

Farmers, scientists check out wheat varieties

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Rows of amber-colored wheat heads waved in a slight breeze as farmers, scientists and observers joined the Sherman County Wheat Plot Tour on Tuesday night.

About 60 people met on the north side of Fred and Jeanie Schields' house, 10 miles north of Goodland on K-27, to check out the wheat varieties and hear about diseases.

The tour featured experts from Kansas State University Research and Extension, including Jeanne Falk extension agronomist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties; Brian Olson, northwest area agronomist; Doug Jardine, extension plant pathologist; and Jim Shroyer, extension crop production specialist.

Fred Schields started by welcoming everyone to the tour and describing the plot.

Schields said he has been participating in the wheat plot tours through the extension service for 22 years, but hasn't felt good about the plot for the past four because of drought conditions.

The wheat plot featured 27 varieties of winter wheat, 24 hard red and three hard white.

Schields said the field grew corn in 2003 and it was left fallowed in 2004.

He said they planted the dryland wheat on Thursday, Oct. 7, and Friday, Oct. 8. They seeded at 63 pounds per acre and fertilized with 50 pounds of nitrogen and 25 pounds of phosphate.

With the rain in September, October and November, Schields said, the crop looked luscious. Since then, it's had a hard time.

A dry spell in December, January, February and March hurt the crop, he said. The last five days in April and the first day of May, he said, the crop was hit by a freeze, then on Thursday, June 2, a hail storm. High winds Monday caused some shattering of wheat heads.

The tour started at the first variety, and the K-State specialists described drawbacks and benefits to each.

Falk asked Jardine to describe wheat diseases, since many farmers encountered problems this year.

Jardine started with stripe rust, considered rare in the area until recently. He said historically the dis-



Sherman County Extension Agent Dana Belshe (middle) examined a head of wheat with Ron Lucas, Goodland Greenline owner, (left) and Tom Stewart, who works at Mueller Grain, at the Sherman County Wheat Plot Tour on Tuesday.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

ease was more prevalent in cold weather, but in the past five years it has adapted to conditions here.

Wheat streak mosaic, Jardine said, has been another problem in the area. He said the disease spreads through volunteer wheat, wheat that grows from fallen seeds after harvest.

Destroying volunteer wheat at least two weeks before fall planting, he said, is the best way to prevent the disease from spreading.

"You really need to pay attention to volunteer wheat," he said, adding

that the plants use up moisture.

Eliminating volunteer wheat helps control stripe and leaf rust also, Jardine said. He said the wind blows the spores to Kansas in the spring and then back to Texas in the fall, creating a cycle. If the volunteer wheat is destroyed, the cycle is lessened and eventually ended.

The group crowded around a section of 2145 variety wheat and began the tour. Switching off as they went, the specialists described weaknesses and strengths of each variety.

Farmers learned some tips for no-till wheat management, including the need to apply more nitrogen in the first few years. Specialists said no-till is good for the soil structure and will require less chemical application as time goes by.

When the tour was over, visitors led a long caravan back to town for a hamburger fry at the 4-H building at the county fairgrounds, served by the Ruleton Eager Beavers 4-H Club and provided by First National Bank.

Strengths and weaknesses of the 27 wheat varieties at the Sherman County Wheat Plot tour at Fred and Jeanie Schields' farm Tuesday:

Hard Red Winter Wheat

2145 — moderately resists Hessian fly and strip rust, good yield potential, susceptible to tan spot and wheat streak mosaic, can shatter.

Above — good stress and shattering tolerance, good yield potential, susceptible to most leaf diseases and soil-borne mosaic, below-average test weights.

Ankor — good dryland performance, better quality than Tam 107, susceptible to leaf rust and wheat streak mosaic, average straw strength, below average test weights.

Cisco — good stress tolerance and yield potential, good in shattering resistance, susceptible to leaf rust, moderately susceptible to strip rust and tan spot, fair straw strength.

Coronado — good straw strength and grazing potential, tolerates low pH soils, early break dormancy, good foliar disease package.

Cutter — excellent in yield potential, good in overall disease resistance and pasture potential, moderately resists wheat streak mosaic, lodge and shatter, not emerge well with high temperatures, early to first hollow stem.

Enhancer — resists soil-borne mosaic and stripe rust, good grazing potential, moderately susceptible to leaf rust, fair straw strength, straw production can be too heavy at times.

Goodstreak — good test weights.

Harry — poor test weights.

Ike — good drought tolerance and winter hardiness, excellent spring tillering, susceptible to wheat streak mosaic, fair straw strength, medium-short coleoptile, slow starter in the fall.

Jagalene — excellent in yield potential and milling and baking quality, good grazing potential and test weight, good straw strength, susceptible to powdery mildew and Hessian fly.

Jagger — good grazing and yield potential, exceptional milling and baking quality, good performance on low pH soils, moderate resistance to wheat streak mosaic and tan spot, resistance to stripe rust, shatters and breaks dormancy early, fair straw strength and winter hardiness, susceptible to leaf rust and Hessian fly, below-average test weights.

Millennium — moderately resists leaf and stripe rust, good fall cover capability, late to mature, fair straw strength, susceptible to soil-borne mosaic.

Ogallala — intermediate tolerance to wheat streak, good test weight and straw strength, prone to shattering, susceptible to soil-borne mosaic, medium-short coleoptile, average winter hardiness.

OK102 — excellent milling and baking quality, good protein, moderate resistance to leaf rust, resists soil-borne mosaic and holds winter dormancy well, long summer seed dormancy, does not germinate well in hot soils, susceptible to stripe rust and poor drought tolerance.

Overly — excellent yield potential, outstanding quality, can shatter, moderate acid soil tolerance, moderately susceptible to leaf rust and powdery mildew, susceptible to head scab.

Prairie Red — similar to Tam 107.

Stanton — good shattering resistance, resists leaf rust, intermediate to wheat streak mosaic, good test weight, susceptible to barley yellow dwarf, soil-borne mosaic, tan spot.

Tam 111 — good drought tolerance, straw strength and test weight, resists stripe rust, susceptible to leaf rust, moderately susceptible to wheat streak mosaic.

Thunderbolt — good stress tolerance and yield potential, good test weight, can shatter, slow starter in the fall, doesn't tiller well, susceptible to soil-borne mosaic.

Wahoo — resists Hessian fly, good yield potential, provides good residue protection on upland ground, late maturity, low test weights, poor straw strength.

Wesley — excellent straw strength, resists soil-borne mosaic, good shattering reputation, resists stripe rust, excellent yield potential, moderately susceptible to wheat streak mosaic and leaf rust, average test weight.

Hard White Winter Wheat

Avalanche — good yield potential, intermediate resistance to wheat streak, resists soil-borne mosaic, moderately susceptible to leaf rust and stripe rust, susceptible to barley yellow dwarf.

NuHills — excellent yield potential, resists stripe rust, intermediate to leaf rust, good test weight, susceptible to powdery mildew, medium short coleoptile, only average shattering reputation.

Trego — good yield potential, test weights and shattering tolerance, intermediate resistance to wheat streak, resists leaf rust, moderately susceptible to stripe rust, fair straw strength, susceptible to barley yellow dwarf.

More information on wheat varieties is available at www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_wheat/Varieties.htm.



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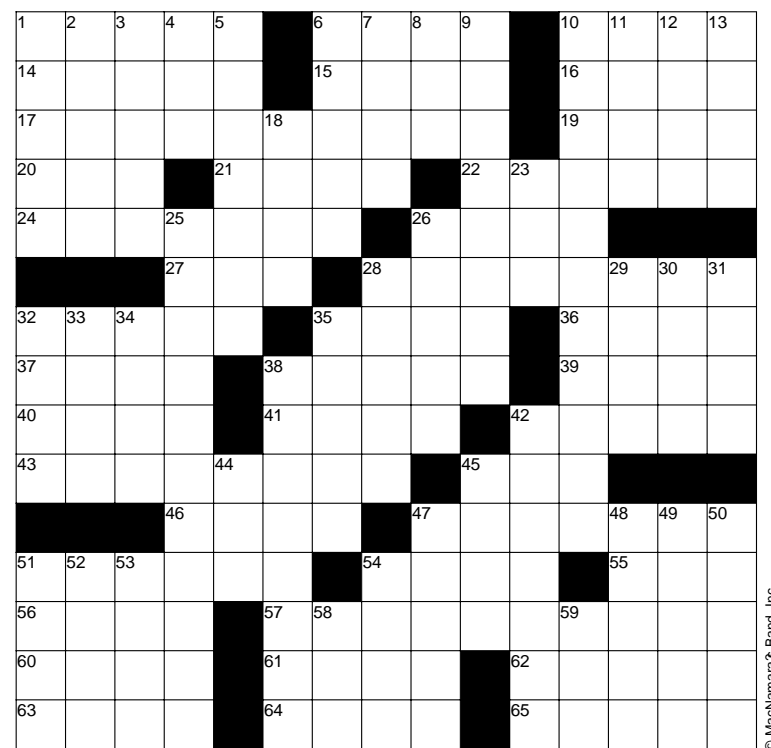
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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Move sneakily
6. Letter opener
10. 1982 Robin Williams role
14. Like Cheerios
15. Twiddling one's thumbs
16. Nobelist Wiesel
17. Fuel consisting of an element?
19. Part to play
20. "___ Alibi" (1989 Tom Selleck film)
21. Wear at the edges
22. Furnace, e.g.
24. Shooting from a concealed spot
26. James of "The Godfather"
27. USNA grad
28. Many Protestants
32. Comic actor Arnold
35. Bunyan's blue ox
36. 1997 Fonda title role
37. Shopper's aid
38. Rationed, with "out"
39. Stubborn equine
40. Jai ___
41. Fancy pitcher
42. Risk a ticket
43. Drove back
45. Vintage auto
46. Frame of mind
47. Soft hues
51. Parcel inquiry
54. Bit of pond growth
55. "O Sole ___"
56. Inauguration Day recital
57. Water source consisting of an element?
60. Pint-size Cooper auto
61. Ms. Brockovich



American Profile Hometown Content

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62. Country singer Steve ___
63. Chow for a sow
64. Cold and clammy
65. More timid

11. Oodles
12. Steam up
13. Use a spyglass
18. Starbucks vessels
23. Chow down
25. Snack item consisting of an element?
26. Scots toss it
28. Bundled, in the hayfield
29. Turn on an axis
30. Prefix with photo
31. Planter's purchase
32. "The Lion King" villain
33. Chaucer story
34. Bahrain resident
35. Acknowledged applause
38. Disfigured
42. Some bagels

DOWN

1. Tenth-graders
2. A Carpenter
3. Gestation places
4. Moon vehicle, briefly
5. Gang-war assault, maybe
6. Yankee legend Joe, in headlines
7. All wound up
8. ___ carte
9. Gave a new look to
10. Kitchen utensil consisting of an element?

44. One of "them"
45. Spaghetti sauce brand
47. Toy piano sound
48. Nail file material
49. French textile city
50. Cobbler, at times
51. Male turkeys
52. Racetrack fence
53. ___ cost (free)
54. Tennis score after deuce
58. Notable time
59. Guitar effect, when doubled

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
(785) 899-2338