

# California Wheat

*Made with the Golden Touch!*

## Weekly Wheat Bulletin

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*The Weekly Wheat Bulletin is designed to share quick, informal and reliable information about the state's wheat crop and disease conditions. Comments forwarded by Thursday morning of each week will be posted in the Bulletin for distribution Thursday evening. Archived copies of the 2008 Wheat Bulletin may be accessed on the California Wheat Commission website:*

[www.californiawheat.org](http://www.californiawheat.org)

*For those of you that are new to our mailing list, the length of this bulletin will change from week to week. The amount of material is dependent on the contributions of our readers.*

### Commission News:

The California Wheat Commission is pleased to announce that Robert Falconer has been chosen as the new Executive Director of the Commission beginning May 1, 2008. Falconer has been employed the past 19 years by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers and currently serves as executive vice president. He was raised on a diversified farming operation in Porterville, California and holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences from Fresno State University. Please see attached press release for more information.

### Comments:

**4.2.08** - "Early planted wheat continues to look good. I am putting on a 25 unit application of N to try and increase protein in the early fields that are in the late milk to early doe stage. Later planted wheat should benefit greatly with the cooler weather forecast for the next week or so."  
*Roy Motter, Imperial Valley grower*

**4.3.08** - "The Sierra is poised to finish the season with an average snow pack, despite a very dry March. State water officials announced last week that the water content of the snow is measuring about 97 percent of normal -- more than double what it was this time last year. A few snow showers are predicted for next week, and we often get substantial snowfall in April or even May."  
*Anne Chadwick, reporting from Donner Summit.*

**4.3.08** - "Stripe rust continues to spread in the Sacramento valley, with many fields being treated in a timely manner. I think we are on top of the disease this year.

An experienced PCA that I trust reported about a field planted in 3 sections to: Express, Summit and Cal Rojo. All 3 varieties showed symptoms of stripe rust, but symptoms were noticeably more severe on the Express and Summit than the Cal Rojo. The stripe rust resistance in Cal Rojo

seems to still be working for the grower's advantage." *Jerry Schmierer, Agronomy Farm Advisor, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba and Glenn Counties*

**4.3.08** - "The wheat crop continues to progress rapidly. Due to above average temperatures and persistent wind on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, growers have been forced to irrigate every 2½ to 3 weeks. It appears that this grain crop will require an extra irrigation not previously planned. This quick turn-around has also created some symptoms of stress and salt-burn on fields that started to run out of water, most noticeably some tip-burn and drying on the edges of the leaves. Most of the red and white wheat for grain is headed out, while some of the durum is still in the boot.

Forage chopping continues to get early corn planted; however it appears that most growers are letting the crop grow out to soft dough to maximize yields with these high silage prices." *Geoff Schulz, Penny-Newman Grain Company*

### Breeder Comment:

#### 4.2.08 –

PR 1404 FORAGE WHEAT  
"Because of historically high wheat prices at this time, there is heightened interest in harvesting the wheat variety PR1404 for grain. As the breeder of this variety, WestBred, LLC wants to make our position clear: PR 1404 is not a preferred milling variety for California, and is not marketed as such. When compared to other California hard red varieties now available on the market, PR 1404 has lower grain protein, inferior loaf volume, and poor mixing characteristics. Unless a miller has a specific need for a lower quality flour (Anza type), he should avoid milling this variety.

WestBred, LLC has purposely not entered PR 1404 in any public grain trial and has not

released any data on grain yield or grain quality characteristics. Growers who produce PR 1404 grain to sell into the milling market have no basis for yield claims, grain quality claims, or market class claims. The market class grade of PR 1404 has never been sought or determined." *Dan Biggerstaff, VP Research/Special Projects, Westbred, LLC*

### News on Disease Research:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has given \$26.8 million to Cornell University for a new global project to fight wheat (stem) rust disease, also known as Ug99. The Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat project will bring together 15 partner institutions to combat the emergence of deadly new variants of stem rust that can spread quickly, reducing healthy wheat to broken, shriveled stems. The virulent new wheat stem rust type identified in Uganda has now escaped Africa and is spreading across the Middle East. Scientists estimate that 90% of all wheat varieties planted around the globe are susceptible to Ug99. The Cornell University press release can be read at:

[http://www.wheatrust.cornell.edu/about/press\\_release.cfm](http://www.wheatrust.cornell.edu/about/press_release.cfm)

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