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VGPA Announces the 2009 Virginia Wheat Yield Contest
And Support of Virginia's "Barley Bin Builder" Yield Contest

Chesapeake, Va. – (March 30, 2009) – Virginia Grain Producers Association (VGPA) is happy to announce the 2009 Virginia Wheat Yield Contest. New seed technologies, more efficient production practices and better crop management will all be showcased through Virginia's top wheat producers.

Any member of VGPA currently growing wheat is eligible to enter this year's yield contest. All entries must be postmarked by July 15, 2009 in order to qualify for the yield challenge. Membership applications and information can be found at www.viriniagrains.com.

The 2009 Virginia Wheat Contest is hosted by the VGPA in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Please see official guidelines for participating seed companies in this year's contest.

"Despite weather and production challenges, Virginia's wheat producers consistently compete globally with the very best yields. Additionally, each winner from our 2008 Yield Challenge utilized nutrient management plans and continuous no-till practices. New research, seed hybrids and technologies continue to raise the bar," said Molly Pugh, VGPA Executive Director. "This contest provides the opportunity to highlight Virginia's truly exceptional grain producers. As technologies improve so do their farming practices; thus, creating more efficient and more effective production agriculture here in Virginia. We challenge all members to celebrate and showcase their success in this year's contest."

Dr. Wade Thomason, Virginia Tech's Extension Grains Specialist added, "Contest results are valuable in our extension education efforts to highlight management practices and products that work best with the land and for the producer. Variety and production information are important in providing accurate, up to date tools from which other producers can make the best decisions."

The yield contest covers the wheat category and will be calculated at the statewide level only. First, second, third and fourth place statewide prizes range from \$200.00 to \$700.00.

Additionally, VGPA is proud to support Osage Bio Energy in their first annual, "Barley Bin Builder" Yield Contest. This multi-state yield contest will offer considerable competition for numerous producers across state lines. Osage Bio Energy hosted the grand opening for Virginia's first ethanol production facility in September of 2008 in Hopewell, VA. This ethanol facility will use barley for its main feedstock. Highlighting the demand for more barley acres, Osage will award ownership of a brand new flex-fuel (E-85) pick-up truck to the winner of the multi-state yield challenge. Details, rules and guidelines may be downloaded at directly at www.osagebioenergy.com. Virginia's Barley Bin Builder Yield Contest is hosted by Osage Bio Energy, LLC. Multi-state winner will receive ownership of a new, flex-fuel (E-85) pick-up truck on August 6, 2009 at Virginia's Ag Expo.

All Virginia entrants of both contests must be members of the Virginia Grain Producers Association. Membership applications, contest guidelines and entry forms can be downloaded at www.viriniagrains.com.