

Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board - 2008 Annual Report

Title: Wheat Research Verification Program

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Acknowledgements:

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Special acknowledgement to the members of the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board:

Mr. Morris Crandall
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Mr. Blake Swears

Mr. Terry Dabbs
Mr. Jackie Prince
Mr. William Turner

Mr. Danny Smith
Mr. Tim Smith
Mr. Barry Walls

Abstract

The 2008 Wheat Research Verification Program (WRVP) was implemented by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service on 17 producer fields located across Arkansas. Cooperators from the counties selected 10 varieties from a short list provided by the agent and research verification coordinator. These varieties were selected based upon multi-year performance and characteristics determined by the University of Arkansas wheat variety testing program. Soil types for fields enrolled in the program ranged from silt loam to clay, with previous crops of soybean, grain sorghum, corn, rice and summer fallow. Seeding dates ranged from October 4 through November 16, 2007, with seeding rates varying from 115 to 198 lbs/ac. Nine fields were drill seeded while eight were broadcast seeded. Seven of the 17 fields were treated with herbicides. Foliar fungicides were applied to control leaf rust and or septoria near heading in nine of 17 verification fields, in contrast to the previous year when no fields were sprayed to control foliar diseases. A wet and cool spring provided conditions that were conducive for septoria development and levels were higher than many farmers had seen in the past 20 years. Insects were not a major problem in any of the fields throughout the season, however, many fields showed spring infection symptoms of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV), which is vectored by aphids. Harvest dates ranged from June 3 through June 25. Average yield for the WRVP was 66.2 bu/ac, compared to the state average of 58. Yields ranged from 39 bu/ac in Greene County to 83.4 bu/ac in Monroe County. Yields were better than expected in many fields, considering the wet spring that delayed fertilizer applications in many instances. Field drainage was also a problem with the wet spring and fields with poor drainage had a noticeably lower yield. Good harvest weather was experienced and grain test weights were excellent. Economic analysis was conducted using a budget generator to estimate specific costs of production for each field. Only three of the 17 fields had a negative return in 2008. Returns ranged from (\$96.29) in Woodruff County to \$208.12 in Monroe County. The Wheat Research Verification Program continues to demonstrate that Extension's research-based recommendations can produce profitable, high yielding wheat across a wide range of conditions and soil types. Over a 22 year period, the WRVP has averaged 13 bu/ac greater than the state average yield. The program is funded by the wheat checkoff dollars and administered through the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board.

A full report of the 2007-2008 Wheat Research Verification Program can be found at the following website:

<http://www.aragriculture.org/crops/wheat/verification/default.htm>