

From the DIRECTOR

A. G. HAZEN



Your Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service have a vital part to play in the business of wheat production in North Dakota. And the production of quality wheat is an involved and intricate business.

North Dakota's unique geographical and climatic location makes it possible to produce and market hard red spring and durum wheat which meet a specific need in domestic and export markets.

But be assured that North Dakota is not the **only** place where these wheats can be grown. This special need for our kind of wheat is not by any means free from the supply-demand factor of the market. A premium quality product does not **always** command a premium price. But a premium quality product will always move in the market in preference to a lower quality product at the same prices.

To the present time, the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station has maintained a program of hard red spring and durum wheat research and information directed toward the dual objectives of keeping as high yield and as high quality as possible among our wheat varieties. Based on numerous visits by foreign trade teams and frequent consultation with domestic processors, we believe we have a unique market — both domestic and export — which is based on quality. And unless currently utilized standards of several factors are at least maintained, if not improved, North Dakota stands the distinct risk of losing this unique market. Millers can get lower quality wheat that would have an economic production and transportation advantage if North Dakota wheats were not higher quality than wheat from other areas.

We hope you will read the report, "Developing Wheat Varieties for North Dakota in the 1970's," which details many of the considerations involved in quality wheat and the place of our state in producing and marketing such wheat.

We expect and encourage our producers to make their own individual variety selections. They must consider and use Station and Extension recommendations for what they are intended to be: human judgments based upon experience, available information and a dedicated desire to help maintain and improve the economic and social well-being of North Dakota people.

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On The Cover: Final evaluation of hard red spring wheat quality comes in the baking process. Dr. Bert D'Appolonia examines a loaf of test bread produced in the Department of Cereal Chemistry and Technology laboratory. This is part of the continuing search by NDSU staff members for highest quality wheat.

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