

February 5, 2016

NEW STUDY AIMED AT SOYBEANS

This week I have been making some phone calls in Jefferson and Saline Counties to get a group of soybean farmers to volunteer some information about their soybean fields. There is a new statewide project being conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that needs producer feedback to identify yield-limiting factors affecting Nebraska soybean production.

Patricio Grassini, UNL agronomy assistant professor and cropping systems specialist, is inviting more to participate and is really good at vetting large data sets on computer. The project goal is to identify key factors that preclude Nebraska soybean producers from achieving the full soybean yield potential for each of their fields they submit data on. The term used for the difference between what yield is possible on a particular field each year and the actual yield is called a “yield gap.”

With this data, Grassini can conduct an in-depth analysis of what on-farm factors may be causing a yield gap on Nebraska soybean farms. Grassini intends to provide annual reports to all participants of what factors may have been identified that could be causing a yield gap.

Grassini has put together a two-page survey on soybean yield and management that he would like you to fill out. Specifically, we are requesting yield and other data specific to four 2015 fields of soybean (first page of the survey) and four 2014 fields of soybeans (second page of the survey) that you grew on your farm. Both dryland and irrigated fields are acceptable.

Keep in mind that all data submissions will be kept strictly confidential. In this project, the objective is to work for you, the Nebraska soybean producer. Our goal is to use the data you supply to discuss yield gap issues and potentially make yield gains. A thanks goes out to the Nebraska Soybean Board and the North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) for funding this project.

Let me know if you would like to participate. I can send you the forms via mail or email. I would like to gather the data by March 1.

WILBER CROP CLINIC

“Practical, Profitable and Environmentally Sound Solutions for Agriculture” is the theme for the 2016 Wilber Crop Clinic scheduled for Friday, February 12. I am looking forward to a good turnout once again. There is a record number of sponsors this year with 31 so I am really pleased with that and hope to have enough room in Sokol Hall for all the displays. Because of these gracious sponsors, there is no cost for the program, all the meeting expenses and door prizes are covered. The clinic will begin with registration, viewing of sponsor displays, coffee, kolaches, and rolls at 8:00 a.m. The educational program is slated for 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Many of you received our program flyer in the mail. If not, go to our website at saline.unl.edu to pull up the flyer and speakers.

Speakers from Nebraska Extension and private industry will cover cutting edge agronomic and management topics. Hope to see you there.

Randy Pryor, Extension Educator

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saline County • 306 West 3rd Street, Wilber, NE 68465

Phone (402) 821-2151 • Fax (402) 821-3398 • e-mail: randy.pryor@unl.edu