

January 7, 2008

News Release

U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative Appoints New Co-Chair

The U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) has announced the selection of Art Brandli as its new co-chairman. Brandli succeeds Barnesville, Minn., farmer Tom Anderson, who died this past July. Anderson had served as USWBSI Co-Chair since the Initiative's inception in 1997.

Brandli, a third-generation farmer from the northern Minnesota community of Warroad, served four years in the U.S. Navy. Following his discharge, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota, where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in business administration.

In 1973 Brandli and his wife, Nancy, returned to the Warroad area and began farming. Wheat has been their primary crop, but they've also grown barley, sunflower, canola, soybeans and grass seed on their 2,200-acre farm. At one time, the Brandlis also operated a 130-head cow/calf herd.

The Brandlis recently sold their Roseau County farming operation. Since then, Art has directed a transition of the farm from production agriculture to forest and wildlife production for its new owner.

Brandli has served on several local and statewide boards during the past 35 years, including the Warroad school board, a state rural education board, a university advisory board and a statewide farm marketing cooperative board. His involvement on wheat boards dates back to his election 13 years ago to the

Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council, of which he is a past chairman and current member. That work led to his serving on the boards of U.S. Wheat Associates and national Wheat Foods Council, which he also chaired.

Brandli was selected as co-chair by the USWBSI's Steering Committee following this this past December's National Fusarium Head Blight Forum held in Kansas City. His fellow co-chair is University of Kentucky wheat breeder Dave Van Sanford.

"I'm extremely impressed with the Scab Initiative program and all its research projects," the new USWBSI co-chair observes. "My goal is to be a communications conduit not only to and from growers, but also between researchers and industry."

Brandli emphasizes the critical importance of an integrated approach to resolving the scab-related problems impacting the nation's wheat and barley industries. "We need to hit scab with every piece of ammunition we have — from fungicides, to improved varieties, to biotechnology," he states.

"I like to see results, and I'm anxious that we come to conclusions on some of these projects, generating results that can go back and benefit the producers."

For More Information: Sue Canty, USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office

Phone: 517-355-0271, Ext. 1183

E-Mail: scabusa@scabusa.org