

**CONTRACT BETWEEN
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RESEARCH CENTERS
and
MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY COMMITTEE**

TITLE: Assessing agronomic practices to advance cereal production in Montana.

TIME PERIOD: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

PERSONNEL: Research scientists at the following AES Research Centers:

1. Southern Agricultural Research Center (SARC) - Huntley
Kent A. McVay, Crop Scientist & Coordinator
2. Northern Agricultural Research Center (NARC) - Havre
Peggy Lamb Crop Scientist
3. Central Agricultural Research Center (CARC) - Moccasin
David M. Wichman, Superintendent/Crop Scientist
4. Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) - Sidney
Joyce L. Eckhoff, Crop Scientist
5. Northwestern Agricultural Research Center (NWARC) - Kalispell
Robert N. Stougaard, Superintendent/Weed Scientist
6. Western Triangle Ag Research Center (WTARC) - Conrad
Gadi V.P. Reddy, Superintendent/Entomologist

COOPERATORS: Research Associates, Assistants, Technicians and Farm Managers at each research center, area Extension Agents and cooperating producers hosting off-station research trials on farms across Montana.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To evaluate the effects of differing systems on crop and variety performance under diverse environments represented across the state of Montana.
2. To evaluate the potential fit of other materials, concepts and techniques with various cropping systems employed for cereal crop production.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

Montana agricultural producers are always looking for the development and implementation of new and/or refined materials and methods for enhanced economic efficiency in crop production. This project is designed to provide answers on these issues to producers across the many regions of the state.

PROJECTS:

- I. Cropping System Investigations
 - a. Spring barley performance following various cover crop mixes in southcentral Montana – SARC
 - b. Evaluation of spring wheat under dryland recrop conditions – EARC
 - c. Evaluation of durum under dryland recrop conditions – EARC
 - d. Evaluation of barley under dryland recrop conditions – EARC
 - e. Evaluation of continuous spring wheat under minimum-till, no-till, and crop/fallow cropping systems – EARC
 - f. Evaluation of a spring wheat, safflower, pea rotation under chemical and chemical-free production – EARC
 - g. Winter wheat yield following five or more cover crops harvested for forage – CARC
- II. Cereal Variety Performance Evaluations
 - a. Hard Red & White Winter Wheat Trials
 - i. Off-station winter wheat variety performance trials in south central Montana – SARC
 - ii. Irrigated winter wheat variety performance (preliminary 'B') selected for improved stripe rust resistance – SARC
 - iii. North central Montana off-station winter wheat variety performance evaluations – NARC
 - iv. Off-station winter wheat cultivar evaluations for the Western Golden Triangle area of Montana – WTARC
 - v. Evaluation of winter wheat cultivars in central Montana – CARC
 - b. Hard Red & White Spring Wheat Trials
 - i. Off-station spring wheat variety performance trials in south central Montana – SARC
 - ii. North central Montana off-station spring wheat variety performance evaluations – NARC
 - iii. Western Regional Hard Spring Wheat Nursery – NWARC
 - iv. Evaluation of spring wheat varieties under dryland fallow and dryland recrop conditions at four off-station sites – EARC
 - v. Off-station spring wheat cultivar evaluations for the Western Golden Triangle area of Montana – WTARC
 - vi. Evaluation of spring wheat cultivars in central Montana – CARC
 - c. Soft White Wheat Trials
 - i. Western regional soft spring wheat Nursery – NWARC
 - d. Durum Trials
 - i. North central Montana off-station durum wheat variety performance evaluations at three sites – NARC
 - ii. Evaluation of durum varieties under dryland fallow and dryland recrop conditions at four off-station sites – EARC

- iii. Durum cultivar evaluations for the Western Golden Triangle area of Montana – WTARC
 - e. Spring Barley Trials
 - i. Off-station spring barley variety performance trials in south central Montana – SARC
 - ii. Evaluation of Commercial Barley Varieties in Northwestern Montana – NWARC
 - iii. Evaluation of Hull-less Barley Varieties for Disease Resistance – NWARC
 - iv. Off-station spring barley cultivar evaluations for the Western Golden Triangle area of Montana – WTARC
 - v. Evaluation of spring barley cultivars in central Montana – CARC
- III. Alternative Crop Management (none this year)
- IV. Crop Nutrient Management (none this year)
- V. Disease Management
 - a. Evaluation of winter wheat experimental lines for wtripe rust resistance – NWARC
 - b. Evaluation of fungicides for stripe rust control in winter wheat – NWARC
- VI. Insect Management (none this year)
- VII. Weed Management (none this year)
- VIII. Other studies
 - a. Winter Wheat Response to Plant Growth Regulators – NWARC

PROCEDURES:

All projects are replicated either three or four times in randomized designs appropriate to each project. All reported grain yields and protein are corrected to a uniform moisture level as reported in the results table for each project. Grain moisture and test weight are typically measured using Dickey-John moisture meters. Grain protein is determined using either Perten or Foss NIR technology.

APPLICATION AND RESULTS:

Results are available to the Montana crop producer as well as to the scientific community. All results from these investigations will be available in CD format by request and can be found on the web at the Southern Agricultural Research Center website (<http://www.sarc.montana.edu/>) as well as at the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee website (<http://wbc.agr.mt.gov/>).

CURRENT or PENDING BUDGETARY SUPPORT:

All projects included herein are partially supported by MAES funding to include

scientist salaries. Projects included herein are not supported by other grants.

POTENTIAL FOR ENHANCED EXTRAMURAL FUNDING:

Much of the research conducted within this overall project is associated with the development of crop performance databases over substantial periods of time and numerous environments. While it is difficult to obtain most types of extramural funding for such work, the results arising from long-term investigations serve well in documenting base data for proposals toward other grant-supported research.

INCREASED COMPETITIVENESS DUE TO THIS FUNDING:

Much of the research associated with this project is conducted off-station on cooperating producer's farms. The addition of important cropping environments differing from those represented by the fixed-location research facilities is additive to the overall databases employed to support producer decisions in cropping systems, crop and variety selection, crop nutrition, crop pest management and general agronomics.

NUMBER OF YEARS MWBC HAS FUNDED THIS PROJECT:

This Joint Research Center project has been funded by MWBC for 44 crop years (1972-2015) at various levels of total award beginning with \$14,000 in 1972.

OVERALL BUDGET: (Individual Budgets by Research Center are attached)

Research Center	Off-Station Trials & Other Projects
Central at Moccasin	\$ 35,000
Eastern at Sidney	35,000
Northern at Havre	35,000
Northwestern at Kalispell	35,000
Southern at Huntley	35,000
Western Triangle at Conrad	35,000
Totals	\$210,000