

File Position Statements  
KARNAL BUNT KB 5-13-97

**U.S KARNAL BUNT COALITION**

**March 25, 1997**

**Atlanta, GA**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ACKNOWLEDGING THAT KARNAL BUNT (KB) IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS A MINOR DISEASE BY USDA AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY :**

**The U.S. wheat industry recommends that USDA develop a program that internationally recognizes KB as a grain quality issue. This should be accomplished by September 30, 1999.**

In the interim, the KB Task Force recommends the following steps be implemented:

- An international forum be convened by USDA to establish a scientific basis of risk relative to KB in the domestic and international marketplace. This forum should include internationally recognized scientists and scientific organizations along with U.S. wheat industry representatives and trading partners. The forum should be convened and a conclusive report filed in calendar year 1997.
- USDA, in consultation with the U.S wheat industry, should immediately establish and publish a scientific protocol to determine the presence of KB **based on bunted kernels** and declare it applicable to all parts of the country. USDA should further assure the wheat industry that everyone will be treated equitably and that U.S. wheat has the necessary certification to remain competitive in the global marketplace.
- USDA, in consultation with the U.S. wheat industry, should establish a grading standard on wheat containing bunted kernels that will be accepted in the international marketplace as is the current practice for other wheat diseases.
- USDA should encourage agricultural scientists to develop and publish recommendations on production and other practices designed to manage KB. USDA should accept blending as a method to deal with low incidences of bunted kernels.
- Equitable compensation should be made to those adversely affected by government action **with or without** the extraordinary emergency declaration currently required for compensation.

**THE GOAL OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IS TO ASSURE THAT THE U.S. WHEAT INDUSTRY REMAINS VIABLE AND COMPETITIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE.**