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Cooperative Extension Service

Farm Update

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION
Clint Hardy
Daviess County Extension Office

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Daviess County Grain Demonstration Plot Results

The Daviess County Cooperative Extension Service and KCTCS Adult Farmer Education Program collaborate annually to conduct an expansive corn and soybean variety yield demonstration program. The following summarizes the three highest adjusted yields in five of seven corn plot locations harvested at this time. The data reflects no less than one-tenth of an acre area within each field relative to the next harvested area planted in a different variety. These are the highest yields per plot area, not entire farm average. Special thank you to the farmers who volunteered time and resources to make this information available. Complete results of the plots listed below are on my website at http://daviess.ca.uky.edu/ANR.

The first corn plot was planted May 2 and harvested September 11 on the Short Station Road farm of Don and Brian Cecil near Knottsville. The highest adjusted yield in the plot was NuTech 70B4AM at 307.5 bushels per acre. Second place was Beck's 6973TCV2P at 280.3 bushels per acre. Third place was NK Brand NK1228-AA at 277.4 bushels per acre.

The next corn plot was planted April 25 and harvested September 12 on land farmed by my family on Berry Road near West Louisville. The highest adjusted yield in the field was Dyna-Gro D60TC45 at 271.3 bushels per acre. Second place was Beck's 6574TCV2P at 268.5 bushels per acre. Third place was Beck's 6973TCV2P at 268.3 bushels per acre.

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The third corn plot was planted April 15 and harvested September 16 by Bill and Lucas Brey on their HWY 764 farm north of Whitesville. The highest adjusted yield in the field was Beck's 6973TCV2P at 294.9 bushels per acre. Second place was Pioneer P1718AML at 276.2 bushels per acre. Third place was NuTech 70B4AM at 269.7 bushels per acre.

The fourth corn plot was planted April 23 and harvested September 16 at Gerald and Joel Boswell's farm on HWY 657 at Blackford Creek. The highest adjusted yield in the plot was Beck's 6973TCV2P at 262.2 bushels per acre. Second place was Channel 218-66TV2PRIB at 258.0 bushels per acre. Third place was Dyna-Gro D60TC45 at 253.3 bushels per acre.

The fifth corn plot was planted April 27 and harvested September 18 on Goetz Bros Farm's London Pike Road farm near Masonville. The highest adjusted yield was Beck's 6973TCV2P at 291.4 bushels per acre. Second Place was AgriGold A647-42TRC at 282.2 bushels per acre. Third place was Dyna-Gro D60TC45 at 282.3 bushels per acre.

Consider Cover Crop

This time of year, we're reminded about the soil erosion as the combines and grain carts drive over and around washouts that developed during the growing season. The amount of rain received in May was particularly brutal on land with slope. One consideration for significantly eroding areas is grass waterways. They are challenging to establish and annoying to farm around, but stop or reduce routine soil loss occurs. A second option is to tile the land and install multiple tile risers and basins. These are more expensive to establish but keep land in production and are effective in reducing surface erosion. A third option, which will not eliminate erosion but certainly reduce it, is to plant cover crops on the fields. This too requires time and a minimal annual investment. Keeping vegetation growing on the farm over winter and early spring will

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slow water movement off the field, thus reducing the risk of erosion. Wheat and cereal rye are the two most popular and effective at reducing erosion. Wheat can be planted until November 1 with the expectation of adequate growth before winter dormancy. A fourth option to reduce erosion is to stop tilling the soil. Tens of thousands of acres of land were tilled in the warm dry April, when planters could have been running. The plan was to get ground ready in April, and plant in May. Then it rained for a solid month. Those loose soils washed out. When it dried out, all those fields had to be tilled again to fill the gulleys.

We worry about slugs, voles, and poor soybean stands in no-till. My experience watching soybeans across the county is that by July, all the soybean fields look the same. Variety and weather determine the harvest yield, not tillage.