

NPSAS/Farmer-Breeder Club

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NPSAS/Farmer-Breeder Club

- FBC has NOT done any planting breeding up to this point
 - Worked mainly with evaluation of existing varieties, and experimental lines for possible release
- Currently our greatest effort is in the area of developing a participatory plant breeding model with partnerships between public plant breeders, farmers, and end-users.

NPSAS/Farmer-Breeder Club

- History of organization (NPSAS) and club (FBC)
 - Members mainly organic farmers in Northern Great Plains
 - Raise a diversity of crops and livestock
- Book entitled “Return to Resistance” by Rauol Robinson stimulated ideas
 - Workshop hosted at 1999 winter conference entitled “Developing a Farmer Breeder Club”
 - Event resulted in the formation of the NPSAS FBC with vision of developing farmer based PPB partnerships with public plant breeders

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- Main concerns raised by members
 - What is availability and suitability of crop varieties for organic systems?
- Conversations began with Land Grant University agronomists and plant breeders
 - What traits are desirable in organic systems?
- Open forum at 2001 winter conference members requested organic variety trials and field days to answer questions raised
 - Trials initiated in spring of 2001
 - Wheat, oats, and barley at 2 ND and 2MN locations

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- Purpose and outcome of trials and field days
 - Served as introduction to the vision of FBC
 - Additional plant breeders and researchers become involved

Discussion of traits important to organic farmers

- Growth characteristics, pest resistance, yield and quality
- Field tours with active participation by farmers and breeders to better assess selection criteria

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- ***Field trials/farmer participation***
- Farmer involvement
 - Host trials and field days
 - Encouraged and trained to make observations
- Provide input to researchers and plant breeders on:
 - Farmers perspective and concerns
 - Observations
 - Selection criteria

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- **Funding sources & partnerships formed**
- Organic variety trials
 - NCR-SARE
- Planning retreat on PPB
 - Tri-Societies, CAST, and the Institute for Conservation Leadership
- Developing a PPB model
 - Bush Foundation
- Developing farmer-breeder teams panel
 - Tri-societies annual meeting

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- ***Current project development***
- Issues of university relations and research foundations with
 - Material transfer agreements
 - Intellectual property rights
- Developing networks with other PPB systems
 - Share experiences
 - Identify self-funding strategies

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- *Current projects: on-farm seed development/increase*
- Heritage wheat increase
 - 2 organic farms-10 lines
 - Quality evaluations
- Experimental wheat evaluation and increase
 - Tested 3 organic farms
 - Increased ~10 ac, 1 organic farm
- Winter triticale evaluation
 - Dual purpose grain & forage
 - Intent to evaluate on-farm
 - Incorporate livestock

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Thank You!