

Wheat Field Days set for June 12-19 in northeast Colorado

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Colorado Wheat Field Days will be held June 12-19 at seven different variety trial sites throughout eastern Colorado. The field days are jointly hosted by the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee, Colorado Association of Wheat Growers, Colorado Wheat Research Foundation and Colorado State University Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station.

The schedule includes Akron on Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30 a.m. at Central Great Plains Research Station; Burlington, Monday, June 17, noon, Randy Wilks Farm; Yuma, Monday, June 17, 5 p.m., Andrews Brothers Farm; Haxtun, Tuesday, June 18, noon, Steve Boerner Farm; Julesburg, Tuesday, June 18, 5 p.m., Jim and David Carlson Farm; Orchard, Wednesday, June 19, noon, Cary Wickstrom Farm; and Roggen, Wednesday, June 19, 5 p.m., Cooksey Farms.

The field days will highlight new hard red and hard white wheat varieties developed by CSU and other public and private breeding programs in the Great Plains region. Attention will also be given to variety selection, special areas of emphasis in wheat breeding at CSU and progress and plans with CWAC funding for CSU wheat research.

This year's wheat field day program will include plot tours at seven trial locations that will each last about an hour. Unfortunately, some locations were removed from the field day schedule due to poor emergence last fall or drought and freeze damage this spring. All field day locations will feature refreshments or a meal.

Each location will feature a yield contest, in which participants will guess which variety will yield the most bushels. The tie breaker will be the number of bushels the variety yields.

CSU Extension agronomist Jerry Johnson will review results from the 2012 testing program and highlight critical areas of emphasis related to agronomic production management.

CSU wheat breeder Dr. Scott Haley will discuss each variety and promising experimental line in the trials, as well as wheat-related research issues including hard white wheat development, the CWRP/ConAgra Mills Ultragrain® Premium program, Russian wheat aphid resistance, Clearfield wheat, progress on new wheat research initiatives at CSU and exciting new hard red and hard white experimental lines in the pipeline.

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The trials this year include the “mainstay” varieties with which growers are familiar in addition to an exciting group of new entries from public and private breeding programs throughout the region. Wheat varieties for irrigated producers will also be discussed.

All wheat producers are urged to attend at least one of the Colorado Wheat Field Days. For more information, a map of trial locations and directions, visit www.coloradowheat.org or call 1-800-WHEAT-10.

The highly successful Wheat Planting Decision Meetings will be held again after harvest of the 2013 crop and before planting of the 2014 crop. These trials will also highlight the new CSU wheat variety Byrd.

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