



Making a Difference

2016 – 2017

Crop Production Program Focus Team Production, Protection, and Profit

Grand Challenges

K-State Research and Extension: providing education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

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K-STATE
Research and Extension

Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment
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Situation

Herbicide-resistant weeds have become the number one production problem for Kansas producers in the last decade. At one time, glyphosate easily and affordably controlled all weeds for producers. Since the first report of glyphosate-resistant pigweed in 2007 near Atchison, resistant pigweed has spread across most of the state. This resistance increases the cost of weed control, reduces crop yields, and increases the difficulty of crop production for the majority of Kansas farmers, resulting in production losses and decreased farmer profitability.

What We Did

K-State Research and Extension dedicated an intensive educational program at grower meetings, field days, and crop consultant trainings throughout the year on management of resistant weeds. Much of the educational programming was centered on an integrated weed management approach producers should adopt and using new weed control technologies including dicamba-resistant soybeans and cotton varieties. These new technologies require proper application practices as this herbicide can damage sensitive plants due to drift, including adjacent non-dicamba resistant crops.

Outcomes

In 2017, K-State Research and Extension conducted more than 70 meetings on the best management practices of weed control. More than 4,500 growers, crop consultants, and other ag clientele attended these meetings. The educational programs provide in-depth weed control practices and techniques that complement an herbicide program including row spacing, tillage, cover crops, and crop rotations. Grower education in 2017 focused on proper handling and application of dicamba, which has historically been prone to drift. When surveyed at our major winter crop schools (soybean, corn, and sorghum), approximately 85 percent of attendees indicated the information received would influence their integrated weed management programs. Of the topics covered, participants felt these educational opportunities would improve crop management overall but would specifically improve their understanding of effective weed control strategies.

Success Story

Every summer, K-State Crops Specialists host a crop diagnostic school in Manhattan where more than 200 agronomists from across the state gather for training. An agronomist with Bayer Chemical was interviewed for a television segment and remarked that the school is a “good refresher course on ... crops, production practices, fungicides, disease diagnosis, insects, and herbicide traits ... we use this course to bring our new reps in... and get them ‘schooled up’ if you will.”



K-State weed specialists Dallas Peterson and Curtis Thompson at the 2017 Crop Diagnostic School in Manhattan.