

2024 Hard Spring Wheat and Durum Tour July 22 -26

Trip Summary

We had 47 people register but lost 7 to a software glitch causing airline cancelations. Forty participated in this year's tour. At least 30 had no scouting experience but this was another of the most interested and fun groups. Great representation across the value chain with growers, university, media, millers, grain companies, USDA and processors all were represented. We ran 10 cars across our standard routes beginning and ending in Fargo, ND with overnight stops in Bismarck and Devils Lake. With a new executive in place in South Dakota we ran a route through Northern SD after many years of not doing so. He was able to find enough fields to justify the route. We used yield formulas supplied by NDSU. We change car assignments each day and try to have some expertise in each car to train those inexperienced. We are joined each night by local producers, agronomists and grain handlers to offer local insight. We take an average yield of all our stops and report it to the trade each day after crop discussions. This year's crop tour will be remembered as record for yield per acre potential. There was some variability in plant development with some wheat about 2-3 weeks out and other wheat four to five weeks away. Planting was halted by another wet spring. Stands were exceptional in all areas we covered. We saw winter wheat fields that would be harvested beginning in early August and spring wheat and durum wheat fields in the north that will be harvested in early September. Absent that concern, there is total optimism about the high yield potential of this crop if the weather cooperates. Soil moisture levels have been and still are favorable for wheat. We were impressed that the expected yields were almost the same across the entire state. Certainly, the best yields will come from the Red River Valley, but the central and west will be close behind. Our daily trip averages were only a few bushels apart. Our actual data is attached in the website. The weather for crop scouting was perfect this year, with no rain, cool temperatures and dry fields. We were in the mid 70s to low 80s with dry fields all week. There was a large amount of wheat still setting kernels and this weather is ideal. If we can get just a week or two of this kind of weather the crop will be made. Maybe because of the constant wind, there were no mosquitoes and few ticks found. We did encounter lots of hungry grasshoppers in the field margins which is normal in the western areas. This year we saw examples of the normal diseases, but severity was low for all of them. Day one we covered the southern third of ND with parts of western MN. Fields were in various stages of development. Most were two to three weeks out. Yields reported were high and record for the tour. Day two covered central, NW and NC North Dakota. All the reports revolved around later development and record yield potential. Day three from Devils Lake to Fargo saw better crops still. We stopped at 257 fields which is about right for this sized group. Our tour is first and foremost a training event. We get people out in the fields who are unfamiliar. They learn about farming, wheat and the spring wheat states. As in every year our tour took a snapshot in time as best we could. Environmental conditions over the next few weeks will determine this crop. All of our data is available on our website. In addition to the media representatives on the tour, I spoke to all radio and other media that requested. We continue to have great participant

feedback and we certainly bring value to the industry as evidenced by our attendance.
Respectfully submitted, Dave G Green Exec VP Wheat Quality Council

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