

News Column

by Greg McClure, KSU-Riley County Extension Agriculture Agent
110 Courthouse Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66502

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Phone: 785/537-6350
Fax: 785/537-6353

WHEAT PLOT RESULTS

If you had driven past our Riley County Extension wheat variety plot in February of this year, you might not have even known the field was planted. I'm not sure when it finally emerged; it definitely didn't come up last fall.

Our plots are often the last field planted for the cooperator that is kind enough to donate his time, land, and labor to help us with our demonstrations. Since we slow the planting process down somewhat, I like for the rest of their fields to be planted first, in case the weather changes and delays planting. That's part of the reason this year's wheat plot wasn't planted until November 6, 2019.

The other reason it wasn't planted earlier is because Bob Whearty couldn't say no to the guy who wanted to plant the same field to a soybean plot the previous spring. Since it was already a plot – that would take several extra hours to harvest – it was the last field for Bob to harvest in the fall. Then we could plant wheat.

While the plot was late coming on, it actually looked pretty good at harvest time. Yields weren't outstanding across the board, but there were some varieties that handled the challenges thrown at them really well.

The standout in this plot was Westbred 4699. This is a new variety that I described in an earlier column as having exceptional yield potential, but was a variety I wanted to watch to see how it did in our plots. Now, I'd say I still want to watch it, but I might plant 10 acres so I'd

have seed for next year if it shines again.

Other varieties that I like that confirmed what I have thought about them include WB Grainfield, SY Monument, and Zenda. Zenda was disappointing in last year's plot – being one of our poorest performers a year ago – but I'm considering that a fluke and still keeping it on my list of varieties to plant.

Another interesting variety in this plot was LCS Link. If you want a later maturing variety, this was the one this year. It was still green a week before we harvested, and it was barely ready to harvest, with 13.5% moisture, on July 1.

Plot results are shown in the table below.

Variety	Moisture (%)	Test Weight (lbs./A)	Yield (bu./A)
Check (WB 4458)	10.3	56	32.0
Everest	11.0	61	37.1
Larry	11.2	59	40.3
LCS Chrome	10.9	60	41.6
WB 4269	10.1	60	46.9
WB Grainfield	11.4	60	49.1
Check (WB 4458)	10.9	59	34.4
Bob Dole	11.6	62	40.8
WB 4699	11.3	61	57.9
WB 4303	11.6	58	39.5
SY Benefit	11.3	62	36.8
SY Monument	11.2	60	45.3
Check (WB 4458)	11.5	60	34.5
Zenda	10.7	62	47.6
Paradise	10.8	59	35.4

LCS Link	13.5	63	47.4
Check (WB 4458)	11.9	59	38.5

If you have questions, you can reach me at the Riley County Extension Office at 785/537-6350. Or, you can send e-mail to gmcclure@ksu.edu.

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