

Variety Trials Highlighted At Wheat Field Day

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY.

The Wheat Variety Trials that are conducted throughout the state were showcased at the recent Kentucky Wheat Field Day at Boddie Farms in Christian County, Ky. Dave Van Sanford, wheat breeder, made the presentation.

"It's a large test with 88 entries, and it gives the growers an idea of what's out there in terms of options for them, varieties they might want to consider for the future, what we know about the varieties, what we're seeing this year, what we've seen in past years," he explained. "We just try to provide data and help farmers, give them the information they need to make informed choices."

The University does not publish a recommended list. It's up to farmers to study the variety trials and look for what's performed well over several years.

"We encourage growers to base their judgments on multiple years of data, ideally three years of data," Van Sanford said. "Some varieties don't stick around that long, so it's hard sometimes to come up with three years of data, but farmers should look for at least two years of data at multiple locations."

Dave Van Sanford, Wheat Breeder with the University of Kentucky discusses the Wheat Variety Trials and the options for growers.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

One big concern this year with the Kentucky wheat crop is head scab.

"We had conditions at flowering that favored the development of head scab, and I saw a lot of head scab at the location I visited yesterday in Logan County; but that was not treated with a fungicide," Van Sanford said. "What we're promoting is the idea of genetic resistance in combination with fungicides as a total package for growers. Hopefully, we'll see some varieties today that growers will be interested in that will give them other genetic options for the future."

Growers can access the Kentucky Wheat Variety Trials at <www.uky.edu/Ag/wheatvarietytesting>. Δ

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER: Senior Staff Writer, MidAmerica Farmer Grower

