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## Predicting the Protein Content of Grain in Winter Wheat with Meteorological and Genotypic Factors

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**Abstract:** Meteorological conditions including temperature, sunshine and precipitation during grain growth are the primary factors determining the variation of the protein content of grain (PC) in wheat. On the basis of field experiments, a simplified regression model was developed for predicting the PC in winter wheat. From stepwise regression analysis, it was found that the PC of high-protein cultivars was correlated with the difference between daily maximum and minimum temperatures ( $\Delta T$ ) when  $\Delta T$  variation under the environment was significant, but with the interaction of mean temperature ( $T_{\text{mean}}$ )  $\times$  total sunshine hours from anthesis to maturity (TSUN) under the environment with  $\Delta T$  variation less than 5%. In medium-protein cultivars, the PC was correlated with TSUN, and in low-protein cultivars, with the combination of  $T_{\text{mean}}$ , total rainfall from anthesis to maturity (TR) and TSUN. The climatic factors influencing PC were further quantified incorporating five genetic parameters. The  $\Delta T$  and TSUN were linearly correlated with PC, and  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was quadratically correlated with PC. The precipitation was linearly correlated with PC if it was less than 50mm, otherwise quadratically. The average root mean square error (RMSE) values of the estimated PC relative to the observed value were less than 7 percent, indicating a good fit between the estimated and observed PC. Thus, it is concluded that the present model can predict the PC of different winter wheat cultivars under various climate environments.

**Keywords:** [Genotypic parameter](#), [Precipitation](#), [Protein content of grain](#), [Sunshine hours](#), [Temperature](#), [Winter wheat](#)

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