



Areawide Pest Management for Wheat

- **What is AWPM for Wheat?**

AWPM for Wheat is a pest management demonstration program for dryland winter wheat, with emphasis on the suppression of Russian wheat aphids and greenbugs. The project is one of several area-wide programs developed by the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

To implement the project, ARS scientists in Stillwater, Okla. partnered with research and extension specialists from five universities: Colorado State, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, and the University of Nebraska.

- **Our Goal**

Our project team collaborates with wheat producers in evaluating and demonstrating biologically-based pest management. Growers are helping us evaluate the cost effectiveness of various suppression methods. Benefits of the program extend from producers to consumers and the environment.

- **Project Elements**

Elements of the program include crop diversification, variety selection, field scouting, and biological control.

- **Demonstration Sites**

Beginning in the fall of 2002, our team established eleven pairs of demonstration fields distributed around the project region. Pairs consist of one field in a “wheat only” system and one field in a diversified crop rotation. An aphid-resistant wheat variety is planted at appropriate locations.

Demonstration fields are being monitored over a four-year period for aphids and other pests. Weather and agronomic conditions are also monitored.

- **Grower Involvement**

A total of 147 growers have participated in focus groups and annual cost-of-production interviews. Focus groups with wheat producers in 2003 helped our team to understand input decisions for dryland winter wheat. Follow-up focus groups in the winter of 2006 will explore changes in grower’s perspectives during the period of program implementation.

Annual cost-of-production surveys compare costs and returns for conventional and AWPM approaches to pest management.

A “grower of the month” feature helps growers to learn about the wheat management experiences of their peers.

For more information about AWPM for Wheat contact Norm Elliott at Norman.elliott@ars.usda.gov or call (405) 624-4141. You can also view our website at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Business/docs.htm?docid=6555>

October 7, 2005