Variety Selection for 2020

Each and every year, the Minn-Dak Seed Committee meets to select which varieties will be allowed to be planted for the upcoming season. In doing so, they carefully evaluate and study the results of the most current Official Variety Trials (OVTs). In 2019, they were located in Foxhome, Norcross, & Wolverton, MN, and in Galchutt, ND. The data generated from these trials is generally summarized into a complicated set of statistics spread over multiple pages – even for a single variety. While differences between varieties can be pulled out of these spreadsheets by the trained eye, it is hard for most to make comparisons across all of the different varieties. The following graphs were developed to help everyone easily “see” the data from the last three years of OVTs and to characterize each of the varieties that are currently approved and available for sale in our 2020 seed portfolio.

These graphs are a modified version of a “spider graph” and represent the ratings of all of the major parameters of a single variety. The intent of this type of graphical representation is to help you make comparisons of the “strengths and weaknesses” of a variety without flipping through pages of spreadsheets and individual charts. These comparisons have been made across all of the varieties that are currently approved at Minn-Dak. To simply explain the graphs, the better the varietal performance in a particular category, the more color is shaded in that specific piece of the pie. With this in mind, a “perfect” variety would be the top performer in every category and have the entire circle filled to the edge with color.
When making your varietal selections for 2020, keep in mind that each variety has something unique to offer and that your Agriculturist is a tremendous resource in reviewing the high and low points of each of the varieties. These individuals have watched all of the 2020 approved varieties “climb the ranks” through the OVTs and can compare and contrast each individual variety on both a plot and commercial scale. Their expertise can certainly help you make the correct varietal selection to maximize on-farm profit this coming season.