



# Crop Solutions that Work

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## **Red Wheat Industry Day 2009**

**By Mike Parker CCA-ON, CCS  
Crop Sales Specialist  
Wanstead Farmers Co-operative  
Alvinston**

The 18th Red Wheat Industry was held at Pike Lake Golf Course near Harriston Ontario. This event as always was very well attended by dealers and industry people from all over Ontario, including the Ottawa Valley. The speakers at this year's event discussed market trends and wheat markets, sound agronomic practices to fine tune wheat production and new varieties which will advance wheat yields to new highs.

Cal Whewell, risk manager with FC Stone from Toledo Ohio, started off the day with an extremely informative wheat market history and projections. The highlights of Cal's presentation verified that the North America market has an abundance of Soft Red Winter Wheat leaving opportunity for growers to capitalize on price advantages with Hard Red wheat.

Peter Johnson, wheat specialist with OMAFRA, discussed the changes upcoming in the Ontario Wheat Performance Trials. Specific sites will have advanced management strategies such as leaf and head fungicide applications and work is underway to apply additional nitrogen to Hard Red varieties to mirror the management strategies used by growers to achieve maximum economic yield for hard wheat varieties.

Peter also discussed seeding rates and planting times. The data this past year was consistent with other years; showing higher fall seeding rates corresponded with stronger spring stands. C&M seeds agree with Peter Johnson that fall seeding rates should be at 1.6 million seeds per acre. This rate should be modified by planting more than 1.6 million seeds per acre when seeding beyond optimal timing in your area.

Dana Omland, wheat merchandiser Palmerston Grain, verified that Cal Whewell and Dana had the exact same views and predictions for the wheat market. There is strong demand for Hard Red wheat and growers should be rewarded with additional income for hard red vs. soft red for the coming year.

Barry Gordon, Sales Manager C&M Seeds, introduced 3 new wheat varieties available to producers for fall. These are exciting opportunities for growers. All these varieties have yield improvements, which is a high priority trait in the selection process.



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Stanford (Hard Red Winter Wheat) has good yield potential, but is best suited to lighter soils and it seems to do best in Area 2. Stanford is short strawed with excellent straw-strength with thresh ability and seems to genetically achieve protein easier than some other varieties.

Princeton (registration pending) Hard Red Winter Wheat seems to be adapted to a wide spectrum of soils and works very well in all winter wheat growing areas of Ontario. Princeton (registration pending) has top yields in Area 1, which makes it a good choice for that area. Growers can look forward to having a hard red variety that has proven to yield better than many soft wheat varieties this fall.

Palmer (registration pending) offers excellent yield potential across a wide variety of soil types. Palmer had top yields in all areas of the province and a top disease package with consistent tolerance to most common disease in trials. Exceptional thresh ability and very good rust and mildew tolerance make Palmer (registration pending) a great choice for wheat growers.

C&M Seeds continues to innovate. Attendees were treated to pasta made from Ontario's only Durum wheat variety, Hallmark. Also enjoyed by everyone was bread made with Hard White winter wheat; the first of its kind in Canada.

- Information supplied by Barry Gordon of C&M seeds