



Wheat Varieties

Time to think about varieties to plant

This past year was quite a year for wheat diseases. Fall temperature fluctuations and the wet spring gave way to perfect conditions for a number of wheat diseases. In this area of Kansas, stripe rust, leaf rust, and Fusarium head blight were the most common. Reports across Kansas show that there was high yield loss in some areas. Everest variety usually takes the largest share of wheat acreage in Eastern Kansas but that doesn't mean other varieties aren't worth considering. There are a number of varieties that provide good disease resistance and good yield. Remember that last year's volunteer wheat could carry pest and diseases and should be completely destroyed at least 2 weeks before next planting to control future issues.

For information including variety selection and management tips contact our office.

[2015 Kansas Wheat Seed Book](#)

Soil sampling before planting

Sampling increases yield and reduces cost

Nitrate sampling in the fall before wheat planting is uncommon but can be highly valuable. Nitrate is a highly mobile nutrient; it is believed that nitrate losses and movement during the fall and winter make fall sampling not worth the trouble. However, studies have shown strong correlations between fall soil nitrate levels and yield. The K-State recommendations for an untested area are to apply 30 lbs available nitrogen per acre. Some field locations would receive an economic benefit if more nitrate had been applied. Sampling also reveals which areas will benefit

from fertilizer and, considering the cost, it can save considerable expense. Don't rely on previous yields in certain areas of the field to predict the necessary quantity of fertilizer application, what is really there can surprise you. Chlorine is also an overlooked nutrient that has shown to consistently increase wheat yields. The [KSU soil testing laboratory cost](#) is \$8 for profile nitrogen, sulfur, and chlorine plus \$1.25 for soil preparation. For an additional charge, shipping available from our office. Contact me for soil sampling techniques.

[Wheat Production Handbook](#)

Controlling Pink Eye

Summer and early fall pink eye is common

Pink eye (*M. bovis*) is a problem all over the world and has many types and variations within the types. It is a highly infectious bacteria able to withstand adverse conditions and can change type to avoid animal immunity. Pink eye, if left untreated, can lead to ruptured eyes, corneal scarring, and subsequent blindness. Controlling face flies is the main control to reduce pink eye occurrence but that can be difficult in years like this one.

For information on preventative control and antibiotic treatments contact our office.

[Bovine Pinkeye](#)

[Also check out this week's agronomy extension update.](#)

For information on these topics or any other please contact me.

Thank you,
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