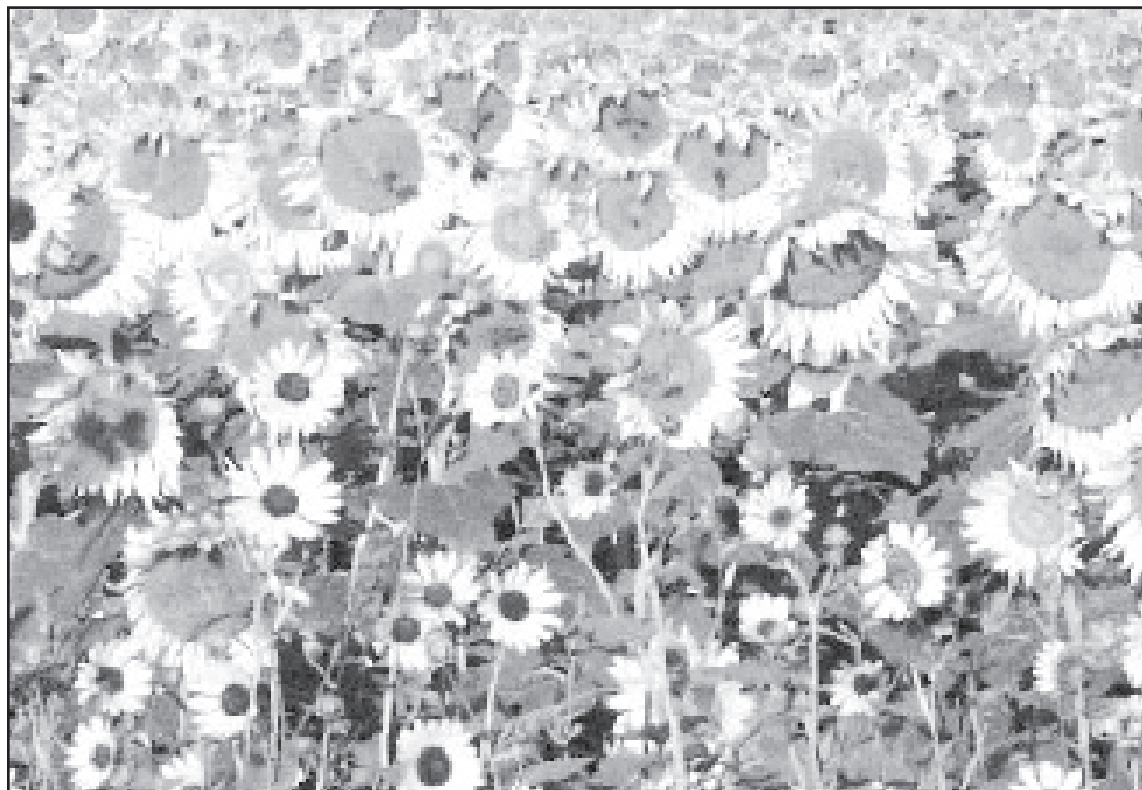


# Sunflower Celebration

## Friday, Aug. 14, 2009

Kansas State University Northwest Area Research and Extension Center in Colby



### Good crop, good food spell good sunflower future

Although Kansas and Thomas County may not hold the No. 1 spot in production of sunflowers like they do for wheat, Red River Commodities considered it an ideal place for a plant and encouraging farmers to dedicate acreage to the crop.

The hybrid sunflower is a good crop for western Kansas because of its extensive root system, which aids the plant during dry conditions experienced in the area. The marketable sunflower is so hybridized that if you were to plant one of the harvested seeds it would revert back to wild in the first year. Unlike hybrid sunflowers, the wild ones have multiple heads, and are so common to Kansas they are actually a serious weed problem.

On the average year, between 2,600 and 2,800 pounds to the acre under irrigation is considered a good yield. On occasion 3,000 pounds to the acre can be reached. Most dry land sunflowers average 1,200 pounds to the acre.

Large seeds are preferable, and the snack food market pays a premium for them.

"The confectionery seed differs from the oil seed in looks, and western Kansas grows the nicest-looking seeds," said Dee Olson, administrator of the Colby plant, "the seeds are black with a very pretty little white stripe on them."

The Colby plant is considered an in-shell plant, although they also hull and sell some kernels. Some kernels are shipped to the roasting plant in Fargo.

Red River began five years ago making sun butter from the sunflower kernel. The kernel is a very low trans-fat food source, which makes sun butter a good alternative to peanut butter. Their Sun-Gold Foods plant is in Horace, N.D.

"Some school districts are taking foods with peanuts from their menus and replacing it with sun butter," Olson said. "Adverse reaction to sunflowers is a rarity."

### Field day Friday in Colby

The annual Western Kansas Sunflower Celebration will be held on Friday at the Kansas State University Northwest Area Research and Extension Center in Colby.

The center has a number of cutting-edge

sunflower research projects on genetic insect resistance, weed and insect control. Farmers and Certified Crop Advisors will have an opportunity to tour the plots and visit first hand with the researchers.

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### Sunflower Celebration 2009

*All area producers are invited to attend  
the 2009 Sunflower Celebration!*

**CEU Credits for Certified Crop Advisors  
Thomas County 4-H Building; Colby, KS  
Friday, August 14th, @ 7:00 a.m. (CT)  
(ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL TIME)**

**Expert Production Information  
Seed Company Representation**

**FREE Coffee and Rolls for Breakfast and FREE Lunch!**

**8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Plot tours at KSU Experiment Station  
Speakers @ Plot Tours on Agronomic Issues and Seed Varieties  
105 Experiment Farm Road

**Topics include:**

Sunflower Hybrids in the Marketplace; Dry land Sunflower Planting Rates and Planting Dates; Sunflower Herbicides – both PRE and POST; Spraying Desiccants on Sunflowers to Hasten Harvest; Sunflower Disease and Fungicide Treatments; How to Scout for Head Moth and Other Insects

**FREE Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Thomas County 4-H Building**

**12:30 – 3:00 p.m. Afternoon Speakers**

Thomas County 4-H Building, Colby Kansas

For more information and to RSVP, contact:

Joni Wilson at Northern Sun/ADM  
6425 Road 14, Goodland, KS 67735  
785-899-6500 PHONE    785-899-3999 FAX  
New email address: [joni.wilson@adm.com](mailto:joni.wilson@adm.com)

*For more information, visit: [www.sunflowernsa.com](http://www.sunflowernsa.com)*

## Please enjoy this year's Sunflower Celebration!

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work and dedication that our area  
producers put in to provide a  
safe and high-quality food  
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Thank you for your effort!**

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