

Wheat Demonstration Trials Improve Growers' Variety Selection

Extension Education

Texas Wheat Variety Research and Development

- ◆ One of the most important decisions a wheat grower makes is the selection of a variety well-adapted to his/her specific growing region.
- ◆ Public and private wheat breeders have made significant improvements to yield, grain quality, and disease and insect resistance.
- ◆ New varieties continually need to be evaluated to assess yield and quality traits for a specific growing region.

Extension's Response

- ◆ With the support of the Texas Wheat Producers Board, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas AgriLife Research have conducted 141 replicated wheat-variety demonstration trials in producer-cooperator field since 2004.
- ◆ Partnership with the wheat industry (including funding, local producer cooperators, and seed companies) provides credibility to the wheat demonstration trials. The yield results allow producers to use unbiased information when comparing the production capability and agronomic characteristics of each variety.

- ◆ In the past four years, test results have been disseminated through the distribution of 6,000 copies of various wheat-variety publications, educational presentations at more than 200 field days (8,700 producers), 21 Extension publications, 40 popular-press articles, over 60 radio and television interviews, plus some 200,000 viewings on the small-grains variety-testing website.
- ◆ A survey by the National Ag. Statistics Service indicates that 80 percent of wheat producers in Texas use the demonstration trials results in their variety selection decision.

Economic Impact

- ◆ The economic benefit of wheat-variety research and Extension education for 2009 is estimated at \$24 per acre in increased net returns.
- ◆ The total increase in net returns for growers in Texas is estimated at \$20.2 million for 2009.
- ◆ This level of economic impact supports and an additional 151 jobs with a wage base of \$5.1 million.



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