



*Beverly R. Durgan*

## ***The University of Minnesota***

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### ***A Legacy of Support to Agriculture***

Dear Minnesota Growers:

Growing demand for commodities and the rapid increase in renewable energy production is helping fuel the resurgence of interest in agriculture.

Students are taking a new interest in promising agricultural careers.

Administrators at businesses and universities are looking for educated workers to fill jobs at new ventures and replace retiring baby boomers.

Prices paid for wheat, corn, soybeans, milk and other farm products rose sharply in 2007, as did the cost of land, fertilizer and other inputs for agricultural production. I cannot predict what will happen in 2008, but I know that agricultural research and outreach become more important in these turbulent times.

As Minnesota growers are asked to increase production to feed the growing demand for food and fuel, growers ask our researchers and Extension educators for help in managing the costs of livestock feed, crop inputs and other expenses associated with farming. There are more questions about water and environmental quality. These matters are too important to leave to chance; the best answers are based on research.

Our commitment to providing research and research-based Extension information is strong. The varietal trials results in this booklet are part of a larger research program focused on finding the most productive plants that survive our winters, help build our economy and contribute to our quality of life.

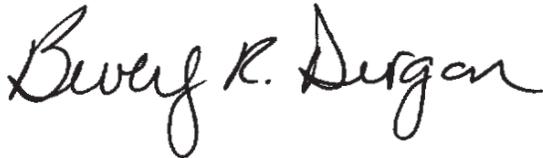
The University of Minnesota plant breeding and genetic programs has three goals:

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

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The University released seed of its first agronomic crops, hard red spring wheat varieties, in the 1890s. It has since released more than 450 agronomic crop varieties selected for characteristics including higher yields, insect and disease resistance, specific industrial and nutritional profiles, and appeal to end users. This legacy of providing research and research-based support to agriculture continues today.

Thank you for your support of the University of Minnesota.

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

Beverly R. Durgan

Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station

Dean of the University of Minnesota Extension