



## NEWS ALERT

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### **MGEX ESTABLISHES YEAR-END VOLUME RECORDS**

MINNEAPOLIS, January 4 – The Minneapolis Grain Exchange announced today that it has established several annual trading volume records. Total trading volume totaled 1,422,392 contracts for the 2005 calendar year, topping the previous record set in 2004. 2005 was also a record year for Hard Red Spring Wheat futures with 1,384,750 contracts trading hands.

The 2005 annual records come after another year of daily and monthly records. Four monthly records were set for Hard Red Spring Wheat futures volume: January, February, April and December. February 2005 marked the highest Hard Red Spring Wheat monthly volume since the Exchange began trading futures in 1883. Trading volume reached 173,065 contracts, the equivalent of 865,325,000 bushels of wheat. Nine of the top fifteen all-time Hard Red Spring Wheat futures daily volume records were set in 2005 along with thirteen of the top fifteen days of open interest. Hard Red Spring Wheat open interest continues to rise with the last five business days of the year breaking daily all-time records.

“The Minneapolis Grain Exchange concluded 2005 in a very strong manner setting daily open interest records. Providing price discovery and risk management opportunities continues to be a focus of the Exchange, and the MGEX membership and customers are taking advantage of these opportunities.” said Mark Bagan, President and CEO of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. “The accomplishments of 2005 including the record open interest and volume records position the MGEX membership and customers for an exciting 2006.”

The Minneapolis Grain Exchange is preparing to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2006.

#### **About Minneapolis Grain Exchange**

MGEX, established in 1881, is the only market for Hard Red Spring Wheat, National Corn Index (NCI), National Soybean Index (NSI), Hard Red Winter Wheat Index (HRWI), Hard Red Spring Wheat Index (HRSI) and Soft Red Winter Wheat Index (SRWI) futures and options. [www.mgex.com](http://www.mgex.com).