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## THE WHEAT CONUNDRUM: Producing More with Less under Higher Expectations

Kansas City Ag Business Council, 15 Oct 2009



## World Wheat Supply & Disappearance



Source: USDA/ERS

## Is it Enough?

“We must mobilize US\$30 billion dollars a year in order to double food production so as to feed a world population of nine billion in 2050.”

Jacques Diouf, Director-General, FAO  
Sept. 17, 2008



## What Problem Are We Trying to

Double global food production by 2050 to feed an estimated population of 9 billion people.

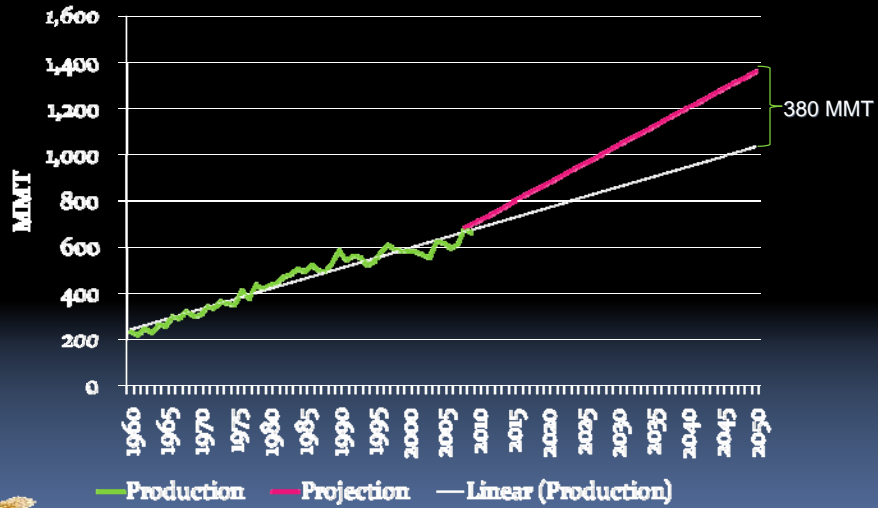
Yield growth in corn is 4X the annual growth in US wheat yields.

Produce more food with less water and fewer acres, meeting society's expectations for sustainability.

Position wheat as an attractive crop the producers will choose to grow – otherwise acres continue to decline.



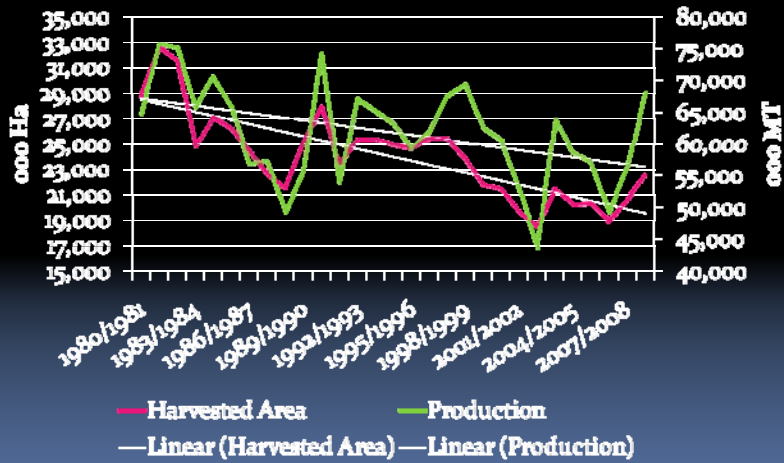
## Can We Double Production by 2050?



Source: USDA/ERS

## US: Declining Area and Production

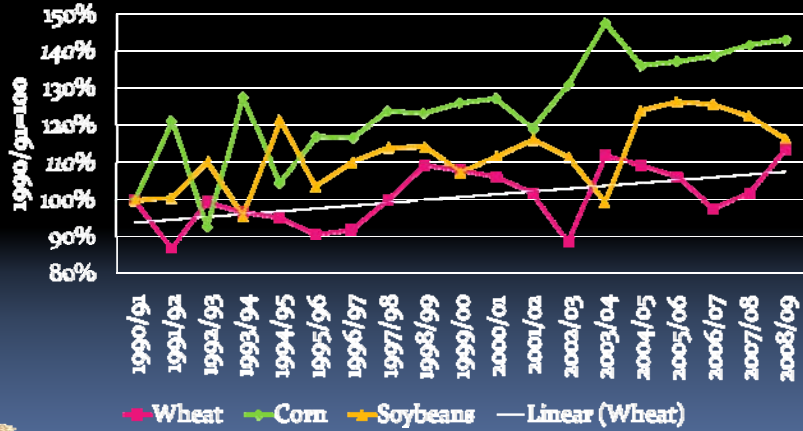
US Wheat Area and Production, 1980-2009



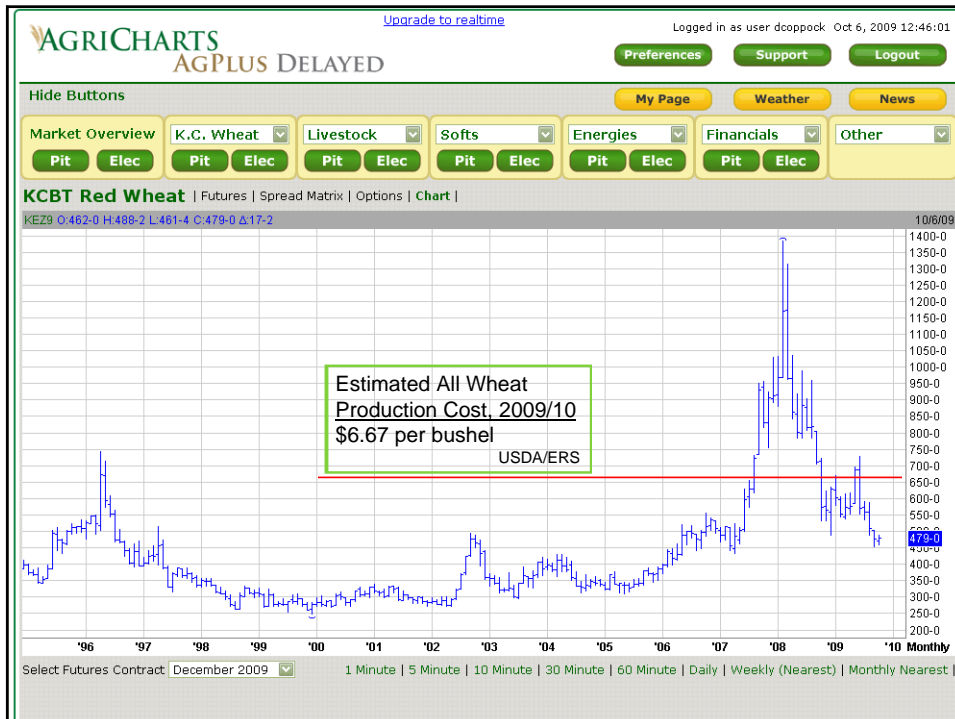
Source: USDA PS&D Tables, 9/10/2009

# U.S.: Slow Yield Growth

## Changes in Yield

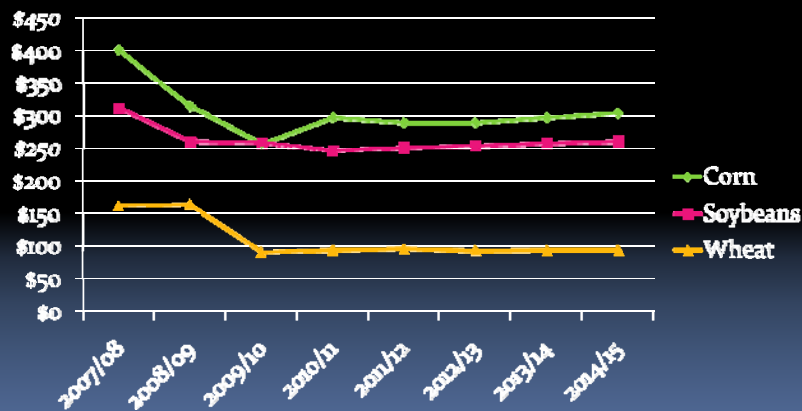


Source: USDA



## Farmers' Profitability Analysis

Net Returns over Variable Expenses per Acre



Source: FAPRI-MU estimates, Report #06-09, August 2009. Income includes commodity programs.  
[http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2009/FAPRI\\_MU\\_Report\\_06\\_09.pdf](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2009/FAPRI_MU_Report_06_09.pdf)

## NAWG Strategic Goal

- 20% yield increase by 2018.
- Biotechnology is not the only component of the strategy, but it will make an important contribution.



Photo credit: North Idaho Dad on Flickr

## Biotech Traits of Interest

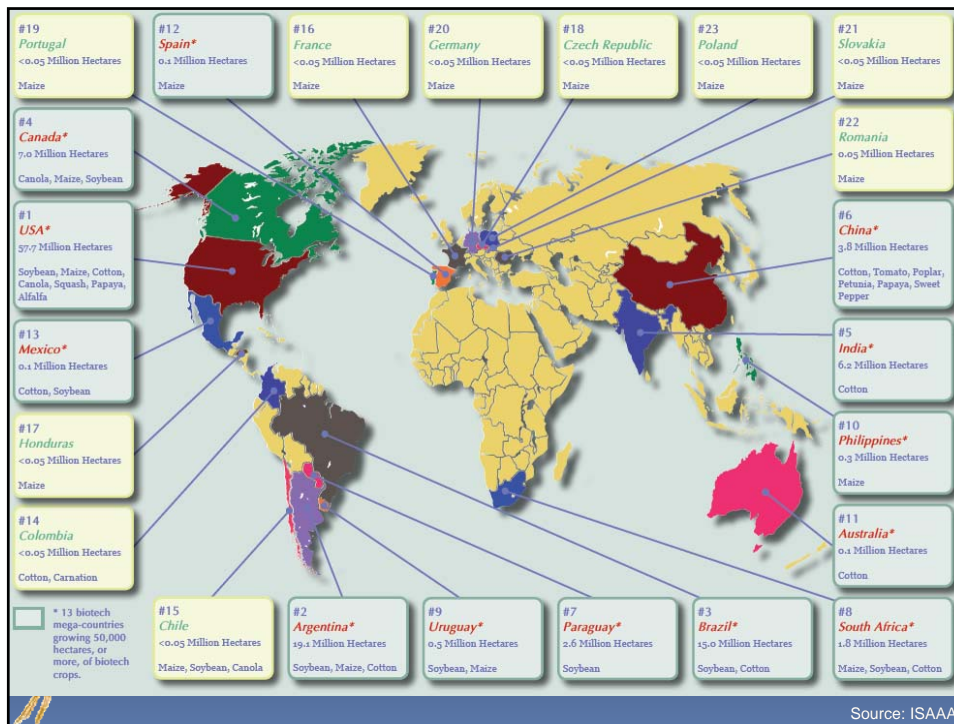
Drought tolerance	Nutritional improvements
Improved Yield	Protein quality and quantity
Disease tolerance, especially fusarium	Baking absorption
Nitrogen use efficiency	Flavor and color improvements
Cold/freeze tolerance	Herbicide tolerance
Tolerance to too much moisture	Sawfly/insect resistance
Resistance to stored grain pests	Make sure that new traits don't have unintended consequences (ie harvesting difficulty, lodging, quality problems, etc.)
Environmental (abiotic) stress tolerance	Traits that don't have to be labeled!



## Market Acceptance

- Principle of Choice
  - Tolerances
- Robust yet Practical regulatory system to demonstrate and ensure safety and effectiveness
- Collaborations with the Value Chain
- Long and solid safety record





## Solving The Wheat Conundrum:

## New Technology to Restore Competitiveness

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