

News Column

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Ellis County demonstration wheat plot results

Wow, what a spring it was when it started raining the weekend of April 16th and just kept raining. The result has been a phenomenal wheat crop that most farmers in Kansas were blessed with. And soon they will turn around and plant another crop this fall in hopes of harvesting it next year.

Typically wheat growers will keep back enough of their wheat seed to plant again, but also they may be looking to replace a variety in an effort to reduce seed borne diseases, and to improve genetics for yield and disease prevention.

Each year many county agents put out wheat variety demonstration plots and conduct field days to view and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of varieties and wheat production issues. Most demonstration plots are also harvested for yield information to assist farmers.

The Ellis County Extension no-till wheat demonstration plot has no fallow in the cropping rotation, therefore is intensively cropped each year. It was sprayed with a fungicide on May 3rd. For further details of the cultural practices of the demonstration plot go to our web site at www.ellis.ksu.edu click onto the Crops and Livestock tab and then click onto Local Test Plot Results.

I would encourage growers to also refer to the K-State Research station replicated wheat performance tests yields; replicated tests accounts for the variability within a field. That information can also be found on our web site on the Crops and Livestock page under Hot Topics. FHSU had a demonstration wheat plot on the university farm as well.

In looking at the research stations performance tests there appears to be some promising K-State advanced experimental hard red winter wheat lines. They are pending approval for release at this time. These varieties are Larry, Tatanka, and Zenda. Yield data of these varieties has been solid.

Larry is well adapted state-wide and has moderate resistance to stripe rust but susceptible to leaf rust. Tatanka is best adapted to central and western Kansas. It has moderate resistance to stripe rust, intermediate to wheat streak mosaic virus, but is susceptible to leaf rust, and has below average straw strength. It performed well under irrigation in Colby the last two years as well. Zenda has established a strong yield record statewide but is probably best suited to central and eastern Kansas. It is early maturing wheat that is taller than Everest. It is similar to Everest for Fusarium head blight reaction and is viewed as an Everest replacement.

Joe a hard white winter wheat developed at the Hays - Agricultural Research Center and named after Joe Martin, the long-time wheat breeder at the station, who was instrumental in developing several

hard white winter wheats for growers in Kansas and the Great Plains. Certified seed of Joe will be available this fall.

A few other advanced experimental lines to keep an eye on are PlainsGold CO11D446, and Limagrain LCH13-048.

In my quick study before our county fair of the K-State replicated wheat performance tests, strictly looking at yields, I don't really see any surprises. It appears that most of the varieties that yielded well this year, were several of the same varieties that performed well last year. These varieties and not in any particular order are TAM 114, WB-Grainfield, SY Monument, T158, and Oakley CL.

Ellis County No-Till Wheat Demonstration Plot

Variety	Yield (bu/a)	TW(lb/bu)	% of test		
			Avg.	2nd	3rd
* Fuller - WG	60	57.9	109	65	49
Denali - WG	53	56.9	96	58	
WB-Cedar	45	57.6	82	63	45
TAM 114 - TAMU	57	58.2	104		
KanMark - WG	54	57.9	98	64	
LCS Pistol	54	57.9	98		
WB 4458	43	57	78	56	
1863 - WG	52	57.6	95	69	52
SY Monument - Sygenta	56	57.4	102		
T158 - LCS	59	58	107	68	51
Everest - WG	57	57.6	104	63	48
LCS Mint	57	57.2	104	60	
WB-Grainfield	62	58.5	113	66	
Oakley CL - WG	58	58.3	105	68	
WB-Redhawk	50	57.6	91		
* TAM 111	58	57.7	105		

*Not from certified seed lot