

Wheat Variety Trials, Part 1

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The K-State Wheat Variety Test Plot results are now available on the internet and the publication should be out soon. If you need to know where they are on the internet, just give me a call. Today we'll talk briefly about some of the results and tomorrow about how to go about selecting a new variety or two to try. Today's comments are based on the Riley, Saline and Republic county trials. If you take a look at those three locations and then pull out the ones that were the top yielders, there were a couple in the top yielding group in all three locations. One was from Limagrain Cereal seeds called LCS Mint and the other one was out of Oklahoma, now referred to as OGI, and it was Doublestop CL plus. Both of these have resistance to soil borne mosaic but both are somewhat susceptible to various leaf diseases. I'm sure they did very well this year, because we had virtually no leaf diseases. Now, I don't have a problem with either of these, just know that you may need to treat them with fungicides in many years. Doublestop CL is also a two gene Clearfield wheat that can be used in fields with lots of cheat and be sprayed with Beyond herbicide. A good option in those fields with continuous wheat. Other wheats that did well in 2 of 3 locations include Syngenta Monument, Westbred Redhawk and Westbred Winterhawk. For the record, the Riley plots averaged 65, Republic 74 and Saline 57 bushels per acre. Test weights average 58 to 59 lbs per bushel. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Wheat Variety Trials, Part 2

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I mentioned some of the higher yielding wheat varieties yesterday so let's continue that discussion today by talking about how do you pick out one or two new wheats to include on your farm? When you get the full results, I always like to start by looking at the multi year averages. That can tell you a lot about the stability of yield of a variety. Then let's evaluate the kind of year we had. We had late season heat and dry weather (well, up until we were ready to harvest anyway). We had virtually no significant leaf diseases. So we got a good feel for the genetic yield potential. We had varieties in test plots hitting easily into the 70 bushel per acre range and even 80. But keep in mind that several of those have known weaknesses when we do have leaf diseases present. Go ahead and plant them but know that next year you may well need to treat them once or twice with fungicides to see that kind of yield again! If you don't want to mess with the hassle and expense of fungicides, then walk away from those and go with some other varieties that maybe didn't do so well this year, but are known to have better leaf disease resistance. If you are looking at some varieties from other states, especially Colorado and Nebraska, make sure that they have soil borne mosaic resistance. That is critical for our fields and some of the wheat from those states do not come so equipped! Of course, I'd also like Hessian Fly resistance but those varieties are few and far between. The full bulletin should be out soon, but in the meantime if you have some questions, give me a call!

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Crop Insect updates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This is the time of year that things can start to get interesting in crop fields. Okay, probably not so much in corn fields but sorghum and soybean fields can get really interesting from here on out. We have a lot of potential insect pests that are at work in fields or could soon be showing up. Just keep in mind that for many of these the damage usually looks worse than it really is and treatment often is NOT needed. Since there are exceptions to every rule, let's start with the exception that you need to be looking for. Sorghum headworm, the same thing as corn earworm, are going to get active very soon. I haven't seen any yet, but it's about time. On average, one caterpillar per head will reduce yield by 5%, 2 will reduce yield by 10%. If you are finding a lot of small caterpillars in the head, then think about treating. If they are getting large and the grain is moving past milk stage, don't bother to treat. One caterpillar that has been showing up a lot is the cattail caterpillar. This is one of the fuzzy caterpillars that feeds on foliage. I've been seeing a fair amount of feeding going on, but these also get parasitized by a lot of things and it appears that their numbers are dropping off fast. We're also seeing a lot of leaf feeding damage in soybeans right now. Much of this damage is very superficial and unless you have entire plants being stripped don't worry. Do pay attention to any feeding on bean pods though as this may require treatment. Also be on the lookout for stink bugs. If you are seeing more than 10 per 30 feet of row, treatment can probably be justified.

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