North Dakota is a forerunner in the U.S. wheat industry, ranking second among states in total wheat production and first in production of hard red spring wheat. This report summarizes some logistical trends associated with the movement of hard red spring wheat from elevator to domestic and export markets. Figure 1 shows a dominance of larger elevators, in terms of car track capacity, for marketing HRS wheat. Shuttle facilities share during the most recent 3-year time frame was 80%. Further, rail rates to the Pacific Northwest continue to favor shuttles over smaller shipments, as shown in Figure 2 below.

**Markets**  
Hard red spring (HRS) wheat is the leading crop planted in North Dakota (N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service), making it a key commodity in North Dakota agriculture. North Dakota accounts for nearly one-half of total HRS wheat production in the United States. This wheat moves to domestic and export markets in both east- and west-bound shipments.

Portland (PNW) remained ahead of other destinations as a market for shipments of HRS wheat originating from North Dakota elevators in 2016-17 (Figure 3). WI/Other MN and Midland shipments typically move beyond the gateway to U.S. domestic millers. The Pacific Northwest is a large U.S. grain port and important gateway to Asian markets.

Crop reporting district (CRD) origin detail for these markets is provided on page 2, along with specifics on markets and export points.

**Rail Market Shares**  
Figure 4 shows the trends in market share for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF)*, Canadian Pacific Railway (CP)**, and trucks for HRS wheat shipped from North Dakota elevators. BNSF remains the largest hauler of North Dakota wheat - 68%. CP’s share of shipments from ND elevators is consistent with previous years at 24%. The truck share is 8% during this market year.

*Includes RRVW **Includes DMVW and NPR
Destinations for Hard Red Spring Wheat Shipments from ND CRD's

(1000 Bushels)

**One metric ton = 36.74 Bushels**

Patterns and methods of shipping HRS Wheat per the Annual North Dakota Elevator Marketing Report and the North Dakota Grain And Oilseed Transportation Statistics report. The complete reports, CRD map, and additional market information are available at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/grain/.

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