hundredweight, the level it has been since 1988. We are recommending this new upper range be set at four cents per hundredweight. This does not mean the IBC will move quickly to increase your assessment rate to the maximum level, if the new proposal is approved. It simply gives us authority to set the assessment rate within a wider range – similar to other commissions – to help us maintain our resource base.

We feel that today's market and research challenges require us to be proactive, not reactive, and that we need to ensure that barley can compete with other crops that have seen big yield and market price increases in recent years. As reported inside this newsletter, we have launched four strategic Value-Added Barley Initiatives – winter barley, food barley, specialty feed barley and malting barley for export – that we feel will expand our market opportunities and support prices, while continuing to address the diverse production challenges that we face in various regions of the state. To be successful, these strategic investments will require a stable funding source.

We want to hear your opinions on these program priorities and budgets. Please take a moment to call or write to the Idaho Barley Commission at 208-334-2090, kolson@idahobarley.org. We hope to see many of you at the Winter 2008 cereal schools scheduled in January and February.

Evan Hayes, Chairman, District III Commissioner, Soda Springs; *Dan Mader*, District I Commissioner, Genesee; *Ron Elkin*, District II Commissioner, Buhl; *Steve Balster*, Industry Representative, Anheuser Busch Co., Idaho Falls

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Competitive Barley Varieties are Essential to a Thriving Idaho Barley Industry

In this issue, we take a look at recent barley releases from both the public (ARS Aberdeen) and private barley breeding programs that focus on Idaho's unique agronomic conditions.

New Malting and Feed Barleys from the USDA ARS National Small Grains Germplasm Research

DR. DON OBERT, BARLEY/OAT BREEDER, ABERDEEN, ID

Tetonia, released in 2006 is a two-rowed spring feed barley with a significant yield advantage over **Baronesse**. **Tetonia** is 2 days later heading, identical for height and test weight, and slightly better for lodging resistance. **Tetonia** has slightly lower plump kernels than **Baronesse** (80 vs. 84% for **Baronesse**). **Tetonia** has averaged 4% higher yields across Idaho compared to **Baronesse**, with the greatest yield advantage under irrigation (6.2% higher). In north Idaho, **Tetonia** has yielded 1.5% higher than both **Baronesse** and **Spaulding**, but is not significantly better than either in north Idaho.

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF TETONIA VS. BARONESSE

	Location Years	Environment	Yield (Bu/A)	Yield Difference (%)	Significance
Tetonia	44	All	84.9	4.0	**
Baronesse	44	All	81.6		
Tetonia	12	Irrigated	127.4	6.2	**
Baronesse	12	Irrigated	119.9		
Tetonia	32	Non-irrigated	71.7	1.2	NS
Baronesse	32	Non-irrigated	70.5		
Tetonia	17	North Idaho	81.0	1.5	NS
Baronesse	17	North Idaho	79.8		

** Denotes significance at P=0.05. (95% chance that 01Ab11107 has higher yield than Baronesse)
NS: Not statistically different.

01Ab11107 is a two-rowed spring feed barley set for release in 2008. It is best suited for North Idaho and non-irrigated conditions, but is still slightly better than **Baronesse** under irrigated conditions. Compared to **Baronesse** it has better percentage plump kernels (88 vs 80), higher test weight (53.6 vs. 52.1), is similar for maturity (1 day earlier), and height. **01Ab11107** has slightly less straw strength

than **Baronesse**. **01Ab11107** has yielded more than **Baronesse** across all locations (5.3% better), non-irrigated (8.3% better) and north Idaho/eastern Washington (11.4% better). It has been 2.1% higher under irrigated conditions, but this is not significantly better.

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF 01AB11107 VS. BARONESSE

	Location Years	Environment	Yield (Bu/A)	Yield Difference (%)	Significance
01Ab11107	29	All	98.2	5.3	**
Baronesse	29	All	93.3		
01Ab11107	11	North Idaho	90.8	11.4	**
Baronesse	11	North Idaho	81.6		
01Ab11107	19	Non-irrigated	80.1	8.3	**
Baronesse	19	Non-irrigated	74.0		
01Ab11107	10	Irrigated	132.6	2.1	NS
Baronesse	10	Irrigated	129.9		

** Denotes significance at P=0.05. (95% chance that 01Ab11107 has higher yield than Baronesse)
NS: Not statistically different.

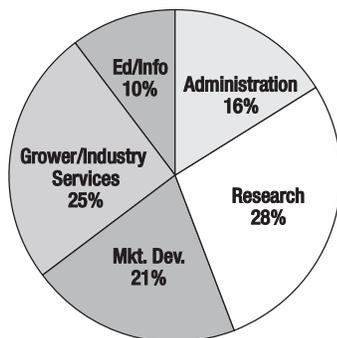
Charles, a winter two-rowed malting barley released in 2006, is currently under brewing plant-scale evaluation, the first winter barley to reach this point. 500 acres were sown in 2007 for malting and brewing evaluation by several major brewing companies. The yield potential is quite high compared to spring types. In 2005-06 it yielded 151 bu/A at the Filer location and 171 bu/A in 2006-07 near Burley. It has superior yield, lodging resistance, and plump kernels when compared to **Harrington**. It is superior in yield to **Metcalfe** and has similar percentage plump kernels and lodging resistance. Its area of adaptation is limited to lower elevation areas south and west of Aberdeen, with target areas of the Magic valley, Treasure valley, and the Palouse areas of Idaho and eastern Washington. Due to the lack of winter hardiness compared to wheat, timely fall establishment is necessary for achieving maximum yield.

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Idaho Barley Commission – 2007 in Review

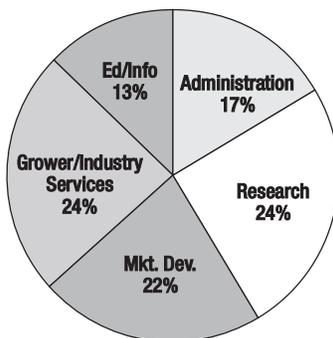
FY 2007 IBC BUDGET

\$444,851 – Actual Expenditures



FY 2008 IBC BUDGET

\$453,697 – Approved May 2007



Meet the IBC Team

Kelly Olson, Administrator, based in Boise.

Andrea Woolf, Project Coordinator/Fiscal Officer, based in Boise.

Dan Mader, District 1 Commissioner, is a feed/food barley producer from Genesee, Idaho. Dan was re-appointed to a second term by Governor "Butch" Otter in July 2007 to serve north Idaho producers. Dan serves on the IBC's two marketing organizations: US Grains Council, based in Washington, D.C., which focuses on international market development and the National Barley Foods Council, based in Spokane, WA, which promotes barley food consumption.

Ron Elkin, District II Commissioner, is a malting barley producer from Filer, Idaho. Ron was appointed to his 1st term on the IBC in July 1, 2006, representing barley producers in southwestern and south-central Idaho. Ron serves on the National Barley Improvement Committee, a national group which advocates for federal research funding for barley.

Evan Hayes, Chairman, District III Commissioner, is a malting barley producer from Soda Springs. Evan is serving his 6th and final year on the IBC, representing eastern Idaho barley growers. He recently completed a two-year term as president of the National Barley Growers Association, a national advocacy organization for US barley producers, based in Washington, D.C. Evan continues to serve on the NBGA board until July 2008. Hayes also represents the U.S. barley and wheat industries as an executive board member of Alliance for Rail Competition (ARC), which works with Congress to improve U.S. rail policies and provide remedies for captive rail shippers. Evan also serves on the Governor's Motor Carrier Advisory Committee.

Steve Balster, Industry Representative, is Director of U.S. Barley Operations for Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc., in Idaho Falls is serving his 6th and final year as the commission's Industry Representative. Steve assumed his current Idaho Falls position in July 2003 and has worked for Anheuser Busch Co. for more than 20 years.

Value Added Initiatives

The IBC board revised its long-term Strategic Plan and launched four new Value-Added Strategic Initiatives that will help position Idaho barley to be competitive well into the future. These initiatives require a coordinated effort in research, market development and grower education. They include:

- Malting barley for export
- Food barley for both domestic and export markets
- Winter barleys
- Low phytate specialty feed barleys

Grower Services

2007 Farm Bill – IBC has worked through the National Barley Growers Association to promote barley's priorities in the 2007 Farm Bill, including equity in program crop support levels. We believe U.S. barley has lost significant competitiveness in our traditional growing regions – acreage has declined by 70% in the past 20 years – due in large part to planting distortions triggered by farm program inequities.

A comparison of the two pending bills is presented below.

	2002 Farm Bill	H.R. 2419	Senate Version
Direct Payment	\$.24/bu	\$.24/bu	\$.24/bu
Loan Rate	\$1.85/bu	Feed \$1.90/bu	All barley \$1.95
		Malting \$2.50/bu	
Target Price	\$2.24/bu	\$2.73	\$2.63

IBC makes the case to extend disaster assistance to spring 2007 crops – IBC worked with the IGPA and county extension on a crop survey last summer to determine the extent of 2007 crop losses resulting from excessive heat and drought. We provided this information to the Idaho congressional delegation to justify extending the disaster assistance that was already approved for winter crops to cover losses in our spring planted crops. This extension was included in the omnibus spending bill approved by Congress on December 19.

Risk management education marks 7th year – Since 2001, the IBC has received more than

\$60,000 in USDA/CSREES grant funding through the Western Center for Risk Management Education at Washington State University to conduct grain risk management education programs. This past year we conducted advanced grain marketing workshops in Craigmont, Genesee, Bonners Ferry, Idaho Falls and Burley. We also developed a new RightRisk computer simulation game geared to Idaho barley/wheat production scenarios called the Mountain View Farms game, which can be accessed on-line. Finally, we developed special marketing features in both the May 2007 issue of the Idaho Barley Report newsletter and the summer 2007 issue of Idaho Grain Magazine.

Competitive rail transportation is showing progress – IBC, along with the Idaho Grain Producers Association and Idaho Wheat Commission, are actively engaged in rail competition issues at the national level. IBC Commissioner Evan Hayes testified before the Surface Transportation Board's hearing on rail transportation of grain last November in Washington, D.C. He submitted written testimony to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on October 23, 2007.

Research

Food barley variety development takes center stage – This year, IBC has allocated considerable resources to accelerate the development of barleys with end use traits that are desired by food manufacturers and consumers. We are engaged in a collaborative research effort with public (USDA ARS in Aberdeen) and private (WestBred in Bozeman, MT) barley breeders to commercialize better yielding waxy barleys with high beta-glucan content. One of these new varieties – Salute – was grown commercially in northern Idaho this year. We have worked with WestBred to expand seed production of two of their waxy food barleys – Salute and BG Barley 006 – for expanded commercial production in 2008.

Numerous human and small animal feeding studies have shown barley beta-glucan fiber reduces bad cholesterol and lowers the risk of heart disease. Based on these scientific findings, the US Food and Drug Administration approved a health claim in May 2006 that allows barley food products that contain at least .75 grams of this soluble fiber per serving to claim a reduction in the risk of heart disease.

Winter malting barley variety development gets boost – IBC has placed considerable emphasis on winter barley variety development – both for malting and food uses – and these efforts are starting to yield excellent results.

Mealybug / food rot disease get renewed attention – IBC initiated a new study with the University of Idaho in 2007 to help evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of using seed treatments to control mealybugs and root rot in barley. Research project objectives include: (1) evaluating agronomic performance of barley utilizing two different insecticide treatments at three different times; (2) evaluating agronomic performance of barley utilizing two different fungicides; (3) investigating potential biocontrol agents; (4)

improving mealy bug and foot rot control strategies in commercial barley fields in eastern Idaho.

Market Development

Food barley markets pick up steam – IBC is working to build markets for high beta-glucan food barleys. We received a \$45,000 grant from the USDA Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) this year to help expand our domestic marketing program for value-added barley foods. We are working closely with the National Barley Foods Council on a nutrition education campaign touting the benefits of adding barley to our diets, with specific outreach efforts targeted at health and nutrition professionals, food manufacturers and consumers.

In addition, we have targeted food manufacturers in both Japan and Taiwan, which have shown strong interest in using barley as a nutritional mix with rice. These efforts have already paid dividends as one of the largest food barley users in Japan has contracted for production of Salute, a specially food barley from WestBred, in north Idaho this year.

Export market development remains a central focus – The IBC continues to support the expansion of international markets for barley and malt through our collaboration with the U.S. Grains Council (USGC). The USGC is a private, non-profit partnership of producers and agribusinesses committed to exporting U.S. barley, corn, grain sorghum and their co-products, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. and nine international offices. With financial support from state grain check-offs, agribusinesses and federal matching funds from the USDA, the Council operates a nearly \$27 million market development program in more than 50 countries around the world.

USGC barley programs include:

- Annual U.S. barley crop reports distributed to potential customers around the world.
- Annual visits with Japanese barley customers, including an annual U.S. grower mission to Japan and a reverse mission to the U.S. **Japan is the largest export customer for U.S. barley**, buying more than 355,000 metric tons from the U.S. in MY 2006-07 (all feed barley), more than double the previous year. So far in MY 2007-08, Japan has purchased more than 534,000 metric tons of U.S. barley, up another 50 percent from last year. Japan has taken additional steps to liberalize their barley imports, which has worked to the favor of U.S. suppliers. Beginning with 2007 imports, the Japanese Government has approved all their feed barley imports and a portion of food barley imports to be handled under their liberalized Simultaneous Buy Sell import system. The U.S. made the first food barley sale in a May 31 tender, selling 420 metric tons of Salute food barley owned by General Mills in Pocatello, ID. A second sale of 1,850 metric tons was made recently, traded by Genesee Union in Genesee, ID.
- Food barley technical seminars are held for potential customers in Japan and Taiwan.
- Malting barley marketing programs are targeted at Mexico and other rapidly expanding Latin American markets. On January 16-18, 2008, we will collaborate on a U.S. Malt and Malting Buyers Conference in Latin America.

MY 2007-08 Grain Market Outlook Remains Bullish But Volatile

- MY 2007-08 supply and demand fundamentals have supported a sharp price rally this year, with wheat futures leading the gains beginning last spring as world carryover projections fell to 30 year lows.
- Wheat and soybean futures posted all time highs this year, gaining more than 75% in value in 2007. Corn posted 11 year highs.
- **World grain consumption outpaced production** four of the last five years.
- Despite a 5% increase in total grain production, world ending stocks are projected to decline 10% or 24 million metric tons this year but will be 24% below two years ago (down 73 million metric tons).
- Despite a 19% jump in acres and typical seasonal pressures, U.S. corn held strong values through harvest due to extraordinarily strong domestic (ethanol) and export demand, along with a need to secure sufficient acres to fuel the ethanol boom next year.
- Current bullish global grain fundamentals will prevent a near-term price slide, but volatility will remain very high because of razor-thin carryovers and 2008 crop uncertainties.
- Outside market forces – most notably crude oil reaching all time highs and the U.S. dollar slumping to an time lows – continue to have significant impact on futures trading.

Outlook for Global and U.S. Barley Markets

TIM POTTER, BARLEY MERCHANDISER WITH CHS HARVEST STATES, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

- U.S. barley saw the first production increase in 5 years and had overall good quality.
- U.S. exports in MY 07/08 could reach .9 MMT, more than double a year ago – our strongest export competition since 2000/01.
- World barley market has the lowest stocks to use ratio it has seen in more than 20 years. Barley market cannot afford to have any major crop failures in 2008.
- Australia had two back-to-back disappointing crops – 2006 production was down 60% and 2007 production was 40% below two years ago. With new crop harvest winding down they are currently selling feed barley aggressively into Japan, and Saudi Arabia markets for January, February, and March shipment periods. Also, they are providing China and to a lesser extent Japan with malt barley quality.
- The EU crop was 3% bigger this year and they continue to be aggressive sellers of feed barley into the North African market (Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria).
- The North American feed barley market is uncompetitive right now with Australia and the EU aggressive sellers who have substantial freight advantages into key import markets.
- Canada is offering feed barley approx \$10 to \$15/mt cheaper than the cheapest U.S. feed

U.S. GRAIN BALANCE SHEET, USDA, JAN. 11, 2008 (MILLION BU)

	BARLEY		CORN		WHEAT	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Harvested Area (mln acres)	3.0	3.5	70.6	86.5	46.8	51.0
Carryin	108	69	1,967	1,304	571	456
Production	180	212	10,535	13,074	1,812	2,067
Imports	12	20	12	15	122	90
Total Supply	300	301	12,514	14,393	2,505	2,613
Food, seed & industrial	156	145	3,488	4,555	1,014	1,031
Ethanol			2,117	3,200		
Feed	56	55	5,598	5,950	125	115
Exports	20	50	2,125	2,450	1,140	1,175
Total usage	231	250	11,210	12,995	2,049	2,321
End stocks	69	50	1,304	1,438	456	257
Ave. farm price	\$2.85	\$3.80-4.40	\$3.04	\$3.70-4.30	\$4.26	\$6.45-6.85

USDA World Supply & Demand Estimates, Jan. 11, 2008

barley offer and will make it very difficult for the U.S. to sell any additional feed barley exports in the winter months and possibly into the spring as well.

- Saudi Arabia (the largest importer of world feed barley) is now comfortably covered through March 2008. They will start to look for coverage after the first of year for April-May-June 2008.
- The world malting barley companies continue to struggle with paying the highest prices they have seen in recent memory due to drought conditions in the Black Sea (mainly Ukraine) and the continued drought pattern for the second year in a row in Australia. Moreover, the excessive rains at harvest time in France and Germany led to major quality issues for the second year in a row.
- The U.S. malt barley market continues to rise as we approach the winter months and should continue into the winter and spring as the malting companies struggle to keep their pipelines full versus previous years.
- The prospects for higher acres will be difficult given that the competing commodities (most notable wheat) surging to record prices. The farmer will have plenty of options as far as what direction he can go this spring.
- Expect the volatility to continue in the world barley market at least for the next 6-12 months until we get our stocks to use ratio to a more comfortable level (i.e., 20% or higher versus single digits).

Outlook for Idaho Wheat Markets

HEATH BARNES, GRAIN MERCHANTISER, GENESEE UNION WAREHOUSE, GENESEE, ID

What a ride! The commodity markets over the past 5 months have experienced volatility to a degree never seen before. The old adage that the bears get some, the bulls get some, and the pigs get slaughtered has never been more wrong as it has been this year. Being a bull or a pig has certainly paid off in this year's rocket ship performance of ever increasing wheat prices. **The million dollar question is where do prices go from here?**

Most recent S&D reports continue to show historically tight U.S. stocks, with projected wheat carryout at 292 million bushels, down from 456 million last year. USDA has pegged world carryout numbers to just over 4 billion bushels compared to last year's world carryout at 4.5 billion bushels. A few numbers that I may dispute in the latest USDA numbers are that of the Australian crop and the Argentina crop. The USDA has the Australian crop pegged at 13 million metric tonnes which I think is 1 million metric tonnes over stated, the same could be said of the Argentina crop with USDA at 15 million metric tonnes, again I feel that this number is 1 to 1.5 million tonnes over stated. All in all

this year's wheat stocks are historically tight, demand is up, and it appears there is a high probability that stocks will get tighter before new crop stocks become available.

So to address that million dollar question where will prices go from here? It appears there is enough catalyst to propel prices to even higher levels if demand continues to surface. India, Pakistan, Egypt and Yemen are all searching for replacement stocks. We also have the large fund traders shifting a significant portion of their portfolios to commodities which has been the main driver in the increased volatility of all the grain pits. However it must also be mentioned that cash levels, especially for soft red winter wheat, are much lower than futures prices on the Chicago Board of Trade. This probably means, at least for the current time frame, that futures may be a little overpriced. But usually tight stock situations continue to get tighter.

For those who still have crop left to sell the question is to sell or not to sell? A sale at current market levels is probably the financially prudent thing for most producers to do. However I would be inclined to hold a small percentage of wheat for what looks like a starting uptrend in the futures markets. Who really knows in this market but I would like to have some wheat around if we ever do hit \$20.00/bu if for nothing else but bragging rights. **It should also be noted that all wheat classes are trading above \$8.00/bu for new crop which is probably a great place to start looking at locking in new crop bushels.** One thing is for sure the ride is far from over. So strap in and enjoy!

JIM ROONEY, GRAIN MERCHANTISER, GENERAL MILLS, IDAHO FALLS, ID

Wheat markets, fueled by the tightest world supplies in 32 years, have taken us on a ride we won't soon forget. Strong demand from importing countries that were unable to get traditional supplies from an extremely short Australian 06 crop started the ball rolling and when further drought and weather problems cut production again in Australia, as well as Canadian and European crops, the markets took off.

Importers as well as many domestic end users were caught in a trap waiting for cheaper prices and a bountiful Northern Hemisphere crop. It didn't happen and the scramble ensued. The world has used more wheat than it produced in 7 out of the last 10 years; this is not a sustainable trend.

What many had expected has happened; we can now use the word shortage rather than tightness. This begs the question: What are commodities worth, how high can they go? The answer is whatever it takes for ownership because food is a need. The job of any market is to ration demand to insure supplies are adequate. The volatility at current levels is so high that wheat markets are often making limit moves. Greed and emotion will exaggerate market prices despite the realities of the supply and demand

fundamentals. The concern for end users both domestically and abroad is will there be enough old crop wheat to meet their needs until new crop, and will there be adequate supplies next year? This fear is providing marketing opportunities unlike any we have seen before.

Unfortunately most growers are sold out old crop at much lower prices, and this has caused them to be afraid to make new crop 2008 sales out of fear of higher prices. Good prices are being offered for new crop and we must be cautiously optimistic, and stay grounded with our risk management strategies. **Making incremental new crop sales is a prudent strategy.** Remember the saying "The cure for high prices is high prices."

Nearby prices could be influenced by:

- India may purchase 1-2 million tons of wheat for nearby shipment.
- Baltic States may consider additional export taxes to insure adequate domestic supplies.
- Record oil prices are allowing for wider ethanol margins. Wheat price will need to compete with higher corn prices.
- A strong La Nina could send drier weather to the central U.S. plains states.

Winter wheat plantings in the U.S. are over 90% complete and news from around the world has confirmed increased acres. We find ourselves with the potential cure for high prices; more wheat acres. The wildcard is Mother Nature so going forward world weather will determine the fate of the market.

We suggest the following marketing action:

- 100 % sold on 2007 crop wheat.
- 30%- 40 % sold on new crop 2008 red wheat using futures fixed contracts. Make additional incremental sales on fifty cent rallies.
- Price red wheat basis at or above the five-year average.
- Cash bids for 2008 SWW are attractive sell 30-40% flat price.



Competitive Barley Varieties are Essential to a Thriving Idaho Barley Industry *continued from front page*

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF CHARLES VS. HARRINGTON

	Yield (Bu/A)	Test Weight	Percentage Plumps	Height	Days to Heading	Lodging 1-9 (9 is Worst)
Location-Years	9	7	8	6	6	7
Charles	162.3	53.9	95	34	146	1.6
Harrington	122.8	54.1	89	35	174	1.8

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF CHARLES VS. AC METCALFE

	Yield (Bu/A)	Test Weight	Percentage Plumps	Height	Days to Heading	Lodging 1-9 (9 is Worst)
Location-Years	4	1	3	3	3	3
Charles	166.1	52.9	93	36	142	2.1
AC Metcalfe	113.7	53.4	94	34	165	1.0

New Two-Row Spring Malting Barleys from Anheuser-Busch

DR. BLAKE COOPER, BARLEY BREEDER, FORT COLLINS, CO

Busch Agricultural Resources Inc. (BARI) is pleased to announce the arrival of several new two-row spring malting barleys for the Intermountain Western United States including Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. The most advanced of these new varieties is called **Conrad**. Conrad was bred and developed to be a direct replacement for the long-standing variety B1202, which until recently was one of the most widely adapted and grown of the A-B approved two-row malting barleys.

Conrad was developed from the extended cross of B1215 // B1202 / TR488, so it should have inherited roughly 25% of its background from B1202. Conrad is widely adapted and capable of producing high yields of consistently plump grain. The medium-early maturity and relatively strong straw of Conrad as also derived in part from the B1202 background. Conrad has an intermediate to moderately susceptible reaction to the major foliar leaf diseases such as net-blotch and scald. This level of resistance is capable of providing Conrad with some degree of protection against these diseases, but like most currently grown varieties, Conrad will benefit from a timely ap-

plication of a good foliar fungicide; especially in years when conditions favor development of leaf diseases.

Conrad was tested extensively for the past 11 years under the experimental designation of 2B96-5057 or the shortened version B5057. This testing was done in both internal BARI test plots and a full range of regional performance nurseries in both the U.S and in western Canada (*where it was assigned the designation TR706 according to the official naming procedures of the Canadian CO-OP Registration system*).

Conrad has been granted Plant Variety Protection (PVP title V) status in the U.S and the equivalent PBR status in Canada. Conrad is an approved variety by the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA). Seed stocks of Conrad will be maintained and distributed under the direction of and through BARI approved seed channels. A summary of performance data in head-to-head comparison (*in Idaho*) to the variety Merit follows:

On farm performance of Conrad to date has been very good. Most growers that were familiar with B1202 have been able to adapt management practices to Conrad easily. Conrad has done well in both irrigated and dry land testing. Conrad has consistently high plump kernel percent; however it also has slightly elevated grain protein content. Until growers become well accustomed to Conrad

under their own specific conditions, they have been encouraged to not use excessive amounts of nitrogen, particularly late applied N, to prevent excessive barley protein. Under irrigated production, the use of a growth regulator (like Cerone™) is advised even though Conrad has relatively strong straw. One timely application of any one of a number of good commercially available foliar fungicides may be beneficial in years when conditions favor development of severe foliar disease, (*net-blotch or scald*) to preserve and maximize the yield potential.

Two other exciting new experimental malting varieties are in the works, but they have not yet been approved as malting varieties by AMBA. Both of these new potential varieties – Merit 16 and Merit 57 – are geared as follow on varieties to Merit. Merit is a very high yielding variety that is primarily adapted to irrigated production in the Idaho Falls area of eastern Idaho. Merit is a full season (medium-late maturity) variety with excellent resistance to net-blotch, but it is moderately susceptible to scald. Both of these new malt barleys have 75% of their backgrounds based on Merit, so in many respects they represent new improved versions of Merit that have slightly wider and different primary areas of adaptation. They were tested under the designations B2316 and B2657 respectively. They will be handled in commerce world-wide as **Merit 16 and Merit 57**, reflective of their strong parental contribution from Merit. Merit 16 is on average 2 inches shorter, 2-3 days earlier and consistently plumper than Merit. Merit 16 appears to be best adapted to southern Idaho and the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. Merit 57 is on average 1 inch shorter and 1-2 days earlier than Merit, with similar kernel assortment size; however, Merit 57 has incorporated a high level of resistance to scald while retaining Merit's excellent levels of resistance to net-blotch. Data collected to date indicate that Merit 57 will be best adapted in north central Montana (*irrigated*) and extending well on up into Alberta, Canada. Both new Merit types are adapted to irrigated production in the Idaho Falls area similar to the current Merit's prime area of adaptation. A summary of performance data in head-to-head comparison (*in Idaho*) to the variety Merit is shown below left.

It should be noted that the table above is Idaho only results and heavily skewed to Eastern Idaho as the majority of the observations were from Idaho Falls where Merit is almost ideally suited. Historical data outside of Idaho has demonstrated a +2 to +4 Bu/ac advantage for Merit 16 and Merit 57 respectively compared to Merit, depending on the precise region being evaluated. The data outside of Merit's primary area of adaptation supports the concept that these two new Merit types will extend the current geography of Merit well beyond Eastern Idaho. Both of these new varieties are still in plant scale malting evaluations and will only be available in limited production under contract until they are approved by AMBA. So far the data indicates that growers who are familiar with growing Merit should find it pretty easy to adapt their management practices to these newer versions. Taken together, these

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF CONRAD VS. MERIT (IDAHO RESULTS ONLY)

	Yield	Height	Heading Date	Maturity	Lodge	Foliar Disease	Bacterial Blight	Barley Protein	Plump	Thins
Scale	Bu/ac	(Inches)	(Julian)	(1-9)	(1-9)	(1-9)	(1-9)	%	%	%
No. Obs.	(108)	(86)	(81)	(41)	(93)	(9)	(16)	(76)	(77)	(78)
Conrad	137.3	34.8	175.1	5.2	2.6	5.4	3.5	12.7	93.2	2.7
Merit	137.9	36.6	176.9	6.4	2.4	3.3	3.7	12.0	86.9	5.4

Values in **Bold Italics** are statistically different than for Merit using a paired-t test... otherwise the values for Conrad and Merit are statistically equivalent.

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF MERIT 16 AND MERIT 57 VD. MERIT (Idaho results only)

	Yield	Height	Heading Date	Maturity	Lodge	Foliar Disease	Bacterial Blight	Barley Protein	Plump	Thins
Scale	Bu/ac	(Inches)	(Julian)	(1-9)	(1-9)	(1-9)	(1-9)	%	%	%
No. Obs.	(42)	(34)	(29)	(17)	(31)	(7)	(3)	(31)	(33)	(34)
Merit 16	131.2	32.9	175.1	4.2	2.7	3.9	3.1	11.3	89.3	4.0
Merit 57	131.8	33.7	175.0	5.2	2.2	2.7	3.7	11.3	85.0	5.9
Merit	132.2	34.7	177.0	6.3	2.5	3.2	4.3	11.4	84.9	5.6

Values in **Bold Italics** are statistically different than for Merit using a paired-t test... otherwise the values for Merit 16, Merit 57 and Merit are statistically equivalent.

continued on back page

Competitive Barley Varieties are Essential to a Thriving Idaho Barley Industry *continued from page 5*

two new varieties have the potential to widen the area of adaptation for 'Merit Type' barley beyond the Idaho Falls primary target of Merit alone. Both Merit 16 and Merit 57 have been granted Plant Variety Protection (PVPA title V) status in the U.S. and the equivalent PBR status in Canada is pending.

New Feed and Food Barleys from Westbred, LLC

DR. DALE CLARK, BARLEY BREEDER, BOZEMAN, MT

WestBred has a long successful history of developing very competitive feed barleys that are well adapted to the Intermountain Region. Some of their best known varieties include Baronesse and Xena, which are leading feed barleys grown in Idaho today. WestBred also is a leader in developing food barleys that have specific traits, like higher levels of beta-glucan fiber, which are desired in the growing barley and whole grains food markets.

New Feed Barleys

CHAMPION

- New Release from WestBred in 2008
- Leading variety in the PNW yield trials for the past 3 years
- Excellent test weight
- Standard height 2-row
- Good standability

BOULDER

- Good yield potential
- Very high test weight
- More adapted for rain-fed areas of the PNW

New Food Barleys

SALUTE (BG BARLEY)

- 2-row, covered food barley
- Good to excellent yield potential
- Early to Medium maturity

BG BARLEY 006

- 6-row, covered food barley
- Short straw length

- Good standability

BG BARLEY 012

- 6-row, covered food barley
- Excellent yield potential of a hullless variety
- Great beta-glucan potential

BG BARLEY 46E

- 2-row, hullless, shrunken endosperm, food barley
- Very high beta-glucan can be achieved
- Management needed for lodging under intensive irrigation practices

New Feed Barley Adapted to North Idaho from Plant Breeders 1 Inc.

DR. WAYNE MCPROUD, BARLEY BREEDER, MOSCOW, ID

Spaulding is a spring two-row feed barley developed by Plant Breeders 1 Inc. (PB1) and is Plant Variety Protected (PVP). Spaulding resulted from a cross between the European line VD 4035-82 and a PB1 selection involving Pacific Northwest and European barleys. In Idaho, Spaulding's average yield is 5% greater than Baronesse and average test weight is 1.5 pounds/bushel heavier than Baronesse. Additionally, Spaulding is slightly taller, heads slightly earlier and is slightly more lodging resistant than Baronesse.

HEAD-TO-HEAD PERFORMANCE OF SPAULDING VS. BARONESSE

	Yield (Bu/A)	Test Weight	Height	Days to Heading (Julian)	Lodging 1-9 (Worst)
Location-Years	30	54	35	40	29
Spaulding	109.7	53.2	28.2	176	2.3
Baronesse	104.3	51.7	27.6	177	2.8

Lodging Score: 1 = 1-5%, 2 = 6-12%, 3 = 13-25%, 4 = 26-50%, 5 = 51-100%

We invited information on new Coors barley varieties but their breeder, Dr. Bob Brunick, was unable to participate.

2007 UI EXTENSION TRIALS – SPRING BARLEY, 2-ROW, PRELIMINARY YIELD DATA

Entry/variety	Aberdeen Yield bu/A	Aberdeen Test Wt lbs/bu	Rupert Yield bu/A	Rupert Test Wt lbs/bu	Idaho Falls Yield bu/A	Idaho Falls Test Wt lbs/bu	Aberdeen Rupert, IF Yield bu/A
12 Champion (WestBred)	149.5	49.4	142.3	48.2	143.3	49.0	145.0
6 Boulder (WestBred)	141.5	51.4	142.7	50.4	147.9	50.4	144.0
19 Spaulding	136.7	49.3	144.7	49.5	144.6	49.6	142.0
22 Xena (WestBred)	142.3	48.6	144.1	48.6	134.3	47.1	140.2
20 Tetonia	130.6	47.9	147.8	48.8	138.1	47.9	138.8
5 Baronesse (WestBred)	138.6	48.4	140.2	48.1	135.6	47.9	138.1
9 Camas	129.9	48.5	140.5	49.1	138.8	48.2	136.4
32 Conrad	127.4	47.7	142.7	48.9	135.6	48.0	135.3
27 AC Metcalfe	108.4	47.6	130.2	49.3	118.2	48.4	118.9
35 Harrington	115.6	46.3	117.8	47.8	104.6	44.9	112.7
LSD ($\alpha=0.05$)	20.1	1.8	20.4	1.7	14.1	1.6	
CV	11.2	2.7	10.7	2.5	7.6	2.3	
Average	128.1	48.3	135.7	48.4	132.4	48.0	132.2



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