WILDCAT AGRI-SERVICES

Volume 30 Issue 5
October 2025

Pioneer Premium Seed & Treatments, Crop Insurance, Agronomy Services, Field Days, Seed Wheat, Seed Delivery, & Personal Service

Inside This Issue

Ag Risk Management

Crop Insurance today offers...Lots of choices, if you want a crop insurance agent that can help you make choices from a farmers per-perspective contact Steve McGinn at 316-284-1935

Soybean Filling & Dry Down from K-State Extension Agronomy eUpdate

The latest USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service crop progress and condition report, released September 14, 2025, classified 79% of the soybean crop as being in fair (24%) or good (55%) condition. Overall, 24% of all soybeans in Kansas are dropping leaves, behind both last year and the 5-year average of 35%.

Weather outlook

The weather conditions expected for the last portion of September will be critical for soybeans as they relate to seed filling and determining the final seed weight.

Despite temperatures averaging 6.5°F below normal for the first week of September, above normal readings since that time have raised the departure from normal for the first half of September to 1.4°F below normal, based on data from the Kansas Mesonet. The 8 to 14-day outlook strongly favors above-normal temperatures, and the month is likely to finish above normal. There are no immediate threats of frost or freezing conditions in the forecast anywhere in the state.

Precipitation has been quite variable around the state in September. Parts of Lincoln and Ellsworth County have received over 9 inches of rain this month, and central Kansas has been the wettest division so far this month. Meanwhile, parts of northwest Kansas have had little precipitation. Towns like Atwood and Oberlin have received less than one-quarter inch of rain this month. Precipitation is likely statewide in the next few days, with amounts over one inch possible in eastern Kansas. The precise location of the heaviest rainfall is still uncertain, as recent forecast model runs have not been consistent with respect to the placement of the heaviest precipitation. Below-normal precipitation is slightly favored in western Kansas for the last week of September, with equal chances of above, below, and near normal precipitation in eastern Kansas. Seasonally, we continue the weekly decrease in normal precipitation as we head towards the driest season of the year (winter). As a result, below-average precipitation means potentially very little, if any, moisture. Warm and dry conditions will favor overall low humidity, increasing drought, and wide day/night temperature swings.

Continued on page five

2026 PIONEER INFINITY PROGRAM

25% CASH DISCOUNT — Platinum LEVEL

QUALIFIERS:
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– OR –
≥10% YOY Acreage Growth*
– OR –
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Payment by Dec. 5, 2025

BENEFITS:
5% Pioneer CP Customer Bonus
100% Replant**
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DISCOUNT LOCK: *At the end of each payment date, the system will lock the Infinity discount based on the business partner's invoice qualifications and a full payment.*

Wheat Planting Tips

Each fall, wheat producers face the challenge of planting wheat under a wide range of field and weather conditions. While soil moisture and timing are key considerations, stand establishment is also influenced by seeding practices, soil fertility, and residue management. Paying close attention to these factors can help ensure the crop has the best possible start.

Proper tractor speed. It is best to use a tractor speed of between 5 and 6 miles per hour in most cases when drilling wheat, depending on the amount of down pressure on the openers. If higher speeds are used, the openers can tend to "ride up" in the soil now and then if down pressure is insufficient.

Proper, uniform seeding depth. In most cases, the ideal planting depth for wheat is about 1.5 inches. When planting early into very warm soils, it is especially important not to plant too deep since coleoptile lengths are shortened when planting into warm soil. On the other extreme, producers should also be careful not to plant too deeply when planting later than the recommended planting date into very cool soils. Ensuring a uniform seeding depth will help with stand establishment. Planting into fields with heavy residue or uneven chaff distribution from the previous crop can make uneven planting depth and furrow closure a serious problem. In those situations, it is common to end up with poor stand establishment in field areas where the drill opener rode up over the residue or chaff and could not penetrate the soil to the same depth as in other field areas. These areas may also be more prone to damage from early spring freeze events since the crown will be formed close to the soil surface under heavy residue.

Firm seedbed. Planting into loose, fluffy soils after repeated tillage operations during the summer can be a problem. When seeds are planted into loose soil, rain in the fall will settle the soil and leave the crowns of the seedlings too close to the soil surface. A good closing system behind the drill openers, with adequate down pressure, should help. Avoiding tillage for 30 days prior to planting will increase the likelihood of rain settling the soil between the last tillage pass and planting.

Plant during the optimum window. In general, wheat should be planted somewhere around the Hessian fly-free date. There may be good reasons to plant some wheat before the fly-free date, such as planting for pasture or time pressures from having considerable acreage to plant. However, it's important to be aware that stand establishment and ultimate grain yields are usually best when wheat is planted after the best pest management planting date (BPMP, former Hessian fly-free date) and before deadlines set by crop insurance. Planting more than three weeks after the BPMP can be risky. Late-planted wheat often does not develop an adequate root system before winter, forming fewer productive fall tillers. Seeding rates should be increased by 25 to 50 percent when planting late to help ensure an adequate stand and compensate for the lack of tillering. See this recent eUpdate article about the risks of planting wheat too early
https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/article/wheat-planting-be-cautious-of-planting-too-early-661-2

Adequate soil fertility. In general, producers should apply at least part of their nitrogen before or at planting time to get the plants off to a strong start. Nitrogen rates of 20-30 lbs can help with fall establishment and tillering. If the soil is low or very low in phosphorus or potassium, these nutrients should also be applied at planting time so that the plants benefit early in their development. Starter fertilizer with the seed or band-applied close to the seed can also help with fall early growth and establishment, particularly in low-testing soils. Low soil pH can be a concern, particularly early in the season when root systems are mostly near the surface, which is often an area of lower pH. Soil tests will determine the need for pH adjustment and the potential for aluminum toxicity. Variety selection and phosphorus application with the seed are potential management strategies for low pH and aluminum toxicity issues if it is too late to apply lime before seeding.

Make adjustments for planting into row crop stubble. When planting wheat into heavy grain sorghum stubble, producers will need an extra 30 lbs N per acre over their normal N rate. Also, it is important to ensure the sorghum is dead before planting wheat. When planting wheat into soybean stubble, producers should not reduce their N rates since the N credit from soybeans – when applicable - doesn't take effect until the following spring. If the wheat is planted no-till after row crop harvest, N rates should be increased by 20 lbs N per acre over the normal N rate. Seeding rates should be increased when planting wheat late after row crop harvest. It's best to use a seeding rate of 90 to 120 lbs per acre in central and eastern Kansas and 75 to 100 lbs per acre in western Kansas. When planting more than three weeks after the BPMP date, producers should use a seeding rate of 120 lbs per acre.

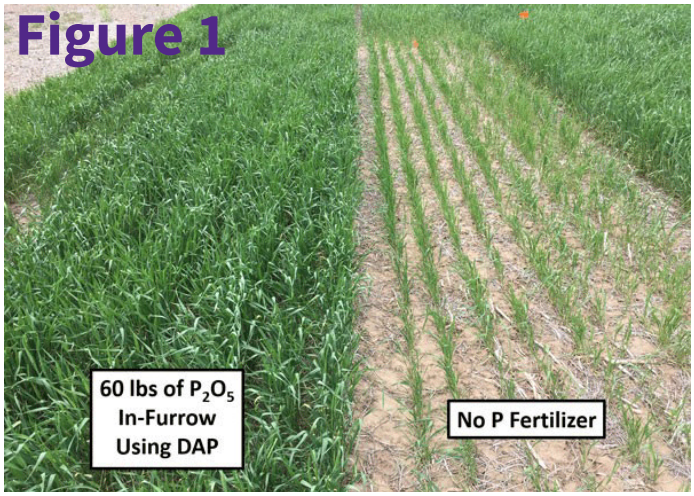
Watch out for potential disease issues when planting into corn residue. The risk of some diseases may be higher when wheat is planted in fields with large amounts of corn residue left on the soil surface. Fusarium head blight (scab) of wheat, for example, is caused by a fungus known to cause stalk rot in corn.

Using a seed treatment. Seed treatments can sometimes act as insurance, helping avoid seed-borne and early-season fungal diseases.

In-Furrow Wheat Fertilizer

Wheat is considered a highly responsive crop to band-applied fertilizers, particularly phosphorus (P). Phosphorus applied as a starter fertilizer can be an effective method for part or all of the P needs. Wheat plants typically show a significant increase in fall tillers (Figure 1) and better root development with the use of starter fertilizer (P and N). Winterkill can also be reduced with the use of starter fertilizers, particularly in low P testing soils.

Figure 1. Effects on wheat tillering and early growth with in-furrow P fertilizer on soil testing low in P. Photo taken in 2020 in Manhattan, KS. Photo by Chris Weber, K-State Research and Extension.



In-furrow fertilizer application

Phosphorus fertilizer application can be done through the drill with the seed. In-furrow fertilizer can be applied, depending on the soil test and recommended application rate, either in addition to or instead of any pre-plant P applications. The use of dry fertilizer sources with air seeders is a very popular and practical option. However, other P sources (including liquid) are agronomically equivalent, and decisions should be based on cost and adaptability for each operation.

When applying fertilizer with the seed, rates should be limited to avoid potential toxicity to the seedling. When placing fertilizer in direct contact with wheat seed, producers should use the guidelines in Table 1.

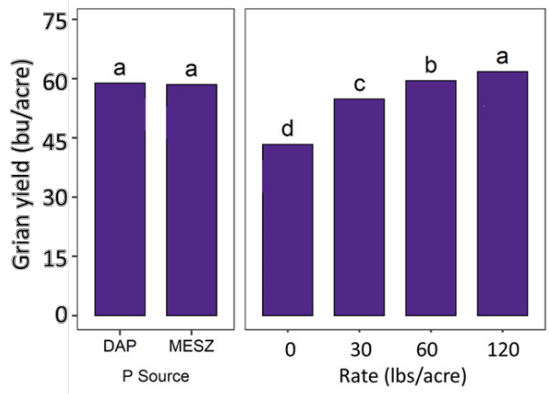
Research conducted at K-State has shown that in-furrow applications of phosphorus fertilizer consistently improved wheat yields compared to no starter, particularly in soils with low soil test phosphorus. Yield responses were similar across P sources (DAP vs. MESZ), but increased as the fertilizer rate increased, with the highest yields observed at 120 lbs/acre (Figure 2). These results highlight that wheat can safely tolerate higher in-furrow P rates, provided application guidelines are followed.

Table 1. Suggested maximum rates of fertilizer to apply directly with the wheat seed.

Pounds N + K2O (No urea-containing fertilizers)

Row Spacing	Medium-to-Fine Soil Textures	Course Textures or Dry Soils
15	16	11
10	24	17
6-8	30	21

Figure 2. Wheat grain yield response as affected by phosphorus fertilizer source and application rate.



Air seeders that place the starter fertilizer and seed in a 1- to 2-inch band, rather than a narrow seed slot, provide some margin of safety because the concentration of the fertilizer and seed is lower in these diffuse bands. In this scenario, adding a little extra N fertilizer to the starter is less likely to injure the seed - but it is still a risk.

What about blending dry 18-46-0 (DAP) or 11-52-0 (MAP) directly with the seed in the hopper? Will the N in these products hurt the seed?

The N in these fertilizer products is in the ammonium-N form (NH4+), not the urea-N form, and is much less likely to injure the wheat seed, even though it is in direct seed contact. As for rates, the guidelines provided in the table above should be used. If DAP or MAP is mixed with the seed, the mixture can safely be left in the seed hopper overnight without injuring the seed or gumming up the works. However, it is important to keep the wheat mixed with MAP or DAP at a lower relative humidity. Humidity greater than 70% will result in the fertilizer taking up moisture and will cause gumming or caking within the mixture.

Although the wheat response to these in-furrow fertilizer products is primarily from the P, the small amount of N that is present in DAP, MAP, or 10-34-0 may also be important in some cases. If no pre-plant N was applied, and the soil has little or no carryover N from the previous crop, the N from these fertilizer products could benefit the wheat.

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- KWA Zenda
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- Blends
- Lcs Atomic
- LCS Steel
- AP Wolverine
- AP Bob Dole
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DID YOU KNOW……...
You can look at plot results in your area at ***www.pioneer.com/yield***. Go to the website and enter your zip code and then choose to view plots within 15-100 miles of your zip code. A map with orange flags on it will appear. Click on the flags to bring up the plot at that location to view the results.
You can also view results on our website at https://www.wildcatagriservices.com/yield-data

2025 Soybean & Grain Sorghum Yield Contests

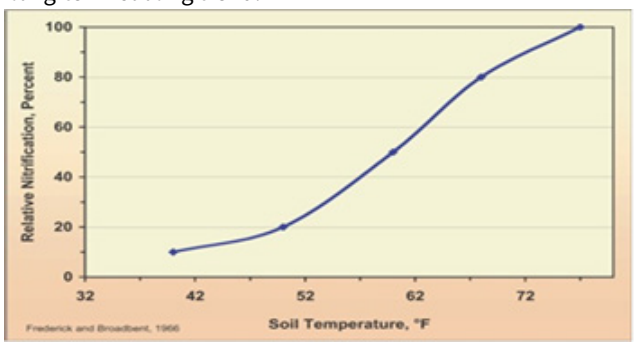
If you're interested in entering either of these contests, please let us know, as we would love to see multiple submissions from our area this year. To sign up, you can call Susannah at the office, or download the forms available on our website at http://www.wildcatagriservices.com/resources/yield-contests. Additionally, you may also visit the websites listed below to register.

Soybean Yield Contest Entry deadline is November 15th 2025 - https://kansassoybeans.org/association/contests/

Sorghum Yield Contest Entry Deadline is November 26th 2025 https://sorghumgrowers.com/yieldcontest/yield-contest-entry-form/

Fall N Application

The next two weeks look like soil temperatures should continue to trend downwards. We wanted to provide a few pieces on fall anhydrous applications, since many farmers get antsy now that the calendar says October.
With anhydrous applications in the fall, we always stress the need for soil temperatures at or below 50 degrees at the 4" depth or less with a long-term cooling trend.



We advocate 50-degree soil temperatures because the microbial activity that converts ammonium (NH4+) into nitrate (NO3-, leachable form of N) substantially decreases below 50. This chart depicts the speed of that conversion by soil temperature:
Products such as N-Serve (nitrapyrin) slow the conversion of ammonium to nitrate by slowing down the nitrosomonas bacteria that convert it. We always have folks that question the effectiveness of N-Serve and whether it is worth the cost. I always like to use this graph from the University of MN. It shows the ability of N-Serve to preserve ammonium at various soil temperatures (no N-Serve graph is on the left and with N-Serve is on the right).

The graph to the right shows that N-Serve slows the nitrification process of ammonium to nitrate regardless of soil temperature, and it also shows that the preservation is dramatically longer at 55 degrees. Bottom-line, N-Serve is proven to do what it says it does (unlike many of the other things on the market), and it is a sound practice with fall anhydrous applications.
To learn more about N-Serve you can watch this video:
https://youtu.be/pcQ1CF5xjFQ
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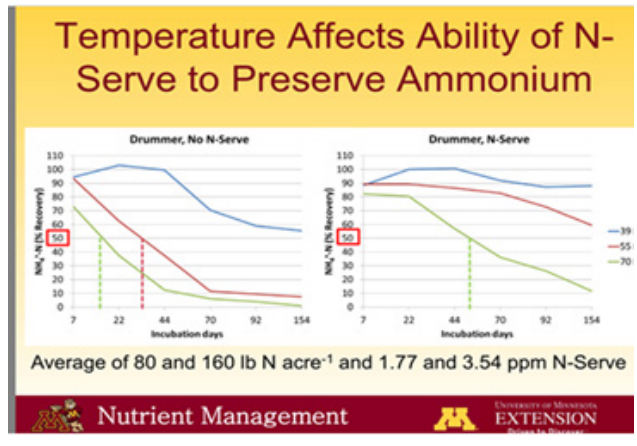


Soybean Seed Filling and Dry Down - part two

Soybean seed-filling

Final maturity is defined as the formation of the black layer in the seeds. Soybeans will reach final maturity with high seed water content, moving from 75-80% (R6) to around 50% (R7) from the beginning of seed filling until final maturity (Figure 1). Seed dry matter accumulation and moisture changes depend on the maturity group, planting date, and weather conditions experienced during these stated reproductive phases.

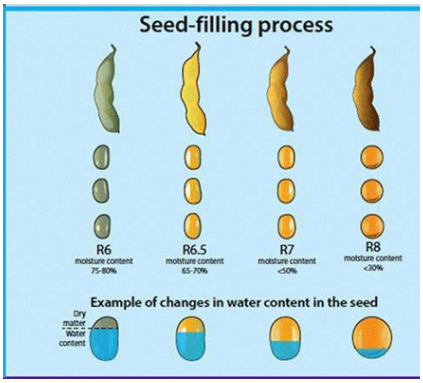
Soybean seed water loss can be divided into two main phases: 1) before “black layer” or maturity, and 2) after black layer.

The overall contribution of seed weight to final yields can be studied by evaluating changes in seed weight during the seed-filling period (Figure 2). Overall, a seed-filling period of more than one month duration (37 days) until black layer was achieved (this is the reference for changes in seed weight). The graph of seed filling provides a visual of the overall rate, increase in seed weight per day, and the duration of the seed filling.

From this example, we can observe that when the duration is reduced by one week (from 37 to 30 days), the attainable yield goes from 61 to

roughly 50 bushels per acre. Potential factors (beyond the current heat/dry conditions) impacting the duration of leaf green area imposed by insects, diseases, hailstorms, and any other abiotic stress conditions, such as cloudy days and early frost, impacting the crop during the coming weeks, will negatively affect the seed filling conditions for soybeans.

For this current season, we could expect negative yield impacts due to the last heat wave combined with areas of droughty conditions, which resulted in poor seed weight and potentially increased late pods and seed abortion. Overall, seed weight contributes roughly 30-40% of the final total yield for this crop, emphasizing the impacts of the stress conditions on the attainable yields.



A diagram of seed filling process AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 1. The soybean seed filling process from full seed to full maturity. Graphic from the K-State Research and Extension Soybean Growth and Development poster, MF3339.

A diagram of seeding growth AI-generated content may be incorrect.

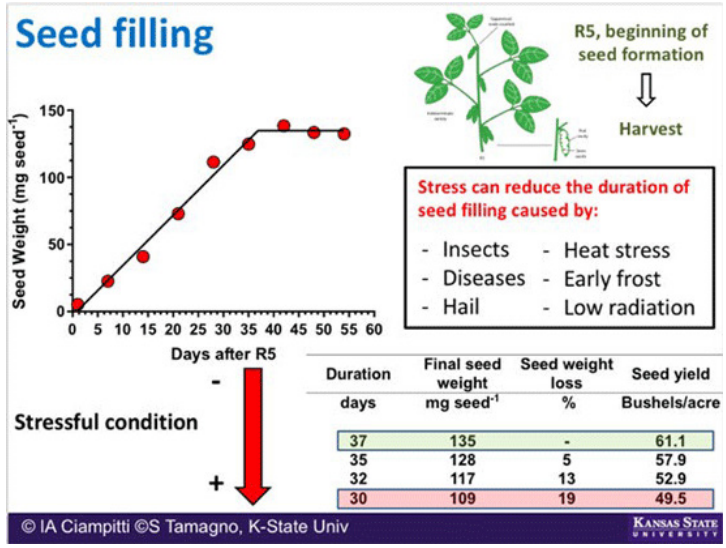
Figure 2. Seen below shows Soybean seed weight changes from the beginning of seed filling (R5) to full maturity.

Soybean dry down rate

Soybeans reach final maturity with high seed water content, moving from 90% to around 60% from the beginning of seed filling until final maturity. The dry down rate will depend on the maturity group (affecting the length of the season), planting date, and weather conditions experienced during pod and seed set phases.

K-State researchers conducted a trial in 2016 investigating the water content changes from black layer formation until harvest time. The overall dry down rate was 3% per day over a 15-day period (late September to mid-October). The trial started with soybeans at 58% and ended at 12% to find the 3% per day. The 3% per day is three times faster compared to corn’s 1% moisture daily loss. However, corn and soybean dry down rates are primarily driven by temperature, humidity, and overall water content at the point of black layer formation. These main factors should be considered when scheduling the soybean harvest, where we are aiming for 13% moisture.

Some areas of soybean production have been faced with droughty conditions, while others have been consistently hit with rain. Scouting your fields for maturity and prioritizing situations with lodging or other stress factors should be considered for harvest-ability. Some soybeans entering maturity could be harvestable in two weeks due to the dry down speed.



2025 Fall Weigh Wagon Program

We will have a weigh wagon available this fall for testing yields against both competing products, side by side comparison of Pioneer products, and yield checks. This is very important to better establish where to place hybrids in your fields. Any & all yield data and product results are of the utmost importance to you and to us. You may call us and we will make every effort to get to your weighs in a timely manner.

As a thank you for participating in a corn or soybean test plot or side by side comparison you may choose from one of these gifts. A Carhartt hooded sweatshirt, a Carhartt cooler, an insulated backpack cooler or a single insulated tumbler. Limit one per operation.

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Golden Ticket Giveaway

Plant Pioneer® brand corn in the 100th year of Pioneer for your chance to strike gold! Pioneer is celebrating a century of ag innovation throughout 2026, including a Golden Ticket Giveaway. If your bag of seed corn is treated in gold, you'll win the trip of a lifetime: an immersive seed journey experience that includes stops at Pioneer facilities in Iowa and Hawaii in January 2027. Will one of the winning seed bags come from Wildcat Agri-Services? We have no idea – but we're excited to find out! Start planning for next season now. Please reach out to Korey, Tye, or Mike with any questions about what you might be planting in 2026.

Visit www.wildcatagriservices.com - to learn more about Pioneer Products!

Pioneer Seeds : YouTube

Weed Control Considerations Through Harvest

Type this into the search bar to find it.

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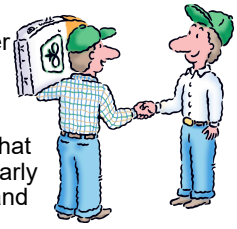
Seed Planning for 2025



We have had a few customers starting to get with us on estimates on orders for the 2025 crop year. We know that it seems early, but the sooner we know the demand the better off we will be in attaining additional supplies of the leading hybrids.

Some of you would have liked to of had more of certain hybrids this year that were limited. As this may continue to be a problem in the future, but the early orders always seem to have a better chance at the hybrids and varieties and quantities wanted.

Please let us know if you have interest in getting an additional 2% seed discount by ***October 31st 2025.***

Pioneer Deferred Payment Loan Deadline is December 1st 2025

In October you will receive a final Payment Reminder and payment coupon from Pioneer Hi-Bred. No further statements will be sent to you.

If you wish to pay off your loan prior to the due date of December 1st you will need to call 1-800-248-4030 then choose option 1 for your current payoff amount.

You can pay your loan by mailing a check to Pioneer Hi-Bred or you can schedule an ACH payment online in your **pioneer.com** account.