



MEDIA RELEASE:

Winter wheat grading and variety classification changes

September 21, 2010 (Calgary, Alberta)—As winter wheat producers across Alberta prepare to seed their 2010/2011 crop, the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission is informing them of important upcoming changes to how Canadian Western Red Winter (CWRW) will be classified and graded.

As of Aug. 1, 2013, CDC Kestrel, CDC Clair, CDC Harrier, CDC Falcon and CDC Raptor will be re-assigned to the Canada Western General Purpose (CWGP) class. This will make Radiant, AC Bellatrix, AC Readymade, AC Tempest, CDC Buteo, CDC Osprey, McClintock and Norstar the only varieties eligible for the CWRW classification. The Canadian Grain Commission is making the move to help ensure the CWRW class produces consistent, high-quality milling flour.

The Canadian Grain Commission is also proposing that effective Aug. 1, 2011, No. 1 CWRW and No. 2 CWRW grades have a minimum protein content of 11%. Winter wheat that does not meet this specification will be classified No. 3 CWRW, a new grade specification, instead of automatically defaulting to feed quality.

Winter wheat producer John Hopkins, the director of Region 3 with the AWWPC, says “the changes are good for Alberta producers. Most of them are focused on the higher end of the market. We recognize this new classification meets the needs of producers who can’t meet protein content but still have a good milling-quality grain.”

As well, the tolerances for fusarium-damaged kernels (FDK) will be reduced from 1% and 2% for #1 and #2 CWRW grades respectively to 0.8% and 1% on Aug. 1, 2011. The new tolerances more accurately predict the current relationship between Fusarium damage and deoxynivalenol (DON) concentration, helping to ensure CWRW wheat better meets export and domestic requirements for DON.

“These new specifications reflect changes in the marketplace and provide customers, especially millers, with a product that better meets their exact needs,” AWWPC’s executive director Rick Istead says. “Our Commission supports the Canadian Grain Commission’s effort to make CWRW a more consistent, high-quality milling product that can compete with other hard red winter wheats, including those grown in the United States.”

“Grain grades and standards are evaluated regularly to make sure that they continue to meet the needs of everyone involved in the grain industry, from producers to processors to buyers,” says Elwin Hermanson, chair of the Western Standards Committee and chief commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission.

The AWWPC and the Canadian Grain Commission, along with the Western Standards Committee, numerous producers and other stakeholder groups, agreed to the re-classification and grading structure changes earlier this year. The decision to make these changes is based on thorough research and multiple stakeholder discussions.

The Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission is a provincial grower organization focused on a strong and sustainable winter wheat industry for the benefit of all Alberta producers. The AWWPC leads efforts to make winter wheat a viable crop option by supporting innovative research, developing valued-added marketing programs, and providing producers with relevant and timely information.

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