A Wheat Farmers Perspective

Weeds Under The Big Sky

Gordon Stoner, Outlook, Montana, USA
Stoner Farms

- Homesteaded in 1909
- 100% Continuous Crop, No-till, Dryland Farm
- Durum, Peas, Lentils, Corn, Oil Seeds, Cow/Calf
- 10/12 inches annual precipitation (Ground Frost 5 Months/year)
- Sheridan County #1 in Montana Durum, Pea, Lentil Production
Wheat Grown in 44 States

Top 5 States...Kansas, North Dakota, Montana, Washington, South Dakota. Represent ½ of US Production

Over 2 Billion Bushel Production. Nearly ½ into Export Channels

Montana Exports 80% of Wheat and 90% of Pulse Production

Montana’s Population 1 Million People. To Consume Our Wheat .... 400 Loafs/day
Resistance at Stoner Farms

- No Documented Cases to Date
- Suspect Yellow Foxtail
- Hawksbeard & Canada Thistle are ongoing problem
- Not If but When
- Using Most Herbicides at Maximum Labeled Rates
- My Grandfather 1927 and 2014
Resistance in Montana

1970’s….Far-go ….. Wild Oats
1980’s….Sulfonated Ureas ….. Kochia
Today…..Multiple Modes/Products ….. Wild Oats, Kochia, Yellow Foxtail (Pigeon Grass), Canada Thistle, Narrow Leaf Hawksbeard
Tomorrow…..??????
Current Weed Management Practices

- Recommended Rates, Multiple Tank Mix Partners
- Multiple Modes of Action (Herbicide Rotation)
- Diverse Crop Rotation
- Late Season Herbicide Application
- Residual Herbicides
- Latest Application Technology (Accurate, Uniform Herbicide Placement)
**Difficulties & Failures**

- Cover Crops...Short Growing Season, Minimal Rainfall, Weed Competition
- Residual Herbicides...Damage to Succeeding Crop
- Herbicides with Soil Activity Failing Due to Drought
- Stressed Crop Response to Herbicides
Future Plans

- Recruiting a Staff or Contract Agronomist
- Exploring Additional Crop Rotations (Sorghum?)
- Using Additional/Different Tank Mix Partners
- Waiting for the Next New Mode(s) of Action
Montana Big Sky Country
The Next National Commodity Organization?
Thank You for Listening and Thank You to Bayer CropScience for their Gracious Hospitality!