

f. with the terminology involved
e and with the perceived effects on
t different parts of the beef
business.

information that will help resolve
the issue and best meet the grade
standard requirements of the
industry and consumers,"
Washburn said.

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with nothing more than a little
hope." He said farmers do not
have "the luxury" to wait
another two months or so for
additional hearings to resolve
their problems.

effects of various experimental
treatments on plots hit by hot,
drying winds.

Winds can hurt winter yields

These scientists at the USDA
Central Great Plains Research
Station at Akron, Colo., used a
portable wind tunnel to subject
wheat plants to either 20 or 40
mile-per-hour winds that were 10
degrees Fahrenheit warmer than
the surrounding air. Both wind
speeds damaged crop yields
equally.

Just one day of hot, dry winds
can reduce winter wheat yields
by 30% if the winds occur while
the plants are in the milk stage,
reports USDA soil scientist
Darryl Smika. Wheat plants in
the flowering stage or soft dough
stage also suffer from hot winds,
and subsequent yields can be
reduced by 25%.

"The winds we applied to the
test plots were comparable to
weather conditions we ex-
perience about one out of every
eight years here in eastern
Colorado. Other areas of the
Central Great Plains probably
have damaging hot winds more
often because of their
geographical landscape. Also,
large areas in other parts of the
world, especially the Soviet
Union, are vulnerable to wind
damage," says Smika.

Most of the yield reduction,
80%, was a result of the first two
to four hours' exposure to the
winds. These winds did not
reduce yields when they oc-
curred before the flowering
stage or after the soft dough
stage.

Hot winds during the
flowering stage reduce yields
mainly because more wheat
heads failed to produce any
grain. During the milk stage,
most of the resulting yield
reductions were because of fewer
kernels per head. During the soft
dough stage, most of the
reduction was because of
reduced weight per kernel.

Smika, along with fellow
Agricultural Research Service
soil scientist R. Wayne
Shawcroft, measured hot winds
damage so that economic plan-
ners could better predict wheat
supplies both domestically and
worldwide. The data will also
enable other researchers to
recalculate after harvest the

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