

Crop report is upbeat ***Star Tribune, August 13, 2008***

Article Summary: According to a government report released this week, farmers are on track to produce a larger than expected crop this year.

Wayne Kostroski, co-owner of Franklin Street Bakery in Minneapolis, remains hopeful that wheat prices will stabilize in weeks to come. Franklin Street Bakery is a supplier of breads, burger buns, and other baked goods across 20 states.

Not unlike other food suppliers, Franklin Street Bakery purchases wheat months in advance to avoid market fluctuations. Even these practices, coupled with the rise of oil prices, have forced Kostroski to streamline operation costs and have left some vacant job positions yet unfilled. Kostroski comments, "We believe the worst appears to be over. Now, we have the double benefit of not paying higher prices for flour and having a better, more efficient operation in place."

Full text of the article by Chris Serres is available from the Paid Archives section of the StarTribune.com.