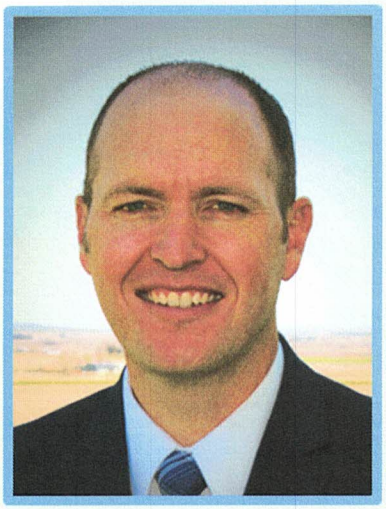

PROFILE

Dr. Creech began working at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in 2015. He serves as the faculty advisor for the High Plains Ag Lab near Sidney, NE. His research has focused on dryland crop production systems of western Nebraska. This includes crop selection and rotations, summer fallow management, crop residue management, soil fertility, water use, and weed control. His program also manages the state variety testing program and conducts performance tests for many different crops. The research is very applied in nature enabling results to be quickly transferred to area growers through Extension activities.

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DR. CODY CREECH

DRYLAND CROPPING SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

Optimization of Wheat Production and Value

Since the early 1980's, wheat acres in Nebraska began to decline due to intensification of cropping systems. Although dryland crop rotations have become increasingly diverse, wheat continues to be the keystone of the rotation because of its water use efficiency and ability to produce crop residue that benefits other crops. Key research efforts I conducted to improve wheat production are: (1) Wheat Planting Date and Population; (2) Gibberellic Acid to Improve Establishment and Yields; (3) Value of Wheat Residue for Corn; (4) Optimizing Wheat Row Spacing; (5) Refining Nitrogen Recommendations; and (6) Herbicide Applications in Wheat Stubble.

Pulse Crop Integration in Dryland Cropping Systems

Field peas are an ideal fit in the Panhandle cropping system because it is a short cool-season crop growers can use before rotating back to winter wheat. The crop diversification serves to break weed/pest cycles and increase nitrogen in the soil. Although most of the research has focused on field pea, other pulse crop researched includes soybean, dry bean, and chickpea. The key research programs completed or underway to investigate this topic include: (1) NC-SARE funded research to investigate yellow field peas as a replacement for summer fallow, planting date, seeding rate and (2) double cropping field peas in eastern NE; (3) viability of soybean, dry edible beans, and chickpeas as options for dryland crop rotations; and (4) development of herbicide recommendations for yellow field peas.

Cover Crop Utility in Semi-Arid Western NE

Cover crop benefits are well known and their use is widely promoted. However, the value of cover crops in a dryland system on the high plains with limited rainfall is not well understood. The key research programs underway to investigate this topic include: (1) Ph.D. student led project funded by the Wheat/Cereal Crop Innovation Research Award to investigate growing cover crops following wheat harvest and before corn; (2) Cover crop biomass production across a precipitation gradient collaborating with faculty located across the state; and (3) a recently funded effort to explore intensively managing cover crops to enhance agroecosystem services.