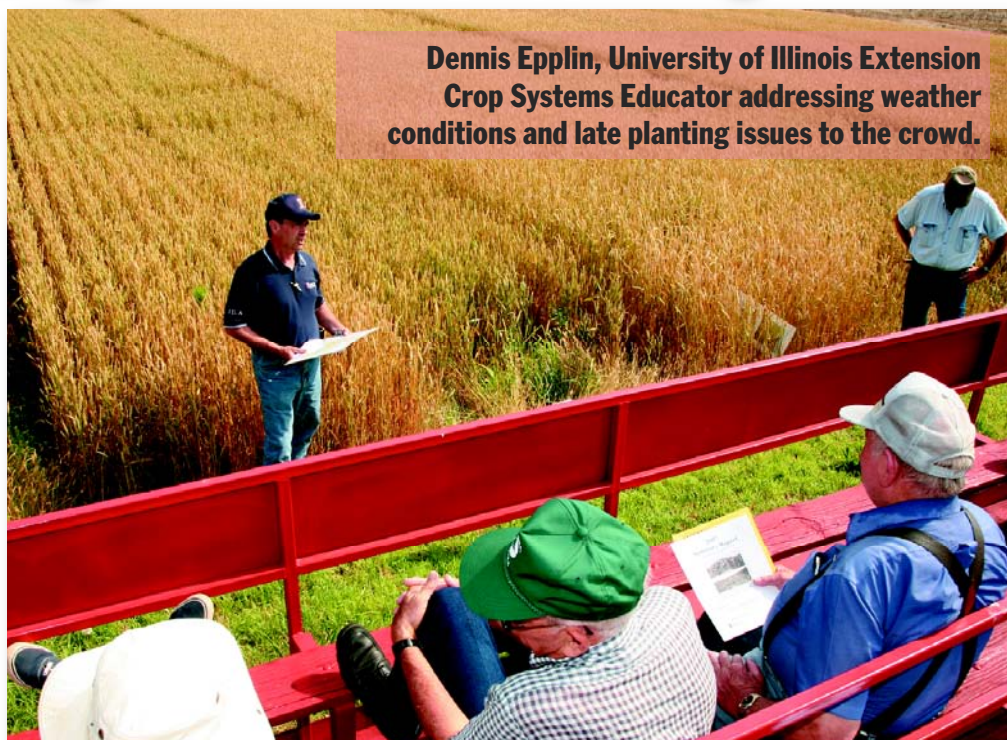


Ewing Tour Focuses On Planting Conditions



Dennis Epplin, University of Illinois Extension Crop Systems Educator addressing weather conditions and late planting issues to the crowd.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

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Late plantings that occurred across Southern Illinois and much of the mid-west cast a different light on the Spring Agronomy Tour at the University of Illinois Ewing Demonstration Center. Weather conditions and the late plantings were addressed by Illinois Extension staff from an agronomic, economic and a crop insurance standpoint.

Two crop insurance adjusters were present to answer some of the questions. Rather than being the traditional field day and tour this event was more of an open discussion on topics that are important this season.

“Last year about this time we were worried about the early frost affecting the wheat harvest,” recalled Dennis Epplin, University of Illinois extension crop systems educator. “We probably have a different series of problems this

year as we look to the wheat. One of my biggest concerns is that the wheat was late because of the weather. It was in very wet soils and it appears to me it had a quite short grain fill period. Now even with that said, I think we will have some good wheat there, maybe just not some outstanding wheat.”

Epplin said the wheat harvest will be a little bit later than last year.

“I want to be optimistic and say we can beat last year’s yields, but we’ll let the combines tell that story,” he said.

The rest of the day’s agenda simply included field tours and examining the wheat fields

“One of the things we would like to talk about are the things we’ve learned at Ewing Field this spring, based on the season,” Epplin continued. “Even though there is not much in the way of crops growing here right now, there are still things that people can see in the fertility plots and the rotation studies.” Δ