

**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: Jan 1, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020

PERSONNEL: Research Scientists at the following AES Research Centers:

1. Southern Agricultural Research Center (SARC) – Huntley
Kent A. McVay, Extension Crop Scientist & Coordinator
2. Northern Agricultural Research Center (NARC) – Havre
Peggy Lamb, Crop Scientist
3. Central Agricultural Research Center (CARC) – Moccasin
Jed Eberly, Soil Microbiologist
4. Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) – Sidney
Chengci Chen, Superintendent/Crop Scientist
5. Northwestern Agricultural Research Center (NWARC) – Kalispell
Jessica Torrion, Superintendent/Crop Physiologist
6. Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center (WTARC) – Conrad.
This station will not contribute since the Superintendent position is currently unfilled.

COOPERATORS: Research Scientists, Research Associates, Assistants, Technicians and Farm Managers at each research center. County 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 cereal 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 grain 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
- II. Cereal Variety Performance Evaluations
 - a. Hard Red & White Winter Wheat Trials
 - i. Off-station winter wheat variety performance trials in southcentral Montana – SARC
 - ii. North central Montana off-station winter wheat cultivar performance evaluations – NARC
 - iii. Off-Station winter wheat variety performance trials in central Montana – CARC
 - b. Hard Red & White Spring Wheat Trials
 - i. Off-station spring wheat variety performance trials in southcentral Montana – SARC
 - ii. North central Montana off-station spring wheat cultivar performance evaluations – NARC
 - iii. Off-station spring wheat variety performance trials in central Montana – CARC
 - iv. Off-station spring wheat performance evaluation – NWARC
 - v. Evaluation of spring wheat varieties under dryland conditions at four off-station sites – EARC
 - c. Soft White Wheat Trials (none this year)
 - d. Durum Trials
 - i. North central Montana off-station spring durum cultivar performance evaluations – NARC.
 - ii. Evaluation of durum varieties under dryland conditions at four off-station sites – EARC
 - e. Spring Barley Trials
 - i. Off-station spring barley variety performance trials in southcentral Montana – SARC
 - ii. Off-station spring barley off-station variety performance trials in central Montana – CARC
 - iii. Off-station spring barley evaluation in northwest Montana – NWARC

- III. Alternative Crop Management (none this year)
- IV. Crop Nutrient Management
 - a. Off-station and on-station evaluation of winter wheat yield and quality under various N rates – NWARC
- V. Disease Management (none this year)
- VI. Insect Management (none this year)
- VII. Weed Management (none this year)
- VIII. Other studies (none this year)

PROCEDURES:

All projects are replicated either three or four times in randomized designs appropriate to each location. All reported grain yields and protein are corrected to a uniform moisture level as reported in the results table for each project. Grain moisture, test weight, and protein are typically measured using Dickey-John grain analysis computers and 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:

Extramural support for research on variety evaluations is difficult to obtain. By funding this project MWBC helps us build long-term evaluations over multiple environments. The resultant data sets and documented trends can then be used to justify more elaborate grant proposals that can gain attraction from other funding sources.

INCREASED COMPETITIVENESS DUE TO THIS FUNDING:

Much of the research associated with this project is conducted off-station on cooperating producer's farms. Evaluating crop performance in diverse environments provides data to help producers make management decisions in cropping systems, variety selection, crop nutrition, and crop pest management as well as in general agronomics.

NUMBER OF YEARS MWBC HAS FUNDED THIS PROJECT:

This Joint Research Center project has been funded by MWBC for 48 years (1972-2019) starting with a total award of \$14,000 in 1972.

OVERALL BUDGET:

Category	Amount
Salary	\$113,600
Benefits	44,948
Supplies/Expendables	7,552
Travel	4,100
Contracted Services	1,450
Repair/Maintenance	3,000
Communication	350
Grand Total	\$175,000

Budget justification. This budget is a cumulative summary of five research centers including Eastern, Northern, Northwestern, Central, and Southern. Expenses are estimated for the period Jan 1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020. The majority of this budget, \$158,548 goes to personnel including summer help, classified, and professional for salaries and benefits. Approximately \$7,500 is included for supplies and expendables to cover the costs of fertilizer, herbicides, bags, etc. Another \$3,000 is included for repair and maintenance of equipment. Travel amounts to \$4,100. The remainder is for contracted services for sample analysis and for communication costs. Individual station budgets can be obtained from OSP upon request. The budget has been reduced by \$35,000 this year because no off-station trials will be conducted by Western Triangle in 2020. It is anticipated that Western Triangle will be included into the next budget cycle, upon the hire of a superintendent.