

Michigan Wheat Program August 2012 Article

We are very excited to be able to provide you updates through the *Farmer's Advance* on the newest check-off program, the Michigan Wheat Program (MWP). Growers are pleased with the strong wheat yield and good quality of this year's crop, especially given the variable weather across the state.

We appreciate those of you that stopped by the Michigan Crop Improvement Association's booth at Ag Expo to say hello and learn more about the wheat check-off program. We heard your excitement and enthusiasm for the wheat crop and we're very pleased with the number of growers who seem to be evaluating the benefits of growing wheat, once again.

As the MWP moves ahead, we will be focusing on research and also communications. We will be sharing information regarding intensive management of Michigan wheat, especially as we hear about the possibility for additional acreage. As we have talked to growers, we know there are yields from 60 bushels to 115 plus bushels per acre. We will be compiling the information and strategies used to help growers achieve those higher yields and will be sharing those results with all growers across the state.

The board is focusing on research and meeting with researchers in mid August to develop their short term and long term research goals. We will keep you updated on our focus in future articles. We will also keep you updated on our website, which is currently under development. Soon you will be able to visit us on line at: www.miwheat.org.

If you are considering wheat in the fall, you may want to visit the results of the test plots. You can learn more about the varieties by going to http://www.css.msu.edu/varietytrials/wheat/Variety_Results.html.

Harvest has concluded and funds are beginning to come to the MWP. In the early start-up phase of the program, funds were received from growers and industry to fund the initial meetings, public hearings and the referendum. A mailing has been sent out to those folks, offering the reimbursement of their funds. If you have a question about this, do not hesitate to contact the office.

The funds collected through the MWP will be used for research, production issues, education, market development and promotion of Michigan wheat. All wheat and seed wheat grown in Michigan and sold is to be assessed. The assessment rate is set annually by the board and for 2012 wheat is to be assessed at the rate of one half of one percent (.005) of the net value of the wheat, which works out to be about 3 cents for every \$6.00 bushel. The assessment for seed wheat was set by the board through a formula and ends up at about 3.2 cents per bushel. Information has been sent to seed wheat purchasers regarding their assessment. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

We will keep you posted on other projects through these updates and other communication. If you have questions or information to share with us, please contact the MWP at 1-888-(943-2801) WHEAT01.