

Details Soybean Growers Need To Keep In Mind For 2008

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Prices are looking good for soybean producers this year and there are a few things producers should consider.

Dr. Grover Shannon, University of Missouri Delta Center, Professor of Soybean Breeding, says "One thing exciting about soybeans is the

seed orders, they will have to turn it loose sometime, "try to be patient, try to get the variety that you want, the ones that yield well, don't take just anything, look at the results of state variety tests," he said. "Choose a variety that is at least above average."

With rumors of prices for Roundup as high as \$60 a gallon, there are opportunities to increase profits with conventional varieties. Shannon re-



Visiting together are from left to right, Dr. Allen Wrather Plant Pathologist with the University of Missouri Delta Center, Dr. Grover Shannon, Soybean Breeder with the University of Missouri Delta Center and Larry Strobel who is on the Board of Director for District 7 Missouri Soybean Association and farms around Bell City, Mo. Photo by John LaRose

price. Farmers have got a great opportunity this year to really make a boom for themselves."

"They need to pay attention to a few things that may help them make a good yield this year," said Shannon. Drainage problems on heavy clay can lower yields. "One thing they can do is to plant on a bed to get those beans up out of that water," he said. Drainage problems can lower yields but data from the Delta Center and other states has shown up to 15 bushels per acre under severe flooding when soybeans were planted on beds, according to Shannon. "Another thing about beds, you have a better chance of getting a stand on a bed," he added.

Producers who are going out of cotton and into soybeans in fields where soybeans hadn't been planted for a long time need to use inoculants. Inoculants contain the rhizobium bacteria necessary for good nodulation to supply nitrogen to the plant, according to Shannon. "If those fields have been out of beans three years or more, they need to purchase and apply the inoculate to the seed to insure good nodulation."

As far as variety choice, Shannon advises patience. As many producers double booked their

recently released the conventional varieties, Jake and Stoddard. "They yield very well, as well as the round up varieties," he said. Shannon pointed out that some elevators are offering more than a one dollar premium for non Roundup or non-genetically

modified varieties. "If you don't have the weed pressure this is a good choice," he said.

"If producers plant a conventional, just try to plant it on a clean field. There are other herbicides to control weeds, producers just have to be timelier with spraying than with Roundup," said Shannon.

Production costs may even be less according to Shannon, "the seed of a conventional variety is about half as much as Roundup seed, and with the spike in Roundup prices, herbicide costs would be lower, plus they get the dollar premium."

Shannon said that the University of Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois have excellent conventional breeding programs that are working to build the conventional seed supply for producers. Δ