Varieties

1977

Butte, a new hard red spring wheat from North Dakota. *Butte* is an awned, conventional height, hard red spring wheat. It is higher yielding than the hard red spring varieties Waldron and Olaf, but not equal to Era. Butte is heavier in test weight, earlier in maturity, intermediate in height but not as lodging resistant when compared to Waldron and Olaf. Equal to Olaf for incidence of leaf spotting diseases, Butte is superior to both Waldron and Olaf for overall leaf and stem rust resistance.

Butte is a complex three-way cross of Polk, Wisconsin 261, and ND 480. Agronomic, disease, and quality tests have been conducted in North Dakota since 1971.

Developing, selecting, and testing Butte was a cooperative effort of North Dakota State University and the branch experiment stations of North Dakota. Also, scientists of the ARS-USDA have participated in evaluating and testing Butte wheat.

Quality tests indicate that Butte is better in test weight, flour extraction, flour ash, and absorption when compared to Waldron. In percentage of vitreous kernels, and wheat and flour protein content, Butte has been lower than Waldron. The baking properties of Butte, including loaf volume, grain and texture, and crumb color are inferior to Waldron. Dough mixing properties for Butte are similar to Waldron as determined by the farinograph.

Foundation seed of Butte will be allocated in North Dakota to County Crop Improvement Associations for seed increase this year. Allocations also will be made to cooperating states and the Seed Division of the North Dakota Agricultural Association. Seed for commercial production may be available next year. The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station will maintain breeder seed of Butte.