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PIONEER PREMIUM SEED & TREATMENTS, CROP INSURANCE, AGRONOMY SERVICES, FIELD DAYS, SEED WHEAT, SEED DELIVERY, & PERSONAL SERVICE

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AG RISK MANAGEMENT

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## CHOOSING WHEAT VARIETIES

BY ROMULO LOLLATO K-STATE WHEAT SPECIALISTS

The first step when selecting a wheat variety is to look at several that are adapted to your region and have shown consistent performance at nearby K-State variety performance tests and demonstration plots. Other characteristics that help narrow down the possibilities are: variety, maturity, disease resistance, tolerance against the most yield-limiting factors I the region, and production system.

**MATURITY:** It is important to select several varieties with differing maturities to spread the risk over the operation as well as to optimize harvest timing. Early-maturing varieties will most likely out-yield other varieties in years when the grain filling period turns hot and dry; while medium-late maturing varieties will benefit from growing seasons with extended grain filling period At planting time, we don’t know ho the weather will turn out during grain fill, therefore, spreading the risk in your operation by selecting varieties with differing maturities is always a good idea.

**DISEASE RESISTANCE:** When selecting a wheat variety, producers should ask themselves if they are willing to budget for a foliar fungicide and spray if needed. If the answer is “yes” then there are many good variety options to choose from. If the answer is “no” they will have to narrow down their variety range, but there are still good varieties available in most cases. While some diseases, such as leaf or stripe rust are easily controlled with a foliar fungicide and producers have the option to budget for it; other diseases require

more of a system’s management and do not have the effective remediation. These include viral diseases such as wheat streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf, and can also include a fungal disease such as Fusarium head blight, which is not always successfully controlled with fungicide spraying. If the latter diseases are common concerns in your operation, I suggest evaluating each variety’s ratings against these constraints and selecting the ones that provide better levels of resistance.

Tolerance to abiotic factors: While acid soils area major concern in south-central Kansas, drought becomes a more limiting factor as we head west. Varieties differ in their tolerance to these abiotic stresses, and selecting a variety with better tolerance to the major limiting factor in your operation can put more bushels in the elevator.

**PRODUCTIONS SYSTEM:** For producers who graze their wheat before taking it for gain, selecting a variety with good forage yield, medium to late first hollow stem, Hessian fly resistance, and good recovery from grazing are just as important as the factors described above. Additionally, wheat varieties differ in their straw strength and a few varieties should be restricted to dryland use due to their high lodging potential. History of feral rye in the field dictates the need for herbicide-resistant varieties, and also plays an important role in variety selection.

## 2024 SOYBEAN & SORGHUM YIELD CONTESTS

If you would be interested in participating in either of these contests let us know as we would like to see several entries from our area this year. If you are interested in participating please call Susannah at the office to get signed up or you can download the forms on our website at <https://www.wildcatagriservices.com/resources/yield-contests>

### Corn Yield Contest

Entry deadline is November 30th—<https://membership.ncga.com/Mobile/CYC/Login.html>

### SORGHUM YIELD CONTEST

Entry Deadline is November 15th—<https://kanssoybeans.org/association/contests/>

### SOYBEAN YIELD CONTEST

Entry Deadline is November 26th - <https://sorghumgrowers.com/yieldcontest/yield-contest-entry-form/>

## 2025 PIONEER INFINITY PROGRAM

25% CASH DISCOUNT  
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QUALIFIERS:  
100% Pioneer  
– OR –  
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– OR –  
≥100 YOY Acres Growth  
– AND –  
Payment by Dec. 6, 2024  
BENEFITS:  
Pioneer Customer Bonus  
100% Replant\*\*  
Granular Insights + Satellite Imagery  
Financing: Prime - 1 @ 22%

20% CASH DISCOUNT  
Gold LEVEL

QUALIFIERS:  
Retain Acres\*  
(90-109% of PY acres)  
– AND –  
Payment by Dec. 6, 2024  
BENEFITS:  
Pioneer Customer Bonus  
75% Replant\*\*  
Granular Insights  
Financing: Prime - 1 @ 17% Discount

15% CASH DISCOUNT  
Silver LEVEL

QUALIFIERS:  
Invoice and Payment by  
February 28, 2025  
BENEFITS:  
50% Replant  
Granular Insights  
Financing: Prime - 1 @ 12% Discount

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE INTEREST IN GETTING AN ADDITIONAL 2% SEED-DISCOUNT BY NOVEMBER 1ST 2024

## WHEAT PLANTING—TIPS FOR A GOOD STAND BY ROMULO LALLATO

Regardless of the soil moisture conditions at wheat planting time, producers can take a few important steps to improve their chances of getting a good stand of wheat.

**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 planting into warm soil. On the other extreme, producers should also be careful not to plant too deep 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.

**FIRM SEEDBED.** Planting into loose, fluffy soils where soils have been tilled repeatedly during the summer can be a problem. When seeds are planted into loose soils, rains 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 prior to 30 days ahead of planting will increase the likelihood of a rain to settle 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-607-1>).

**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 phosphorus](#) 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 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 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-born and early-season fungal diseases. Check out a previous eUpdate article on seed treatments for wheat disease management at <https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/article/seed-treatment-fungicides-for-wheat-disease-management-608-4>.



2024 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 the gifts above. A Carhartt hooded sweatshirt, an LED toolkit, or a creeper. Limit one per operation.

ALFALFA SEED AND INOCULANTS Premium alfalfa is in somewhat limited quantities.

If you are considering planting fall seeded alfalfa please try to let us know as soon as possible. Blended alfalfa is in good supply at present.



Don't forget RR Alfalfa is available.

Inoculants: Silage, high moisture grain, and alfalfa inoculants are also all available. All inoculants are in good supply, but some are a special order item, so plan ahead.

Thank You!

to everyone who attended the 25th annual field day at the warehouse near Sedgwick. Mike Zacharias Pioneer Agronomist and Chris Thompson Pioneer Area Manager provided in depth information about varieties, technologies, and agronomic issues in our area. Great information about products and challenges we faced this season were also discussed. We appreciate your support and interest in learning about the new Pioneer hybrids that will be available in 2025.



CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR WHEAT SEED!

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UNDERSTANDING  
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Type this into the search bar to find it.

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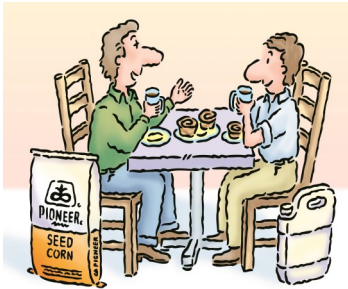
BILLING QUESTIONS

SUSANNAH MCGINN OFF. 316-772-5050  
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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 some certain hybrids this year that were limited. This may continue to be a problem again 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 NOVEMBER 1st 2024

PIONEER DEFERRED PAYMENT LOAN DEADLINE IS  
DECEMBER 1ST 2024

In November you will receive a final Payment Reminder and Payment Coupon from Pioneer. All 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 4 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 on line in your pioneer.com account