

News Column

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WHEAT PLOT TOUR

I've lost track of how many times it has rained on the day of our wheat plot tour. At one point it was 70% of the time. We had a couple of dry years – I think 2018 and 2019 – then skipped having a tour in 2020 due to Covid.

In 2021 an incoming storm caused us to tour the plot quickly before retreating to Bob Whearty's shop for supper. Last year we pulled samples from an already muddy field and had our tour in the greenhouse at the SAVE Farm while it rained some more.

Over the years we have "toured" twice inside the Riley County High School Ag shop, once under a shelter in the Riley City Park, and once in Steve Straus's shop, in addition to the indoor events the last two years.

If we count the times it has rained the night before the tour, making the field muddy, I'm sure our incidence of rain is well above 50% . So, if I was in the business of predicting the weather, I would say it will rain on either May 23 or May 24 this year.

Our wheat plot tour is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24. Bring your rubber boots.

Let's be honest. You are coming for the meal and the social time, so let's talk about the food. You can expect burgers, chips, really good baked beans, brownies, and Call Hall ice cream. It'll be good.

The plot is located on the SAVE Farm, at 9680 N 52nd Street, Riley KS. We will start with the plot tour at 6:30 p.m. and eat supper after we talk about the varieties. The plot is located

about 1/8 mile east of the SAVE Farm headquarters, so you will want to drive there first because you can't really walk from the headquarters to the plot. Supper will be in one of the new classrooms after the tour.

Since we will tour the plot first this year, instead of eating first, it will be hard for you to just eat and run.

Varieties in the plot include: WB Grainfield, WB 4699, WB 4422, WB 4523, WB 4401, KS Providence, KS Ahearn, KS Hatchett, Zenda, Paradise, Rock Star, LCS Atomic AX, SY Monument, AG Radical, and Bob Dole.

I believe KS Providence is the one we were told would be the next great thing during last year's tour,...the best there ever was. So, I'm excited to see it mature and see how it yields at harvest time.

Romulo Lollato, K-State Research & Extension Wheat and Forages Agronomist, will be the featured speaker.

Reservations are due by noon on Monday, May 22 and can be made online at www.riley.ksu.edu, or by calling 785/537-6350. There is no cost to attend, but reservations are needed for the meal count.

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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