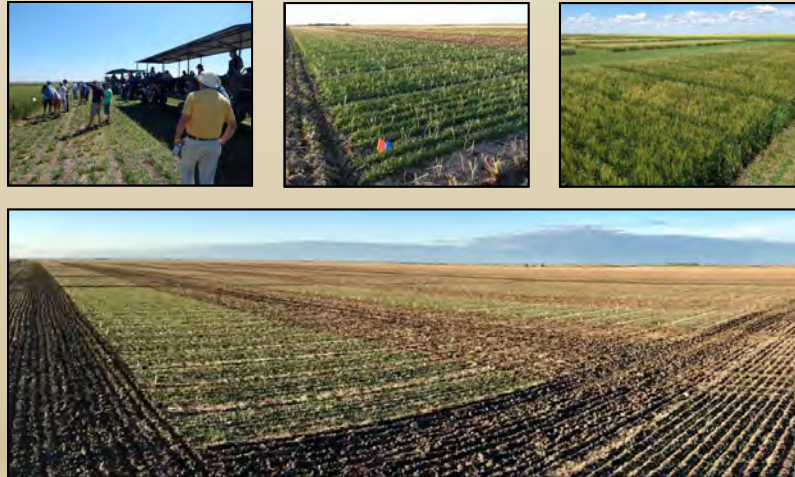


Addressing Wheat Production Challenges with Applied Agronomic Research & Demonstration



Chris Holzapfel, MSc PAg



March 12-13, 2019

SWDC Think Wheat



Major Wheat Production Issues in Southeast Saskatchewan

- Wheat is one of the most economically & rotationally important SK crops but is not without production challenges
- Specific challenges vary with environment (i.e. weather) & across classes but a few broad & important agronomic issues frequently encountered throughout Saskatchewan include:
 1. **Lodging:** Can reduce both yield & harvest efficiency; often influences variety, fertility & seeding rate decisions
 2. **Protein:** Important quality parameter for many classes, largely dictated by weather but also managed through variety selection & nitrogen fertility
 3. **Disease:** Primarily leaf spot & fusarium head blight, greater problem in wet years, potential to reduce both yield & quality, can result in major economic loss or unmarketable grain in severe cases



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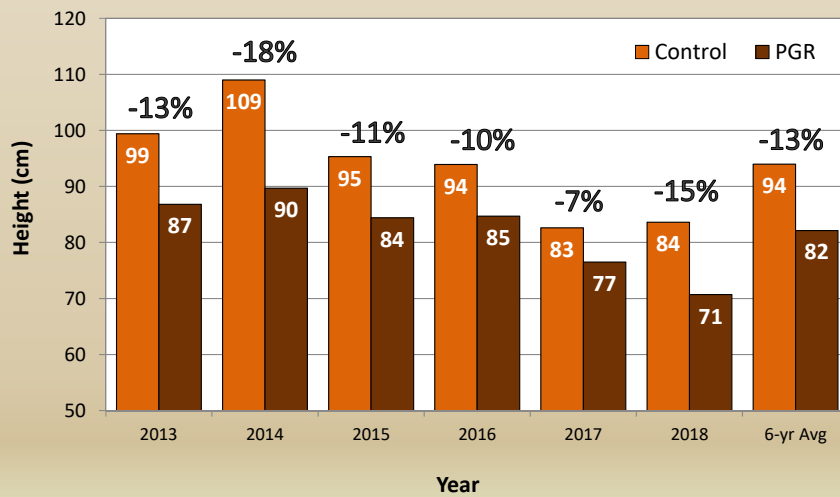
Production Challenge #1: Lodging



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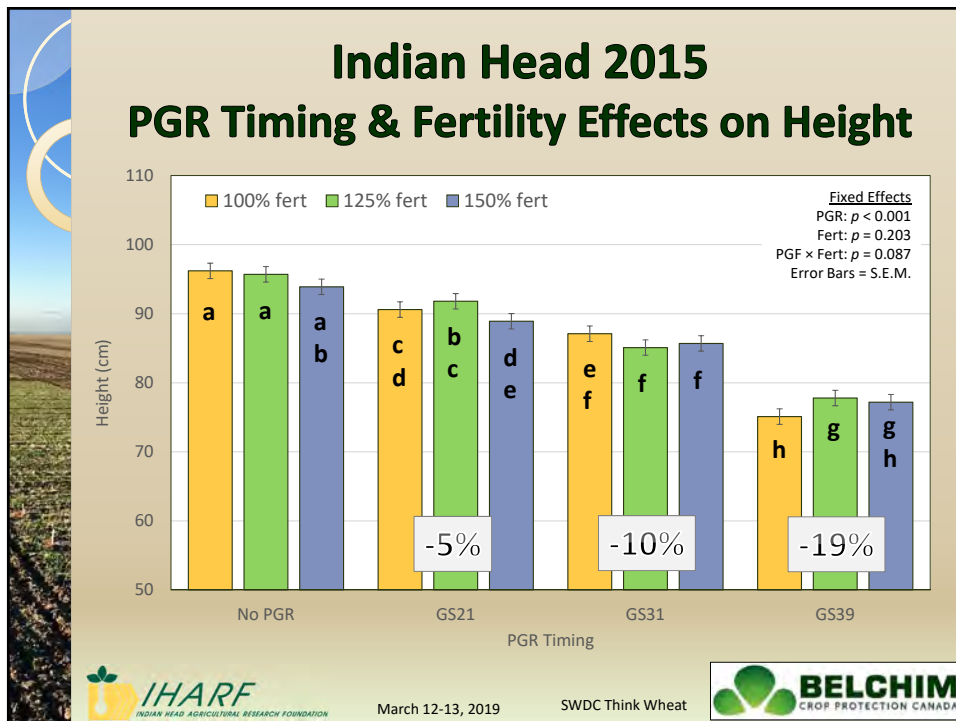
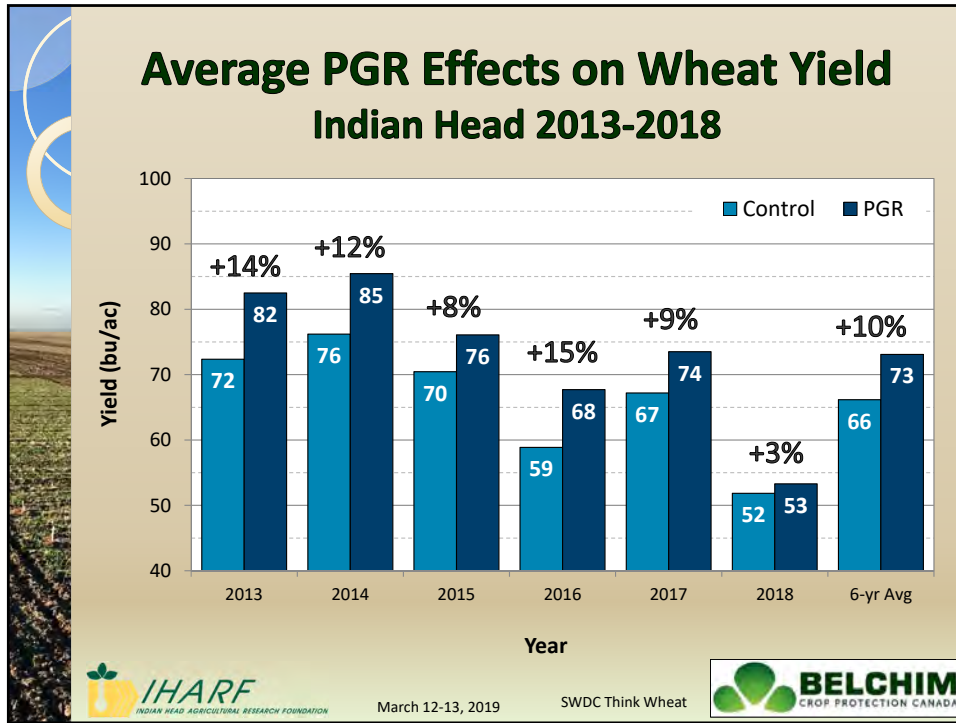
Average PGR Effects on Wheat Height Indian Head 2013-2018

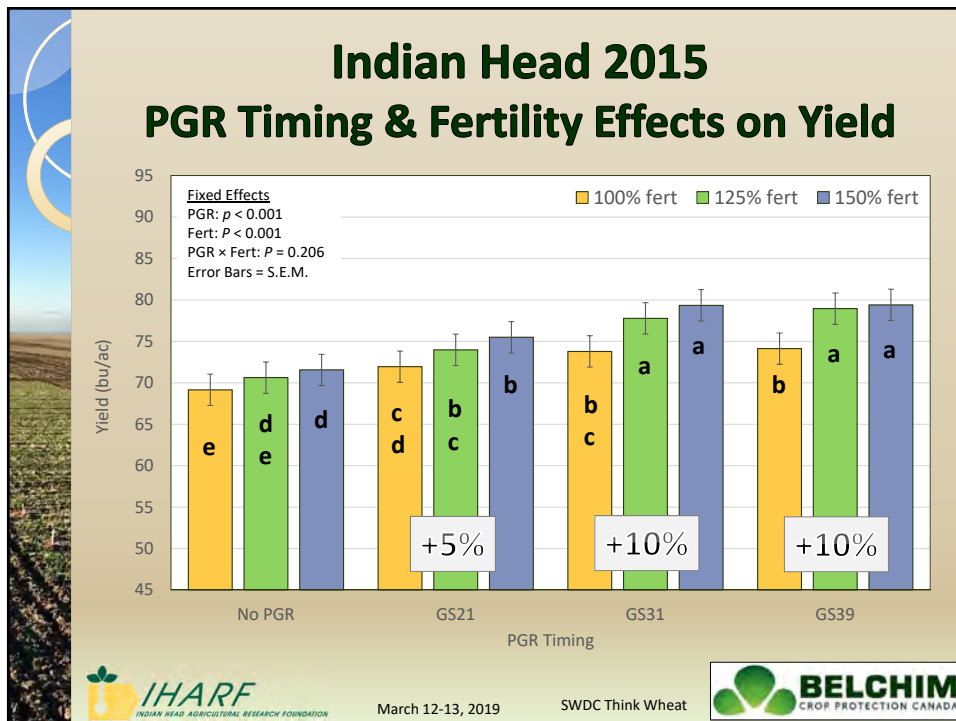
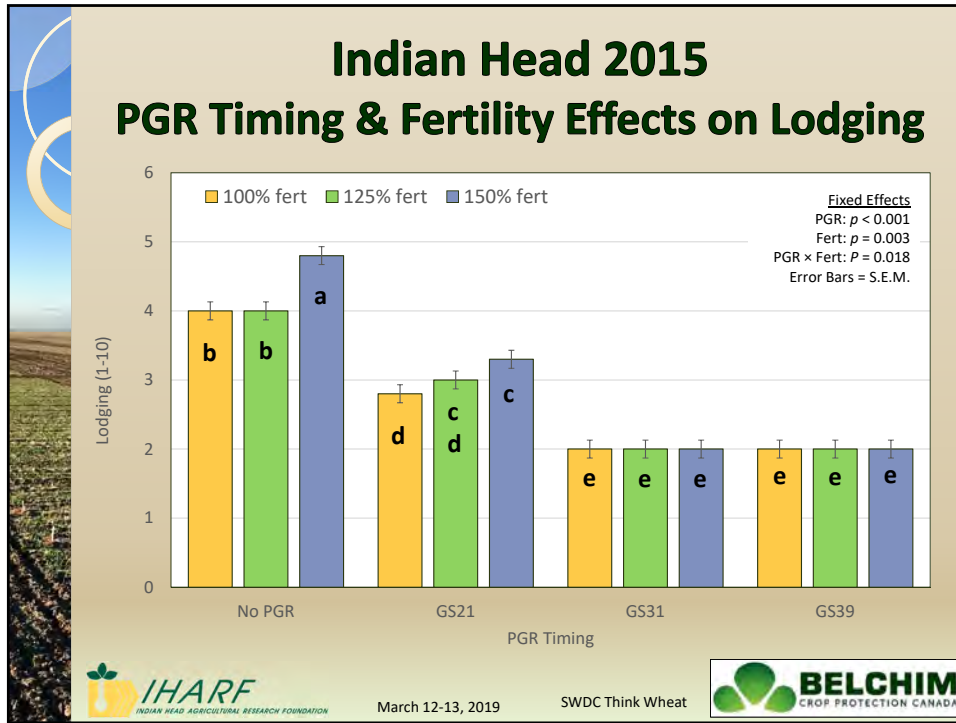


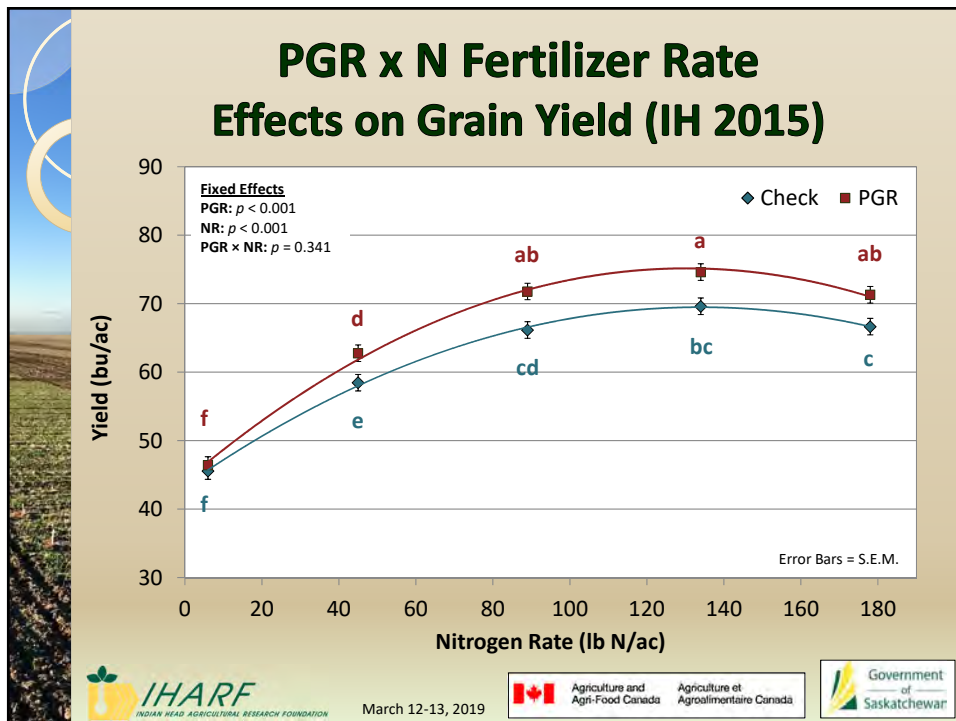
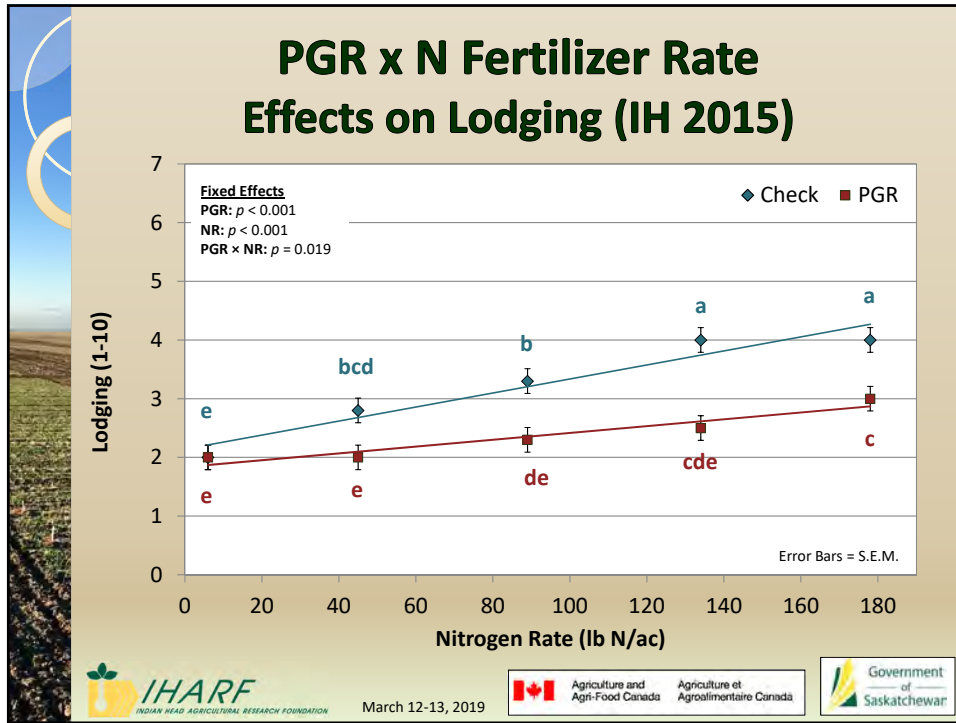
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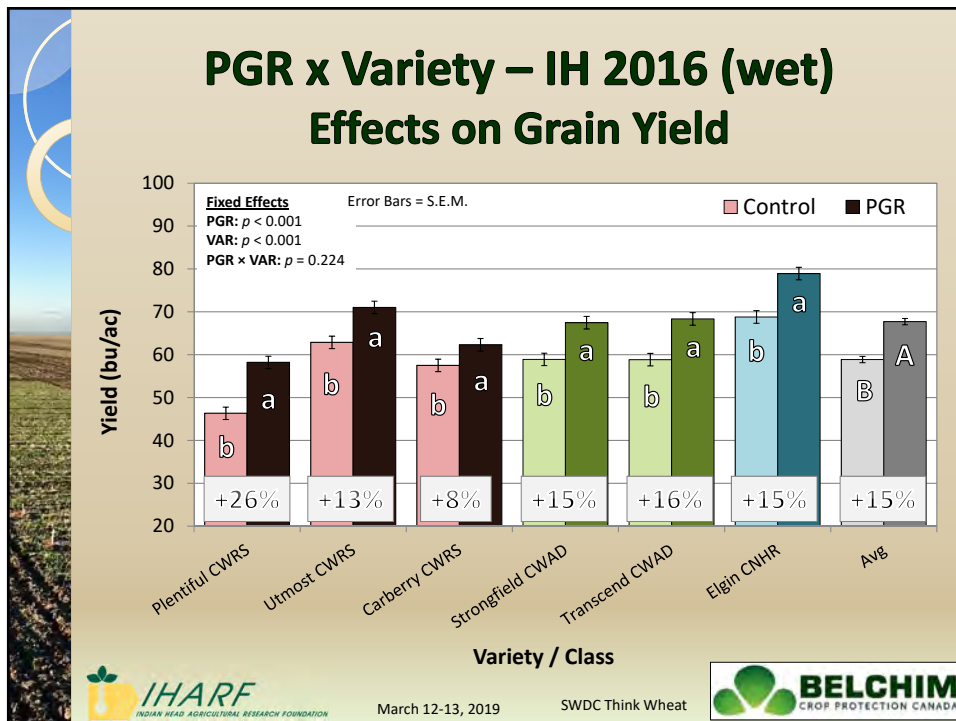
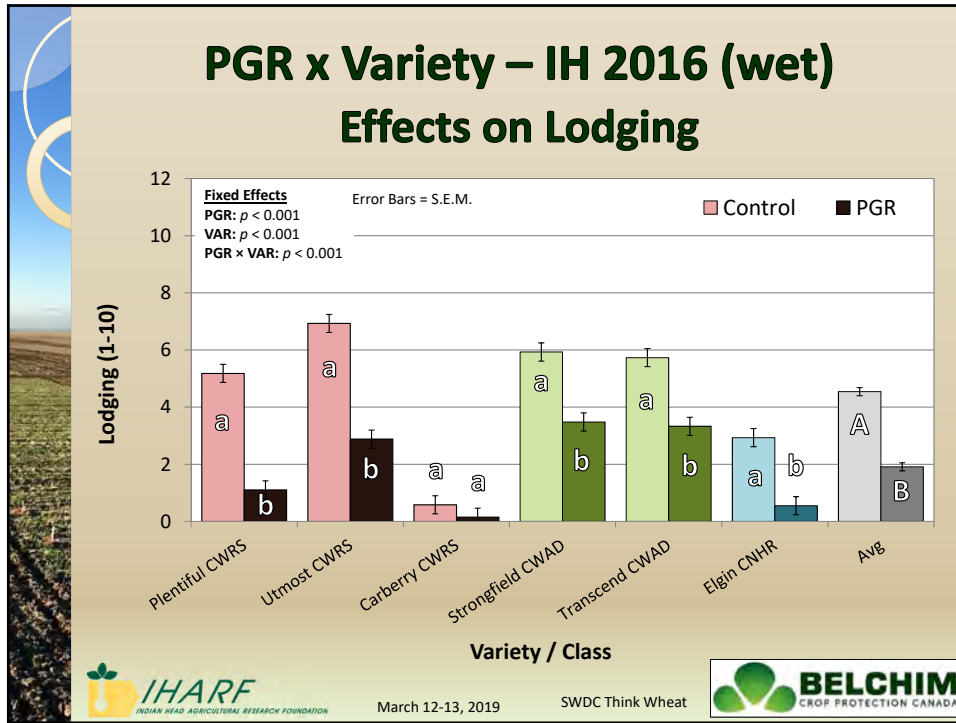
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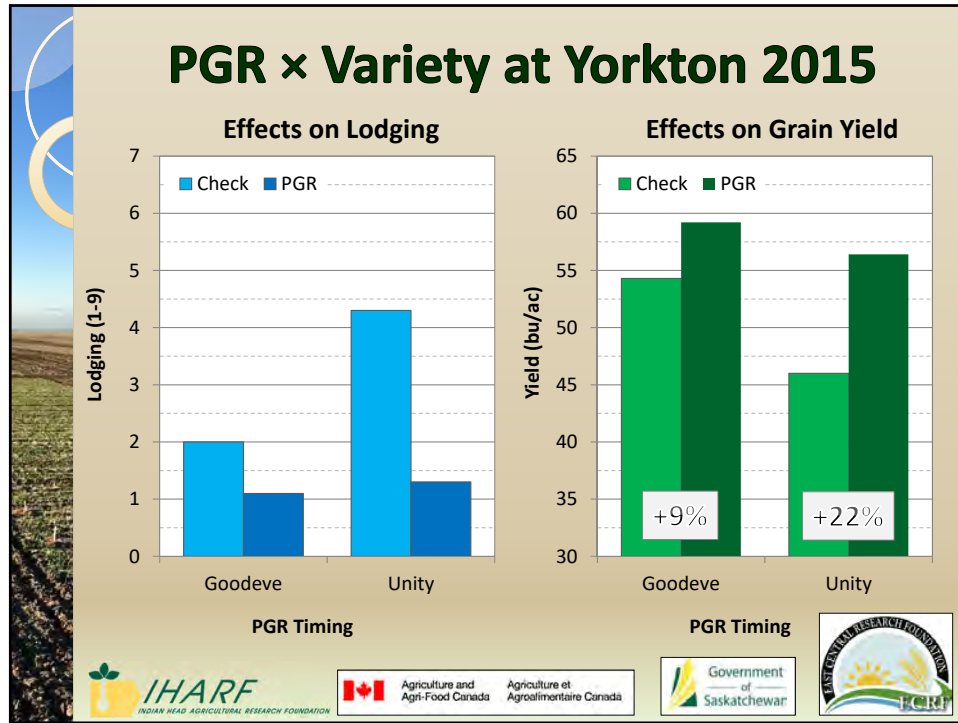












Production Challenge #2: Protein

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4R Nitrogen Management in Wheat Indian Head 2017


Objectives: To demonstrate crop response to varying rates of N along with different forms, timing & placement relative to side-banded, untreated urea

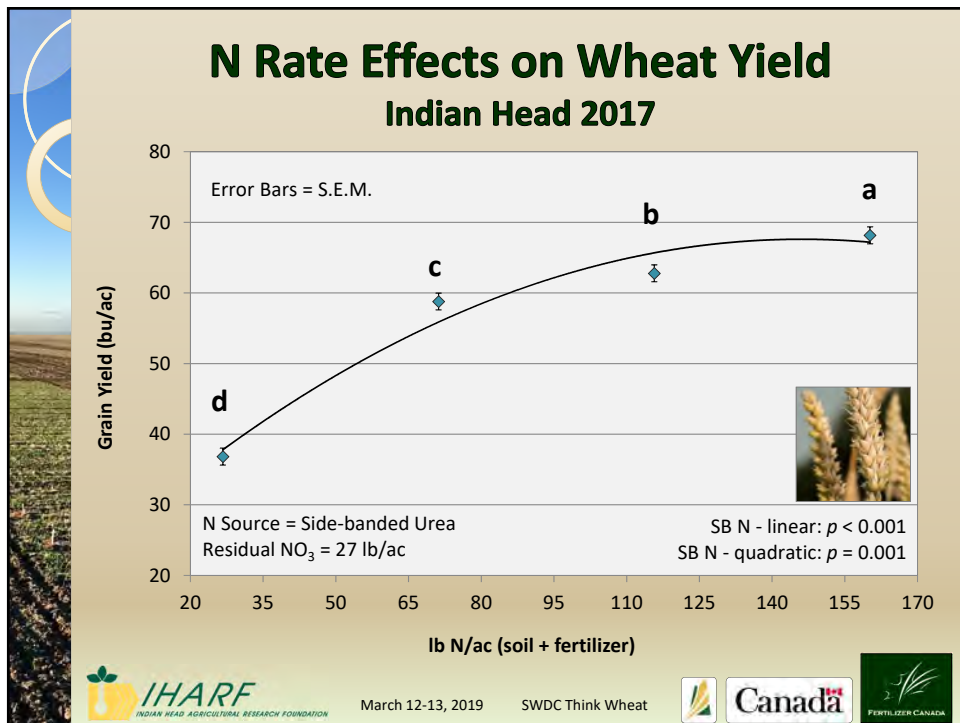
| # | Form | Timing / Placement | Rate * |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2 | Urea (untreated) | Side-band (during seeding) | 0.5x |
| 3 | Urea | Side-band | 1.0x |
| 4 | Urea | Side-band | 1.5x |
| 5 | Urea | Spring surface broadcast (pre-seed) | 1.0x |
| 6 | Urea Ammonium-Nitrate (UAN) | Spring surface dribble-band | 1.0x |
| 7 | Agrotain® (AT) | Spring surface broadcast | 1.0x |
| 8 | SuperUrea® (SU) | Spring surface broadcast | 1.0x |
| 9 | Urea / Urea | 50:50 Split (side-band : in-crop) | 1.0x |
| 10 | Urea / UAN | 50:50 Split | 1.0x |
| 11 | Urea / Agrotain® | 50:50 Split | 1.0x |
| 12 | Urea / SuperUrea® | 50:50 Split | 1.0x |

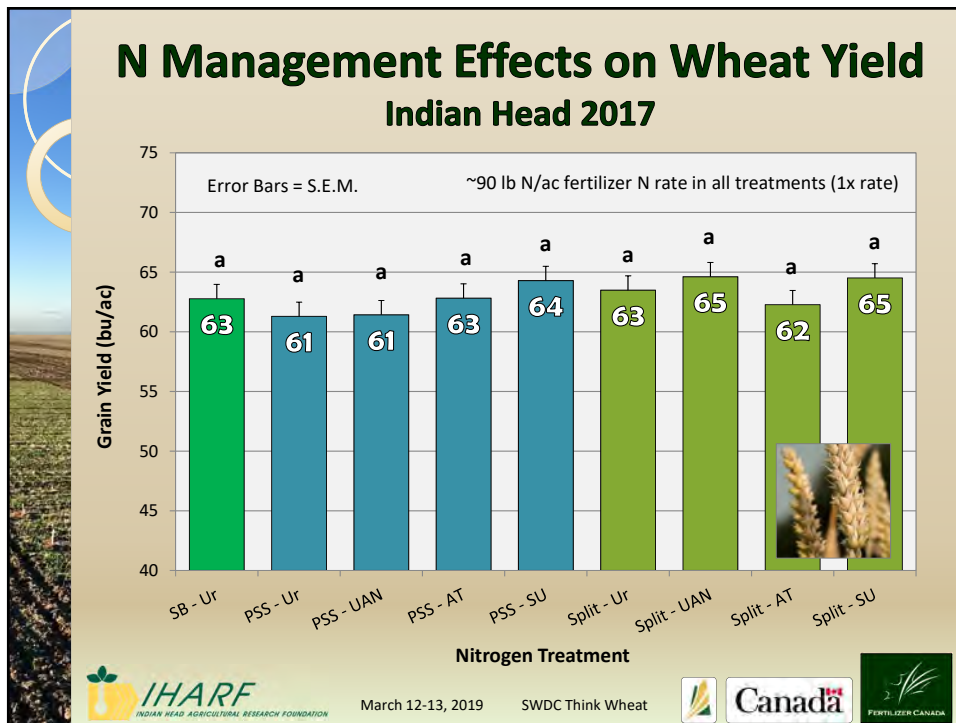
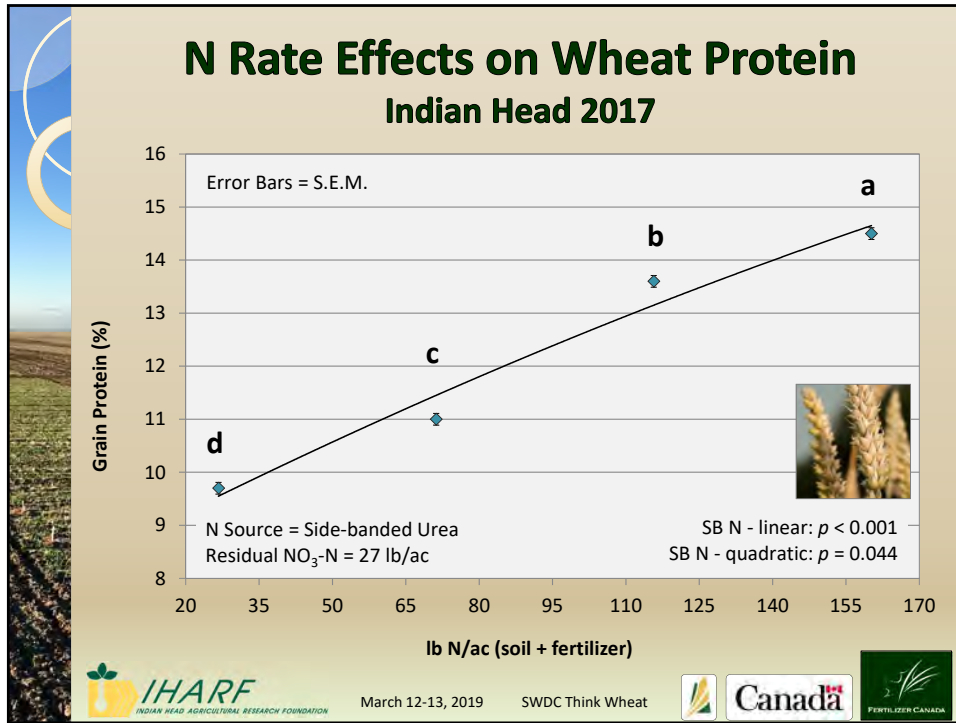
* 1x = 116lb N/ac (soil + fertilizer)

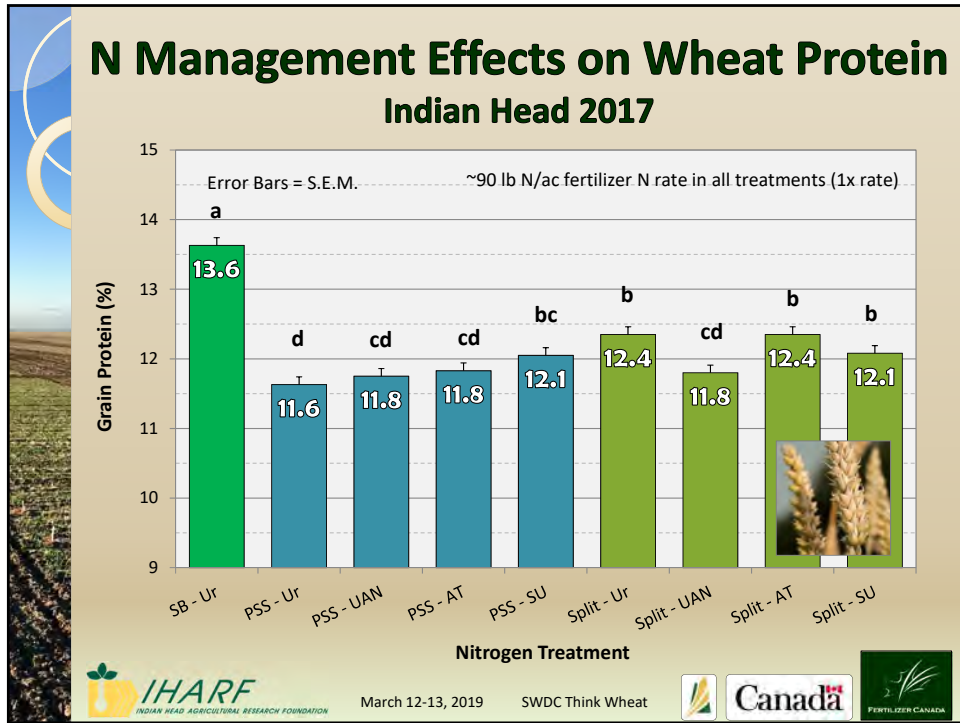


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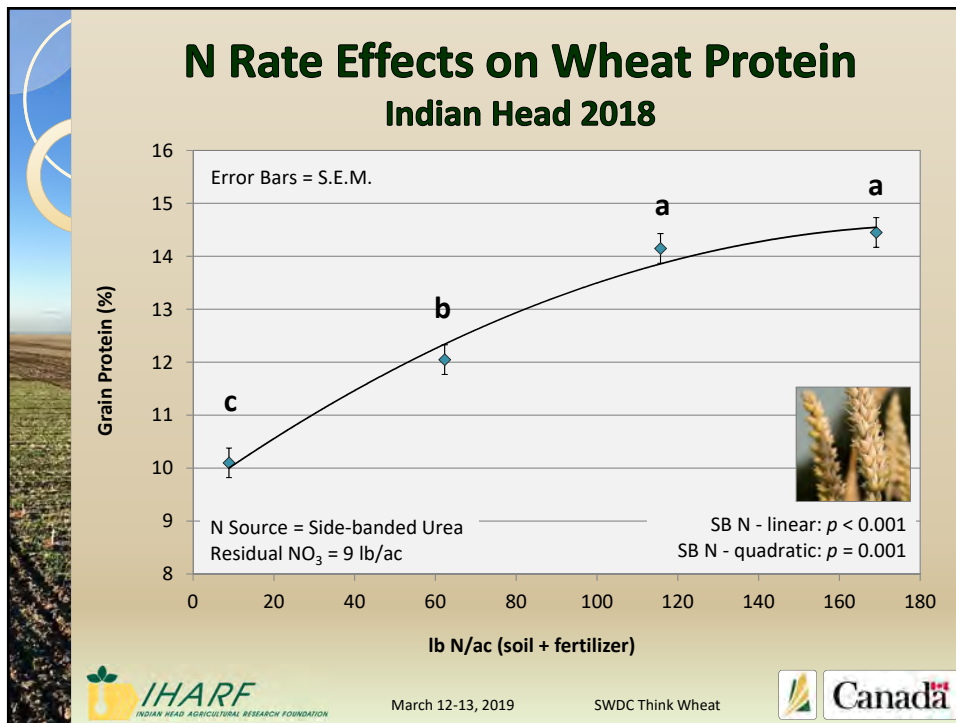
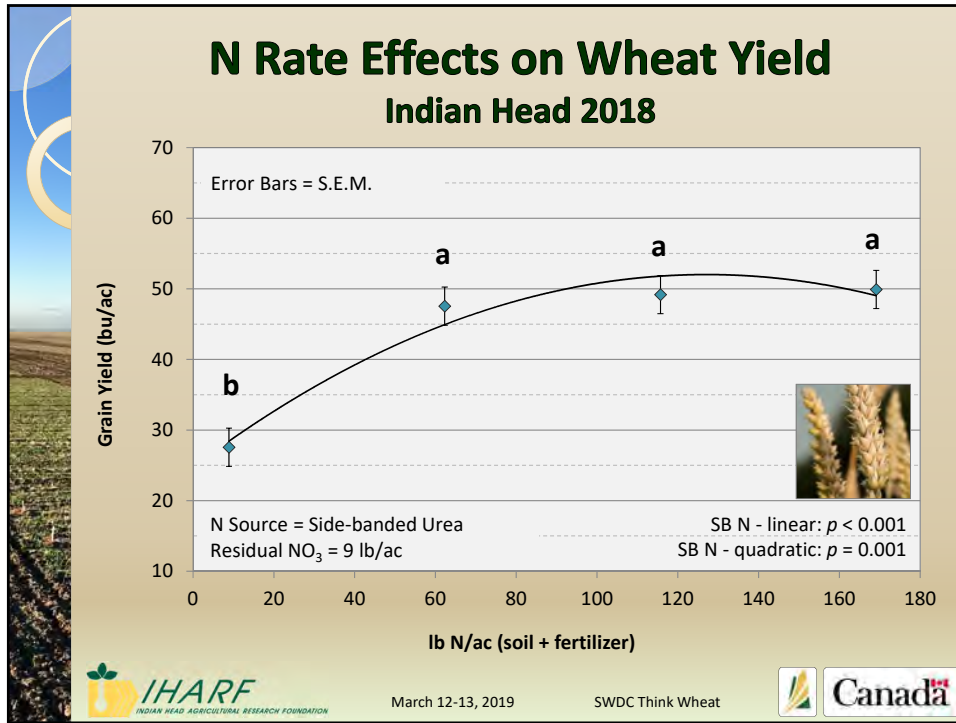


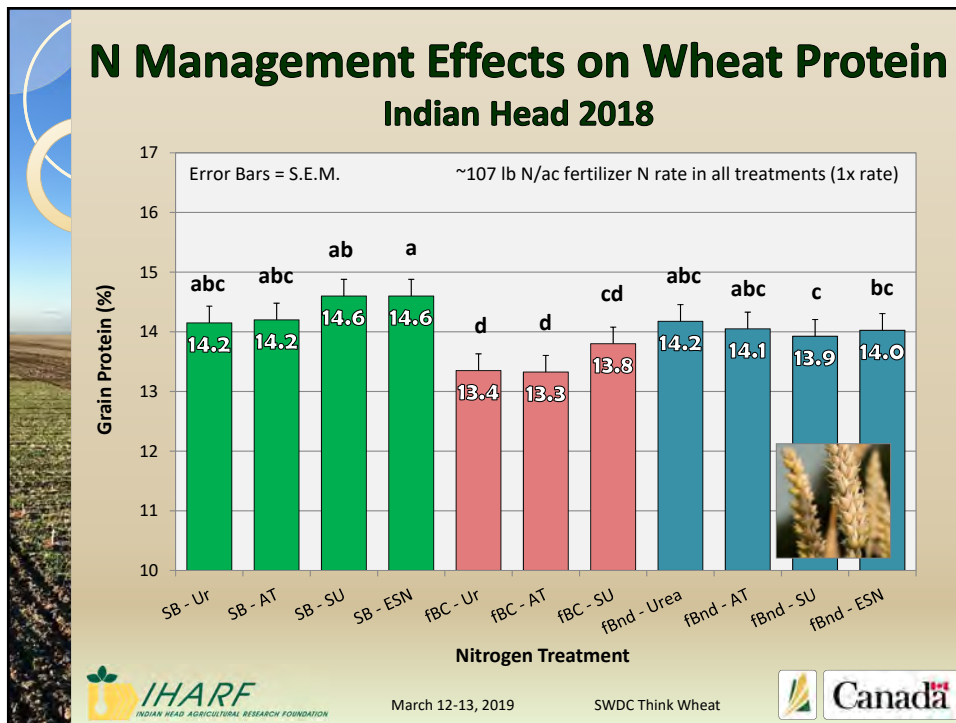
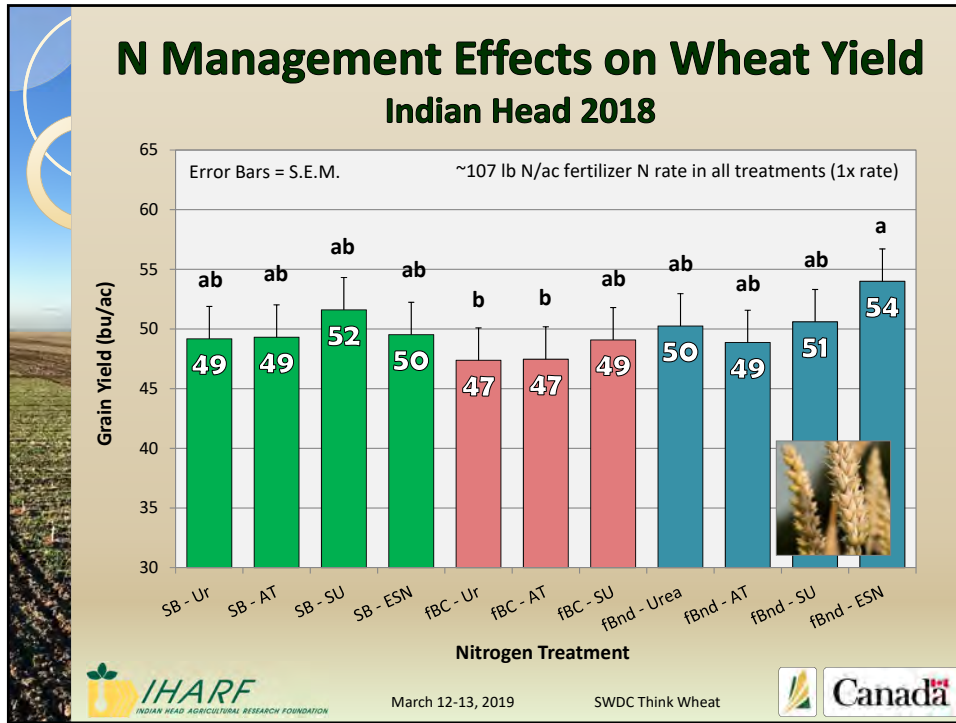
4R N Management in Wheat Indian Head 2018

| # | Form | Timing / Placement | Rate * |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| 1 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2 | Urea (untreated) | Side-band (during seeding) | 0.5x |
| 3 | Urea | Side-band | 1.0x |
| 4 | Urea | Side-band | 1.5x |
| 5 | Agrotain® (AT) | Side-band | 1.0x |
| 6 | SuperUrea® (SU) | Side-band | 1.0x |
| 7 | ESN® Smart Nitrogen (ESN) | Side-band | 1.0x |
| 8 | Urea | Fall Surface Broadcast | 1.0x |
| 9 | Agrotain® (AT) | Fall Surface Broadcast | 1.0x |
| 10 | SuperUrea® (SU) | Fall Surface Broadcast | 1.0x |
| 11 | Urea | Fall In-Soil Band | 1.0x |
| 12 | Agrotain® (AT) | Fall In-Soil Band | 1.0x |
| 13 | SuperUrea® (SU) | Fall In-Soil Band | 1.0x |
| 14 | ESN® Smart Nitrogen (ESN) | Fall In-Soil Band | 1.0x |

* 1x = 116 lb/ac (soil + fertilizer) for wheat

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Increasing Wheat Protein with In-Crop UAN Applications (ADOPT/SWDC)



PROJECT LEAD: MIKE HALL, ECRF, YORKTON, SK



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Increasing Wheat Protein with In-Crop UAN Applications (2018)

Objective: To demonstrate the potential for late-season applications of UAN to increase wheat protein relative to side-banding the same amounts during seeding

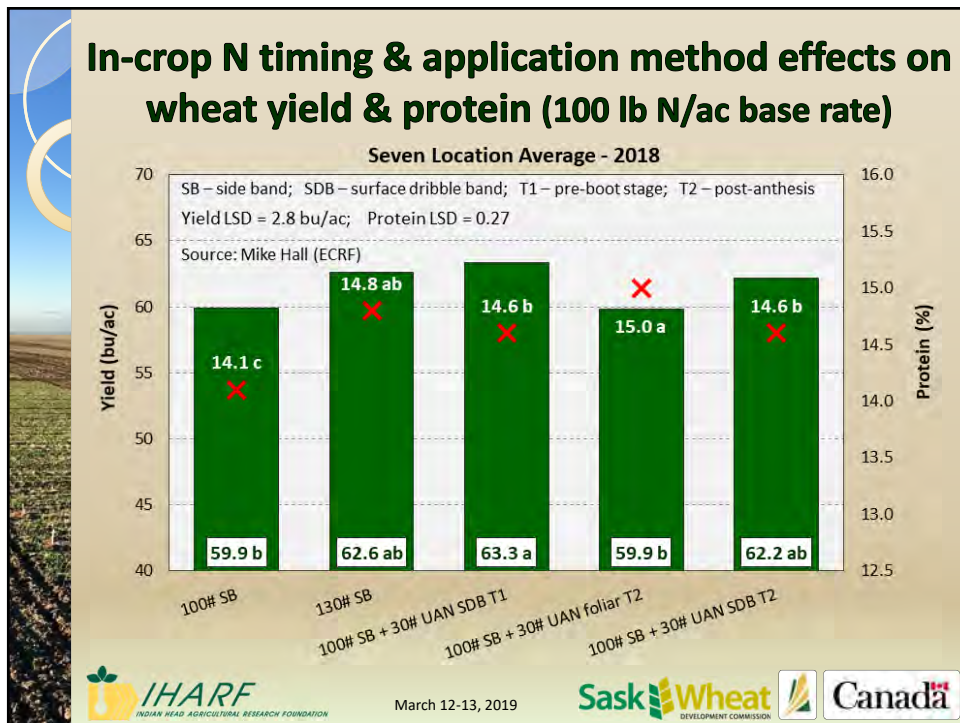
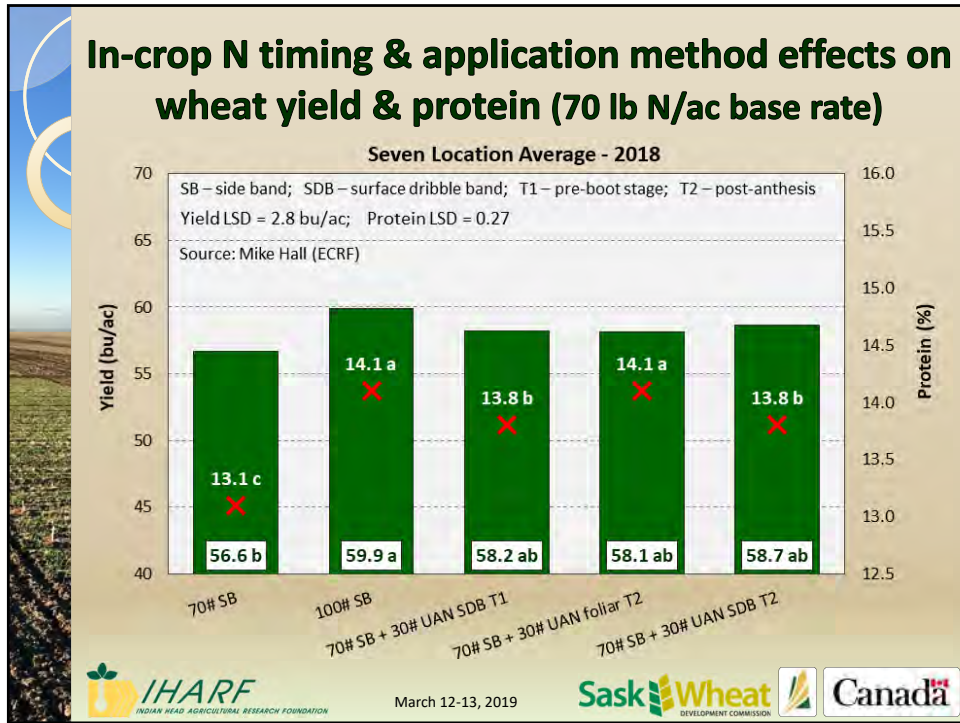
| # | Side-band Urea | In-Crop UAN | UAN Placement* | UAN Timing |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 70 lb N/ac | nil | n/a | n/a |
| 2 | 100 lb N/ac | nil | n/a | n/a |
| 3 | 130 lb N/ac | nil | n/a | n/a |
| 4 | 70 lb N/ac | 30 lb/ac | surface dribble band | GS36-39 (pre-boot) |
| 5 | 100 lb N/ac | 30 lb/ac | surface dribble band | GS36-39 |
| 6 | 70 lb N/ac | 30 lb/ac | foliar spray (flat fan) | GS65-71 (post-anthesis) |
| 7 | 100 lb N/ac | 30 lb/ac | foliar spray | GS65-71 |
| 8 | 70 lb N/ac | 30 lb/ac | surface dribble band | GS65-71 |
| 9 | 100 lb N/ac | 30 lb/ac | surface dribble band | GS65-71 |

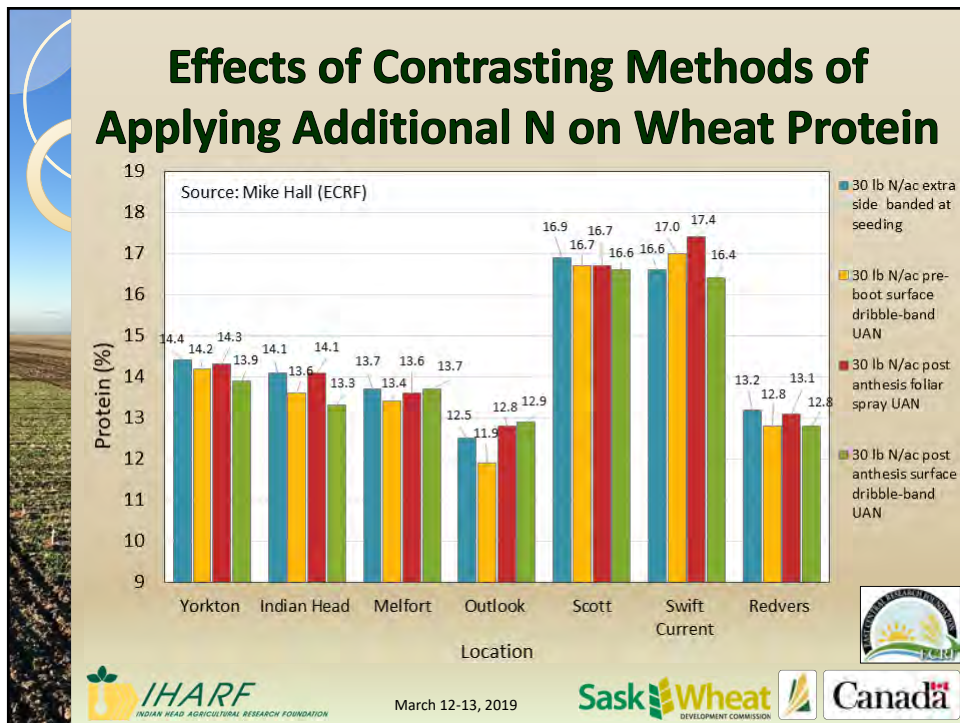
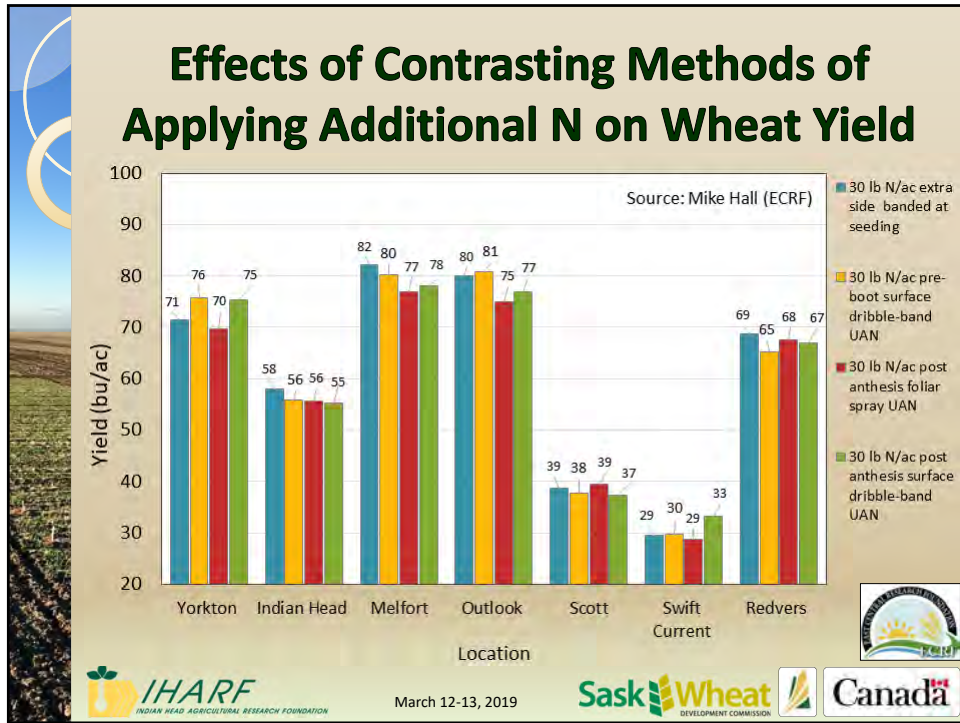
*In-crop UAN was diluted 1:1 with water & the application rate was 20 U.S. gal/ac



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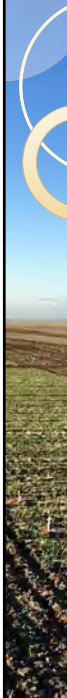







Effect of In-Crop N Rate & Timing on Durum Indian Head & Swift Current 2001-03 (B. May – AAFC)

Objectives: To help farmers improve the protein level and quality of durum


| # | N at Seeding | Extra N Rate | Extra N Timing |
|----|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | nil | Nil | N/A |
| 2 | 75% | Nil | N/A |
| 3 | 75% | 18 lb N/ac | Seeding (banded urea) |
| 4 | 75% | 36 lb N/ac | Seeding (banded urea) |
| 5 | 75% | 53 lb N/ac | Seeding (banded urea) |
| 6 | 75% | 18 lb N/ac | 5 leaf (surface UAN) |
| 7 | 75% | 36 lb N/ac | 5 leaf (surface UAN) |
| 8 | 75% | 53 lb N/ac | 5 leaf (surface UAN) |
| 9 | 75% | 18 lb N/ac | Flag leaf (surface UAN) |
| 10 | 75% | 36 lb N/ac | Flag leaf (surface UAN) |
| 11 | 75% | 53 lb N/ac | Flag leaf (surface UAN) |
| 12 | 75% | 18 lb N/ac | Anthesis (surface UAN) |
| 13 | 75% | 36 lb N/ac | Anthesis (surface UAN) |
| 14 | 75% | 53 lb N/ac | Anthesis (surface UAN) |

▪ N treatments tested on each of 4 varieties (AC Avonlea, AC Morse, AC Navigator or Kyle)



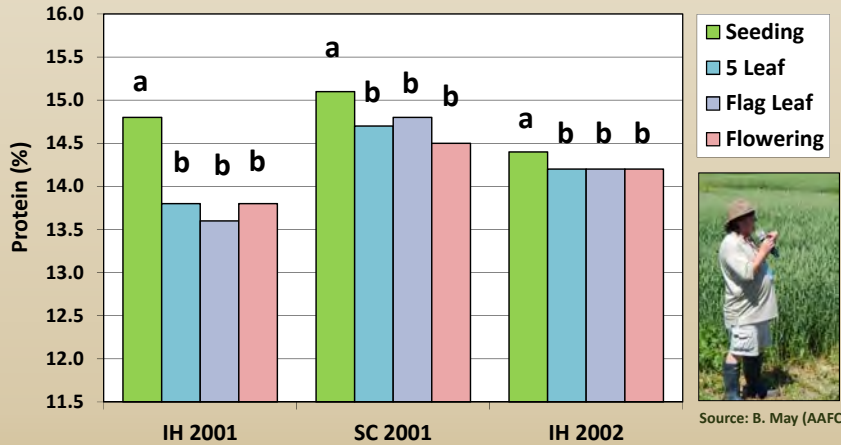
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Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada


N Timing Effects on Durum Protein




| Year/Site | Seeding | 5 Leaf | Flag Leaf | Flowering |
|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| IH 2001 | 14.8 | 13.8 | 13.6 | 13.8 |
| SC 2001 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 14.5 |
| IH 2002 | 14.4 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 14.2 |

Source: B. May (AAFC)

The effect on N timing on protein in 2001(both sites) & at Indian Head in 2002

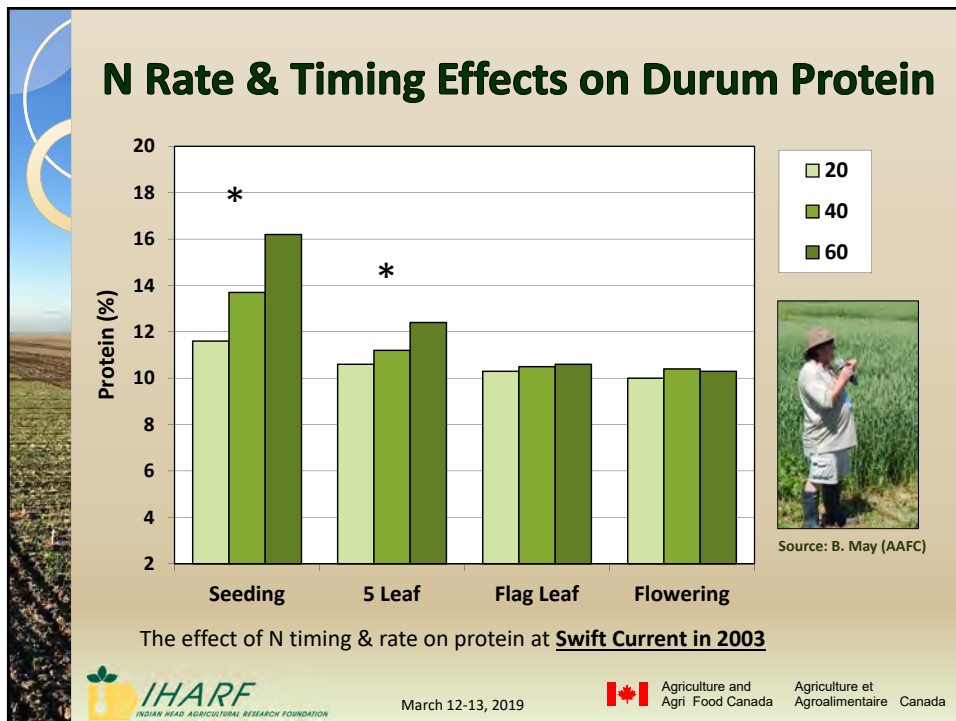
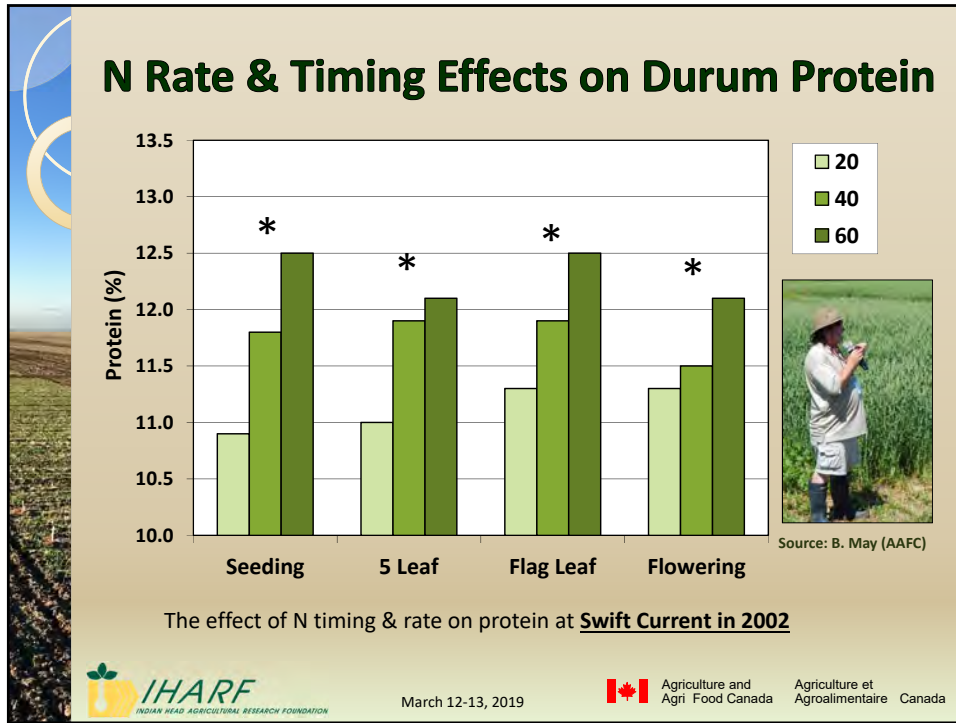


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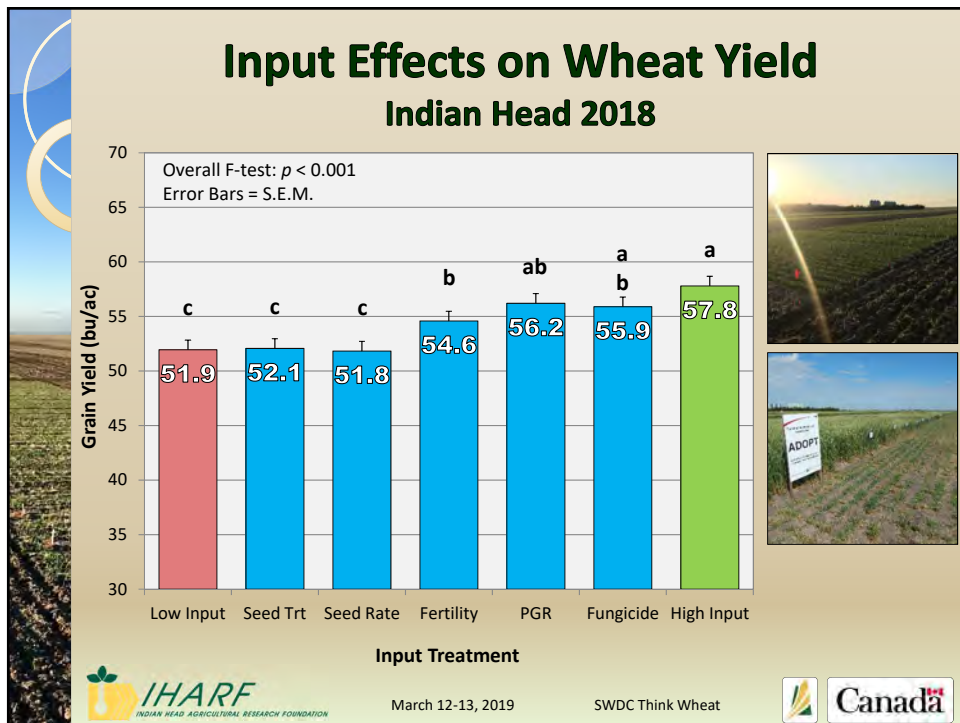
ADOPT Wheat Input Demonstration Indian Head 2018

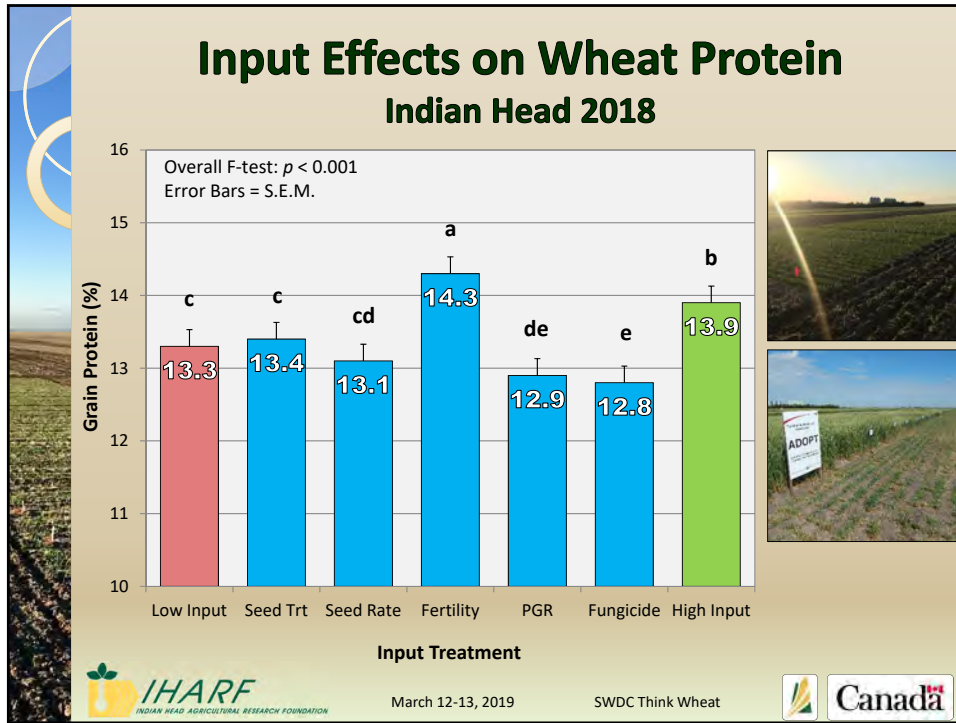
Objectives: To demonstrate agronomic and economic responses of CWRS wheat to various crop inputs both individually and collectively

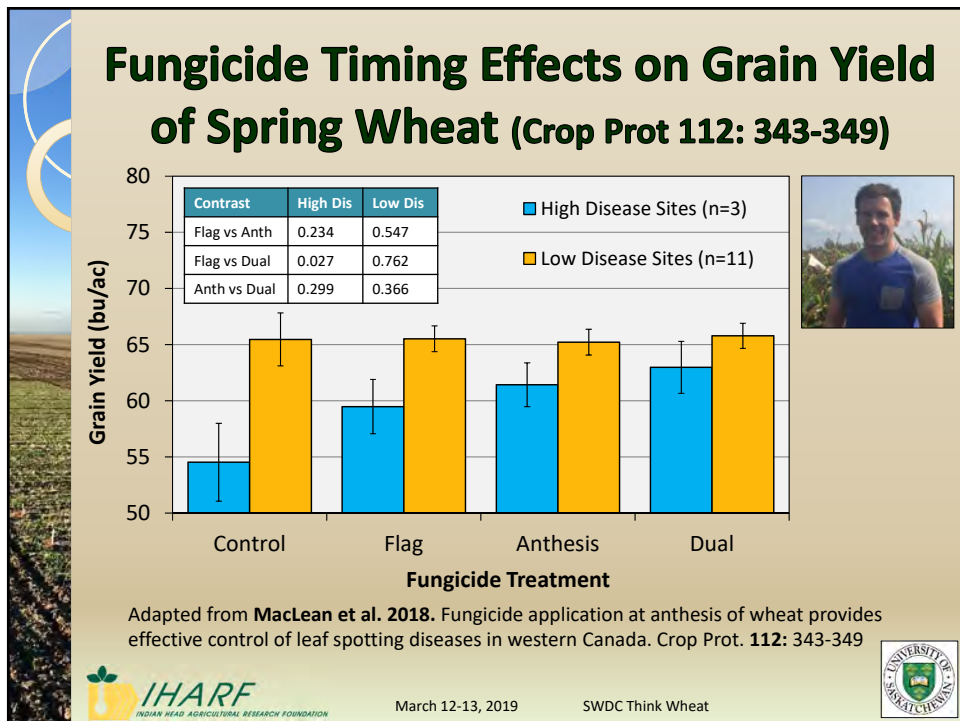
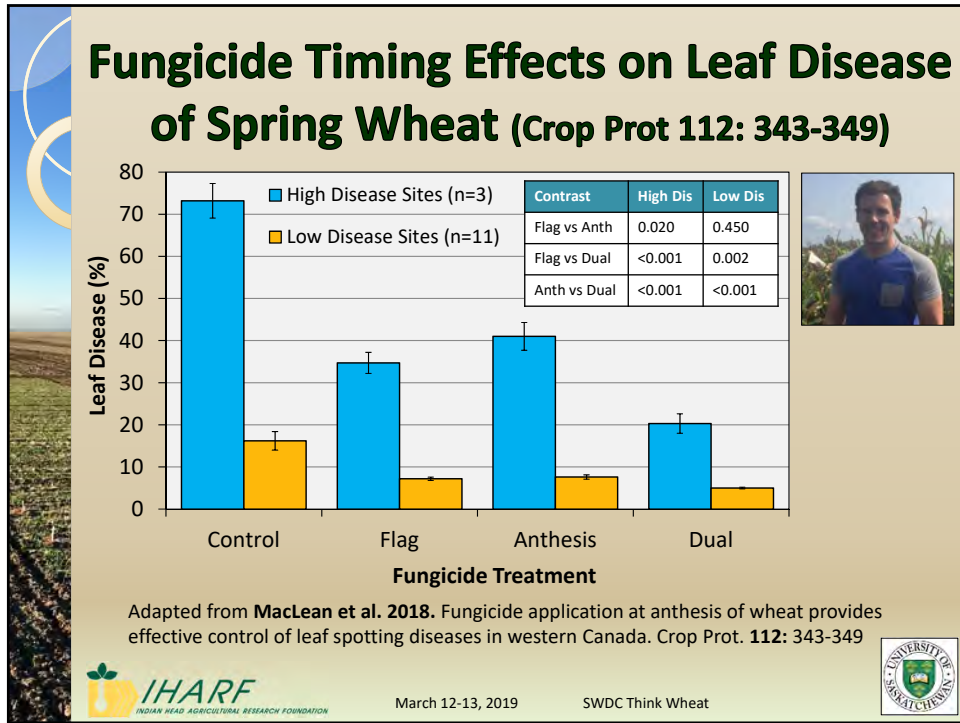
| # | Name | Seed Trt (no/yes) | Seed Rate (seeds/m ²) | Fertility (lb/ac N-P ₂ O ₅ -K ₂ O-S) | PGR (no/yes) | Fungicide (no/yes) |
|---|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Low Input | No | 250 | 80-18-9-9 | No | No |
| 2 | Seed-Trt | Yes | 250 | 80-18-9-9 | No | No |
| 3 | Seed Rate | No | 400 | 80-18-9-9 | No | No |
| 4 | Fertility | No | 250 | 120-36-18-18 | No | No |
| 5 | PGR | No | 250 | 80-18-9-9 | Yes | No |
| 6 | Fungicide | No | 250 | 80-18-9-9 | No | Yes |
| 7 | High Input | Yes | 400 | 120-36-18-18 | Yes | Yes |

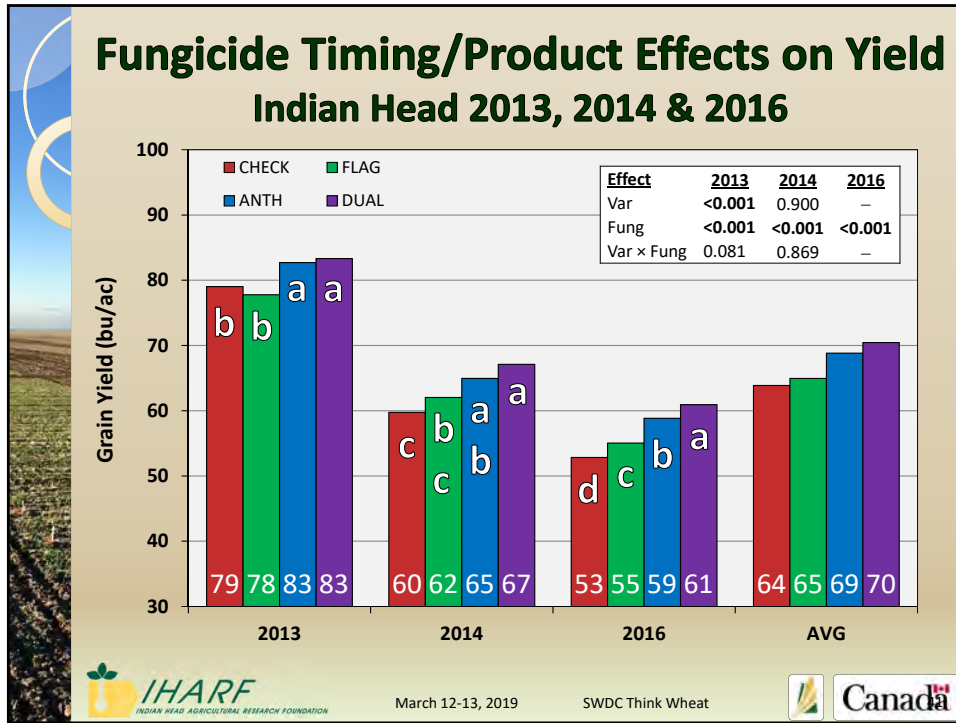
Data Collected: plants/m², heads/m², height, lodging, biomass/harvest index, yield, seed size, test weight, protein, fus. damaged kernels


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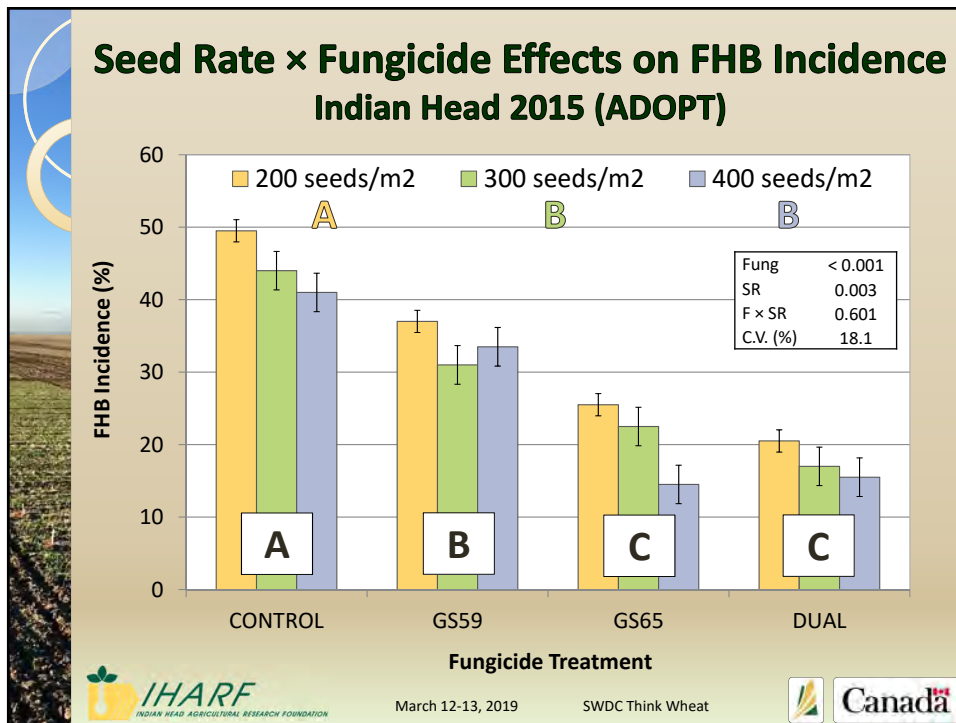
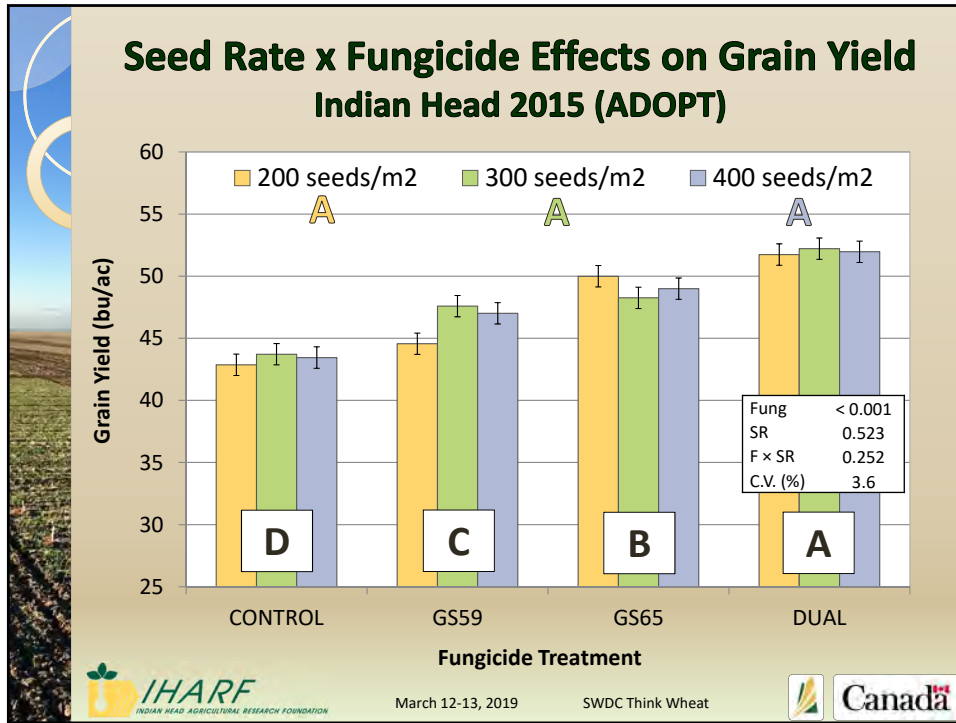
Seed Rates & Fungicides to Manage FHB Indian Head 2015

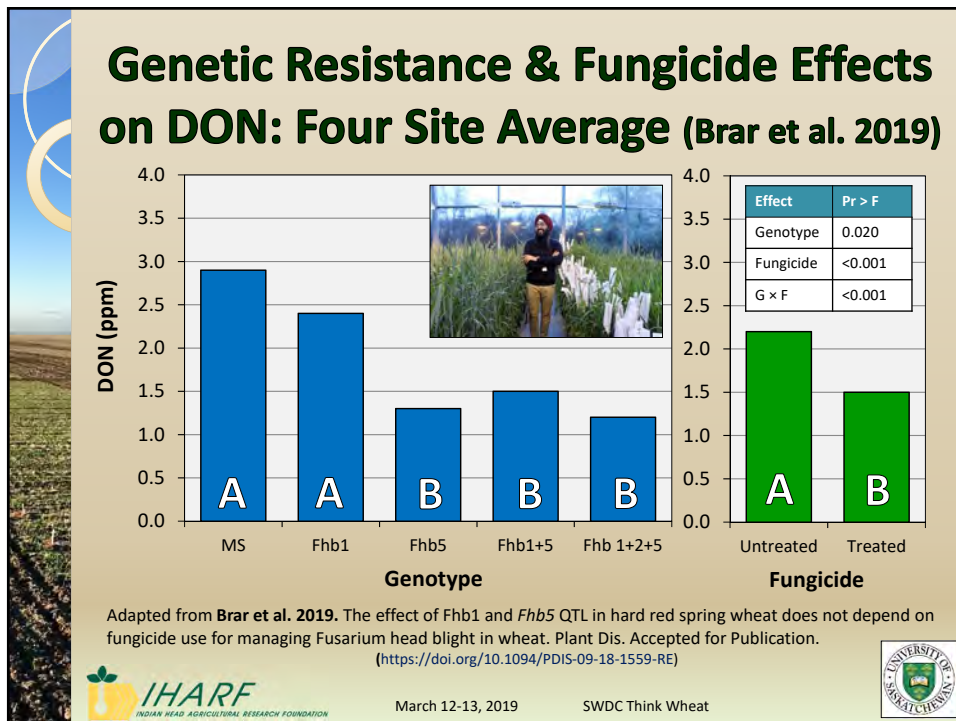
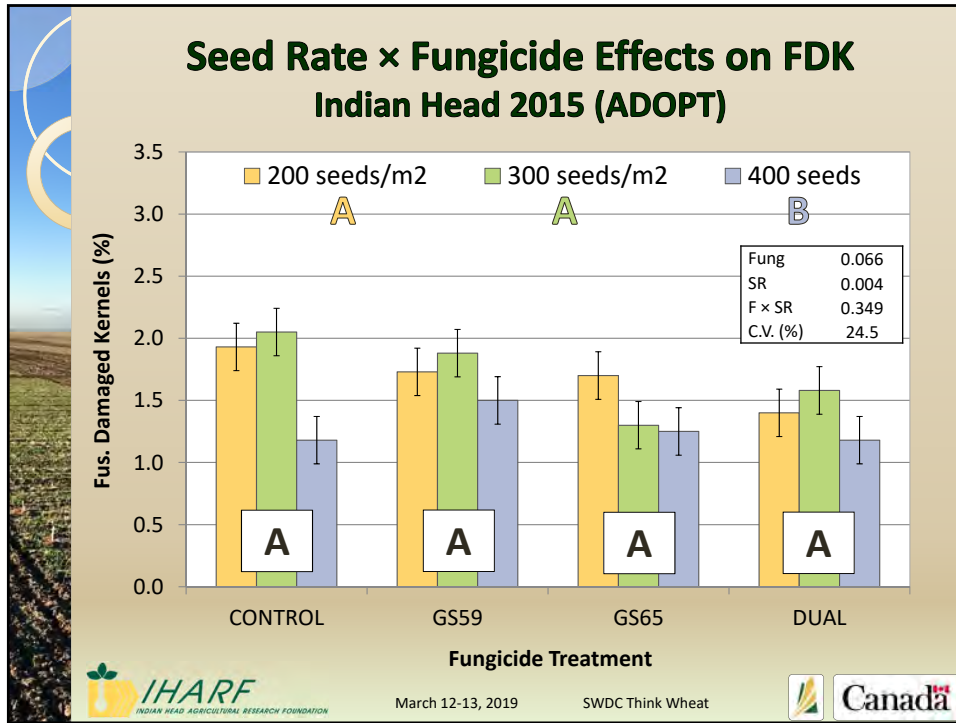
Objectives: To demonstrate the effects of seeding rates and foliar fungicide applications to reduce the impacts of FHB on durum yield & quality

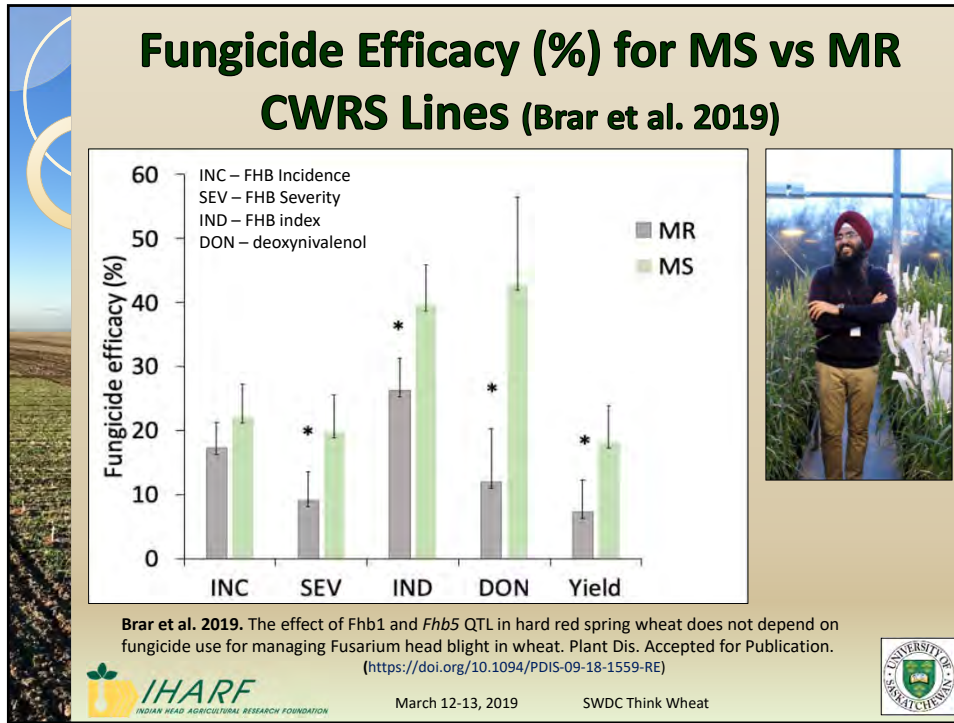
| # | Seeding Rate | Foliar Fungicide |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | 200 seeds/m ² | None applied |
| 2 | 200 seeds/m ² | Prosaro at GS59 (early heading) |
| 3 | 200 seeds/m ² | Prosaro at GS65 (anthesis) |
| 4 | 200 seeds/m ² | Dual (fungicide applied at both stages) |
| 5 | 300 seeds/m ² | None applied |
| 6 | 300 seeds/m ² | Prosaro at GS59 (early heading) |
| 7 | 300 seeds/m ² | Prosaro at GS65 (anthesis) |
| 8 | 300 seeds/m ² | Dual (fungicide applied at both stages) |
| 9 | 400 seeds/m ² | None applied |
| 10 | 400 seeds/m ² | Prosaro at GS59 (early heading) |
| 11 | 400 seeds/m ² | Prosaro at GS65 (anthesis) |
| 12 | 400 seeds/m ² | Dual (fungicide applied at both stages) |

* No flag-leaf fungicide applied in any treatments

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Recap: Key Messages

Lodging

- Mostly managed through variety selection but often influences other decisions (i.e. N rate)
- PGR proven to be an effective tool to manage lodging – increases input costs but frequently comes with yield benefits, can improve harvest efficiency, & may give growers more flexibility in variety selection & other management considerations

Protein

- Aside from genetics & environment, primarily affected by nitrogen fertility
- Optimum nitrogen rate for protein is generally higher than that required to maximize yield
- Other inputs that increase yield (i.e fungicide, PGR) can reduce protein if N rate not adjusted
- Haven't seen consistent benefits to EFFs but they can occur, particularly when environment timing/placement methods result in higher potential for loss
- Regardless of form, it is difficult to improve up banding all N beneath the soil surface during seeding under field conditions in Saskatchewan

Disease

- Except when early-season pressure is high, spraying for FHB can provide adequate leaf disease protection, but fungicides alone are not always enough to minimize quality loss
- Higher seed rates can contribute to minimizing quality loss by narrowing infection the window & increasing field uniformity (easier to time, more effective spraying)
- Integrated approach required – start with the best genetic resistance & sound overall agronomy – foliar fungicides are effective but the last line of defense

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THANK YOU

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SAVE THE DATE!!!

IHARF Annual Field Day, Tuesday July 16



March 12-13, 2019

