

**December 27, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Sorenson Named Director of Northern Crops Institute**

Fargo, ND, USA -- Brian Sorenson has been named Director of Northern Crops Institute. He will assume his new duties on January 1. He has been NCI's technical director for the last six years. He also has been a North Dakota State University Extension Service wheat quality specialist since 2000.

Sorenson replaces Dr. Patricia Berglund, who retired in early December.

"I am extremely excited to be selected as the new NCI director and I look forward to working with our partners in industry to promote the crops from our region," Sorenson says.

"NCI has played a key role in the success of northern Great Plains agriculture," says Laird Larson of Clark, S.D., chair of the Northern Crops Council. The council works with NDSU to oversee NCI. "The Northern Crops Council is excited about the leadership Brian will provide as we all find new and innovative strategies to enhance uses and markets for our products.

"Brian is well-known and respected by industry leaders throughout the region, the nation and the world," says D.C. Coston, NDSU's vice president for Agriculture and University Extension. "We look forward to the new directions NCI will take in conjunction with many partners, including NDSU's outstanding faculty and staff, in enhancing the economy of this region."

Sorenson has more than 18 years of experience in food product and process development and is an expert in the quality and utilization of U.S. durum and hard red spring wheat, and pasta production and quality.

Prior to joining NCI, he served as research project manager for Purina Mills Inc. in St. Louis, Mo., and processing consultant for Format International Ltd., also in St. Louis.

As NCI's technical director, he has led its technical team; overseen its pilot-scale and analytical laboratories; and provided information on northern-grown crops through educational and informational seminars for buyers, processors and government officials at NCI and in more than 20 countries in Europe, Asia, North Africa, and Central and South America. He also is chair of the national Wheat Quality Council.

Sorenson earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Mayville State University and a master of science degree in cereal chemistry from NDSU.

Northern Crops Institute (NCI) supports regional agriculture and value-added processing by conducting educational and technical programs that expand and maintain domestic and international markets for northern-grown crops. NCI is funded by the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota and commodity groups in those states and Montana.

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Story written by Ellen Crawford, NDSU Agriculture Communications

Photo of Sorenson available at: <http://www.northern-crops.com/staff/sorenson08.jpg>

For more information, contact:  
Sally Sologuk Backman  
PR/Communications Specialist  
Northern Crops Institute  
Bolley Drive - NDSU  
Fargo, ND, 58105 USA  
Phone: 701-231-6538  
Fax: 701-231-7235  
[www.northern-crops.com](http://www.northern-crops.com)