



David McDowell, farmer from Sikeston, Mo., (from left) joins Anthony Ohmes, University of Missouri Agronomy Specialist, and another Sikeston farmer, Tony Johnson, for a chat during a break in the Crop Management Conference recently. Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

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SIKESTON, MO.

Soybean production issues topped the list of issues at the recent Crop Management Conference held in Sikeston, Mo. Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist for the University of Missouri Extension, organized the meeting which was first organized by Tim Schnakenberg about 15 years ago.

"We call it the Crop Management Conference, but it's primarily a soybean meeting where we'll cover topics involving soybean production," Ohmes said.

Highlights of the meeting included a soybean variety update by Dr. Grover Shannon, Professor in the Soybean Breeding Program, MU Delta Center; a rust update by Dr. Allen Wrather, Professor of Plant Pathology at the MU Delta Center; Dr. Eric Walker, USDA agronomist from the University of Tennessee-Jackson, who offered soybean production tips and discussed some of his research work. Some general updates on insects such as decates stem borer were given by Dr. Kelly Tindall, Assistant Professor of Entomology at the Delta Center.

An update on weed control was also highlighted. Kevin Bradley, State Extension Weed Specialist, University of Missouri-Columbia, spoke on weed management practices and glyphosate resistance. Marketing tips by Bob Smith of Farm Credit, and David Reinbott, Southeast Region Agriculture Business Specialist, brought attendees up to speed for this year

on that issue.

"The just of these meetings is to give the producers an overall update," Ohmes said. "Also, the meeting is open to anybody, and a lot of certified crop advisors were here as well. Also, this meeting is sponsored primarily by the Missouri Soybean Association which holds its district meeting in conjunction with this event."

About 60 people called in to attend, however a cold snap was expected to lure more to the meeting.

Ohmes said the Crop Management Conference has evolved from the early meetings in the '90s.

"Back then the Crop Management Conference included all crops," he said. "There were management topics on every crop. Then I started the corn meeting five years ago and since then the primary focus of this meeting shifted to soybeans, which was a good fit since the Crop Management Conference is in conjunction with the Missouri Soybean Association meeting.

"Since Southeast Missouri produces such a diversity in row crops, I thought we could try to specifically focus on soybeans at one meeting and corn at another, the idea of two meetings is to provide more specific information in the same amount of time, so producers can utilize this in their operation. Two meetings also gives growers and farm service industry agronomists a choice to come to both or pick one that meets their needs," Ohmes concluded. Δ

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