



# Adding Value: Ancient and Heritage Grains

Elizabeth Dyck, OGRIN June Russell, GrowNYC

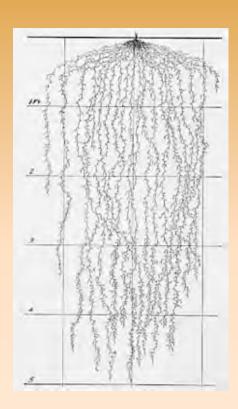
NOFA-CT 2014

# Value-Added Grains for Local and Regional Food Systems Project

 Funded by Organic Research and Education Initiative (OREI)

- Goal: To increase food-grade small grain production through
  - a focus on potentially high-value crops
  - adding value through processing

## Why the focus on small grains?



Rye roots Weaver, Root Development Of Field Crops, 1926



## How do you add value to grains?

- Selling as locally or regionally produced grain
- Growing organically
- Growing specialty crops that have high market potential—e.g., heritage varieties, ancient grains
- Package or process grains on or off farm:
   e.g., mill, bake, make pasta, crackers,
   breakfast cereal, beer, distilled liquor

# Value-Added Grains for Local and Regional Food Systems Project <u>Team</u>

- Universities
  - Cornell
  - North Dakota
  - Penn State
  - Oregon State
- GrowNYC-Greenmarket

- Farmer organizations
  - NOFA-NY. Northeast
     Organic Farming Association
  - PASA. Pennsylvania
     Association of Sustainable
     Agriculture
  - NPSAS. Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society
- OGRIN. Organic Growers' Research and Information-Sharing Network

# Value-Added Grains for Local and Regional Food Systems Project <u>Team</u>

- Special thanks for help with this presentation to
  - Steve Zwinger, NDSU, Carrington Center
  - Frank Kutka, NPSAS
  - Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin
  - Greg Roth, Penn State
  - Mike Davis, David Benscher, Lisa Kucek, Cornell University
  - Joel Steigman, Small Valley Milling
  - Robert Perry, NOFA-NY
  - Rachel Lodder (photographs)

### **Ancient Grains: What are they?**

#### All hulled, all have both spring and winter types

- Einkorn:
  - Triticum monococcum
  - Domesticated ~10,000 years ago
- Emmer:
  - Triticum turgidum ssp. Dicoccon (same species as durum wheat)
  - Domesticated ~10,000 years ago
- Spelt:
  - Triticum aestivum ssp. Spelta (same species as common wheat)
  - Domesticated ? (in dispute)

### Agronomic reasons to grow ancient grains

- Sources of genetic diversity—e.g., emmer a source for wheat disease resistance traits
- Low input requirements
- More tolerant to environmental stress, e.g., cold, wet soils, drought



Accession 168805 (winter) from Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN), reportedly collected in Kansas in 1948





Accession 168674 Black Velvet
Emmer from Germplasm Resources
Information Network (GRIN),
collected from Germany





Black emmer –15 pounds planted to an acre. Henry Beiler Farm, PA

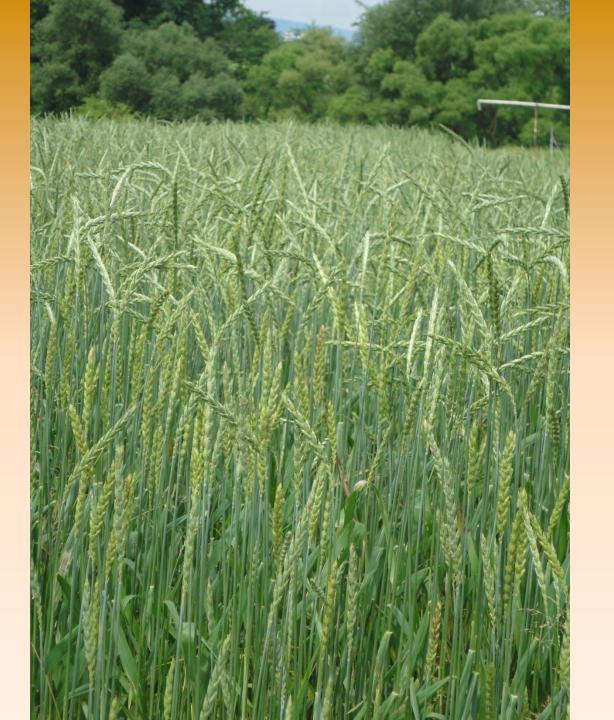




North Dakota Common spring emmer, grown at Oechsner Farms, Newfield NY



Lucille emmer (spring), selection by G.F. Stallknecht, grown by Joel Steigman, Small Valley Milling, PA



Oberkulmer spelt (winter), grown at Henry Beiler farm, PA

## What are heritage wheat varieties?

#### Breeders

 Varieties that existed or were developed before the use of dwarfing genes by breeders, roughly pre-1950s.

#### Consumers

 Pre WWII varieties (as in heirloom vegetable varieties); the older the variety, often the more "cachet."



Kit Kelley, White Frost Farm, PA, with bundles of fall-planted Red Fife







Rouge de Bordeaux, French Heritage wheat, one of a collection donated by French organic growers to US organic growers

# Einkorn nutritional characteristics (summary by Frank Kutka)

- Higher lipid content than bread wheat (4.2 vs. 2.8 g/100g)
- Usually high in minerals although low in cadmium
- Lower in total phenols
- Usually higher in protein, Vitamin E, and lutein
  - Lutein: a carotenoid associated with reduced incidence of degenerative chronic diseases
- Contains gluten: not safe for those with celiac disease

# Emmer nutritional characteristics (summary by Frank Kutka)

- Usually has higher minerals, higher fiber, and lower glycemic index than common wheat. (Recommended for diabetics in India.)
- Often has higher antioxidants (total phenolics and flavonoids) and protein.
- Not high in carotenoids.
- Often has higher phytic acid concentration.
- Contains gluten: not safe for those with celiac disease

### Spelt nutritional characteristics

- Higher lipid and unsaturated fatty acid content
- Some minerals tend to be higher in spelt: Cu, Fe, Zn, Mg, P, especially in the bran.
- Spelt has less phytic acid
- Spelt cultivars highly variable in terms of protein content and gluten quality
- Spelt gluten more extensible and less elastic
- Contains gluten: not safe for those with celiac disease

# Nutritional characteristics of heritage wheat

- Heritage soft white wheats: higher in Cu, Mg, Mn, P, Se, Zn than modern counterparts
  - K. Murphy et al., 2008
- Grain of salt needed: Better digestibility reported by some consumers may not be a function of age of variety—e.g., could be baking method

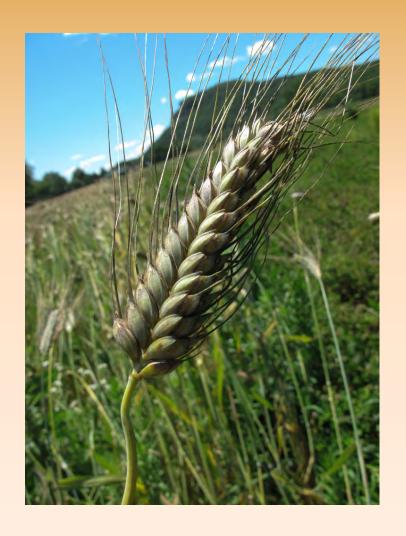
**Celiac disease** is *not* a food allergy or intolerance: it is an auto-immune disease that is triggered by the omega 5 gliadin proteins found in cereals including wheat (spelt is a type of wheat), barley and rye. Some celiac sufferers also cannot eat oats. In common with other auto-immune diseases (including rheumatoid arthritis) this causes the body to attack itself. In the case of celiac disease, the immune system produces antibodies that attack the lining of the digestive system, sometimes resulting in perforation of the stomach or intestines. The Celiac Society estimates that the disease affects around 1 in 100 people in Britain.

**An allergy** is a condition that causes the body mistakenly to recognize a substance —such as gluten - as toxic and produce histamine in defense. The body then reacts to the histamine in any number of ways, including rashes and breathing difficulty. At an extreme level, a person's histamine response is so great it causes the body to go into anaphylactic shock, which in a minority of cases may even result in death.

A food intolerance is a sensitivity that can't be diagnosed by a standard allergy test. The causes are various, including the body not producing an enzyme that is necessary for breaking down a certain foodstuff or part of one; a toxic compound in the food; a pharmacologically active compound (e.g. caffeine) to which some people are sensitive; or interaction with compounds in the food and drugs that a person is on. Symptoms of an intolerance could include uncomfortable indigestion and/or excessive gas production, leading to a bloated feeling.

## Einkorn

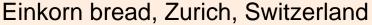
- Einkorn, the "mother wheat."
- There is a lot of interest in einkorn, as many people who have sensitivity to gluten are reporting that they are able to digest einkorn although no conclusive studies have been performed.



### Einkorn

- Rich in Lutein
- High in Thiamin
- High in essential dietary minerals
- Good source of B vitamins
- It has excellent flavor!



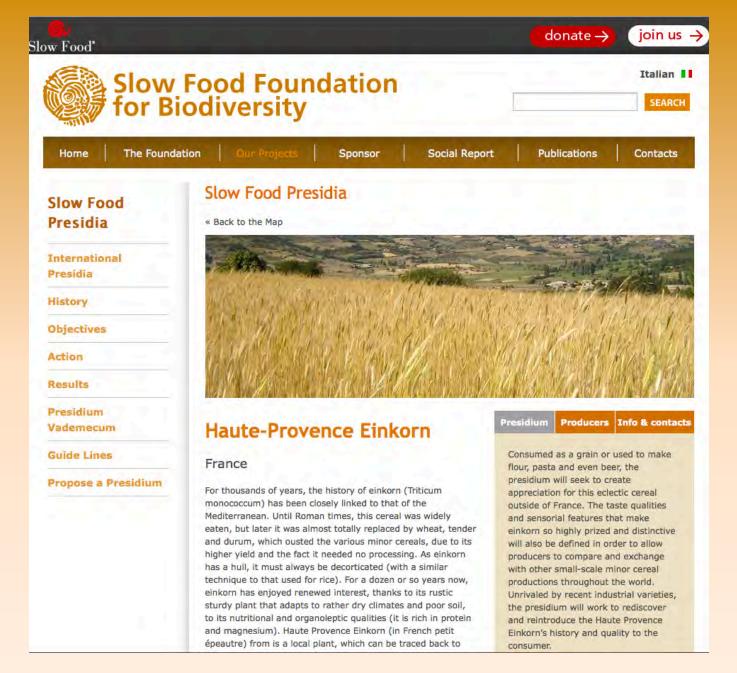












Slow Food Presidia for Einkorn in Provence, France





#### Einkorn

Einkorn is very different from all other varieties of wheat. It was the first species of wheat grown by man more than 12,000 years ago. Now considered a relic crop, it has practically been forgotten because its yield is low in the fields and its type of gluten makes bread-baking a challenge.

We were determined to find the purest form of wheat to use in Jovial™ products. Our journey for purity led us farther and farther back in time, all the way to the origins of agriculture. We overcame numerous difficulties of locating, replenishing and harvesting Einkorn to once again bring this gift of nature back to life. We feel confident about the exceptional quality of Einkorn-pure, nutritious and surprisingly delicious.

We encourage you to read on and discover how amazing Einkorn really is.

Powerful free radical scavenger Never hybridized
Genetically purest wheat
High in Thiamin Rich in Lutein

High in Trace Minerals

Good source of Fiber

Delicious Good source of Protein
Good source of B Vitamins

Jovial Foods, a grains retailer, provides information, recipes and news about Einkorn and Einkorn products

## Emmer

- Emmer is often (mis)labeled as farro, Italian farro or spelt.
- Among others who caution against the impostors is Faith Willinger, an American who lives in Italy and researched farro while writing her book, "Red. White and Greens," (HarperCollins, 1996). She discovered that the proper English definition of true farro is not spelt, but emmer, a word that is rarely used but is nonetheless correct. "Even Italians are confused," Ms. Willinger said in a recent telephone conversation from Florence. From: New York Times 1997 Farro, Italy's Rustic Staple: The Little Grain That Could

B. P. L-683.

#### WINTER EMMER.

#### USE OF INCORRECT NAMES FOR EMMER.

It is again necessary to protest strongly against the use of incorrect names for emmer, as writers who are supposed to be well informed still persist in using them. The most common word thus wrongly used is "speltz," which does not even exist as a legitimate word in any language. What is meant is the German word "spelz," which is spelled differently and which is translated "spelt" in English. True spelt, however, differs as much from emmer as pears differ from apples. The difference between emmer and spelt is shown in the accompanying illustrations (figs. 1, 2, and 3). The third specimen (c) in figure 1 is Black Winter emmer.

USDA Brochure, 1911

# Farro confusion "Farro" is not necessarily emmer

- Emmer may be called farro, but "farro" is not always emmer.
- "Farro" is a grain with a hull that is not free threshing. All of the "ancient" wheats are "farro" and could be spelt, einkorn or emmer. le. Einkorn is called "Farro Piccolo."
- We are trying to make a concerted effort to market emmer as "emmer," or at the least as "emmer (farro)."
- Emmer is a precursor to durum wheat and has been described as "Hearty and Robust," with a flavor once described as "more elegant than earnest."
- Emmer is great as a whole grain and when ground into flour, can be made into pasta and bread.
- There is a big potential market for emmer pasta.







Emmer bread is delicious, it tends to be more dense, as it has a lower gluten content than wheat.





Cayuga Pure Organic's Emmer, in Bon Appetite magazine.



#### Greenmarket Recipe Series

#### LUCCAN EMMER (FARRO) SOUP

Recipe adapted from Diner's Journal blog by Mark Bittman

Servings: 4

#### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

"I large onion, sliced

"2 celery stalks, trimmed and chopped

\*2 carrots, peeled and dropped

Salt and pepper

'1 tablespoonminced garlic

"1 cup emmer (farro) or barley

"1 cup dried white beans, soaked for several hours or overnight

\*2 cups chopped tomatoes (canned are fine; do not drain)

\*6 cups stock or water, more as necessary

\*1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

\*1/4 cup chopped fresh basil, optional

Freshly grated Pannesan

#### Instructions:

- Put oil in a large, deep saucepan over medium heat; a minute later add onion, celery, carrots, a large pinch of salt and some pepper. Cook until vegetables are glossy and onion is softened, 5 to 10 minutes. Add garlic, and stir; add emmer, beans, tomatoes and stock, and stir.
- 2. Bring to a boil, then adjust heat so mixture simmers steadily. Cook until emmer and beans are tender, at least an hour, adding stock or water as necessary if mixture becomes too thick. Stir in parsley and basil (if using) then cook another 5 m inutes. Taste and adjust seasoning, then serve with lots of Parmesan.



Zuppa di farro, a Classic Tuscan soup, should be renamed Zuppa di Emmer!

for over 30 years GrawNYC's Geenmarket staff, volunteers and farmers have been working together to promote regional agriculture, preserve farmland and ensure a continuing supply of fresh, local produce for all New Yorkes. To learn more about GrowNYC's Geenmarket, grade ning, expuling and education programs, visit www.growNYC.org.

As a non-profit, donations from supporters like you are vital to our continued success, to make a fully lax-deductible contribution, please call 20.763.7900 or make a donation ordine.

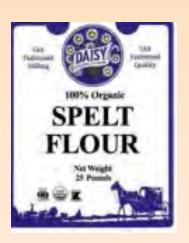
<sup>\*</sup> Ingredients available seasonally at your neighborhood Greenmarket

## Spelt

- Spelt has had a long presence in New York and Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan.
- Available in health food stores & coops for many years.
- Sought out as a healthy alternative to white bread.
- Some people with gluten sensitivity find they can digest spelt.
- Spelt bread is very common.
- Spelt crackers and snacks are available.
- Artisan bakers are now working with spelt.









Roman's, Brooklyn, NY



Prganic Whole Spelt Breed

Bread Alone Bakery, Boiceville, NY

We spelt breads.

Wide Awake Bakery, Trumansburg, NY

# A note about "Ancient Grains" as a marketing term

A survey of products shows that the ancient grains can

include

- Quinoa
- Buckwheat
- Amaranth
  -which are NOT
  true grains, they
  are seeds
  from
  broad leaf plants.







Also Teff, Millet, Sorghum and Kamut

#### Health & Science

The Uncensored True Story: See How Dr. Pimsleur's Click to Watch Discovery Tricks Your Brain to Start Speaking a Language in 10 Days Video Now Pimsleur Approach

Home > Collections

#### Ancient grains can help prevent cancer, heart disease and high blood pressure

By Consumers Union of United States Inc. August 13, 2012



Ads by Google

#### 4 Signs of a Heart Attack

Right Before a Heart Attack Your Body Will Give You These 4 Signs

w3.newsmax.com

Ouiz: What are amaranth, emmer and teff? No, they're not celebrity baby names. Along with millet, quinoa and rye, they're part of a class of food commonly referred to as ancient grains. Although they represent some of the oldest plants consumed by humans, for many Americans they're a new way to eat. While many are true cereal grains, several, such as amaranth, buckwheat and quinoa, actually originate from broadleaf plants. But they offer the same health benefits, such as helping to prevent cancer, heart disease and high blood pressure. And when eaten as a whole grain, most are high in fiber. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's dietary guidelines, at least half of all grains eaten each day should be whole (that is, intact, ground, cracked or flaked). Most of us limit our grains to barley, corn, oats, rice and wheat, but you can add variety to your diet by including some ancient grains. And doing so could make it easier to eat the recommended three ounces of whole grains daily. Additionally, several varieties are sources of high-quality protein. Here are eight of the more widely



### Einkorn, Emmer and Spelt

- Are truly Ancient Grains
- Are NOT gluten free
- They DO have lower gluten than wheat
- Many people with gluten sensitivity ARE able to eat these grains, with out digestive difficulties
- They DO have high protein content and many other nutritional benefits
- They are versatile as whole grains, and as flour
- They have great flavor!

# Several projects focused on growing Heritage Wheat

- Value-added grains for local and regional food systems(OGRIN, Cornell, NPSAS, NOFA, GrowNYC, NDSU, PASA, Penn St.)
- Slow Food Arc of Taste -Red Fife
- Native Seed Search White Sonora
- Thom Leonard –Red Turkey
- Daisy Flour Heritage Variety Trials at Rodale Institute.
- Heritage Grain Conservancy
- University of Vermont
- Maine Grains





has a yellow outer crust and smells of

wheat and herbs. It has a strong,

slightly acidic taste, with hints of

accidental hybrid. The red fife (the name may refer to the

Kingdom of Fife) is robust and resistant to disease. It is bright

red when mature and has a higher yield than any other variety

of wheat ever grown in Canada What's more it tastes good

# Several reasons consumers are seeking out the Ancient Grains & Heritage Wheat

- Consumers are interested in:
  - nutritional value
  - impact on digestion & health
  - flavor
  - dollar value
- Consumers will pay more for items they believe have higher value.
- I.E. the market for gluten free, organic & nutrient dense foods is growing rapidly!

"It's our job as bakers to make it count by making it good. As farmers across the country continue to plant different varieties of grains, we as bakers and consumers will have more choice in the varieties of grain we're able to work with to make bread. In that bio-diversity, there's a world of flavors most of us have yet to taste.



But we will." - Chad Robertson, Tartine



GREENMARKET'S

# GRAINS

Printed for Greenmarket's Grains Week
NOVEMBER 14-21, 2010

#### BUCKWHEAT

Buckwheat is used as a hearty cover crop, which can also be harvested for its grain. Buckwheat contains high quality proteins, which include all the amino acids. The seeds are a good source of lycine, B vitamins, magnesium and other vitamins. The whole groats are often toasted and sold as Kasha. Also called a buckwheat seed, a groat is the whole grain (the buckwheat equivalent to a wheat berry). Buckwheat groats need to be hulled before being cooked whole, although one does not need to hull the groat when grinding it for flour. Buckwheat flour can be used to make pancakes, crepes, biscuits, and soba noodles. It is also gluten-free.

use BARLEY in

Pancakes, Biscuits, Soba Noodles, Cook it whole (Kasha)









#### EMMER (FARRO)

Emmer, termed "farro" in Italy, is an ancient wheat that has been cultivated for over 10,000 years. It is also a very sustainable grain—it grows well without chemical inputs and can better tolerate stressful growing conditions than modern wheat. The emmer grown in New York State comes from Europe by way of North Dakota, where diverse types brought by German immigrants have been grown since the late 19th century. Emmer is known for its distinctive, delicious flavor as a cooked grain. This flavor carries through when it is used to make pasta and flat breads as well.

use BARLEY in

Pasta, Flat breads, Cook it whole







#### CORN

Flint or dent corn is typically used for grinding. (Considered an ancient grain, most people are familiar with flint corn as decorative Indian corn, which you can find at many Greenmarkets and grind yourself). Both flint and dent corn are rock hard inside, store well, contain high amounts of protein, and, while widely used for industrial purposes and animal feed, can also be ground into a variety of products for cooking. Both can be ground very coarse to create polenta, ground finer for grits, even finer for cornmeal, and the finest for corn flour. Freshly ground corn will oxidize and turn rancid and is best used fresh or stored in the freezer. Flint corn is also used to make bourbon.

use CORN in

Polenta, Crits, Bourbon, Cornbread







#### EINKORN

Domesticated in ancient Mesopotamia in the Fertile Crescent, Einkorn is considered to be one of the "ancient" grains. Einkorn is higher in protein, trace minerals and essential amino acids than any other wheat. The grain may be cooked whole or ground into flour for baking. Einkorn is also safe for some gluten sensitivities.

use EINKORN in

Baking, Pancakes, Crackers







# Greenmarket, OGRIN & NOFA-NY conduct consumer tastings to get the word out to bakers, chefs, processors & consumers





PASA Conference, 2012

NOFA-NY Conference, 2012

Through exposure, education and our own marketing and promotional efforts, we have seen tremendous growth in the usage of "local" grain and flour over the past several years in the press, in bakeries throughout NYC and across the country.



2011-New York Magazine touts bakeries using local flour

#### How to grow them: What we know so far

- Management of ancient grains similar to wheat in terms of rotation, planting date, field prep
- Lower planting rate recommended for emmer and einkorn (tiller extensively)
  - Typical planting rate of 100 lb/A; experiments in ND and NY suggest 75-80 lb/A adequate
  - Some farmers have had success with a lower rate for winter einkorn and emmer—60 lb/A or less
- Spelt planting rate: 150 lb/A (in the hull); 120 lb/A (dehulled)
- Avoid excessive fertility—potential for lodging

#### How do ancient grains perform?

- Einkorn: very little data yet
- Spring emmers Lucille and ND Common in project trials (NY, PA over two years):

2000 lb/A (in the hull)

- Spelt considered by farmers to have a yield potential close to wheat:
  - Spring spelts in project trials (NY, PA, ND over two years):

2200 lb/A (in the hull)

Winter spelts in project trials (NY,PA over two years):
 2900 lb/A (in the hull)

#### How do ancient grains perform?

- Farmers report
  - Reduced disease issues
  - Reduced weed pressure in emmer
  - Wider planting window for spring emmer

### The Dehulling Conundrum

Ancient grains require dehulling—which requires specialized equipment

 Large-scale dehullers available, although expensive: \$20,000 and up

For small-scale growers, need options

### **Small-scale dehulling**

- Nigel Tudor, NE SARE farmer project: Has built small-scale dehuller
- Cornell Dept of Ag Engineering—grad students have built low-cost dehuller
- Henry Beiler, farmer: refit an old burr mill with horse mat. Works well with both spelt and emmer
- Project is putting together a mobile dehulling unit with a Forsberg dehuller—PASA/OGRIN/NOFA-NY workshop upcoming this summer; eOrganic webinar in October

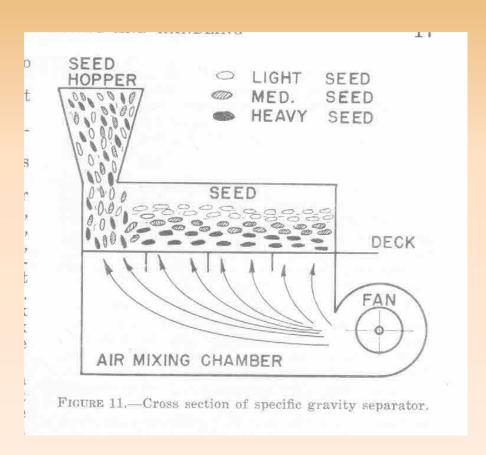




#### Dehulling system needed:

- Aspirator or air column to remove empty hulls
- Sorting mechanism, e.g., gravity table, to sort dehulled from still hulled kernels





## Heritage Wheat Management

- Manage as modern wheat in terms of rotation, field prep, planting date
- Planting rate under study—hypothesis is that a lower planting rate may reduce lodging, increase yield, quality
  - Currently recommend planting at 60-100 lbs/A
- Fertility management under study—hypothesis is that lower fertility may be optimum

# How do heritage wheats perform? Red Fife

- First grown in North America in 1842
- Revived by Canadian Growers
- Famous hard red spring wheat known for good agronomic traits, high protein, good baking quality
- Facultative wheat—in areas of the Northeast may be planted in spring or fall
  - Marquis, daughter of Red Fife, also has this capacity

#### Red Fife cont.

- As a spring wheat in NY/PA area
  - High protein: 13% and above
  - Acceptable falling number (above 300 seconds)
  - Seems to have tolerance to Fusarium
  - Is susceptible to powdery mildew
- Yield potential under study
  - In Kurt Forman's farm trial in Finger Lakes, yielded 36 bu/A as a spring wheat—as well as two modern wheats, Glenn and AC Barrie.

## White Frost Farm (Central PA) 2010 Hard Red Winter Wheat Trial

| Variety      | Yield (bu/A) | Tillers<br>per ft <sup>2</sup> | Tiller<br>height<br>(in) | Protein (%) | Falling<br>Number<br>(seconds) | Vomitoxin<br>(ppm) |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| AC<br>Morley | 41a*         | 56a                            | 37a                      | 10.7c       | 305c                           | 0.0                |
| Warthog      | 43a          | 58a                            | 32a                      | 11.8b       | 385a                           | 0.0                |
| Red Fife     | 31a          | 62a                            | 40a                      | 13.1a       | 342b                           | 0.0                |

<sup>\*</sup>Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly according to Tukey's test.

### Other heritage varieties in our collection

- Clark's Cream—composite of hard whites
- Soft whites
  - Pride of Genesee, Genesee Giant, Yorkwin, Honor
- Soft Reds
  - Fulcaster, Forward
- French Collection
  - 32 varieties

#### Finding Seed: Not easy

- Lakeview Organic Grains (spelt)
- OGRIN buying club (<u>edyck@ogrin.org</u>)
- National Small Grains Collection
- Heritage Seed Conservancy

#### **Ancient and Heritage Wheats**

- Ecologically sound crops: require low inputs, are stress tolerant (ancient grains), increase genetic diversity
- Good market potential: distinctive taste, potential health benefits, enhanced nutrition, multiple uses
- Project is working on best management practices
- Likely lower yielding than modern wheat
- Sourcing seed can be problematic—be a bulker!
- Ancient grains require an additional processing step-dehulling



## OGRIN

#### 2013

GrowNYC, Greenmarket Regional Grains Project

www.grownyc.org/grains-main

OGRIN www.ogrin.org

For more information, contact Elizabeth Dyck <a href="mailto:edyck@ogrin.org">edyck@ogrin.org</a>

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