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Wheat in Kentucky
-Team Work Makes a Difference-
Wheat Science Group 2006

A 70 bu/ac. state average wheat yield in 2006 is the highest ever produced by the state of Kentucky. This is the 5th highest in the U.S. and higher than almost all of the surrounding states. This is a dramatic increase over the 40 bu/ac state average in the mid 1980's. This increase occurred in steps that corresponds to increased emphasis on education and applied research. The first step occurred as an agribusiness established a scouting and applied research program. With the new emphasis, the state average yields improved from the 40's to the 50's bu/ac. range. The next step occurred when the University of Kentucky concentrated and focused efforts on wheat with a group of 16 specialists with diverse expertise to form the Wheat Science Group. Soon afterward, the state average yields moved to the 60's bu/ac range. The UK Specialists, consultants, and the Small Grain Grower's Association worked as a team on many research and educational efforts. So Kentucky now has excellent research and education programs on wheat with well informed and productive producers. Wheat yields have reached the 70 bu/ac range and Kentucky leads the nation in the percentage of acres planted to no-till wheat. Team work among the different groups has been the key to this effort.

Kentucky's Wheat Enterprise Demonstrating Economic Potential
Richard L. Trimble—Extension Economist

Kentucky's wheat enterprise has been earning management returns on a par with corn and soybeans over the past few years. However, 2006 could be the year that wheat, in the traditional combination with double crop soybeans, could really shine for Kentucky producers. Projections of 2006 return over variable costs by Craig Gibson, Kentucky Farm Business Management Specialist, indicate that wheat and double crop soybeans could expect a return over variable costs of $184.00 per acre. This was $66.00 per acre greater than the next best enterprise projected return.

Kentucky wheat producers find themselves in this fortunate position as a result of two major factors. First, as a result of the efforts of the University of Kentucky Wheat Science Group, producers have been constantly increasing wheat yields. The state wide average wheat yield has increased from 53 bushels in 1996 to an average of 70 bushels per acre in 2006. Second, wheat prices are projected to be quite favorable for 2006. The result of combining these two factors has the potential for creating an uncommonly pleasant outcome for Kentucky wheat producers.

2006 Kentucky Extension Wheat Production Contest
Summary of Award Winners

<u>17 Entries (8 Tillage, 9 No-Tillage)</u>
9 Varieties
10 Counties

I. State Awards:

AWARD	DIV.	TILLAGE	PRODUCER	COUNTY	BRAND/ VARIETY	YIELD (BU/AC)
Champion	I	Conventional	George Fox	Todd	Pioneer 25R49	108.36
Champion	II	No-Tillage	Pat Clements	Washington	Cumberland	119.71

II. Area Awards

AREA	PRODUCER	COUNTY	BRAND/ VARIETY	YIELD (BU/AC)	DIV.
1. Purchase & Pennyrile	Jeremy & Bruce Benson	Hopkins	Pioneer 25R37	110.51	II
2. Green River	Knott Farms	Daviess	Pioneer 25R78	107.75	I
3. Mammoth Cave	No Entry				
4. Rest of State	Bivens Farms	LaRue	Pioneer 25R78	109.21	II

III. Summary of Cultural Practices

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ENTRIES*		CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ENTRIES*	
1. Date Planted			**2. Test Weight (lbs/bu)**		
Oct. 1-9	1		51.0-53.5	1	(1) a
Oct. 10-20	11	(4) b	55.0-58.0	10	(4) b
Oct. 21-30	3	(3)	58.5-60.5	2	(1)
Nov. 1-15	2	(1) a	60.5-62.0	1	
			62.1-64.0	1	(1)
3. Row Width (inches)			**4. Seed Rate (lbs/ac)**		
7	4	(2)	90-114	1	
7.5	10	(5) ab	115-125	1	
8	1	(1)	126-135	2	(2) a
Broadcast	2		136-145	1	(1)
	2		146-155	5	(1) b
			156+	6	(4)
			34 seeds/ft^2	1	
5. Tillage Used			**6. Insecticides Used**		
No-Tillage	7	(5) a	Cruiser fb Mustang	1	
Disc x1, 2, or 3	8	(3) b	DiSyston	1	
			Di-Syston fb Mustang	1	(1)
			Mustang	3	
			Mustang (fall & spring)	2	(2) a
			Warrior T	3	(1)
			Warrior (fall & spring)	3	(2) b
7. Herbicides Used			**8. Fungicides Used**		
Glyphosate	1	(1)	Folicur	14	(4) b
Harmony Extra XP	20	(8) ab	Headline	4	
2,4-D	4	(3)	Quilt	1	(1)
Sencor	2		Stratego	1	(1)
Buctril	1	(1)	Tilt	1	
9. Fertilizer			**10. Fertilizer**		
P_2O_5 (lbs/A)			**K_2O (lbs/A)**		
0	3		0	3	(1) b
20-59	1		20-30	1	(1)
60-70	4	(4) a	40-59	1	
75-99	6	(1)	60-70		
100-120	1	(1) b	75-99	5	(3) a
			100-120	4	

III. Summary of Cultural Practices (Cont'd)

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ENTRIES*		CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ENTRIES*	
Nitrogen Applied N at Planting (Lbs/A)			**Nitrogen Applied Total N (Lbs/A)**		
0	2		60-79	1	(1)
15-20	2	(1)	80-99	3	(1)
21-25	2	(1) b	100-110	2	
26-35	7	(4) a	111-120	1	
36-60	1		121-130	6	(4) ab
Broiler Litter (2 tons/ac)	1	(1)	131-140	4	(1)
Split N in Spring			**Split N in Spring**		
1st Split Date			**1st Split N (Lbs/A)**		
Feb. 1-10	7	(3) b	30-39	1	(1)
Feb. 13-28	6	(3)	40-50	12	(6) b
Mar. 1-15	2	(1) a	51-90	3	(1) a
2nd Split Date			**2nd Split N (Lbs/A)**		
Mar. 10-20	10	(4) b	20-29	1	(1)
Mar. 21-30	4	(3)	30-49	3	(1) a
Apr. 1-25	2	(1) a	50-59	6	(3)
			60-90	5	(3) b
Single N in Spring			**Single N in Spring**		
Date Applied			**Single N (Lbs/A)**		
Mar.	1		90-99		1

*Number of entries
Example 15 (3) a,b
15 = total number of entries
(3) = number of entries above 105 bu/acre
a = Top Yield, Division I, Conventional Tillage
b = Top Yield, Division II, No-Tillage

IV. Agent Awards

Top Yield: Rick Greenwell, Washington County, 119.71 bu/acre
Top Three Average Yield: Curt Judy, Todd County, 106.13 bu/acre
Most Entries: Clint Hardy, Daviess County, 6 entries

V. Summary of Entries

Grower, Farm Name	County	Brand	Variety	Yield (bu/A)
Division I, Tillage				
George Fox	Todd	Pioneer	25R49	108.36
Knott Farms	Daviess	Pioneer	25R78	107.75
Traughbe Bros./George Fox	Todd	Pioneer	25R49	107.11
Greg Thomas	McLean		Vargo	104.76
Triple T Farms	Daviess	Pioneer	26R58	101.67
Scott Kuegel	Daviess	Pioneer	26R58	99.45
Knott Farms	Daviess	Pioneer	25R78	99.44
Clements Bros.	Union	Pioneer	25R54	98.44
Triple T Farms	Daviess	So. States	SS 8302	94.95
Division II, No-Tillage				
Pat Clements	Washington		Cumberland	119.71
Jeremy & Bruce Benson	Hopkins	Pioneer	25R37	110.51
Bivens Farms	LaRue	Pioneer	25R78	109.21
Williams Farms	Wayne	So. States	SS 8302	108.17
Burton Farms	Wayne	Pioneer	25R47	105.58
P & P Farms	Todd	Pioneer	25R37	102.93
Phillip McCoun	Shelby	Pioneer	25R54	86.96
PPJ Thompson Farms	Daviess	Pioneer	26R58	79.96

Contributing Agribusiness

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