# Spring Wheat Management Recipe

1) Spring wheat should be the first crop seeded in the spring. It handles cold weather and soils better than other cereal crops resulting in higher yields.

2) Be sure to properly calibrate your seed drill. Seed size can vary significantly by variety, lbs/acre is old news, seeds/acre is the way to go. You want to aim for 1.6 million seeds per acre, or 400 per meter squared. Consult seed tags for lot specific seed size.

3) Wheat should be planted at a depth of 1 inch for optimum growth and performance.

4) Spring wheat performs more consistently under no-till than barley, some producers even no-till spring wheat into frozen ground (frost seeding) in order to get a head start.

5) Wheat should not follow corn in rotation due to the possibility of *fusarium* head blight. Ideally, spring wheat should follow soybeans, canola, alfalfa or some other broadleaf crop.

6) Nitrogen recommendations will vary by variety based on yield potential and straw strength. As a general recommendation, 70 to 90 pounds per acre should be sufficient to optimize yield and achieve protein levels over 12.5% for maximum protein premiums.

7) Spring wheat is less competitive than spring barley, making good weed control even more critical to successful performance. A burn down in the fall or early spring is recommended if quackgrass and other hard-to-control perennial weeds are prevalent. Use of broader spectrum herbicides to control in season weed infestations is highly recommended ie) Buctryl M.

8) Fungicides can sometimes provide an economic advantage for spring wheat growers. Varieties respond differently due to their relative resistance to different diseases. Consider Tilt as an early season, broad spectrum disease control measure. This can be easily and economically combined with herbicide application. Folicur application at early heading provides additional protection against *fusarium* and late foliar diseases ie)septoria, glume blotch.

9) Wheat must be considered as a “FOOD GRADE CROP” making timely harvest critical to its milling quality. Every effort should be made to harvest as soon as possible after crop maturity. Early harvesting of wheat at higher moisture levels is much more cost effective than having your wheat downgraded due to poor quality.

10) To maximize returns, a producer must be aware of his marketing opportunities up to 18 months prior to harvest as well as after harvest.