

News Column

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Ellis County demonstration wheat plot results

With the 2015 wheat harvest a memory now, it is already time for farmers to plan for sowing the next crop. Wheat seed can be kept back for planting of the next crop, but new seed is also purchased periodically in an effort to reduce seed borne diseases and to improve genetics for yield and disease prevention.

During this growing season when the rains started coming in May the stripe rust followed and then after it warmed up more the leaf rust came on as well. It is probably safe to say then that the susceptible varieties to stripe and leaf rust that were not sprayed with a fungicide probably had reduced yields. To my knowledge the KSU performance tests do not spray a fungicide so they can rate disease resistance and the Ellis County plot also did not receive a fungicide application.

In looking strictly at the yields in the 2015 KSU Western Kansas Dryland Experiment Station wheat performance test results that include Ellis, Ford, Greeley, Pawnee, and Trego counties there were two hard red varieties that yielded in the top 25% at three or more locations, WB-Grainfield and SY Monument. Varieties that yielded in the top 25% in two locations were SY Sunrise, T158, TAM 114 and TAM 204. The hard white varieties that yielded in the top 25% at three locations were Danby and Oakley CL. Antero and Clara CL yielded in the top 25% in two locations.

The Ellis County demonstration plot had yields better than expected, one variety in particular 1863 was surprisingly well ahead of the pack. Its' yield record in past KSU replicated tests in western Kansas has been about average. The wheat breeding program at KSU in Manhattan developed it and originally wanted to name it Jewell because it is better adapted to be grown in NC Kansas. T158 and Oakley CL a white wheat tipped the scales as the #2 yielder and not a surprise both varieties have had solid yield performance in the past.

Keep in mind when selecting varieties to not only look at yield but other attributes as well such as disease and insect resistance, drought tolerance, maturity, shattering reputation, straw strength, test weight, sprouting tolerance and winter hardiness, and the list can go on.

For instance WB-Grainfield had good yield performance last year in the KSU performance tests but this year it yielded extremely well in the KSU tests. A possible reason is that its' maturity on heading date is medium late it is a little later in maturity than some varieties and this year's growing season was probably more favorable for a little later heading/maturity variety. SY Monument is also medium late on heading date/maturity. So as with any choice in farming and life in general there are always many factors to take into consideration when making the best decision possible.

Below are the results of the Ellis County No-Till Wheat Demonstration Plot to see other details – planting date, fertility, etc., go to our web site. I would encourage growers to type into your internet browser - KSU Wheat Performance test to get those results as well, which are replicated and more accurate than non-replicated county demonstration plots. I would also encourage you to seek out other area demonstration plots. Note that FHSU had a Wheat Demonstration plot and those results can also be found on our web site at www.ellis.ksu.edu

Variety	Yield (bu/a)	TW(lb/bu)	% of test Avg.	Multi-yr. avg.	
				2nd	3rd
TAM 112	55	60.7	77	36	42
WB-Grainfield	69	61.5	97		
LCS Mint	62	61.6	99		
Fuller	70	61.7	99	44	
PostRock	*			*	
WB4458	69	62.2	97		
Everest	68	62.1	96	44	44
T158	77	62.5	108	47	49
TAM 111	*			*	
Oakley	77	62	108		
WB-Cedar	70	61.9	99	45	47
1863	85	62.1	120	52	
Winterhawk	65	62.4	92		
KanMark	73	62.7	103		
Denali	73	62.1	103		

*Company
requested yield
not reported