



*Beverly R. Durgan*

Dear Minnesota Growers,

Plant variety adaptation and yield are important. That fact was reinforced for me while attending the University's memorial service for Norman Borlaug, its graduate who received the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his work to combat world hunger.

The foundation of Borlaug's effort was to develop high-yield, drought-resistant varieties of wheat. But Borlaug did more than just develop wheat adapted to countries desperately in need of increased food production. He developed teams of agricultural scientists who taught the small farmers of Mexico, Pakistan and India how to grow that wheat. Borlaug's work is calculated to have saved some two billion lives worldwide.

Norman Borlaug is a role model for those of us who work for land grant colleges and universities. Borlaug's new dwarf wheat variety was a research discovery. He created a food production miracle when he combined new wheat varieties with extension outreach on how to grow them, changing and saving lives in the process. Borlaug was a strong advocate for agricultural research and the importance of sharing its results to increase production, reduce hunger and starvation and, hopefully, to help increase world peace.

It is appropriate to remember Norman Borlaug's life work as University of Minnesota Extension observes its centennial this year. Since 1909, Extension has connected people's needs and University resources to improve the lives and communities of Minnesotans. The partnership between the Agricultural Experiment Station, as it developed new crop varieties and improved crop and livestock production practices, and the Extension Service, which brought this research information to farm families and showed them how to apply it, has been of inestimable value to the people of Minnesota.

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The work begun a century ago continues. The Experiment Station's plant variety programs are as important today as when its first crop varieties were released in the 1890s. This publication is about helping you make decisions about crop varieties that will increase profitability on 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, helping to build our economy and contributing to our quality of life.

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

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

Minnesota agriculture faced many challenges during 2009. The weather, livestock prices and the general economy created stress for many farm families. We will get through this troubled time the same way Minnesota agriculture always gets through problems — by working together in partnerships and helping each other.

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 to long-term research to deal with the challenges that will come in the future.



Beverly R. Durgan

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Dean of the University of Minnesota Extension Service