

Crop Production

# New wheat varieties for 2008

By BILL SPIEGEL

**F**OR 2006-07, Jagalene and Overlay dominated as the wheat varieties most preferred by Kansas farmers. However, disease and freeze pressure showed that these two varieties, which accounted for more than 46% of harvested acres in 2007, are not failsafe.

Several new wheat varieties available this fall may have advantageous qualities over last year's favorites. AgriPro's Postrock, Kansas State University's Fuller and three new varieties from WestBred Plant Breeders could be the next big thing in Kansas wheat. Here's a look at these new options.

**AgriPro**

"If there is a limestone fence post within 50 miles of your farm, you should probably think about planting **Postrock**," says Rollie Sears of AgriPro's Postrock variety. Sears, wheat breeder for the company, says Postrock is a 2137-type wheat, but features a leaf rust package that held up well in 2006-07.

The variety is medium maturity, has excellent straw strength and maintains resistance to stem rust, stripe rust and leaf rust. Postrock also is resistant to soilborne mosaic and has moderate resistance to wheat streak mosaic and wheat spindle streak mosaic. It features moderate resistance to speckled leaf blotch and tan spot, is moderately sus-

**Key Points**

- Three main wheat breeding programs in Kansas have five new varieties for fall.
- Fuller, Postrock, Shocker, Smoky Hill are hard red varieties; Aspen is a hard white.
- Each variety offers unique characteristics that could make it a winner on your farm.

ceptible to powdery mildew and is susceptible to Hessian fly.

**K-State**

**Fuller** is the new hard red wheat variety from K-State. Best-suited throughout Kansas, Fuller has shattering tolerance and matures a day after Jagger, which is considered early maturing, says Allan Fritz, K-State's hard red wheat breeder.

Fuller is medium height, has good winter hardiness and has yielded about 4 bushels per acre more than Jagalene in three years of statewide trials.

Fuller is resistant to leaf rust and stripe rust, soilborne mosaic and spindle streak mosaic. It is moderately resistant to stem rust, leaf blotch and tan spot, and moderately tolerant to wheat streak mosaic. Fuller is susceptible to Hessian fly, powdery mildew and low pH soils.

**WestBred**

**Smoky Hill** is a hard red winter wheat from WestBred best adapted for Interstate 70 north to I-80 in Nebraska.

The variety has good leaf-rust and stripe-rust resistance and resists most soilborne diseases. It shows moderate resistance to leaf blight, tan spot and stem rust. It is susceptible to Hessian fly and moderately susceptible to wheat streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf. Smoky Hill matures late, has very good winter hardiness and straw strength, and has good shatter resistance.

"We're always looking for varieties that don't mature at the same time. Smoky Hill's pedigree doesn't include Jagger and is three to five days later than Jagger," says Brett Myers, marketing manager for WestBred. "Combine that with the plant health package and winter hardiness, and this will be very good for I-70 north."

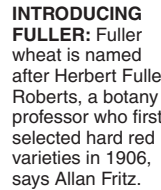
Limited quantities of WestBred's **Shocker** variety will be available this fall. An early-maturing hard red wheat best suited for west of Highway 81 and south of I-70, Shocker has shown excellent yield potential in plots the past two years. "We've seen astronomical yields, especially in high management areas," Myers says.

Shocker is resistant to soilborne mosaic, leaf rust and stripe rust, and shows moderate resistance to leaf blight, tan spot and stem rust. The variety is susceptible to Hessian fly and moderately susceptible to barley yellow dwarf and wheat streak mosaic.

Shocker has very good grazing po-



**POSTROCK PROUD:** AgriPro wheat breeder Rollie Sears says the Postrock variety fits well throughout north-central Kansas.



**INTRODUCING FULLER:** Fuller wheat is named after Herbert Fuller Roberts, a botany professor who first selected hard red varieties in 1906, says Allan Fritz.



**TRIUMPHANT TRIO:** WestBred wheat breeder Sid Perry has developed three varieties for this fall: Shocker, Smoky Hill and Aspen.

tential and breaks dormancy early. Very limited quantities of WestBred's **Aspen** will be available this fall. A hard white wheat variety, Aspen features resistance to stripe rust, although it is only moderately resistant to leaf rust. Sprouting tolerance is excellent.

"Early results from Ulysses this harvest indicate Aspen made 109 bushels an acre; that's 10 bushels better than other white wheat varieties," Myers says.

WestBred varieties are available through Agseco dealers.

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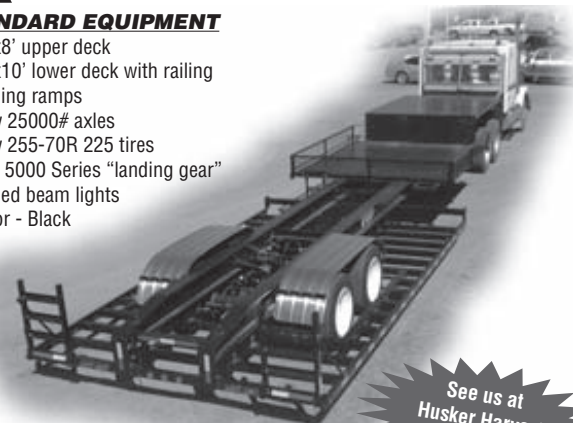


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