First Wheat Yields Are Available In MU Variety Testing Program

COLUMBIA, MO.

First yields from winter wheat harvests are coming in, says Bill Wiebold, University of Missouri Extension agronomist.

"Variety-trial yields look good for three sites in the Missouri Bootheel," Wiebold added. "Yields ranged from a high of 96 bushels per acre to a low of 52 bushels."

Average wheat yields were 66 bushels at Chaffee, 79 bushels at Charleston and 73 bushels at Portageville, Mo.

Results are posted on the MU website at http://varietytesting.missouri.edu/.

The Southeast Region trials contained 65 varieties of soft red winter wheat. Plots at each site are replicated and grown under similar conditions to give a fair comparison, Wiebold said.

Farmers use the results to determine which variety to plant this fall.

Other plot harvests are underway. Results will be posted as soon as finished and analyzed.

The remaining tests are at Adrian, Hughesville and Lamar in southwest Missouri. For north Missouri growers, results will be available from Columbia, Novelty and Trenton as the wheat ripens.

Corn and soybean plots will be harvested this fall by the MU variety test crew. Those results will be available this fall.

"We had to replant several of the corn and soybean plots," Wiebold said. "We faced the same weather conditions farmers have dealt with this spring."

The testing program is supported by fees paid by companies entering seeds in the comparisons. The tests include brand-new varieties and some popular older varieties.

Books with additional details on trials for each crop will be printed when all harvests are completed. The books will be available at local MU Extension offices.

"A grower selecting a variety should look at more than yield," Wiebold said. "Sometimes stalk strength or disease resistance may be of more importance for a particular farm. However, with the wide range in yields from different varieties, yield must be considered."

The tests are conducted across the state to provide growers in different regions with local comparisons. Δ