

## Scottish grower appeal for multi market wheat

Wheat varieties that suit all of Scotland's markets are limited to two varieties according to Frontier's David Waite. He says "the Group 3s Tuxedo and Invicta are the only two varieties to meet the requirements of the distillers, bioethanol producers and millers supplying the Scottish cake and biscuit markets, as well as being suitable for feed manufacturers."

Frontier supplies wheat to all the markets, their customers include ADM, Rank Hovis, Diageo, Carrs Milling and Whyte & McKay. They offer buy-back contracts for some Group 3s, including one for Tuxedo which is supplied to United Biscuits for manufacturing brands like McVitie's.

Commenting on the contract Frontier's Simon Christensen says; "Tuxedo continues to show itself as the new group 3 variety that fits both the agronomic and end users requirements, recently Frontier delivered further tonnage from harvest 2010 to trial for suitability in the biscuits sector. Initial results are extremely favourable and further support the work done already that show Tuxedo will fit both domestic and export flour markets. With such results being seen we can expect further commercial farm contracts being available for planting this Autumn."

David Waite adds: "generally the biscuit market is looking for wheat with 11% protein and a Hagberg Falling Number (HFN) of 150 which isn't hugely onerous for a grower to achieve. Group 3 premiums are paid, but are dependent on the supply and demand status of the market," he explains.

SAC's Dr Steve Hoad suggests that Tuxedo has attracted attention in Scotland in particular because it also has a medium rating for distilling. He also makes that point that it has the highest HFN on nabim's list for the Group 3s, which is a useful trait, particularly for growers in the north because it is a trait linked to reduced sprouting in the ear at harvest time.

Coupled with the specific market opportunities, the yields of some of the Group 3s sits them alongside some of the Group 4 "barn fillers", which could make them fit well given that Group 4 seed supplies are getting tight. "The Group 3s always considered the barn fillers; it wasn't so long ago that the Group 3s Consort and Claire accounted for over 50% of the market," he adds. "Tuxedo has a UK untreated yield rating of 102 on the HGCA Recommended List, this is the same as the Group 4s Duxford."

He adds that agronomically Tuxedo has a *Septoria tritici* rating of 7 which he says is crucial to growers in the north because "whilst yellow rust always gets a lot of media airing, it is *Septoria* which is the most yield robbing of all diseases, particularly in the north."

According to RAGT's Agronomist Dr Cathy Hooper, "Tuxedo has the joint highest *Septoria tritici* resistance rating of the Group 3s, matching Alchemy and Warrior; the others are rated as 6. Also, it has a yellow rust rating of 9."

Like its stable mate Warrior, Dr Hooper says that it has the potential for chemical savings, spray timing and dose rate flexibility. It is also well-suited to later drilling situations and wetter winters.

"In terms of its growth habit, Tuxedo tillers well and has a prostrate habit as well as reasonable spring growth," she adds. "Importantly it also has the highest second wheat yields of all the Group 3's."

David Waite says that Tuxedo is equally at home grown on light or heavy soils, adding to the variety's flexibility. "Tuxedo is flexible in the field and it's flexible for the market; this coupled with its yield potential makes it a very credible option for Scottish growers this autumn."