
◆ The Grain Store

Volume 12 Issue 2

Winter 2006

*A Joint Publication of the Maryland Grain Producers Association
and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board*

Long-time Supporter of Agriculture Recognized at '05 Classic

A true friend of agriculture, Delegate Norman Conway of Salisbury was the 2005 recipient of the Maryland Grain Producers Association's Dr. James R. Miller Award presented at the Maryland Commodity Classic, held Thursday, July 28, at the Queen Anne's 4-H Park in Centreville.

From Ag Tags to ethanol, Delegate Conway has played a vital role in the passage of many key pieces of legislation that promote viability and sustainability of agriculture in Maryland.

"Norm's heart is in agriculture," says Robert Hutchison. "Every year, the agriculture community goes to Norm and asks for his help. He is always willing to put tremendous effort into passing legislation that makes a difference for farmers."

Even at the 2005 Maryland Commodity Classic, Delegate Conway's thoughts were on the passage of the 2005 Energy Bill as he spent a few moments expressing his

strong support for ethanol as a domestic renewable fuel and its ability to help reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

He noted that with high oil prices he saw a great opportunity for renewable fuels promotion to help not only the agricultural community, but the country as a whole.



Jamie Jamison presents Delegate Norman Conway a clock at the Maryland Commodity Classic.

Delegate Conway has represented District 38B covering Wicomico and Worcester Counties since 1987 and currently serves as chair of the House Appropriations Committee, a position he has held since 2003. Prior to this he served as vice-chair from 1995-2003.

Delegate Conway was the key House member to get the Renewable Fuels Promotion Act of 2005 passed. This was not an easy accomplishment when bills costing more than \$250,000 were destined to fail, and yet this legislation passed the House as a \$40 million program over ten years to help farmers develop an important value-added opportunity.

He further helped the watermelon growers address a complex transportation issue, has sponsored the Crop Insurance Premium Program legislation which allows MDA to supplement the cost of crop insurance premiums and sponsored the resolution to investigate opportunities for ethanol in Maryland.

MGPA President's Message – Ed Stanfield

The legislative session is well underway and several bills are of interest to Maryland grain producers. In support of the effort to bring ethanol production to Maryland we are seeking a ban on the use of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ester (MTBE) in the state. While the removal of the oxygenate requirement, the lack of liability waiver for MTBE and the renewable fuel

standard in the Federal Energy Bill is steering most oil companies to use ethanol, we feel that an MTBE ban will make these actions certain. This will provide greater certainty to investors in Maryland ethanol. Two bills have been introduced to ban MTBE – HB 360 and HB 522.

Over the summer, the Agricultural Stewardship Committee that was appointed by the leadership of the House and Senate has been meeting and has introduced SB 5/HB 2 which

requires County governments to include Priority Preservation Areas for agricultural land in their comprehensive plan, creates an agricultural internship program at UMD for students to work on farms, and creates a task force to look at taxation. The bill also includes language to encourage increased funding for several ag programs including MARBIDCO, cover crops, manure transportation, MACS cost-share, reestablishing the

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Anti-Biotech Groups Seek Cancellation of Public TV Series...

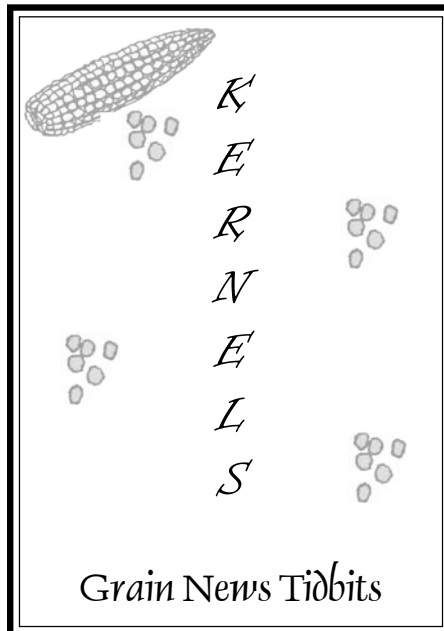
The PBS television series, "America's Heartland", mentioned in the June 2005 edition of *The Grain Store* fell under attack to more than 40 anti-biotech advocacy groups led by the Washington-based Center for Food Safety. These groups fought to cancel the new series on farming in America because they claimed a conflict of interest with their sponsors, particularly Monsanto and the American Farm Bureau Federation. The groups also demanded that "any segment that discusses genetically engineered food or crops without also discussing in equal terms the many concerns the scientific, environmental and public health communities have about this technology" be permanently removed.

Ethanol Production Poised for 2006 Goals...

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that the ethanol industry now has the capacity to produce 4 billion gallons annually. The EIA said ethanol production reached 261,000 barrels per day in September, which amounts to 4 billion gallons of ethanol annually if production is maintained at that level for an entire year. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, signed by President Bush in August, requires 4 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be used in 2006 and 7.5 billion gallons in 2012.

Ford, VeraSun Energy Aim to Increase E85 Pumps...

Ford Motor Co. will partner with VeraSun Energy of Brookings, S.D., to convert dozens of retail fuel pumps to E85 pumps in the next year. Ford says it intends to produce 250,000 E85-ready vehicles in 2006. There are approximately 500 stations that offer E85 in the United States, and about 5 million FFVs on U.S. roadways. Ford will launch a consumer awareness campaign in conjunction with the E85 pump



conversions. A television advertisement is already being shown with Ford Chairman and CEO Bill Ford indicating the company will increase production of FFVs in 2006.

USDA Works to Free Barges on Mississippi River...

The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to distribute \$7.6 million to expedite efforts to free up 175 barges in order to transport grain on the Mississippi River. Several barges have been out of the transportation circulation because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many barges were filled with contaminated corn and water. The lack of available barges raised shipping prices, decreased grain prices and increased loan deficiency payments.

NAWG Votes Down Merger...

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Wheat Growers voted down a proposal to merge with U.S. Wheat Associates and the Wheat Export Trade Education Committee in October. The measure failed by a vote of 18 against, 11 in favor. The main sticking point for board members was how to count votes on policy issues within the consolidated organization.

2006 Scholarship Applicants Sought

Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board is looking for two deserving students to receive a scholarship. Two scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each (\$1,250 for each semester) are available to students enrolled in a Maryland or out-of-state institution.

Applicants must be a resident of Maryland and must be enrolled or accepted to a 4-year institution, working toward a BS degree, or enrolled or accepted to a 2-year institution with an agriculture program.

The applicant or the applicant's immediate family must be involved in the production of grain. The deadline for entry is June 1, 2006.

For more information, call Lynne Hoot at 410-956-5771, or visit MGPA's web site at www.marylandgrain.com.

Congratulations!
The Hutchison Brothers
were inducted into the
Maryland Hall of Fame
on February 2, 2006

10th Annual National Commodity Classic Set

Celebrate 10 years of teamwork success at the 2006 Commodity Classic March 2-4 in Anaheim, California.

Highlighting the event will be Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty discussing the future of renewable fuels in America, and noted agriculture speaker Dr. Jay Lehr. Invited speakers include California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit an extensive trade show and a full offering of educational speakers.

Registration also includes an "Evening of Entertainment" with Lorrie Morgan. For more info, call (636)733-9004 or please visit www.commodityclassic.com.

Farmer Brown Reaps a Crowd at 2005 Classic

The 2005 Maryland Commodity Classic drew a large crowd with the help of nationally-noted motivational speaker Jolene Brown. It also marked a moment of renewed enthusiasm for Maryland's grain producers' position in the ethanol industry.

On the eve of the passage of the 2005 Energy Bill, MGPA member Robert Hutchison announced "I think we are finally going to be able to build an ethanol plant in Maryland."

Applause rang out as Hutchison continued to outline the successes that have allowed this goal to be reached, including the development of a viable hulless barley variety that is nearing the ability to compete in test weight and quality; the passage of legislative policy that calls for a Renewable Fuels Standard; and the implementation of more infrastructure that will allow for E85 to be sold at local venues.

Hutchison then called for farmer action. "We want this plant to be as farmer owned as possible," he stated. "We need your investments to make this happen. Anyone here could borrow \$20,000 for a new truck that would depreciate. A better use for that money would be to invest in our plant and watch your investment appreciate immediately."

Soybean rust was also a hot topic. According to Dr. Arv Grybauskas, UM Extension field crop disease specialist, isolated cases of soybean rust have been found in the southern United States.

This first appearance of soybean rust means the disease will inevitably cause problems for U.S. soybean growers, but it does not seem to be moving as fast as the rust found in South America.

Dr. Grybauskas also mentioned the strain in the U.S. could indeed be a less aggressive strain.

Currently, short-term risk to Maryland fields is low, but if any producer suspects rust in their fields, they should call their local Extension office immediately.



Jolene Brown at the '05 Classic

2005 MGPA Scholarship Winners



Two \$2,500 scholarships, funded through Maryland grain checkoff dollars, were presented to Jamie Wolf of Hurlock and Gregory Rose of White Hall.

Pictured with Jason Scott, **Jamie Wolf** studies plant science at the University of Maryland. The daughter of Jeff King and Terri Wolf-King, Jamie is from a 70-acre poultry and produce farm that grows corn, wheat, barley and soybeans on 200 acres of leased land. She interned for the Maryland Farm Bureau government relations department.

The son of David and Nancy Rose, **Gregory Rose** is a student at Pennsylvania State University studying agribusiness with the goal of returning to the family farm, which harvests over 6,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and barley. The family also raises calves from a herd of 150 beef cows. Gregory believes in conservation, utilizing no-till and strip farming, computers, global positioning systems, improved seeds and up-to-date farming equipment to operate more efficiently and economically.

Research Farm Tour and Talk Deemed a Success at Classic

For the first time ever, the Maryland Commodity Classic incorporated a morning wagon tour of research



projects funded by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board and the Maryland Soybean Board being conducted at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown.

Nearly 60 producers were on hand for the trek to nearby fields to view research concerning hulless barley production, pest control and new variety development.

Deemed a success for the 2005 Classic,

discussions among MGPA members and board point to a desire to continue showcasing research projects in such a tangible way.

"We have a commitment to share with our producers the value of their checkoff dollars at work," said Lynne Hoot, MGPA Executive Director. "This tour gave researchers that opportunity and I foresee this becoming a welcome addition to future Classics."

Maryland Ethanol Update

Plans are well underway to build a 50 million gallon corn and barley ethanol plant in Baltimore. This is the result of several studies which investigate how Maryland could develop a viable ethanol industry. Several options were examined, including variations of a 15 mgy barley plant, a 30 mgy mixed grain plant, the potential to grow barley, and the benefits of being close to main line rail and end users of ethanol. This diligence has paid off and a model has been developed that makes Maryland ethanol have the potential to be very competitive with a traditional corn-to-ethanol plant in the mid-west.

It was always understood that MGPIB would support this effort but would never become the developer of the ethanol project. A new business entity has been developed to move this project forward. Once the Business Plan has been finalized and SEC requirements met, Chesapeake Ethanol LLC will be coming out to the farm community to seek investors. If you would like more information please call Lynne Hoot, 410-956-5771 or email lynnehoot@aol.com. Lynne will be making a presentation in Southern Maryland on March 6th to discuss opportunities for biofuels in Maryland.

Several Maryland biofuels projects are under consideration. MGPIB has agreed to join the Maryland Soybean Board in funding a feasibility study for a biodiesel project in conjunction with a soybean crushing facility in the Frederick area. While this is a soybean project rather than grain, the MGPIB Board members felt that a new value-added opportunity was the best option to help overcome the loss of the ADM pier in Baltimore. Farmers stressed this need during the Grain Marketing Task Force discussions. It may even result in a new market opportunity for Canola.

Ethanol Concerns Aired at NCGA Open Forum

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) rallied this summer to air the truth about ethanol at an open forum for press, government representatives and agriculturalists at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Aired on C-Span 2, the purpose was to discuss ethanol usage in America and debate a report released by David Pimentel and Tad Patzek which pointed to a negative net energy balance for ethanol production.

NCGA included Pimentel and Patzek on the panel, along with Dr. Bruce Dale, a Michigan State University Chemical Engineering professor; and John Sheehan, Senior Engineer at the USDA's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, moderated by Jeff Nalley, Farm Director of the Cromwell Agriculture Network.

Attending the forum on MGPIB's behalf was Executive Director Lynne Hoot and grain producer Jamie Jamison.

During discussions, the pro-ethanol panelists pointed out Pimentel's and Patzek's research contained no comparisons between ethanol and real fuel, used out-of-date data sources that were misleading and failed to consider the modern, energy-efficient ethanol production plants.

For rebuttles, Pimentel and Patzek both showed no proof of their research work, and Patzek condemned the country for their overuse of energy consumption, while Pimentel spoke on his perceived problems in the practices of corn production and recited the numbers of malnourished people who needed the corn more than the nation's fuel tanks.

Moderator Jeff Nalley reminded television and radio listeners that the corn industry has nearly 2 billion bushels in corn stocks that are keeping farm prices down and causing the farmer to rely on farm subsidies from the government.

Check It Out . . .

Ethanolfacts.com - A Comprehensive Source for Ethanol Information

Did you know that during the past 20 years, American motorists have driven billions of hassle-free miles using ethanol-blended gasoline?

How about that every major auto maker in the world approves of the use of 10 percent ethanol fuel under warranty?

Many questions about this growing fuel remain. Ethanolfacts.com is a web site that aims to be a single source of reliable information on this rapidly growing alternative to fossil fuels.

Ethanolfacts.com is an easy-to-use, comprehensive source of key ethanol informational links, as well as basic facts about ethanol and its benefits to the U.S. consumer.

At ethanolfacts.com, visitors can take a look at every major automakers' owner's manuals to see what they say about ethanol for their individual cars.

Users will also learn how ethanol improves engine performance, reduces carbon monoxide emissions and offers other environmental benefits.

Consumers concerned about record-high gasoline prices will also find information about ethanol's ability to moderate pump prices.

Ethanolfacts.com also includes facts on E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline that is gaining in popularity in the alternative fuel marketplace; emerging uses of ethanol, such as E-diesel and ethanol-based aviation fuel; the energy value of ethanol, including information on the fuel's energy balance; the environmental benefits of ethanol; how ethanol helps America's economy; and how and where ethanol is produced.

President's Letter

(continued from page 1)

soil testing lab at UMD, and calls for additional soil conservation district and Cooperative Extension staffing. The bill calls on MDA to allow the harvesting of small grains cover crops for biofuels and generally offers support for a biofuels industry in Maryland. MGPA is supporting the bill.

Several bills have been introduced to re-couple the Estate tax with the federal tax. It appears likely that the cap will be raised from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. MGPA will be supporting this effort. Eminent Domain is also generating a lot of interest and MGPA will look into each bill and determine how best to protect agricultural land.

MGPA's web site keeps a list of the bills of interest to enable you to link to the Maryland legislative site for a copy of the bill and its current status – www.marylandgrain.com.

Following the success of the tours at the Wye Research and Education Center on the morning of the 2005 Maryland Commodity Classic, MGPA has decided to hold the 2006 event at the Queen Anne's 4-H Park. I apologize to my western shore neighbors who won't have the benefit of a closer location this year, but the morning tours of Maryland Soybean Checkoff and Maryland Grain Checkoff funded projects will make the extra journey worthwhile (*and the general consensus is the food is much better!*) Hold the date – Thursday, July 27, 2006.

Adelhardt Joins Grain Team

Laurie Adelhardt of Owl Creek Consulting has been hired on a contractual basis to coordinate public relation efforts and promote a positive image of agriculture. She brings significant experience and knowledge of Maryland agriculture to MGPA. Contact her with news items at 410-208-9701 or PR@marylandgrain.com.

Maryland Grain Checkoff Referendum Set for July 28, 2006

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) announces the date of the referendum to reaffirm the Maryland Grain Checkoff as July 28, 2006. This announcement was made by the President of the MGPA, grain producer Edward Stanfield of Randallstown, MD.

The referendum will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the county Cooperative Extension Offices. Absentee ballots will be available from Extension offices after July 10, 2006 or can be obtained after July 1, by contacting the MGPA, 53 Slama Road, Edgewater, MD 21037, 410-956-5771.

To be eligible to vote, a person must be financially engaged in the growing of grain as an owner, tenant, or sharecropper.

If passed by a majority of those voting who are eligible to vote, the fifteen-year old Maryland Grain Checkoff Program will continue for a further five years from October 1, 2006. An assessment of one half of one percent (.5%) will be collected on the net value of each bushel of grain sold. The checkoff will be deducted at the first point of sale on all grain, with the exception of soybeans, which is already under a national checkoff program. Any producer who does not wish to participate in the program can get a full or partial refund upon written request sent to the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUB), which administers the program.

The checkoff program is a self-help promotion program, which allows all producers to combine their funds to support market development, research and education to improve profitability of grain production. Decisions on how the money is spent are made by an 19-member board. The 15 voting members of the board represent grain producers from six regions throughout the state.

Under state law, checkoff programs are required to conduct referendums every five years to reaffirm support.

For further information contact Lynne Hoot 410-956-5771.


WILLARD
agri-service of Frederick, Inc.
50 South Wisner Street
P.O. Drawer 180
Frederick, MD 21705
301-662-8100


WILLARD
agri-service, Inc.
5325 3rd Street
P.O. Box 321
Marion, PA 17235
717-375-2229


WILLARD
agri service of Greenwood
22272 S. Dupont
Highway
Greenwood, DE 19950
302-349-4100

HighQ®


WILLARD
agri-service of Mt. Airy
1203 Rising Ridge Road
P.O. Box 407
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
301-829-2900


WILLARD
agri - service of Lynch, Inc.
11523 Lynch Road
Lynch, MD 21678
410-778-1000

NOTE: Willard Agri-Service was a sponsor of the 2005 Maryland Commodity Classic and as their advertisement appeared incorrectly in the Classic program, their correct listing is provided here.

Mark Your Calendar



Thursday, July 27, 2006
Queen Anne's 4-H Park
Centreville, MD

Membership Fee Transfer for MGPA

Under the guidelines established under the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program, a grain producer may request to have \$125 of the assessment that the producer has paid into the checkoff program, used to pay for a 3-year membership to the Maryland Grain Producers Association or \$50 for a 1-year membership. MGPA will then provide the producer with information and educational materials from the state checkoff board (MG PUB), and national associations such as the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Corn Growers Association and the National Barley Growers Association.

To initiate this transfer of funds, a producer must complete the attached form and return it to MG PUB. This payment method can be for both new members and renewals. If a producer has requested a refund during the last year, the request must include a grain sales receipt for at least \$125 (\$50 for one year) on which a refund has not been requested. Non-producers, or producers who fail to meet the above criteria, can complete the application and enclose a check for \$125 (3 years) or \$50 (1 year).

If you have any questions please call Lynne Hoot on 410-956-5771.

Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board

To use grain checkoff funds to become a member of the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA), complete the following: Please print or type.

Member's Name _____ Membership in (check one) _____ Name
_____ Company

Farm/Co. Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Spouse's Name _____ Business Phone () _____

Address _____ Farmer (check if yes) _____

City/State/Zip _____

Total Farm Acres _____ In Corn _____ Wheat _____ Barley _____ Oats _____ Milo _____ Canola _____

Social Security # _____ County _____

Do you wish to receive information from: National Corn Growers Association? Yes _____ No _____
National Association of Wheat Growers? Yes _____ No _____

Email Address _____ Referred by MGPA Member(optional) _____

This is a partial refund form for grain checkoff to pay MGPA membership dues only.

3 years _____ 1 year _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Member Record No. _____

I hereby certify that I am a bona fide grain producer and that I contribute a minimum of \$125.00 to the checkoff program in a 3-year period (a minimum of \$50 for a 1-year membership).

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return the completed form to: MG PUB, 53 Slama Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-1423

MGPA & MG PUB BOARD MEMBERS

MGPA & MG PUB Regional Members (Regional members serve on both boards)

James Nelson, Jr. (Region 1)	410-651-3799
Roger Richardson (1)	410-749-1022
Jason Scott (2)	410-221-8118
Lewis Smith (2)	410-822-6983
Jim Boyle (3)	410-758-1454
Bruce Burgess (3)	410-556-6201
Ricky Bauer (4)	410-531-6261
Charles Schaefer, II (4)	410-848-6392
Bubby Norris (5)	301-769-3870
Donny Tennyson (5)	301-872-5612
Donald Maring (6)	410-795-2970
Walter Gordon (6)	301-371-7605

MG PUB - Officers

President - Jason Scott
Vice President - Donald Maring
Treasurer - Raymond Norris
Secretary - Lewis Smith

MG PUB - Non-Voting

Breck Debnam - Ag Commission
Charles Morris - Industry (Perdue)
Bob Kratochvil - University of Maryland
Mark Powell - Maryland Department of Agriculture

MG PUB - Voting

Jamie Jamison - NCGA Director
Edward Stanfield - UCGC Director
Robert Hutchison - NBIC Director

MGPA - Officers

President - Edward Stanfield
Vice President - Charles Schaefer, II
Treasurer - Drew Stabler
Secretary - Lewis Smith

MGPA - At Large

Mike Nelson
Bob Shaw
Charles Otto

MGPA - Advisory

Patrick McMillan - MDA
Ronald Mulford - UMD

Lynne Hoot - Executive Director
Marguerite Guare - Administrative Assistant
Laurie Adelhardt - Public Relations
410-956-5771 410-956-0161 (fax)
lynnehoot@aol.com (email)
PR@marylandgrain (email)

www.marylandgrain.com

Maryland Grain Producers Association &
Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
53 Slama Road
Edgewater, MD 21037-1423

Dear Members:

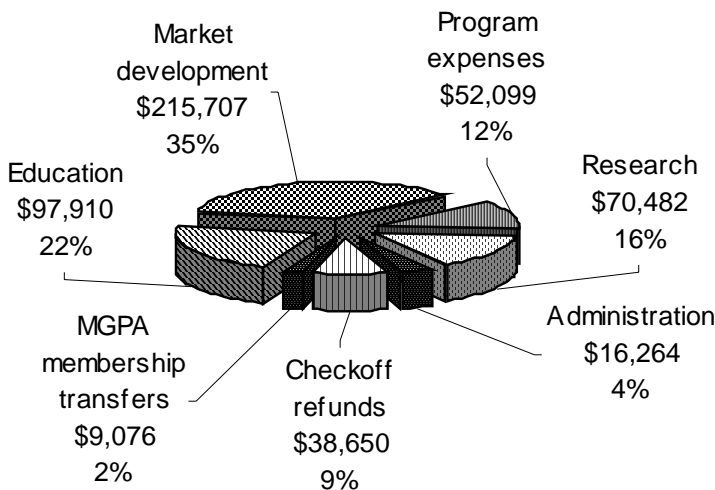
I am pleased to present the income and expenses as part of the MGPUB Annual Report which is audited by Rivlin, Lichter and Feldman, PC. In the next few pages, we outline the projects that were supported by checkoff funds in 2005. A full copy of the audit is available on request.

This is an important year for the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program as we celebrate our fifteenth year anniversary. The significance of this is that it also means we have the referendum, which under state law must be held every five years. The date has been set for Friday, July 28, 2006; ballot boxes will be located at every county Cooperative Extension office and be open from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. As in the past, we will also provide the opportunity for absentee ballots and for voting at the Maryland Commodity Classic meeting the day before. We want all Maryland grain farmers to vote – obviously we would like you to support the checkoff, but if you don't, it is your opportunity to make change. We would prefer that you express your concerns so we can address them in a positive manner – if you truly object to the program, under state law you are eligible to a full refund. This way, your fellow grain farmers can continue to support programs that expand research, education and market development.

Under the leadership of Bob Hutchison, MGPUB has explored the construction of producing ethanol in Maryland. I am excited to say that this is about to happen and

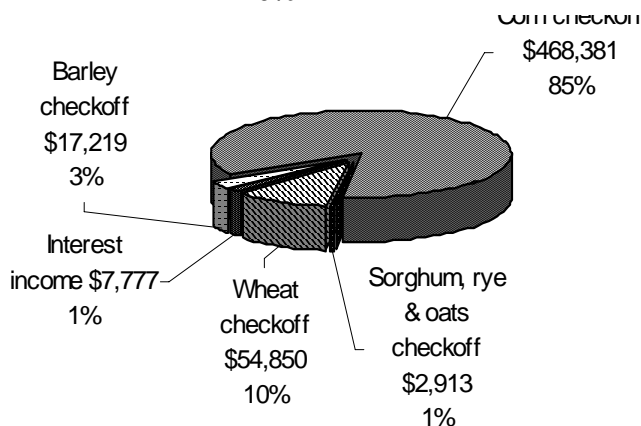
the opportunities unfold to consider led venture.

wing pages and call me or your omments. Our phone numbers are



Joe E. Ad...
President MGPUB

MGPUB Expenses 2005



LEADing MD Agriculture to a Brighter Future

The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. (LEAD) operates to help meet the rural and agricultural leadership challenge. LEAD Maryland's leadership development fellowship program involves diverse class groups of 20-25 Fellows in a two-year program designed to increase participants' assurance, skills, and knowledge for mobilizing people to solve problems.

LEAD prepares emerging leaders to seek solutions and communicate in ways that will enhance the future of Maryland agriculture.

LEAD's current group, Class IV, completed the first half of their fellowship in 2005 and will complete four in-state seminars and an international study tour to the People's Republic of China in 2006. Over half of the class is representative of production agriculture. Others in the class have activities or careers related to or supporting agriculture and forestry. To date, there are 91 LEAD Fellows.

got facts? on getting ethanol

The Clean Fuels Development Coalition (CFDC) recently completed a project with the help of funds from the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. The CFDC *Issue Brief* series, as part of the *Ethanol Across America* education program, takes specific issues and presents them in a way that helps legislators, media, and ordinary citizens understand the facts about ethanol.

Following up on last year's highly successful *Brief on the Net Energy Balance of Ethanol Production*, this latest *Issue Brief* covers the subject of energy security. With an introduction by U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, the Brief focuses on the U.S.'s dangerous dependence on imported oil and how increased global demand is likely to result in continued high prices.

One of the easiest ways to reduce oil consumption is through increased domestic ethanol production. The U.S. consumes 25 percent of the world's oil, but all of North America represents only 6 percent of known oil reserves! Domestic ethanol production from agricultural resources is clearly one of the solutions.

This is particularly important in a state like Maryland which does not have a history of ethanol use that would provide a comfort factor to legislators or the public. This document can fill that role, and eventually help ease the way for production facilities in the state, particularly in the wake of the recently passed state incentive.

As Maryland continues to examine appropriate ways to assist in the development of a local ethanol industry having clear, concise information available, such as in the *Issue Brief* series, will help in establishing a solid support.

MGPU 2005- Education Grant Summaries

Bunny Burkett - Racing for Ethanol

The fair and show displays gave Bunny the opportunity to talk with thousands of local drivers, making them aware of the future of Ethanol. Along with using the Ethanol fueled racecar as an attention getter, Bunny & Crew handed out boxes of literature on Ethanol and the many uses of grain. Besides the fair displays, another 100 plus days per year were spent on the East Coast highways with the Ethanol Logo prominently displayed on the trailer as they made their way to televised racing events.

Bunny feels that a positive impact has been made on thousands of people, informing them of the developments in farming. She

is constantly reminding her audience that Ethanol helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and is also environmentally-friendly.

Besides her personal goals in promoting Ethanol, she never misses an opportunity to comment on other uses of corn, including a variety of mass produced plastics, anti-freeze, livestock feed, food for a growing world, sweeteners and the

fact that new avenues are being developed for marketing grain every day. The end results are efforts to help increase grain's value at the farm gate.



Wheat Foods Council

In 2005, low-carb mania and anti-carb attitudes fueled a hard-hitting response from the Wheat Foods Council. The book, *It's the Calories, Not the Carbs*, helped industry drive home messages to consumers that there is a guide to help them on the road to healthier eating.

WFC used a dietitian outreach campaign to promote this book among key leaders in the industry. These nutrition educators also received how-to-use resources and a PowerPoint presentation developed for large group discussion. This outreach program was partially funded by a grant from the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

Dietitians who received the book were very enthusiastic providing good feedback to WFC. It is imperative that the industry take an active role in disseminating this information.

Growing with Grains Plants Ag's Seed in Young Minds

The "Kids Growing With Grains and Animals Too!" program of 2005 had a significant impact on 338 youth and 49 adult participants in Allegany County. These included kindergarten students, home-schooled students, parents, and teachers.

This two-day event was held in May for 17 kindergarten classes in eight schools throughout the county, and was organized and implemented by the entire staff and faculty of Maryland Cooperative Extension of Allegany County, which consisted of seven individuals, and many volunteers.

During the all-day event, each student visited 11 interactive learning stations. Most of the stations focused on specific grains and their uses.

One station provided information on corn and how it is consumed by humans but also some of its unusual uses in manufacturing. Another interactive station focused on grinding wheat as students learned the process of making bread.

Each student also filled a jar with a variety of grains such as barley, oats, corn, soybeans, and wheat to familiarize them with the variety of grains.

In addition to the grain-specific stations, some stations included live animals so that students could learn more about how animals utilize grains for growth and for food production as well.

Following the program, each student was provided with an indepth packet of grain information that they may share with their parents and teacher resources were provided.

Similar programs are funded across the state, including Kids Growing with Grains in Frederick County that educated 578 fourth grade students, and Close Encounters with Agriculture, an outreach program in Montgomery County that



educates fourth graders from 30 elementary schools on production agriculture and nutrition.

Beyond the dedicated days, extension educators can be seen at various field days, fairs and festivals, including the University of Maryland Agriculture Day, with the Growing with Grains display information.

Over 100,000 consumers are touched through this program each year.

MG PUB Funding Report 2005- Education Grant Summaries

'05 National Agriculture Day

Ag Council of America reports that hundreds of National Agriculture Day celebrations took place across the country on the first day of spring, March 20, 2005, to raise the public's understanding and awareness about how food and fiber are produced through the volunteer efforts of ag associations, producers, corporations, universities, educators and various other groups. The program uses the community and the classroom to build a stronger awareness about the integral part agriculture plays in people's lives.

2005 participants reached out to consumers through media and program materials, lesson plans educators, web-based materials, Ag Day poster, and Agriculture Fact Cards that help connect the facts about agriculture to consumer products with which everyone can identify.

MAEF Expands Education and Career Resources

2005 brought about new resources and a broader audience to maximize the investment in development. Four hands-on activities debuted to make the Ag Showcase a more memorable experience for visitors. "Garden Greenie", "Farm Animal Bookmarks", "A Vine through Time" and "Make a Puppet" all proved to be entertaining, educational and memorable activities at over 24 events in 2005. The Showcase enjoyed broad exposure at four major events in Baltimore City.

The aged Ag Products mobile science lab was replaced in June with a new "gooseneck" style lab at an investment of nearly \$50,000. MAEF's three mobile science labs serve over 60,000 student visits each year.

Middle school and urban outreach

programs were expanded resulting in over 50 Baltimore City school visits during the 2004/2005 school year.

A spectacular "Career Discovery" guide was published for distribution to schools across the state. MAEF also committed new energies toward building programs and partnerships among high schools and post secondary institutions advancing the importance of agriculture and related career opportunities.

Four additional and important outreach programs were developed including "Green Thumb Gems", "Literature Links", a nutrition program, and "Ag Returns to the City". These programs and service to FFA and the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association are made possible through sustained financial support from individuals and organizations like the MG PUB.

Preserving the Cultural Landscape

The Envirothon program is a unique partnership between soil conservation districts, high school science teachers, and natural resource professionals. Together, they offer a broader environmental education program than either could separately. Student teams and teachers work closely with biologists, foresters, soil scientists, and other related professionals to train for local, state, and national contests. Teacher surveys and discussions with local and state education officials emphasize the need for such real-life, hands-on outdoor educational experiences.

Students are trained and tested in five natural resource areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental issue that changes from year to year. The 2005 issue was Preserving the Cultural Landscape.

Many schools, although mandated to carry out environmental education, have had to cut such types of activities since local access is limited and bussing for

students is out of the realm of school budgets. Envirothon training is both science-based and practical, it emphasizes field inventories, identification, and problem-solving. Without the Envirothon program this high quality field training would be unavailable to students.

In Maryland, the Envirothon motivates young citizens to learn to care for the environment and to practice stewardship of the planet. However, the biggest beneficiary is the environment itself when this investment is made in the next generation.

The clearly identified goals and purpose of the MD Envirothon is the basis for the successful program that the MD Envirothon has evolved into. Each year, new states look to the MD Envirothon Program as a model. It is through the work of dedicated resource professionals that the year long Envirothon program is able to deliver such strong teams at the national competition level.

Maryland Takes 1st

This year a Maryland student placed 1st in the National Floriculture Career Development Event and the Maryland Floriculture team placed 5th in the Nation. Over 160 Maryland FFA members, advisors and guests attended the National FFA Convention where they participated in leadership workshops and 24 National FFA ODE events. Participants received twelve gold medals, thirty three silver medals and thirty seven bronze medals. Also, four students were awarded the American Agriculturalist Degree and one student competed for a National Office.

In 2005 over 650 Maryland FFA members learned by doing through participation in 34 Career Development Events; State FFA officers traveled statewide conducting leadership workshops in 30 Chapters with 1403 active FFA members participating. Seventy two students and advisors traveled to the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA to participate in competitive career development events.

MGPUB Funding Report 2005 - Education Grant Summaries

Close Encounters with Agriculture

Since 1993, over 30,000 students have participated in this outreach agricultural awareness program geared for Montgomery County 4th grade students. The students have gained an awareness and appreciation for agriculture's importance in their daily lives.

About 30 elementary schools from all over the county participate over a 3-week period in early spring. Learning activities are short and hands-on to keep students' attention. Production agriculture, environment and nutrition are the focus of the program. Six hands-on learning

stations consisting of grain and grain products, dairy, beef, swine, horticulture and horses are used to teach production agriculture concepts. The environmental segment emphasizes the positive relationship farmers and farming practices have on the environment. Students are shown how urban sources of pollution impact the Chesapeake Bay. The nutrition segment emphasizes the relationship of agricultural products to nutritious diets and focuses on uses and benefits of grain products.

Participating schools and teachers are provided teaching packets containing learning activities for the students prior to their field trip to the Extension Office Farm Park. Follow up activities are also provided, including pre/post tests to measure the students learning.

Focus on WTO Negotiations

The principal focus of the Wheat Export Trade Education Committee (WETEC) has been on removing trade barriers to allow for greater market access opportunities around the world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations will remain, until they are concluded, WETEC's key issue.

WETEC's work in 2005 ensured that language within negotiation texts and

pertinent bills sent to Congress included wheat growers' concerns, such as tariff reductions, ending or lessening the impact of sanitary and phytosanitary issues, protecting and expanding of food aid programs, removing trade sanctions, securing funding for the Foreign Market Development and Market Access Programs critical to the work of U.S. Wheat Associates.

Ethanol Promotion and Development plays key role in checkoff grants

E85 Marketing & Infrastructure Development

In 2005, Sustainable Energy Strategies, worked with the MG PUB Board to promote E85 in Washington, DC, Virginia and Maryland. There has been a 42 percent increase in E85 fuel sales.

SESI estimates that E85 fuel sales for the Baltimore metro-area increased to approximately 209,595 gallons.

This year, SESI/MGPUB concentrated efforts on the promotion of E85 in a variety of media. Early in the year, highway road signs were finalized and installation completed in Virginia and Maryland. A pump wrap was then development and installed at the Annapolis station to advertise and explain E85. A direct mail advertising campaign with coupon was used to promote the understanding of ethanol and increase sales. In December, the year ended with a two month radio advertising campaign.

Discussions have begun with management at the University of Maryland at College Park to install an E85 station with support from MG PUB and the state of Maryland. After receiving their letter of commitment, SESI/MGPUB is optimistic that the University will be the next E85 station in our region.

Boosting Ethanol on the National Level

Pursuing the mission to promote the use of 85 percent ethanol as a renewable form of vehicle fuel while enhancing agricultural profitability, advancing environmental stewardship and promoting national energy independence, in 2005, the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) promoted the establishment of all (over 300) E85 fueling stations in the United States by providing grants and, to most, a standard imaging package that allows motorist to identify an E85 station from the road.

Legislatively, NEVC was successful in establishing a federal income tax credit

to assist with offsetting 30% of the total cost, up to \$30,000, of an E85 fueling facility, and in extending the CAFE credits that were originally established in 1988 so that automakers are provided incentives to continue to produce FFVs through model year 2014.

In the automobile industry NEVC encouraged the automakers to build FFVs in their most popular line of vehicles such as the Silverado, F150, Taurus, Town and Country minivan, Ranger, Explorer, Tahoe, Yukon, Sebring, and others.

For more information about NEVC please visit their web site at <http://www.e85fuel.com>.

MG PUB Funding Report 2005- Market Development Grant Summaries

Ethanol Co-Products Feed the World's Livestock

As ethanol production in the United States increases, so does the need to find new markets for its co-products. The U.S. Grains Council is educating customers around the world on the use and value of distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS). From Vietnam to Mexico, U.S. DDGS is being used in feed rations for dairy, beef, swine and poultry. Livestock ranging from swine in South Korea to poultry in Taiwan are benefiting from the concentrated nutrition in this ethanol co-product.

The Council helped to open the first beef feedlot in Morocco in February 2005. Currently at 25 percent capacity, the feedlot has the capacity to house 10,000 head from 1 week of age up until 16 months for bulls and 22 months for heifers. At that time, the

animals return to the farmers who milk the heifers or sell the bulls for meat in the local market.

The feedlot is a win-win situation. First it provides a facility for farmers to send calves to be grown out in an improved production environment which translates into faster growth rates, fewer disease problems, reduced mortality and more productive heifers. In addition, the farmer can focus on milking his herd and spend less time on the specialized care and nutrition that young animals require. Since 2000, corn utilization by COPAG, the Council's partner in the feedlot, has increased from 1,700 metric tons per year to 26,000 tons in 2005 and is projected to be 30,000 tons. Likewise, soybean meal consumption has increased from 813 tons to 10,000 tons in 2005.

The Grains Council works daily to accomplish its mission to develop markets, enable trade and improve lives. This is done by building upon their four marketing cornerstones for access, development, defense and intelligence.

In 2005, the Council helped to permanently remove Russia's tariff on corn and worked with Tunisia to open the market for corn gluten feed.

Market defense takes place in those markets where the use of U.S. feed grains is well established. This year, the Council has addressed biotechnology issues such as BT10 throughout the world to ensure trade continues. In addition, the Council continues to monitor the avian flu situation and provide assistance as needed.

Carl Griffey - Hulless Barley as a Valued Added Crop in MD

Prior to 1990, winter barley programs in the United States developed only hulled-barley genotypes and, therefore, adapted winter hulless barley genotypes were not available. Since 1999, significant progress already has been made in the development of winter hulless barley lines. This has led to the release of 'Doyce' hulless barley from the Virginia Tech barley breeding program as the first winter hulless barley variety in April of 2003.

Seed of Doyce hulless barley were available to growers in fall 2004. Subsequently, continuous efforts are being initiated by the breeding program to develop improved and higher quality hulless barley varieties for use as animal feed, human consumption and domestic fuel ethanol production.

Twenty-three elite hulless lines were evaluated in Virginia State Variety Trials in 2005. An additional 101 advance hulless lines were also evaluated in cooperating states including Maryland. To date, we have developed more than

3300 hulless populations. Twenty-five advanced lines were selected from 64 entries in a 2005 hulless preliminary test, and 48 lines were selected from 212 entries in a 2005 hulless observation nursery.

Great progress has been made in developing and identifying new hulless lines for potential release. Among 23 hulless entries in Virginia Tech State barley trail conducted at three locations in 2004-2005, VA01H-68 had the highest test weight (58.4 Lbs/bu), which was significantly higher than that of Doyce (55.1 Lbs/bu). In addition, VA01H-68 is two or more days earlier heading than Doyce and has higher grain protein content. For these reasons VA01H-68 is being considered for potential release.

VPI will continue to work with animal scientists, swine and poultry nutritionists, and industry personnel to determine the potential benefits of hulless barley as a feed component and what improvements are needed to make winter barley more acceptable as a feed

stock. In support of this effort, Perdue Farms have again committed to conducting a second year large scale feeding trail with poultry to determine the nutritional value and potential use of hulless barley as a feed ingredient.

Baking with Barley

Focusing on the characterized beta-glucans, dietary fiber (total, soluble, and insoluble), protein, lipid, ash, and digestible carbohydrate in pearling flour fractions of hulled barley, Martin Lo is in the preliminary stage of a broader project to identify feasible applications of barley by-products in baked goods.

A unique specialty bread was developed and formulated based on textural and nutritional quality. Efforts will continue to find value-added outcomes for barley pearling byproducts. Such research activities are most likely to attract both scientific and media attentions, particularly since FDA has recently approved barley's health benefit claims.

MGPUB Funding Report 2005 - Market Development Grant Summaries

NCGA - Creating and Opening Markets for Growers

With continued support by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, the National Corn Growers Association continues to be a strong and unified voice advancing the organization's key objectives.

Earlier this year, NCGA called the inclusion of a 7.5-billion-gallon RFS in the final energy bill conference committee

report "the most significant step yet in securing the use of domestically produced fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel."

Achieving a 7.5-billion gallon RFS contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 was accomplished by corn growers working side by side with industry representatives.

Corn growers also worked toward lock modernization for seven locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

NCGA along with state organizations worked closely to gather support for passage of CAFTA-DR. They did so through a flurry of rallies held across the country, letters to the news media, and contacting their legislators to educate them on the numerous benefits free trade agreements have for the U.S. agriculture industry.

These wins, combined with increased research efforts, could not have been attained without the support of state checkoff programs. Investments from the MGPUB in addition to the other state corn organizations are vital to continuing NCGA's mission of creating and increasing opportunities for corn growers.

USW Promotes SRW Overseas as "A Good Buy"

Of the six classes of U.S. wheat, soft red winter wheat (SRW) faces the greatest export challenges.

SRW exports were down 15 percent in 2004/05, 3.25 million metric tons compared to 3.81 MMT the year before. The 2005/06 year-to-date sales are currently half of last year's levels, 1.2 MMT compared to 2.5 MMT.

U.S. Wheat Associates is working to

convince buyers that SRW is a good buy now that the Louisiana ports have resumed shipping.

With less production, export prices of SRW have risen, making it vulnerable to competition from Europe's soft wheat in price-sensitive Egypt.

Central America continues to be a promising market, and USW promotes SRW value at every opportunity.

Ron Ritter Finds Results for Control of Perennial Weeds in Corn

At the Wye Research and Education Center, located in Queenstown, MD, johnsongrass control in corn, using conventional herbicides such as Accent and Roundup Weather Max, were compared to new postemergence herbicides such as Option, Equip and one new glyphosate formulation. Other treatments included Steadfast ATZ and Celebrity Plus.

By the last rating, control varied considerably with most treatments

averaging less than 80 percent control. However, Celebrity Plus, and all glyphosate formulations (Roundup Weather Max, Touchdown Total and Glyphomax XRT), when applied late, provided over 80 percent johnsongrass control by the last rating.

In another study at the Wye, KIH-485 was compared to Dual II Magnum, Harness and Prowl for preemergence and postemergence seedling johnsongrass control in com.

Depending upon rate, KIH-485 provided 50 percent to 70 percent seedling johnsongrass control when applied preemergence. When applied postemergence with Roundup Weather Max, KIH-485 provided 90 percent or better seedling johnsongrass control by the last rating.

Two Canada thistle control studies were established at Manor Farm, located in Howard County. In the first study, two rates of Stinger were compared to two rates of Distinct. A third treatment identified as Impact plus atrazine was also included. By the last rating, both rates of Stinger provided best control of Canada thistle, with the higher rate (2/3 pint/acre) providing over 90 percent control. Impact plus atrazine treatment did suppress the Canada thistle early in the season, however, regrowth occurred. The second study was similar to the first in that Stinger provided best season-long control. Impact plus atrazine provided good control early in the season, but regrowth occurred later in the season.

Wheat Variety Resistance to Wheat Spindle Streak Mosaic Virus

Wheat spindle streak mosaic virus is a soil-borne disease of wheat that can easily escape detection.

Many public and private seed companies have limited information on the resistance of their varieties, but thanks to a grant from the MG PUB, Dr. Grybauskas is maintaining and improving a site that has the virus and its vector as a wheat disease nursery.

Results from the evaluations show

that he has a full range of responses from very susceptible varieties to very resistant ones.

The results are available in the University of Maryland Extension Bulletin number 237, "Pest Management Recommendation for Field Crops". The publication is updated annually and is available in print or on-line and can be found listed under Extension publications at www.agnr.umd.edu.

MG PUB Funding Report 2005- Research Grant Summaries

EFFECTS OF PONCHO SEED TREATMENT ON SOIL INSECTS, PLANT STAND DENSITY, AND YIELD OF GRAIN CORN

Continued studies were conducted by Galen Dively in 2005 to obtain additional information on the effectiveness of Poncho seed treatment on corn. One study involved 58 strip tests in 27 commercial cornfields at University of Maryland Research Centers to provide data on the efficacy of Poncho 250 against insect pests and its effects on yield, plant growth, and stand establishment. Plant stand density was significantly increased by 2,000 plants per acre in the Poncho treated plots. In particular, plant stands were increased by 16-21% at the Queenstown and Keedysville sites, where there was considerable pressure from wireworms, grubs, and other soil insects.

Unlike the results from 2004, differences in plant growth were not visually evident or extended leaf length between

any pairs of test strips. Overall yields in the treated and untreated corn averaged 128.0 and 114.4 bushels per acre, respectively, representing a significant yield gain of 13.6 bushels resulting from the Poncho 250 treatment. Yield gains were the highest at Beltsville and Keedysville sites, where yields averaged 29 to 14 bushels higher in the Poncho plots, respectively. At these sites, there were significant insect infestations that were yield-reducing. Unlike the results from 2004, percent moisture levels of the grain at harvest were not affected by the Poncho treatment, probably because there was no consistent growth response during the seedling and whorl stages.

A replicated plot experiment with four seed treatments (control with Maxim fungicide only, Poncho 250 plus Maxim, Poncho 250 plus Trilex, and Cruiser plus

Dynasty fungicide) was conducted at a Beltsville site with known high wireworm pressure. Wireworm populations in the untreated plots caused an average of 35% at 6 weeks and several heavily-infested plots experienced greater than 75% stand losses. The treated plots showed a steady increase in stand losses from an overall 0.9% to 16.7% during the first four weeks. Initially, the toxicity of Poncho and Cruiser on the seed coating prevented direct injury of the germinating seed. However, concentrations beyond the seed zone and systemically in the plant were apparently not high enough to protect older seedlings. The cool weather during the spring probably contributed to this effect by slowing the movement and uptake of the insecticides in the plant. Grain yield in the control plots was 28.7% less than the overall yields.

Results in for Hybrid Selection of Grain Sorghum

During 2005, Dr. Bob Uniatowski at the University of Delaware evaluated 18 grain sorghum hybrids were evaluated in full-season dryland trials at four (two harvested) locations in Maryland (University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Lowe Farms in Salsbury (not harvested due to severe lodging), Rickwood Farms in East New Market (not harvested due to severe bird damage) and inside and outside a deer exclusion fence at the Clarksville Research facility of the University of Maryland. At Clarksville, grain sorghum planted outside the deer exclusion fencing was not harvested due to severe feeding by the deer. Within the exclusion fence only the early maturity group is reported due to high coefficient of variation in the medium and late maturity groups. In all locations, six early-maturing hybrids, five medium-maturing hybrids, and seven late-maturing hybrids were evaluated.

Data from the UMES site on early-maturing hybrids showed that NC+ brand

5B74E was superior in yield to all other hybrids tested at that location within that maturity grouping. Three other hybrids yielded about 85% of that of 5B74E and these were Pioneer brand 87G57 and 86G71 and Hytest brand HTG655. Test weight varied some but was best for Pioneer brand 86G71 and lowest for the top yielding NC+ brand 5B74E.

Yield information from the Clarksville site indicated that there no significant differences among hybrids for yield with a yield average of 127 bu/A. Pooled site averages and site rankings also indicated that the top three hybrids were NC+ brand 5B74E, Pioneer brand 87G57 and Hytest brand HTG655.

For the medium maturity group, the top hybrids were from NC+ and included 6B50 and 6B73. Within the LSD interval, Hytest brand HTG725 was not significantly different from the two NC+ hybrids although test weight was lowest for the Hytest hybrid.

For the late maturity group, significant differences again were present. The top yielding hybrid was NC+ brand 7B47 but three other hybrids were within one LSD interval of 7B47. These hybrids included Pioneer brand 83G86 and 84G62 and NC+ brand 7R83. The Pioneer brand hybrids and NC+ brand 7B51 had the highest test weights.

Best Hybrid Performers in the 2005 Trials

Early-maturing hybrids

NC+ brand 5B74E
Pioneer brand 87G57
Hytest brand HTG655

Medium-maturing hybrids

NC+ brand 6B50
NC+ brand 6B73
Hytest brand HTG725

Late-maturing hybrids

NC+ brand 7B47
Pioneer brand 83G66
Pioneer brand 84G62
NC+ brand 7R83

MG PUB Funding Report 2005 - Research Grant Summaries

Finding the Key to Barley Production for Fuel Ethanol

To investigate the potential of barley as a potential stock for ethanol production, hulled and hullless barleys were tested for the last 3 years by Robert Kratochvil with the University of Maryland for grain yield, test weight, heading date, plant height, resistance to lodging, grain protein content, grain starch content, and grain beta-glucan content. Hullless barleys are a potentially superior raw material because they showed a 2 to 3% points higher starch content than the hulled varieties traditionally grown in the mid-Atlantic. Hulled varieties with high test weight and plump seed, such as the variety *Thoroughbred*, consistently had a higher starch content compared to other hulled varieties such as *Nomini* (the variety most commonly grown in the region). The current drawback for growers of hullless varieties is

the grain yields are significantly lower, by 10 bu/A on average, than those of hulled varieties. There is also little agronomic management information available for hullless barley production.

One physiological characteristic of hullless barley seed is that the germ is not protected by the seed coat. Rather, hullless barley germ sits on the surface of each kernel at the base. Thus, potential damage can occur to the germ of the seed during harvest if combine threshing settings are the same aggressive threshing settings used for hulled barley. Germination data from samples collected while harvesting 'Doyce' hullless barley on the James Boyle farm indicated that proper combine speed and concave setting will be necessary to minimize the seed damage caused by threshing.

There is also a need to identify nitrogen management practices and suitable seeding rates that will allow the attainment of good yield at an economically acceptable level for the farmer.

Though only one location of data was obtained from the 2004-2005 nitrogen management study, there was an indication that good yields of hullless barley can be attained with nitrogen rates totaling 80-100 lb/acre. The most economical nitrogen rate and application timing strategy observed during 2004-2005 was 20 lb N/acre applied at planting followed by an additional 60 lb N/acre at spring greenup. This strategy produced 88 bu/acre 'Doyce' hullless barley. Nitrogen management research is being continued during 2005-2006 crop year.

State Corn Hybrid Test: Inclusion of Benchmark Hybrids

Farmers in Maryland utilize a number of resources to attain information regarding selection of corn hybrids. One source is the results of the University of Maryland's corn hybrid testing program. Unfortunately, in recent years there were limitations to this testing program that affected the value of the information that could be obtained. First, since the

testing program is a fee-based program, the hybrids submitted by seed companies were frequently their newer genetics that they either had just started to market or would soon market. Second, one of the leading seed companies made a corporate decision to no longer submit entries into University managed tests. This corporate decision eliminated the inclusion of

hybrids in the test from a company that many farmers considered to set industry standards. Both these factors eliminated the inclusion of popular, widely grown hybrids that could be used as benchmark checks.

A solution was a grant by MG PUB to Robert Kratochvil the University of Maryland's corn-testing program in 2001. This grant allowed for the purchase of seed for popularly grown, benchmark hybrids and provided supplemental monetary support for costs associated with testing.

During 2005, MG PUB provided funding for the fifth year for this improved corn hybrid test. During 2005, seven benchmark hybrids were included in the tests to serve as checks. This MG PUB grant has re-established the University of Maryland corn-testing program as a valuable resource for selection of corn hybrids by farmers. The corn test results can be found at the UMD Cropping Systems website: <http://www.mdcrops.umd.edu>.

"Chesapeake" Wheat Coming Fall 2006

José Costa announced that a promising new soft red winter wheat line (MV5-46), was released as a result of research funded by the Maryland Grain Producers Checkoff Grant program. Named *Chesapeake*, the wheat line has performed well over the last three years and is being increased for distribution. This variety is very high-yielding, has excellent test weight, and is resistant to powdery mildew. It is susceptible to stripe rust, however, like most other

currently available varieties. Seed will be available to growers in the fall of 2006.

This grant supported yield testing of elite wheat and barley varieties currently available for planting in Maryland. The 2005 information with the results from these Wheat and Barley State trials is available at extension offices and on the University website.

Visit <http://www.nrsl.umd.edu/extension/crops/wheat/> for further details on wheat and barley state trials.

MG PUB Funding Report 2005- Research Grant Summaries

Ritter Continues to Study Control of Weedy Grasses in Small Grains

Three studies were conducted at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center (CMREC) located in Beltsville. The first study compared preemergence and postemergence applications of KIH-485 in wheat for control of Italian ryegrass. By the last rating, excellent control of Italian ryegrass was achieved with all preemergence applications. The post applications averaged 7 percent to 85 percent control. Some wheat injury was observed from the preemergence applications and seemed to affect yield.

The second study compared a variety of preemergence and postemergence herbicides for the control of Italian ryegrass in no-till wheat. By the last rating, ryegrass control averaged 80 percent or less. The preemergence applications of Prowl, Dual II Magnum

or Axiom all averaged about 65 percent ryegrass control by the last rating. A preemergence application of Axiom followed by a postemergence application of Osprey provided best season long control of Italian ryegrass averaging 80 percent by the last rating, and also provided the best wheat yield.

The third study compared different postemergence herbicides for control of Italian ryegrass in wheat. CGA-185072 is a new compound from Syngenta. It will be sold under the trade name Axial. By the last rating all treatments provided 88 percent or better Italian ryegrass control. However, it is interesting to note that quicker activity was noted with Axial in comparison to Osprey. At the 04-14-05 rating, Axial was providing over 70 percent Italian ryegrass control while

Osprey was only providing about 30 percent control. By the 04-26-05 rating, Axial was providing close to 100 percent control of Italian ryegrass control while Osprey was providing about 75 percent control. Yields did not differ between treatments.

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