

News Column

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Wheat Plot Results

The year was about 1984 and I was driving an old beater of a grain truck, about a 1962 model that may have had a previous life with a custom harvest crew. As with most of our equipment, Dad bought the truck used, after it was already worn out.

It was a long time ago, but I believe that truck was a Ford. I know the color – it was faded red. I'm not an engine guy, but this engine was weak, but adequate. The truck could crawl out of a field fully loaded,... at a really slow pace. Once on the road it went fast down hills and slower up hills.

On this day I had just topped the hill after about a mile of slow going getting out of the field and up a 3/4 mile gradual hill. From there it was about 100 yards downhill to the highway, where I would turn downhill again and gain some speed to make it up the next hill on my way to the elevator in Glade.

I wasn't trying to pick up much speed on this last stretch of country road leading to a stop sign at the highway, but a loaded truck can get to rolling pretty good downhill if you don't hold it back.

I was about halfway down the hill when I heard a loud bang. Old trucks make noises, but a loud bang is a signal to slow down and find out what just happened. I put my foot on the brake and the pedal went clear to the floor.

The loud bang was a blowout,...inside dual,...no brakes,..bad words,..it took out my brake

line. From here, things happened fast,...but in slow motion. If you've ever been in that kind of situation, you know the feeling.

I knew the road well. There was a steep drop off on both sides of the road as it approached the highway. Across the highway the road went uphill again. If I got across the highway safely, I could roll to a stop.

The only problem was that cement truck coming down the hill on the highway.

It all happened in just three or four seconds, but I can still see that cement truck crossing the path in front of me, in slow motion. I watched the cement truck all the way, coming down the hill, as I got closer and closer to the intersection while still gaining speed in my loaded wheat truck.

Then the excitement was over. The cement truck passed right in front of me and I missed him by a good truck length as I shot across the pavement, not slowing down a bit.

Wow! That was exciting!

Some days are more exciting than others, but wheat harvest has always been an exciting time for me. We finally harvested our Riley County Extension wheat plot on July 9. It wasn't nearly as exciting as a loaded truck with no brakes, and the results might even be kind of boring, but here they are anyway.

Variety	Test Weight (lb./bu.)	Yield (bu./A)
LCS Valiant	57	54.3
WB 4269	58	54.7
Zenda	58	54.7
Rock Star	59	55.4
Check (Zenda)	58	48.8
LCS Runner	57	63.3

KS Ahearn	57	54.3
SY Monument	57	50.6
Paradise	58	52.7
Check (Zenda)	58	44.7
WB 4699	58	58.5
AG Radical	57	59.1
WB 4401	58	51.2
Bob Dole	58	55.4
Check (Zenda)	57	56.4
KS Hatchett	57	60.2
WB Grainfield	57	54.3
SY Wolverine	57	58.5

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 gmclure@ksu.edu.

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