

News Column

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

For Release 07/17/23
Phone: 785/537-6350
Fax: 785/537-6353

WHEAT PLOT RESULTS

Shout out to Lane, who managed to get my weigh wagon – and me – parked in the shade while we harvested the Riley County Extension wheat plot last week. I must have been looking feeble that day, causing him to feel the need to protect an old guy from heat stroke.

Thank you, Lane. Harvesting a plot has never before been more enjoyable.

Wheat harvest was a favorite time of year during my teens and early 20s, when I was still on the farm. I'm not sure why I liked it, because I was always the truck driver and never the combine operator. The combines had air conditioners, while our trucks didn't. My job was hot and dirty.

The good part about being the truck driver was that I wasn't usually in the field when the combines plugged or broke down. The trucks were junk, but they kept running. The only problem I ever had with a truck was a blowout that took out my brake line. You heard that story last year, so I won't bore you with it again.

I was fresh out of college and didn't have much of a social life – because I was too busy, too shy, too broke, and too socially inept – so I entertained myself by messing with the elevator owner's red-haired daughter who ran the scale.

I liked to roll across the scale about 11:00 p.m. with my last load of the night – dirt on my face, sweat stains on my shirt, and looking super cool in my beat-up old black truck – and ask her what time she got off work. She blushed. I drove off,... planning to play the game again the next

night.

If you think I'm awful, you might be right. But this was about eight years BP (Before Pam). In my mind, Roberta (the red-haired scale operator) was still the little I girl I grew up with in church, the one who kicked me in the shins whenever I was dumb enough to tease her. I think she knew I was harmless. If she didn't, I hope she was at least flattered that a young farmer was trying to pick her up in a grain truck.

In case you hadn't guessed, it didn't work. I like to think it was my truck that wasn't cool enough.

Here are the results of this year's wheat variety plot. The plot was planted on October 22, 2022 and harvested July 10, 2023. Yields always seem a little high in our plot strips because we cut off the edges and only harvest the best, but I know there were whole fields in the county this year that yielded better than our best variety in the plot.

Draw your own conclusions. All I'll say is we expect Providence to be the one to beat in the future. Time will tell.

Variety	% Moisture	Test Weight (lb./bu.)	Yield (bu./A)
WB Grainfield	10.5	58	59.1
WB 4699	9.6	58	67.2
WB 4422	11.3	59	71.7
WB 4523	10.2	58	70.0
Check (WB 4401)	10.2	60	66.9
WB 4401	10.3	60	64.7
KS Providence	10.0	59	68.3
KS Ahearn	10.3	59	62.2

KS Hatchett	10.0	59	57.2
Check (WB 4401)	11.5	60	64.7
Zenda	11.2	60	59.8
Paradise	11.8	59	56.0
Rock Star	11.7	58	62.1
LCS Atomic AX	11.7	58	58.9
Check (WB 4401)	11.3	59	64.7
SY Monument	11.6	59	64.8
AG Radical	11.3	58	65.4
Bob Dole	11.0	59	62.9
Check (WB 4401)	10.9	59	61.3

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 gmclure@ksu.edu.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.