



# Western Feed Grain Development Co-op Ltd.

“Farmer Directed Varieties”

## Press Release

The Western Feed Grain Development Co-op Ltd. (WFGD Co-op) is pleased to announce registration of their first General Purpose Wheat variety, **WFT 603**.

The WFGD Co-op was formed in 2006 as an alternative approach to filling a void that exists for a feed wheat variety. Since that time, Kernel Visual Distinguishability (KVD) has been eliminated and a General Purpose class was established, allowing the registration of wheat varieties that do not fit the functional classes. This has enabled registration of General Purpose wheat varieties suitable for feed and ethanol use, with strong disease resistance packages and high yield potential.

The WFGD Co-op feels that a breeding program focussed on a short term objective of developing high yielding (40% higher than the best Hard Red Spring varieties), fusarium head blight resistant general purpose wheat varieties is still needed in Western Canada to compete with corn, as a lower risk, lower production cost alternative for feed in the Canadian Prairies. The long term objective of the Co-op is to increase yield to 10 MT/hectare by 2020. This objective will be achieved through breeding and the addition of agronomic optimization trials which will test agronomic interactions of advanced lines by various fertilizer rates, seeding rates, seeding dates, and fungicide applications.

The WFGD Co-op has approximately 65 members across Western Canada, both active agricultural producers and corporate members. Membership fees collected as well as funds awarded by the provincial and federal funding agencies have helped to support the breeding program. The WFGD Co-op wheat breeding program started with a few initial crosses and has significantly increased with more than 300 crosses made to date. The Co-op is breeding wheat lines specifically for the General Purpose wheat class suited to end users such as ethanol plants, livestock feeders, and possibly wheat millers. New members are welcome to join and support the WFGD Co-op at any time.

For more information contact:

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The WFT 603 variety is an awned, medium height, general purpose spring wheat.

- ✓ High yield potential, 102% of AC Andrew, 105% of 5702PR, and 104% of Pasteur in Zone 1 General Purpose Co-op Trials (Two year averages 2011& 2012)
- ✓ Best adapted to Zone 1, the black soil zone of Manitoba and parts of Saskatchewan
- ✓ Average maturity for spring wheat
- ✓ Improved Fusarium Head Blight over AC Andrew
- ✓ Disease Resistance:
  - Moderately resistant to FHB
  - Resistant to Leaf Rust
  - Moderate Resistant to Intermediate to Stem Rust
  - Good resistance to Common Bunt
  - Intermediate to Loose Smut

Multiplication of WFT 603 will take place in 2014 with commercial seed available to WFGD Co-op active agricultural members in Spring 2015.

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