



*Beverly R. Durgan*

Dear Minnesota Growers,

The world sent a strong message to Minnesota farmers in 2008. That message was that increased bushels are needed to feed the growing demand for food and fuel.

The bankers and accountants also sent a strong message to farmers in 2008: that you need more bushels to pay for the rising cost of fertilizer, fuel and other inputs.

This publication is all about bushels. Our goal is to give you the information you need to make decisions that will be right for your farm. The varietal trials results in this booklet are part of a larger program focused on finding the best crop varieties that thrive in Minnesota, help build our economy and contribute to our quality of life.

The University of Minnesota plant breeding and genetics program has three goals:

- Discovering new knowledge about plant breeding and plant genetics;
- Educating graduate and undergraduate students; and
- Developing plant germplasm, genetic stocks and varieties.

Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station plant variety programs have a long history of helping farmers raise more bushels. The first agronomic crop varieties released by the University of Minnesota were hard red spring wheat varieties released in the 1890s. Almost as long is the history of University of Minnesota Extension. In 2009, Extension will celebrate its 100th anniversary of connecting community needs and University resources to improve the lives of Minnesotans. The history of Extension in Minnesota is as fascinating and diverse as the citizens who have helped

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shape it, from the grasshopper plague of the '30s to the battle of the soy-bean aphid today, from 4-H youth conservation programs of the '20s to today's 4-H projects focused on science, engineering and technology.

A legacy of teamwork and partnerships stands out as I look back over the 100 years. History has many examples of farmers, farm organizations, the University of Minnesota, and state and federal agencies working to improve Minnesota agriculture. Those partnerships produced answers for many of the challenges Minnesota agriculture faced in the past and will face again in the future.

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing the answers growers need when making decisions today, and the long-term research to deal with the challenges that will come in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly R. Durgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beverly R. Durgan

Dean, University of Minnesota Extension

Director, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station