

Record Low Wheat Acreage Harvested

Grower Need To Utilize Straw

REGINA LAROSE

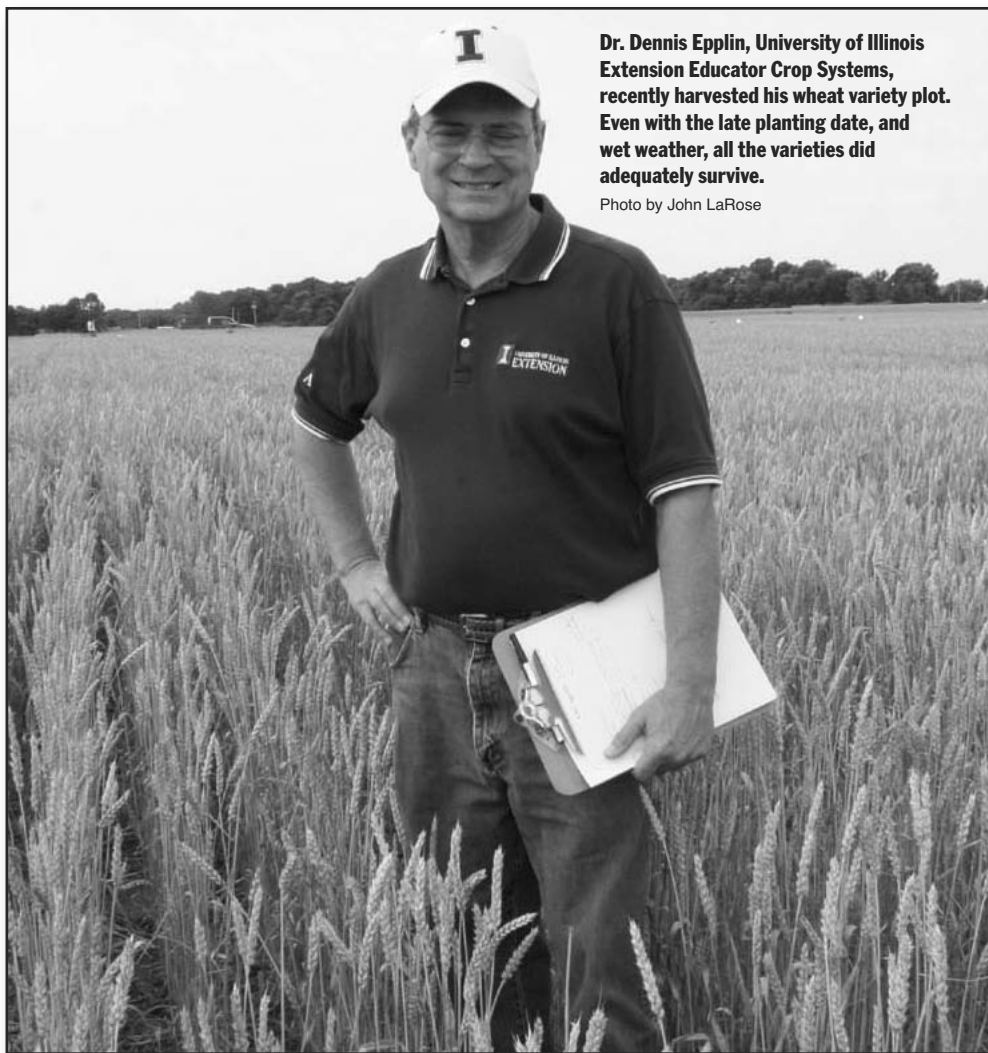
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

EWING, ILL.

University of Illinois Extension Educator Crop Systems, Dr. Dennis Epplin, recently harvested his wheat variety plot. "It was certainly more of a challenge last year with the late wet harvest." Epplin seeded his variety

see if we can determine any trends."

Actual insect pressure in Southern Illinois wasn't too bad according to Epplin. "As far as the yield goes I am expecting less than average yields because of the late planting and the wet winter but it does look like we are going to have yield and we will have to determine just how economically feasible and profitable that yield



Dr. Dennis Epplin, University of Illinois Extension Educator Crop Systems, recently harvested his wheat variety plot. Even with the late planting date, and wet weather, all the varieties did adequately survive.

Photo by John LaRose

plots on November 9, 2009.

"We did get it out; and it did establish but it did not put on much growth last fall with the late seeding date. Then we had a fairly difficult, wet winter. It came through the winter; again it did not look very good but wheat, being the resilient crop that it is, has come out for us. I do not think it is going to be a record yielder by any means but all our varieties did adequately survive."

Epplin's variety plots were all from commercial companies some of which are new varieties. Epplin said, "about half of them are insecticide seed treated so we are going to be interested to

turns out."

Epplin stated growers can find yield information on the extension website, <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/regions/ag/ag2.htm>.

Epplin was asked about the price of wheat this year. "I think all commodities are down a bit. I do have one remark though. I think because of the low wheat acreage, straw is going to be a valuable or much sought after commodity. Growers that don't normally utilize their straw might consider that as well." Δ

REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower