

California Wheat

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Weekly Wheat Bulletin

Date: June 19, 2008 Issue# 22

The Weekly Wheat Bulletin is designed to share quick, informal and reliable information about the state's wheat crop and disease conditions. Comments forwarded by Thursday morning of each week will be posted in the Bulletin for distribution Thursday evening. Archived copies of the 2008 Wheat Bulletin may be accessed on the California Wheat Commission website:

www.californiawheat.org

For those of you that are new to our mailing list, the length of this bulletin will change from week to week. The amount of material is dependent on the contributions of our readers.

Comments:

6.12.08 – “Grain harvest is well under way. Yields are good to exceptional. On irrigated grain is running 3 to 4.3 tons/A. Some yields are lower than last year due to less than ideal stands, and water stress, and in some cases 5-10 % frost damaged heads. Our small grain silage variety study had high yields above last year and ranged 25 to 29 tons/A at 70% moisture.” *Steve Wright, Farm Advisor- Tulare and Kings Counties*

6.17. 08 – “The results of harvest as we at Barkley Seed, Inc. view it is as follows: Since harvest is now in full swing in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, individual wheat varietal characteristics regarding

yield/quality are becoming evident. The HRW variety Joaquin is maintaining its history of very high yields; consistently hovering around the 3.5-4.4 tons/acre mark. Although protein is slightly lower this year due to the very good yields, 12.5-13% protein is commonplace for the variety this season. Proteins below 11% are rare. The high yields and quality do not support the earlier theory and reports that stripe rust was occurring in epidemic proportions and would most certainly be the reason to suspect a less than optimum harvest. Wheat growers are definitely experiencing better yields throughout the Valley. HRW and HWW are all producing record yields. However, protein on new HWW is 9-10%.” Jim Kautz, Barkley Seed, Inc. Visalia,

6.19.08 – “Harvest is approximately 40% complete in the central San Joaquin Valley and the trend of high yields is continuing. A grower in Woodville (Tulare Co.) averaged 4.61 tons/acre on Ultra (HRW.) The standard on this variety appears to be 4.0 tons, as there are subsections of fields (20-40 acre areas) that have yielded over 5.0 tons. Many growers are averaging 4.0 to 4.5 tons/acre on Blanca Fuerte and Blanca Royale (HWW).

As for the durums, Fortissimo and Platinum are both yielding 3.25 to 4.25 tons/acre with one grower in San Joaquin achieving 4.57 tons/acre with 13.36% protein on one field.

This grower's ranch averaged 4.21 ton/acre and 13.42% protein.

There has been some concern raised about some low protein numbers that have come off of ranches this year. We are definitely noticing lower proteins in general and this appears to be a function of these higher yields. It is apparent that you can not apply the same amount of nitrogen to varieties that average 4.0 to 4.5 ton/acre as you did to varieties that averaged 3.25 to 3.75 ton/acre. Growers that are still applying 150-200 units per acre of nitrogen are not maximizing their potential in protein, while growers that have applied 250 to 300 units of nitrogen (or more in some cases) are seeing good protein levels, particularly when they have followed the University's recommendations of applying nitrogen in the late boot to flowering stages of growth. Timing of application seems to be at least as important as quantity of units."

Geoff Schulz Penny-Newman Grain Company

Industry Information:

6.19.08 – Ug99, an aggressive race of the black stem rust fungus (*Puccinia graminis*) that has been spreading across Africa and the Middle East, has the potential to devastate wheat crops.

A press release from Bayer CropScience today states that "Field trials conducted in Kenya by Bayer CropScience have successfully demonstrated that this race, designated Ug99, can be effectively controlled by the company's established cereal fungicide Folicur®." The press release goes on to state "That means growers in the United States also have the means to protect their fields, should the disease find its way across the ocean" according to Randy Myers, Fungicide Portfolio Manager for Bayer CropScience in the U.S.

The full press release from Bayer CropScience is attached.

Notice:

CWC Is Looking For Commissioners

The California Wheat Commission is looking for commissioners to serve on the Board of Directors. There are currently 4 districts without representation and many more without an alternate. The Commission holds three meetings per year and all travel expenses are reimbursed by the Commission. If interested please call Robert Falconer or Cymantha Fredrickson at the CWC office, (530) 661-1292.

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