



# Nebraska Wheat Board

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December 14, 2009

The Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson  
United States Senate  
720 Senate Hart Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> & C Streets, NE  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of Nebraska's Wheat Board (NWB), I am writing to thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of the people of Nebraska and agriculture in particular. NWB is seeking your support for the Bioengineering Wheat for a Global Market earmark.

As you know, the wheat industry is an extremely important part of the Nebraska agricultural economy especially in areas with limited rainfall or access to irrigation. Given the water issues facing our state, wheat could play an even larger role in the future agricultural economy of Nebraska. One of the challenges that has led to slight decline in wheat acres is other crops, particularly corn, has made rapid improvements due to genetic engineering. We are asking for your support to ensure that Nebraska plays a leading role in developing, testing and educating farmers how to deploy these new traits in wheat.

The UNL-IANR, with support from the NWB and a private donor, have embarked on an aggressive plan for integrating biotechnology into modern wheat breeding to enable Nebraska and U.S. wheat growers to remain competitive in the global wheat production and utilization market. Although significant resources have been allocated toward wheat genomics, minimal effort has been put forth in both the public and private sector to translate this knowledge into novel input and output traits. The UNL-IANR is positioned well to evaluate transgenes in wheat as a means to deliver yield enhancement and grain quality traits.

The UNL-IANR has identified a donor interested in this project. The donor is interested in the donation of a significant amount of land, both rain-fed and irrigated in the targeted region. The NWB feels that the combination of IANR, the Nebraska wheat industry, the Federal Government and this private donor would make ideal partners in forging a new era in wheat productivity in Nebraska and the world.

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Once again, thank you for the vital work you do on behalf of Nebraska and agricultural research.

Sincerely,

Royce Schaneman  
Executive Director