



American Malting Barley Association, Inc.

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Press Release: The Golden Triangle Barley Update held in Conrad, Montana

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Conrad, MT- February 17, 2015 - The Golden Triangle Barley Update, a collaborative effort of Montana State University Extension and industry, drew over 100 producers and industry leaders to Conrad February 10, 2015. This popular event is held every three years and brings together MSU researchers, barley growers, maltsters and brewers to hear about the latest developments in barley and exchange ideas on how to maintain this industry that is so important to Montana's economy.

The program (http://ambainc.org/media/AMBA_PDFs/Events/Conrad_Program.pdf) included speakers on production issues such as insect and disease pests, crop insurance, varietal development, utilizing sprouted grain, sustainability, and activities of the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

Dr. Jamie Sherman discussed her goals for the barley breeding program, which includes focusing on the agronomics of yield and disease resistance and continuing to improve malting quality. Sherman asked producers for the most important challenge or problem they face that the MSU Barley Improvement Program could address, and encouraged producers to help her set the direction of the program.

Dave Paul from Watts and Associates Inc. addressed barley insurance and noted the development of a new product for malting barley that was a joint project between Watts and Associates and the North Dakota Barley Council that is expected to be available for the 2016 crop year.

Dr. Rachel Endecott, MSU Extension beef specialist, explained that sprouted grains have similar feed values to non-sprouted grains, but that sprouted grains should be processed. Endecott addressed the moisture and potential mold and mycotoxin issues that can be a concern with feeding sprouted grains.

Dr. Erik Lehnoff covered disease management in barley and noted the great potential for diseases in 2015 due to the moisture and weather conditions of the 2014 fall. Lehnoff encouraged producers to utilize the Schutter Diagnostic Lab in Bozeman for disease diagnosis as needed.

Dr. Kevin Wanner, MSU Assistant Professor of entomology, discussed cutworms, wireworms, cereal leaf beetles, and the wheat stem sawfly as they relate to barley production.

The Montana Wheat and Barley Committee update mentioned that while acres of barley planted across the US have steadily declined through the decades, Montana is number one in the nation in barley acres planted. Of Montana's production, 65 to 70% of production goes to malt, 9 to 13% is cut as forage, 11 to 19% becomes feed barley and the remaining 7% fills



other needs for seed, food, etc. Currently, there are seven maltsters who source Montana barley, known for its reliability and quality.

The day concluded with an industry panel including Jeff Farkell, Jerry Jerome, Mark Black, Wade Malchow, and Mike Stevens. Farkell does crop consulting in the Golden Triangle through Control Crop Consulting, Jerome is the program manager for northern Montana at Anheuser-Busch, Black is the Malteurop North American breeding program coordinator, Malchow is the MillerCoors Barley Program Manager, and Mike Stevens works in procurement for Cargill Malt.

The event was sponsored by AB-InBev, American Malting Barley Association, Busch Agricultural Resources, Control Crop Consulting, Helena Chemical, MillerCoors, Montana State University Extension Service, and Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.