



CEREAL Newsletter

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Wheat Varieties - Selecting for Current Conditions

Selecting a variety best suited for your location, field conditions and production system is a yearly challenge for growers. Not very many years ago, most times for a soft white winter type – Stephens was the hands-down favorite. Now we have many more choices of both public and private varieties. Selecting the right variety is about minimizing your risk from crop diseases and stress while maximizing one's yield potential.

Last fall all four locations of the Umatilla County Variety Drill Strip Trials were seeded into dry conditions. The seeding dates were from October 1st to October 20th. These dry conditions continued into late October and plants were slow to germinate and went into the winter fairly small. Given these conditions, it was Goetze that preformed well. Goetze was the highest yielding at three sites (Straughan, Woodward, and CTUIR).

Goetze is a newer release from OSU and is adaptable for our area but has a risk for damage from cold temperatures. Goetze is a wheat that needs little or no chilling for it to initiate flowering. Testing suggests that it is similar to the variety Gene. For additional information on Goetze, see OSU publication – EM8957-e found online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8957-e.pdf>.

For some areas of the county, this year may present an opportunity to seed early. Early seeding can result in higher yields when seedbed moisture is adequate. However, crop diseases such as *Cephalosporium stripe*, strawbreaker (eyespot) footrot, *Fusarium* crown rot, and Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus can be problems. Variety seeding date studies conducted by OSU Cereal Specialist, Mike Flowers, in 2006 and 2007, show that Tubbs06 and ORCF -102 may be the better choice for early seeding. These varieties have a

good disease resistance package along with cold tolerance to maximize yield.

A big thank you goes out to my cooperators on these drill strips trials. They are generous with their time, equipment and land to make these happen. Please thank them the next time you see them at the coffee shop or at a meeting. -MKC



Jake Hales helping harvest Variety Drill Strip Trial

2009 Umatilla County Drill Strip Variety Trial Results

Table 1. Grain Yield

Variety	Class	Location			
		Jim Straughan		Woodward Farms	
		Athena	Myrick	Mark Hales	CTUIR S. Reservation
Goetze	SWW	73.2	68.4	93.8	63.7
ORCF 101	SWW	73.1	--	89.0	63.3
ORCF 102	SWW	66.6	63.3	88.5	59.1
Stephens	SWW	72.6	63.8	88.7	58.2
Tubbs 06	SWW	62.8	68.5	94.0	60.7
Skiles	SWW	65.1	63.1	93.2	57.8
Stephens/WB 528	SWW	--	--	106.9	--
Avg		68.9	65.4	93.4	60.5



Wheat harvest at Newton Farms

Table 2. Test Weight & Protein

Variety	Class	Location							
		Jim Straughan		Woodward Farms		Mark Hales		CTUIR S. Reservation	
		Athena		Myrick		Midway		Reservation	
		Test wt	Protein	Test wt	Protein	Test wt	Protein	Test wt	Protein
Goetze	SWW	57.9	10.3	60.0	10.9	57.0	10.3	57.0	12.4
ORCF 101	SWW	58.0	11.3	--	--	57.0	11.1	57.2	13.4
ORCF 102	SWW	58.6	10.9	59.8	12.4	57.6	10.7	59.0	12.4
Stephens	SWW	57.2	10.8	58.9	11.8	56.2	10.6	56.6	13.0
Tubbs 06	SWW	57.6	10.7	--	--	56.8	10.6	56.9	13.4
Skiles	SWW	58.7	10.6	59.9	11.2	57.9	10.5	57.8	12.3
Stephens/WB 528	SWW	--	--	--	--	58.1	10.0	--	--
Avg		58.0	10.8	59.7	11.6	57.2	10.5	57.4	12.8