



# Wheat Producers Advantage

**South Dakota Wheat, Inc.**

**April 2021**

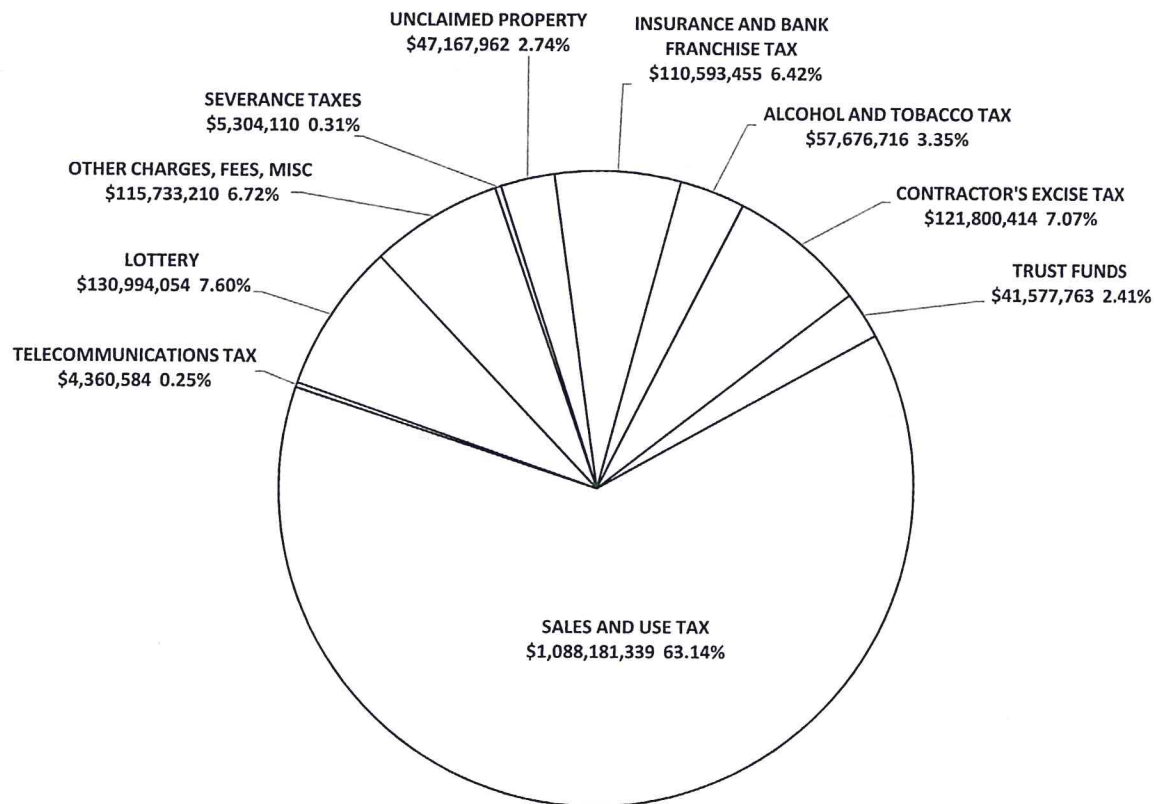
## 2021 Legislative Broad Over Review

It was the 96th Legislative Session for South Dakota! Thirty female legislators attended this session, which is a record number, were among the legislative body. We also welcomed 20 new legislators to our total number of 105. The Democrats hold a total of 11 seats, 3 in the Senate and 8 in the House. And Republicans hold 62 in the house and 32 in the Senate.

The 2021 General Fund Receipts and Expenditures are listed in graph form in this newsletter. I consider SD Wheat Inc members as progressive businessmen and women. That means we need to look at the big picture. South Dakota has always delivered a balanced budget and below spells out how they accomplished for 2021.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## FY 2021 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



**General Fund Total: \$1,723,389,607**

**United We Are Stronger!!**





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## Ruth Beck Retires from SDSU Extension Agronomy Team

After 17 years providing education and service to South Dakota growers and agribusiness professionals, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist Ruth Beck has announced her retirement. Her last day was March 21.



"Ruth strived to provide Extension education by building engaging personal relationships with constituent audiences and then empowering them in the learning process," says SDSU Extension Director Karla Trautman. "Her ability to link science, education and experiential learning with production and management practices that were linked to profitability and sustainability were invaluable. There is no doubt that she will be missed, but her efforts have laid a foundation of best practices for years to come."

"From setting up wheat tours, crop clinics, soil health events and sunflower surveys, her passion for no-till management and her expertise in wheat, sunflowers and cover crops, to scouting wheat and sunflower fields, answering questions, putting on meetings and creating a social media presence, Ruth always had the best interest of South Dakota producers at heart," says Connie Strunk, SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Field Specialist. "Ruth brought a wealth of knowledge to the team and will be greatly missed. I want to wish Ruth the best in her retirement and want to thank her for her dedication to agriculture and Extension."

"Ruth has been an integral part of SDSU Extension for many years, but her impact will last much longer than her years of service," says Sara Bauder, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist. "She has made countless connections and earned a great deal of respect from growers across central South Dakota and beyond. She has been well respected by her colleagues and regularly serves as a source for wheat, sunflower and other pulse crop production systems. Her focus on no-till and dedication to the South Dakota No-Till Association has pushed the adaptation of no-till acres in South Dakota and raised a great deal of awareness for soil health systems as well. We will greatly miss Ruth in her role as a program and project manager, content expert, and dedicated colleague and friend."

"Ruth is not only a great friend, but also a great resource for our farm," says local producer Dan Forgey. "Whatever the issue was, she would be there with her knowledge and her ability to find answers to the problem at hand. Her passion for no-till has rubbed off on a lot of producers. She will be sorely missed in Extension and has truly made her mark in South Dakota agriculture."

"Ruth Beck has been a very appreciated and valuable asset to the South Dakota wheat industry," says Reid Christopherson, Executive Director of the South Dakota Wheat Commission. "Her exceptional producer-focused Extension efforts will leave a lasting impact upon the resources and experiences of both producers and agribusinesses."

Beck, who holds a Bachelor of Science in agronomy from the University of Manitoba and a Master of Science in agriculture from South Dakota State University, first joined the SDSU Extension team in 2004 as a Crops Extension Educator. In 2011, she took over as an Agronomy Field Specialist, based in Pierre.

Her focus and area of expertise has been in wheat, field peas, sunflowers, no-till, soil health and cover crop management practices in the semi-arid region of central South Dakota.

Beck has also served in an advisory capacity with the South Dakota No-Till Association and the South Dakota Pulse Growers for more than 20 years.

She received the Outstanding Extension Educator award from the South Dakota Association of Weed and Pest Boards and Friend of Dakota Lakes award in 2014, and in 2019 she, along with her husband, Dwayne Beck, re-

*(Continued on page 6)*





## **National Association of Wheat Growers Update**

***By Chandler Goule, CEO, National Association of Wheat Growers***

# **National Representation Helps Wheat Farmers Triumph Through COVID-19**

COVID-19 has presented wheat farmers, and all of agriculture, with numerous challenges and setbacks. However, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), the leading advocacy organization for America's wheat farmers, was able to address many of these hurdles and, as a result, has grown as an organization. NAWG has had many recent accomplishments and many plans for the organization in the coming months.

First and foremost, NAWG and its members worked diligently to ensure that the USDA extended eligibility to all classes of wheat under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). In April, when CFAP details were being finalized, NAWG staff asked USDA to incorporate price volatility during the early months of the year in evaluating price conditions. After CFAP was announced, NAWG submitted comments through USDA's official request for information process asking that the program be expanded to include all classes of wheat. During this time, NAWG also urged states to file separate comments to amplify the national voice on this issue.

In July, after USDA announced some additional commodities for eligibility but not additional classes of wheat, NAWG asked that USDA begin providing assistance for 2020 crop losses and held several meetings with key USDA officials, including Undersecretary Bill Northey. Working with congressional staff, NAWG secured Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) to lead a bi-partisan Senate letter sent to Secretary Perdue requesting that resources available in the CARES Act be used to help wheat farmers impacted by COVID-19. Joined onto that letter was Sen. John Hoeven (ND) and Sen. Jeff Merkley (OR), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, and 17 other Senators. Shortly after, Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-03) led a similar bi-partisan letter to USDA that was joined by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (MN-07), Ranking Member Mike Conaway (TX-11) and 23 other Members of Congress.

As a result of NAWG's work and coordination with its states, on September 18, 2020, the USDA announced a second round of coronavirus relief payments which extended eligibility to additional classes of wheat. The new \$14 billion package finally covered producers of all six classes. This was a major legislative win for America's wheat farmers.

NAWG also saw a major win in its lawsuit against California's Prop 65 labeling of glyphosate. On June 22, 2020, the Eastern District of California sided with the Coalition, citing science and facts as the main reason for its decision. The court ruled that Prop 65's warning label requirement

for chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer, as applied to glyphosate, violates the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. With this summary judgement, the presiding judge, Judge Shubb, issued a permanent injunction prohibiting California from requiring glyphosate-containing products to be labeled. An opinion editorial on NAWG's win was recently published in Agri-Pulse. The State of California has appealed the decision, and NAWG will remain engaged in this effort as the case proceeds.

NAWG staff is still working toward meeting the goals of the Association's 2019 Strategic Plan. First, the Industry Partnership Program (IPP) is in full force and a few companies have already applied and been approved for the program which starts with the next fiscal year. NAWG continues to work with other companies that could join soon. The bylaws have already been updated and policy priorities have been established for this year. Further, NAWG has implemented a more efficient and informational approach for when it communicates with its members. States are now receiving a monthly social media toolkit to help them grow their presence online. Further, NAWG's weekly updates have been reformatted to include a NAWG news section, industry news section, a communications section, and a National Wheat Foundation section. NAWG has also added a side bar to the weekly updates to highlight any recent media interviews done by NAWG's CEO and officers. Lastly, NAWG's regular Monday policy updates now include NAWG's CEO meetings and updates from the prior week.

NAWG continues to remain active with U.S. Wheat Associates. Most recently, NAWG has been actively lobbying Congress to pass the Grain Standards Reauthorization Act and to ensure no lapse in inspection services. While this is a NAWG 2020 priority, it is also a major priority for U.S. Wheat Associates, and NAWG has coordinated with them throughout the reauthorization process. U.S. Wheat is not allowed to lobby, so NAWG has been actively advocating before Congress on behalf of the wheat industry.

These past months, there has also been activity on the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) work towards implementing a provision included in the 2018 Farm Bill related to adjusting quality loss, which was successfully included at the request of NAWG. After further engagement with RMA on developing a different option for quality loss adjustment, the new Quality Loss Option was implemented on July 6th and is available to growers beginning with the 2021 crop year. A blog on NAWG's efforts can be found here.

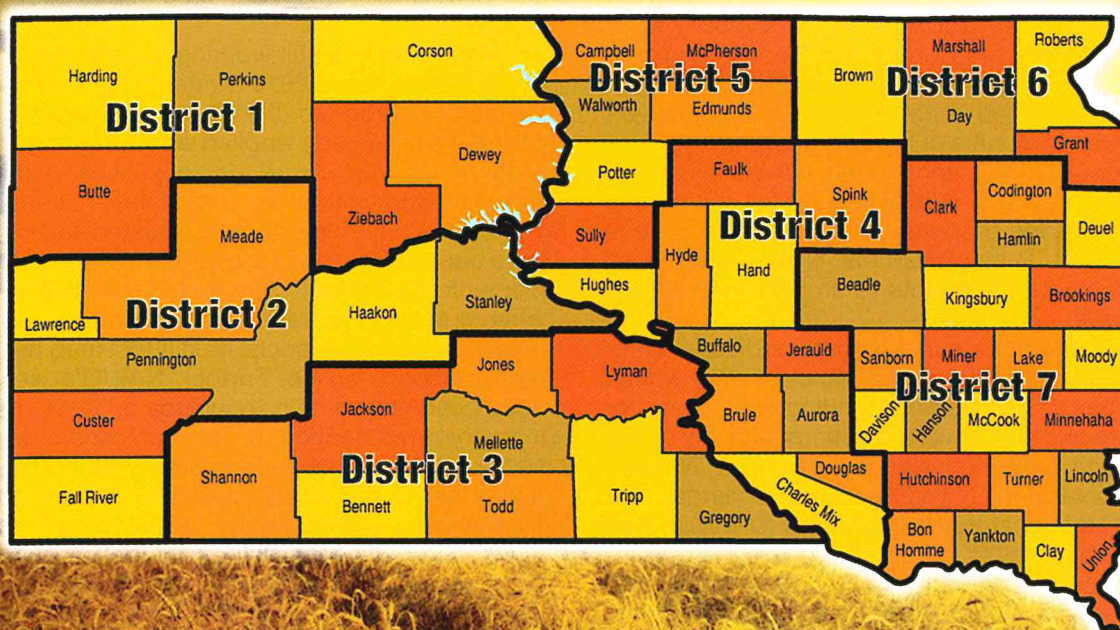
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Go to [www.sdwheat](http://www.sdwheat) to download your 2021 application. Deadline May 15th.

## SDWI 2020 Wheat Yield Contest Winners

DISTRICT	NAME	WINTER OR SPRING	VARIETY	BPA	TW	PRIZE
2	Adam Roseth	winter wheat	Si Monument	73	61	\$500
3	Levi Neuharth	winter wheat	sywolf	92.35	61.6	\$500
3	Prairie Paradise Farms	winter wheat	grain field	68.35	59.4	\$300
3	Nathan Vander Schaaf	spring wheat	Agri Pro Sy Valda	44.62	59.7	\$500
4	Tom Biddle	winter wheat	redfield	93.34	60.3	\$500
5	Skyler Leesman	winter wheat	sywolf	95.21	62.6	\$500
5	Garrett Leesman	winter wheat	grain field	84.59	61	\$300
7	Robert Holzworth	spring wheat	LCS Cannon	87.62	63.2	\$500



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# National Association of Wheat Growers Update

(continued from page 3)

NAWG recently concluded its 2020 Fall Conference which was held virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Fall Conference, as an organization, NAWG discussed policy priorities for next year which will be finalized at the 2021 Commodity Classic. The status of the current year's priorities was reviewed. Furthermore, NAWG's policy staff discussed how they have been strategizing outreach to the next Congress and Administration. Lastly, as part of the Strategic Plan, NAWG was directed to develop a process for handling state-requested issues in consultation with the State Staff. The outline of this pro-

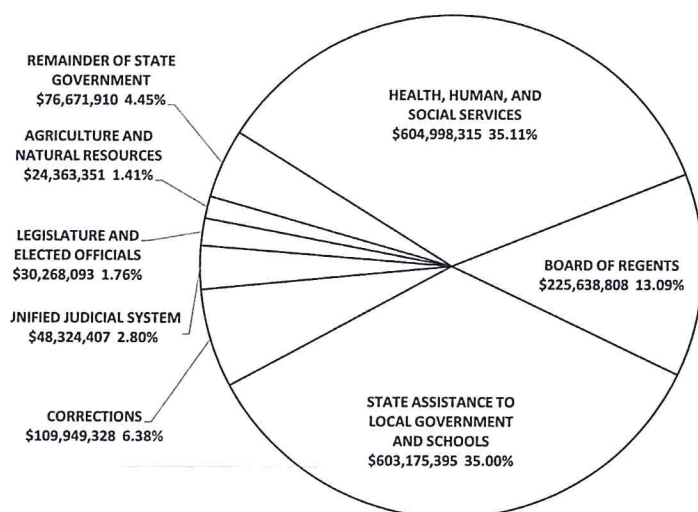
## Broad Overview

(continued from page 1)

Expenditures for the Session affecting Agriculture this year looked something like this. Broadband access received \$100 million, BioPro Innovation Institute received \$20 million, Rail line from Ft. Pierre to Rapid City was granted \$20 million with matching funds, DEX (livestock and equestrian complex) which is located on the State Fairgrounds in Huron will receive \$12 million, SDSU Dairy Research Farm in Brookings will receive \$7.5 million and township and county secondary roads will receive \$6 million.

Key legislative issues that received one-time monies included Medical marijuana and Mental Health Services receiving \$300 million.

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cess as considered at the Fall Conference.

Lastly, NAWG is excited to announce that its Vice President, Nicole Berg, has been appointed to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors. Nicole was one of several candidates submitted by NAWG and her term begins this year. NAWG's press release announcing this news can be found here.

COVID-19 has had unprecedented impacts on all of society, including on the agriculture industry and on NAWG. Despite that, the wheat industry has had some major policy victories the past few months and NAWG has made significant progress organizationally. NAWG works hard to effectively advocate for wheat growers and is dedicated to strengthening the organization. Visit [www.wheatworld.org](http://www.wheatworld.org) for more information!

## Germination Expiration Dates and Purity Requirements

Like the milk in the refrigerator germination tests have an expiration date. But unlike milk you should not go beyond the date and consider it good. The time periods for different types of seed are defined in SD State Seed Law. The germination test for agricultural seed is nine months, this encompasses small grains and row crops. Vegetable and flower seed germination test are valid for 12 months and turf seed for 15 months.

The time period stated above are for in state movement. When seed is moved across state lines the valid period for germination tests is shortened to 5 months.

The time period for in state movement are exclusive of the month the germination test was completed. If a germination test for oats was completed on February 2nd, 2021, the valid period for the test would be from March thru November 30th, 2021 or if a test was completed on June 17th, 2020 that test would be valid from July to March 31th, 2021. The same applies to out of state movement of seed but with a 5 month period. If wheat seed being shipped out of the state was tested on June 26th, 2021 the test would be good from July through November 30th, 2021.

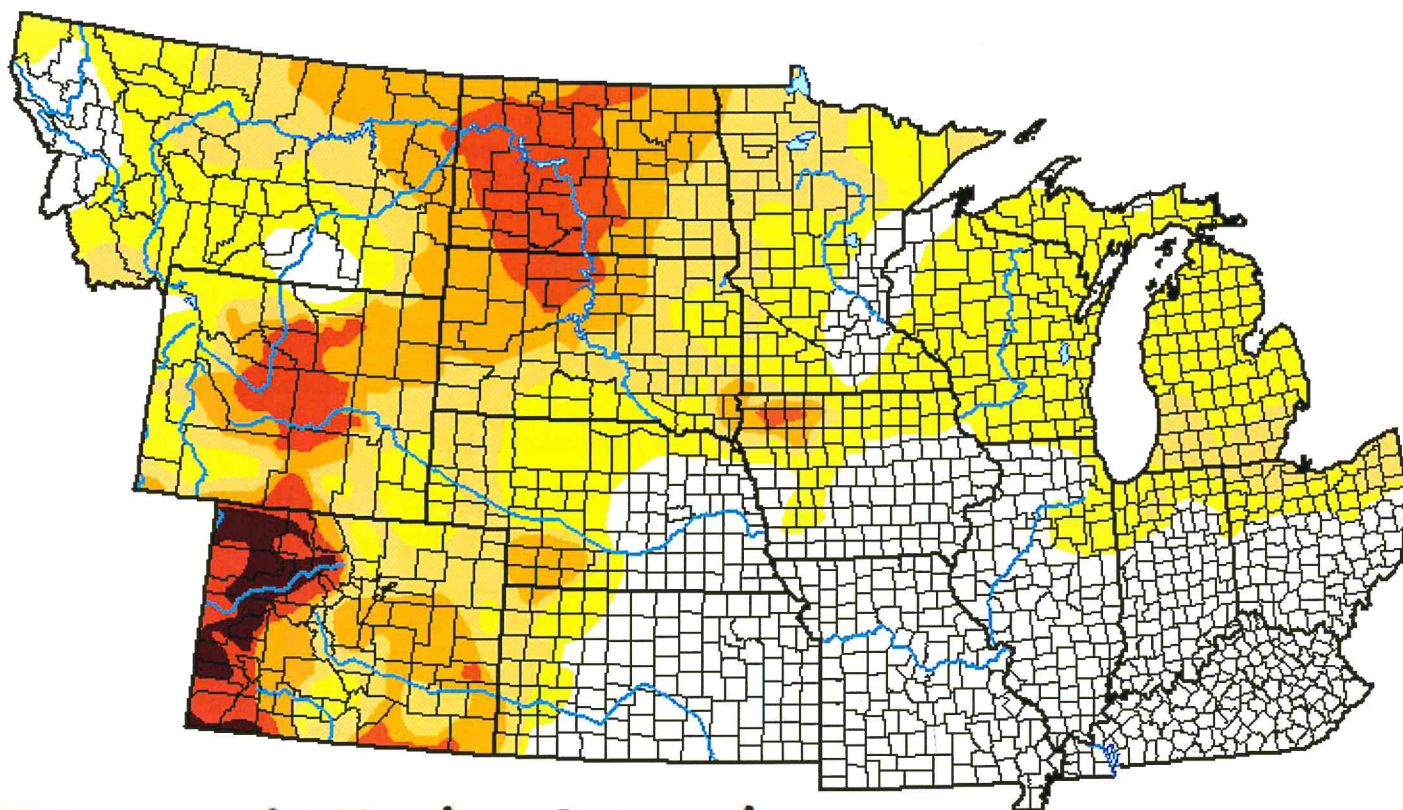
There is no time period for the purity or noxious weed seed examinations. They are valid as long as the seed remains in good condition. If seed falls out of condition over time, it should be retested to obtain accurate results but this is not a requirement.

With the computerization of our record keeping SDCIA is better able to keep track of the time periods germination test are valid. It has been built into the system that in order to complete a sale using the bulk sales certificate a germination test must fall within the time periods stated above.






Certified seed must have a purity and noxious exam on file before the seed can be sold as certified seed. This requirement ensures that the seed meets the requirements in the Certification Seed Standards. The purity and noxious exam will give you the percentage of pure seed in the sample and the rate and occurrence of other crop seed and common weed seed if present. The purity and noxious exam are required by the SD State Seed Law.



# Drought Status Update for the North Central United States



## U.S. Drought Monitor Categories

	D0 - Abnormally Dry
	D1 - Moderate Drought
	D2 - Severe Drought
	D3 - Extreme Drought
	D4 - Exceptional Drought

### Ruth Beck

*(continued from page 2)*

ceived the Friend of Soil Health award from the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition.

"It was truly an honor for me to serve the farmers and ranchers of central South Dakota," Beck says. "They are second to none when it comes to hosting field tours or 'on-farm' research. I learned a lot from them and hope over the years I was able to share some of that wisdom. After retirement I plan to garden, visit family and travel. I anticipate a few ag-related activities will continue to keep me busy for a few years yet."

Source(s): [NDMC](#), [NOAA](#), [USDA](#)



03.30.2021

By Matt Noltemeyer

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, US

## US millers consider impact of pending rail merger

Moving freight by truck and by rail was generally smooth recently, grain market participants said. While finding available trucks and willing drivers remain a challenge long term, the situation had improved from previous weeks, traders said. Grain movement by rail was expedient for loaded cars, but two Class 1 railroads remained two to three weeks behind schedule in placing empty cars at origins.

The Canadian Pacific Railway announced it had entered an agreement to purchase the Kansas City Southern railroad in a deal valued at \$29 billion. Should the merger meet Surface Transportation Board approval and be implemented, it would be the first merger between two Class 1 railroads in over two decades and create the first US-Canada-Mexico rail network.

The combined rail company, to be named Canadian Pacific Kansas City, would allow grain companies and other shippers greater efficiency and supply chain integration as trade ramps up due to the passage of the USMCA pact of 2020.

The new company is expected to generate greater competition as it expands to 20,000 miles of rail and 20,000 employees. With expected revenues of about \$8.7 billion, the merged rail network will remain the smallest of six Class 1 railroads.

Millers and traders were still digesting news of the merger and thinking about potential use of a CPKC network.

"It's yet to be told," one miller said. "There's almost no winter wheat or spring wheat origination on the KCS. We're already getting spring wheat out of the Dakotas on the CP."

"It might actually make it easier to take spring wheat to Mexico out of the domestic territory than it has been in the past, but on the flip side, maybe it helps bring Canadian wheat into the US farther south. I could paint it both ways so far."

"We'll just have to see how they view it. Is it still going to run like two separate railroads with a US division and a Canadian division? How is it all going to work? Lot more questions than answers at this point."

US durum millers told *Milling & Baking News*, a sister publication of *World Grain*, the merger would likely have very little effect on their business as it primarily gives the CP network a route to the Gulf.

### Rail activity

The American Association of Railroads, in their latest update rail traffic report, notes that comparisons with the same week in 2020 are "inflated because of the widespread economy-wide shutdowns — and subsequent large reduction in rail volumes — last year at this time."

Total US weekly rail traffic was 513,325 carloads and intermodal units, up 12% compared with the same week last year, in the week ended March 20, the latest for which data is available. That brought cumulative US carloads and units to 5,493,350 for 2021, an average of 499,395 per week, up 4% from 2020.

Taken separately, US carloads in the latest week totaled 230,605, up 3% compared with the same week in 2020, which brought cumulative 2021 carloads to 2,448,722, an average of 222,611 per week, down 4% from the same period in 2020. US weekly intermodal volume was 282,720 containers and trailers, up 20% from the same week in 2020, which brought cumulative 2021 units to 3,044,628 for an average of 276,784 per week, up 11% from the same period in 2020.

US grain carloads totaled 27,332 in the latest week, up 6,332 carloads, or 30%, from a year earlier. Grain was one of five car-

load commodity groups (out of 10) to post a year-over-year increase, the others being metallic ores and metals, up 11%; forest products, up 8%; coal, up 7%; and farm products and food excluding grain, up 1%.

North American rail volume for the week ended March 20 on 12 reporting US, Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 332,173 carloads, up 1% compared with the same week in 2020, and 371,385 intermodal units, up 19% compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 703,558 carloads and intermodal units, up 10%. North American rail volume for the first 11 weeks of 2021 was 7,553,569 carloads and intermodal units, up 3% compared with 2020. North American grain carloads in the latest week totaled 39,494, up 29% from a year earlier, bringing cumulative North American grain carloads for 2021 to 408,651 for an average of 37,150 per week, up 28% from the same period in 2020.

Canadian railroads reported 81,088 carloads for the week, down 4%, and 73,409 intermodal units, up 21% compared with the same week in 2020. For the first 11 weeks of 2021, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 1,655,256 carloads, containers and trailers, up 6% from the same period in 2020. Canadian grain carloads in the latest week totaled 10,063, up 32% from the same week a year earlier, bringing cumulative grain carloads in 2021 to 107,439 for an average of 9,767 per week, up 39% from the same period in 2020.

Mexican railroads reported 20,480 carloads for the week, down 6% compared with the same week last year, and 15,256 intermodal units, down 3%. Cumulative volume on Mexican railroads for the first 11 weeks of 2021 was 404,963 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers, down 6% from the same period in 2020. Mexican grain carloads in the latest week totaled 2,099, up 7% year-over-year, bringing the cumulative total for the commodity group to 22,286 carloads in 2021 for an average of 2,026 per week, down 5% from the same period in 2020.

### Barge activity

In the week ended March 20, US barge grain movements totaled 722,820 tons, down 11% from the previous week but up 29% compared with the same period in 2020, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In the same week, 463 grain barges moved down river, 49 fewer barges than the previous week. There were 767 grain barges unloaded in New Orleans, 10% fewer than the previous week, according to the Corps and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

### Ocean freight

For the week ended March 18, 37 oceangoing grain vessels were loaded in the Gulf, 54% more than the same period last year. In the 10 days starting March 19, 56 vessels were expected to be loaded, 47% more than the same period last year.

As of March 18, the rate for shipping a tonne of grain from the US Gulf to Japan was \$60.25. This was 4% more than the previous week. The rate from the Pacific Northwest to Japan was \$35 per tonne, up 8% from the previous week.

### Trucking

For the week ended March 22, the US average diesel fuel price increased 0.3¢ from the previous week to \$3.194 per gallon, 53.5¢ above the same week last year, according to the Energy Information Administration.



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*South Dakota Wheat Advantage*