Bill:  Good morning and welcome in to our Wednesday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz and Ed it’s another wheat Wednesday. Kind of an unpleasant thing here regarding wheat to talk about today.

Ed:  Well it’s going to be wheat head scab. It’s caused by the Bavarian fungus. It’s potentially our most damaging disease that we can get in wheat. Not only will it reduce the yields but it can also cause toxin buildup in the grain where it could be a problem for livestock or people eating that grain. So the farmer may have trouble selling their grain if it is heavily infested. And the thing about this disease is it effects the wheat heads when they’re flowering. And so that’s when the spores from the fungus will land on that wheat head and start determining that growth at flowering time. For control of it though, the fungicide have to be applied at flowering. Since the wheat flowers on all flowers at the same time we can’t get 100% control even if we use a fungicide. You may not need to spray if the conditions aren’t right for the disease. We really haven’t had conditions are favoring the spread of the spores. It does like wet conditions. We were dry earlier but we’re getting enough moisture now that we could have the wetness, but it likes humidity and it likes a lot of rain and that’s part of the problem. We try to spray the fungicide. The timing is real critical because it needs to be done right when the wheat is flowering. You can’t do it earlier. We done enough research to know that you can’t spray the fungicide early it won’t be effective, however, we can go later up to 5 days after the wheat has flowered and still get some benefit from it but maybe not fully. We do have a nice forecasting system that a person can go to. It’s going to be www.wheatscab.psu.edu. That site there you can see what the weather conditions right for if they have a problem with scab. It’s going to ask you a few questions. One of the questions is going to ask you the susceptibility of the variety because basically if it’s susceptible or moderately resistant because we don’t have any varieties that are totally resistant. And it will tell you if you have a high risk for scab. Of course if you are at a high risk we would recommend that you would spray caramba, prosaro, or miravis ace are three products that work. But keep in mind that we to avoid what we call strobilurins or strobi fungicides that would be Quadris and Headline. Because those two products actually encourage the development of the toxins if you do get the headscab to come in there. So people just need to keep a heads up if they go ahead and spray anyway and we don’t have head scab it will protect them against other diseases such as glume botch. And so that would be positive on that because after we head we really don’t have an opportunity to spray again. So farmers keep an eye out and be thinking about this because it is that time for headscab.

Bill:  Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed:  Good morning.