

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Wheat seed quality concerns: Low test weights and foreign material

By Jeanne Falk, K-State Multi-County Agronomist

Will low-test-weight wheat be suitable to use for seed this fall? According to Jim Shroyer, K-State wheat specialist, there's no simple answer to this question. Producers who want to plant back some of the wheat they harvested from this year's crop should have it cleaned out to a test weight of at least 56 pounds per bushel if possible.

Wheat with a lower test weight may have a good germination test, and may even emerge just fine (just look at all the volunteer wheat that emerges from small or shriveled seed that is blown out the back of the combine!), but will often have lower vigor and yield potential than wheat with a higher test weight.

The effect of test weight on emergence, vigor, and yield potential will vary from year to year. When there is stress on the seedlings or young plants in the fall from freeze or drought or some other factor, the effect of higher test weight seed is often greatest.

A study conducted at K-State's Agronomy North Farm in 1950 by H.H. Laude, professor of agronomy looked at seed test weight. The results showed that: test weight had no effect on germination, higher test weight seed had 20-40 percent improved field emergence, higher test weight seed emerged 4-6 days sooner, higher test weight seed resulted in about a 5-bushel yield increase, and test weight of the seed had no effect on the final test weight of the subsequent crop.

In addition, in 1990, a study was conducted by K-State extension agronomists, Jim Shroyer, Stu Duncan, and Dale Fjell, on seed of Arkansas wheat from 25 demonstration plots around the state. Yields averaged 2.4 bushels per acre higher with the high-test-weight seed (61 vs. 54 pounds/bushel).

Field observations have shown that higher-test-weight seed results in improved vigor and fall tiller de-

velopment. A note from K-State's Department of Agronomy in 1935 substantiates this, and summarizes the situation regarding low-test-weight seed. These comments still apply to today's varieties:

Shriveled seed, even when it has a fairly high germination percentage, is likely to produce weak sprouts and plants that do not have enough vigor to survive unfavorable conditions. Professor J.W. Zahnley, Director of the State Seed Laboratory, states that the germinated seed of several samples of shriveled wheat with test weights ranging from 46 to 55 pounds, was characterized by weakness of the first or temporary roots.

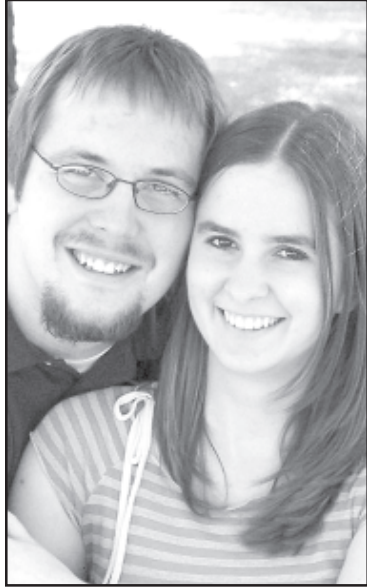
Normal wheat seedlings should have three strong roots at the end of the germination period of seven days. Many of the badly shriveled seeds produced only a single, weak primary root, or one fairly strong root and one or two very weak ones. Such seed will not produce a normal plant under average field condition. And in case of adverse circumstances, these weak plants will perish more quickly than normal seedlings.

If producers are planning to save their grain as seed and have it cleaned to raise the test weight, what should the minimum test weight be? How low is too low? In truth, there is no absolute minimum for farmer-saved seed, but yields and vigor are more likely to be affected at test weights below 54-56 pounds/bushel. Below 54-56, the plants are likely to have more problems in the fall and in surviving the winter. Producers planting low-test-weight seed will also have to be extra cautious not to plant the seed too deeply, since seedling vigor will be below average.

The effect of seed test weight on emergence, vigor, and yield potential will vary from year to year. When there is stress on the seedlings or young plants in the fall from freeze or drought or some other factor, the effect of higher test weight seed is often greatest.



JUNIOR CLASS BAKE SALE — Sidney Busse waits for Jim to be taking home. Mandi Walden looks on. Proceeds of the bake sale will go to the prom. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick



Toon — Gienger

Couple announces wedding

Kari Nichole Gienger and Nathaniel Jack Ryan Toon are planning an October wedding.

Parents of the couple are Tony and Joan Gienger and Jack and Sheila Toon and Kent and Tammy Jantz.

The bride-to-be is a 2003 alumni of St. Francis Community High School and a 2006 graduate of Fort Hays State University where she majored in business administration.

The groom-to-be is a 2004 alumni of Cambridge High School in Cambridge, Neb., and is a student at Fort Hays State University where he is majoring in computer science.

They are both employed at NEW Corp. in Hays.



Prairie dog control discussed

By Karen Krien
Prairie dogs

Prairie dog control was discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday. All three commissioners had received complaints about prairie dogs, the damage they were doing and lack of control.

The last day the dogs could be treated with the chemical bait Rozol was March 15. Now prairie dogs cannot be baited until October.

With the push of farmers and ranchers, the commissioners have decided to start preparing and discussing treatments well before October arrives.

Farmers can do their own baiting with chemicals but they need to be certified. There is also a treated grain that farmers can spread but, at a previous meeting, Dan Schlittenhardt, supervisor, said that if the prairie dog eats some and does not die, he will never eat it again. The grain is only about 75-percent effective and there is also a matter that birds might pick up the treated

grain. Also, at that earlier meeting, Mr. Schlittenhardt said the snow last winter had hampered the progress of baiting the dogs. Commissioner Beikman said he hoped Mr. Schlittenhardt could be out as soon as possible in the fall.

Emergency preparedness
Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness director, reported that his laptop computer had quit.

"I have totally lost my office!" he said.

Mr. Rogers not only serves Cheyenne County but also Rawlins and Sherman counties.

Terry Miller, county clerk, said he would take it home over the weekend to see if information could be saved from the hard drive. Mr. Rogers presented a quote from Gateway which gives a state discount. For a 15-inch screen, the cost is \$1,355; for a 17-inch screen, \$1,555. Clerk Miller suggested he get the larger screen with a large hard drive.

The commissioners agreed that Mr. Rogers had adequate money in his budget to buy the computer that

he thought necessary. Mr. Rogers talked about raising the meal allowance. He was told that the county will pay up to \$10 for a meal and, if the cost went over that, Mr. Rogers would have to cover it. This arrangement appeared to be agreeable to Mr. Rogers.

The commissioners signed the 2007 Kansas Emergency Cooperative Agreement.

In other business
In other business:
• Andy Beikman, chairman, signed the Heritage Trust Fund Grant Contract. This grant is for the restoration of the courthouse steps.

• Sick time was discussed and the commissioners agreed to change the policy to allow employees to be gone for as little as 30 minutes instead of taking off a full hour as the policy now states.

• The new 911 system was discussed. See related article.

Next meeting
The next meeting of the commissioners has been changed from Monday, July 16, to Friday, July 13. The time will be 8 a.m. and a budget work session will follow.

Public Notices

Petition filed for probate of Estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, July 5 and July 12, 2007. (26-28)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

CASE NO. 2007-PR-09
MARY E. WALDEN, Deceased.
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on June 22, 2007, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Eldon F. Walden, an heir, devisee and legatee, and executor named in the "Last Will and Testa-

ment of Mary E. Walden", deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Eldon F. Walden, Petitioner
APPROVED BY:
JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED
Kari M. Gilliland, #17386
101 W. Washington Street, P.O. Box 627
St. Francis, Kansas 67756
(785) 332-2101
Attorneys for Petitioner

Petition filed for final settlement

Published in the Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, July 5, July 12 and July 19, 2007

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Case No. 06-PR-19
DELORIS E. NIPPS A/K/A
DELORIS NIPPS, DECEASED
PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on the 28th day of June, 2007, in this Court by Charles W. Nipps, Administrator of the estate of Deloris E. Nipps, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved, account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the court find the allowances requested for attorney fees and expenses are reason-

able and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Administrator of the Estate of Deloris E. Nipps, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 25th day of July, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., in the district court, St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place such cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Charles W. Nipps, Petitioner
JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED
James M. Milliken, #07001
101 W. Washington Street, P.O. Box 627
St. Francis, Kansas 67756
(785) 332-2101
Attorney for Administrator

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