

Sunflower Celebration field day

Day includes plot tours, special speakers

The Sunflower Celebration is a promotional and educational program for High Plains sunflower growers and businesses. The show will be start at 7 a.m. for rolls and coffee on Friday at the 4-H Building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

This annual event has been upgraded to include more presentations and other activities. As a result, activities are being scheduled that will take the day past lunch and into the early afternoon.

The show site is located at the Sherman County Fairgrounds 4-H Building, 417 North Main Street, Goodland, Kan. (The Sherman County Fairgrounds can be reached via Highway 27 to 8th Street. Proceed East on 8th Street to Main Street. At 8th and Main Streets, proceed North on Main Street to the Fairgrounds.)

AGENDA

7 a.m. - Sherman County Fairgrounds - 4-H Building

Registration, Coffee and Rolls
Introductions and Presentations

8 a.m. - Steve Evert Farms Irrigated Plots (Transportation Will Be Provided)

Sunflower Research Plot Tour
Sunflower Yield Trials Plot Tour

10 a.m. - High Plains Research and Technology Center Dryland Plots

Sunflower Research Plot Tour
Sunflower Yield Trials Plot Tour

Speakers and Topics Featured during Plot Tours

Sunflower Hybrids in the Marketplace: Seed Company Representatives

Sunflower Growth and Development: Jeanne Falk, K-State Agronomist

Limited Irrigation Strategies with Sunflowers: John Murray, Pioneer Hybrids

Sunflower Insects: Be On the Lookout: J.P. Michaud, K-State Entomologist

Sunflower Rust & other Diseases: Doug Jardine, K-State Plant Pathologist

11:30 a.m. - Sherman County Fairgrounds - 4-H Building, Producer Lunch

12:30 p.m. - Speakers - 4H Building
Larry Kleingartner, National Sunflower Association Executive Director

Bruce Roskens, PepsiCo (Frito-Lay)

Mike Williams, Red River Commodities

Jerry Moran, U.S. Congressman, Representing 1st District of Kansas (Tentative)

2 p.m. - Processing facility tours

CONTACT INFORMATION
National Sunflower Association - Bismarck, ND

www.sunflowermsa.com
(888) 718-7033

Northern Sun/ADM - Goodland, KS
joni_wilson@admworld.com

(800) 542-7333

Please RSVP to Joni Wilson if possible.

Goodland Chamber of Commerce - Goodland, KS

gdchmbr@eaglecom.net
(785) 899-7130



Irrigated sunflowers are in bloom on the Steve Evert farm about three miles south of the Northern Sun, ADM plant at Caruso are planted as half of a circle with the other half being corn. Evert's field with about 30 varieties of sunflowers will be toured by area producers who attend the Sunflower Celebration on Friday.

Sunflowers capture residual soil nitrogen

By National Sunflower Association

With fertilizer prices that have risen significantly since last fall, one solution might be to plant sunflower, which uses nitrogen left behind by other crops.

On-farm observations and university research validate the sunflower plant's ability to nab soil Nitrogen too deep to be used by other crops.

A study at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service Central Great Plains Research Station in Akron, Colo., in the late 1990s analyzed recovery of nitrogen fertilizer placed deep in the soil profile with different placement methods.

The Akron researchers found that sunflower recovered half the fertilizer nitrogen placed two feet deep. They measured 23 percent recovery from fertilizer nitrogen placed four feet deep, and 12 percent recovery at five and a half feet deep.

Drought can result in high amounts of

residual nitrogen left behind in a non-leaching environment. For example, North Dakota State University Extension soil fertility specialist, David Franzen, recalls a nutrient analysis several years ago in a field near Williston, N.D., where nitrogen levels from 2-4 feet were over 200 pounds per acre. Thus, last year's drought in many areas of the Plains means there may be a significant amount of residual soil nitrogen that would be readily used by sunflower.

A lot of soil nitrogen can be left behind in irrigated environments as well. For example, on fields in the High Plains that have been planted to irrigated corn over multiple years, it can be common to find 200 to 400 pounds per acre of nitrate below the corn root zone, typically three or more feet deep in the soil.

As one of the deepest rooting crops grown, sunflowers will root down and extract residual nitrogen, provided there's not a compaction zone to inhibit root growth,

and if subsoil moisture is adequate to encourage root growth. The only way to know for sure what nutrients your fields need (or don't need) is through soil sampling analysis. Consider a deeper probe (beyond 2 ft) to get a better idea about nitrogen further down in the soil that might be there for sunflower's taking.

"Weather will obviously have a big impact on planting intentions," says Larry

Kleingartner, executive director of the National Sunflower Association. "A heavy rain or late spring snow can derail plans to seed early season crops like wheat, field peas or canola, as well as crops with a narrow planting window, like corn. In those cases, sunflower is an excellent 'Plan B' crop, with a wide planting window and that ability to use residual soil nitrogen."

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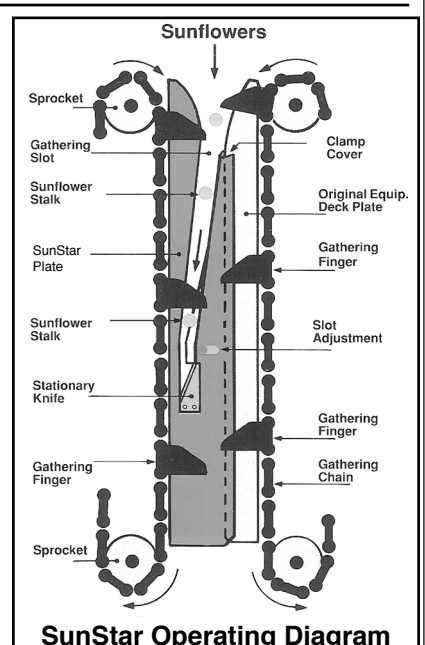
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