WILDCAT AGRI-SERVICES

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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

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

Corn Milk Line Progression

How far are we from Harvest? Why are some hybrids black layering prematurely? Moisture at physiological maturity is typically around 35% but can vary due to differences in hybrid characteristics and environmental conditions.

Following physiological maturity, an abscission layer, known as the black layer, will form at the base of the kernel. Within the ear, the black layer usually forms first in the tip kernels with progression a few days later to the large kernels at the base.
Black layer is often used as a visual indicator of physiological maturity and the two are often considered synonymous, but this is not actually the case.

- Black layer formation is triggered when sucrose trans-location to the developing kernel stops.
- This cessation of sucrose flow can be due to the physiological maturity of the kernel but can also be the result by other factors causing a sharp drop in plant photosynthesis such as foliar disease, hail, frost, or prolonged cold temps.
- Black layer formation triggered by environmental stress can occur before physiological maturity, effectively shutting down grain fill prematurely

When Corn Hybrids take an extremely long time to move from early dent to black layer, this isn't necessarily a bad thing suggesting that if we can slow that process down, our test weights will be higher due to lower temps and less stress during this critical time period s we convert sugars into starch.

Continued on pg 2

Choosing Wheat Varieties

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.

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2026 Wheat Test Plot Results

VARIETY	Yield	MST%	Test Weight Lbs.
Providence	44.8	10.6	56.6
4699	46.5	10.4	55.1
4650	44.2	10.1	53.8
4445CID	43.2	10.5	54.6
4454	48.8	10.8	57.1
4422	49.1	10.6	58.9
44.1	47.8	11.1	59.5
Atomic	47.1	11.2	59.5
Steel	45.1	10.6	56.7
Rock Star	41.7	10.3	55.3
Golden Hawk	39.3	10.1	55
Prolific	44.1	10.4	56
Bob Dole	42.5	10.4	57
PS 1985	46.8	10	56
Bill Snyder	49.1	10.2	56.6
Providence	49.9	10.3	55.8

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE PIONEER FIELD DAY

On August 6th at the annual field day at the warehouse near Sedgwick. Mike Popelka Pioneer Agronomist & Mike Zacharius 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 2027.





Corn Milk Line Progression Continued

Just like the vegetative growth and development, the milk line movement is heat unit driven. On the chart to the right, you can see that once we are to the ½ milk stage, we are still about 200 heat units away from maturity, or about 8-9 days.

Once the kernels have black layered we are usually 30-35% moisture depending on the hybrid and the environmental conditions.

Again, Corn dry down rate is tightly linked to daily growing degree unit (GDU) accumulation.

In general, drying corn from 30% down to 25% moisture requires about 30 GDUs per point. Drying from 25% to 20% requires about 45 GDUs per point.



PIONEER DEFERRED PAYMENT LOAN DEADLINE

In October you will receive a final Payment Reminder and payment coupon from Pioneer. 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 on line in your pioneer.com account

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- AP Wolverine
- AP Sunbird
- AP Prolific
- Phillips PS1985
- OGI Orange Blossom
- And most other varieties

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Alfalfa Seed and Inoculates

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.

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

2026 Fall Weigh Wagon Program











This fall we will have the weigh wagon available 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 and all 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 weights 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 options above. A rechargeable screwdriver, a Pioneer blanket, a Pioneer belt buckle, a Pioneer floor mat, or a Carhartt mock quarter zip sweatshirt.

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Save The Date - December 1st 2026 is Pioneer Deferred Payment Deadline

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

Pioneer Seeds : YouTube

Walking your corn fields in August - 3 most important things to scout

Type this into the search bar to find it.

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Seed Planning for 2027 - Early Savings Deadline is Oct. 30th

It is never too early to start getting with us on estimates for your cropping needs for 2027. The sooner we know the demand the better off we will be in attaining the supplies to fill these orders of the hybrids you desire. Please let us know if you have interest in getting an additional 2% seed discount for 2027 by October 30th 2026.

Corn Hybrid Selection Should Begin at Harvest

Though yield is the number one factor producers consider when selecting a hybrid, it is certainly not the only one. Did you have trouble with corn lodging this year? Did your "old standard" hybrid's yield their potential? Was your hybrid choice the right one for your acres?

While the genetic ability of a corn plant to produce grain is extremely important, having a package of traits that make corn consistent under varying environments is also critical. Years with tough conditions are not pleasant for anyone, but they can provide an environment that will allow selection of hybrids with high levels of stress tolerance. When weather is favorable choosing a hybrid package that contains corns that fit into both categories help control risk.



If corn borers, corn root worm or other insects are becoming more of a problem, maybe you should consider insect-protected corn. There are several options available to control these pests.

Though corn harvest has not started yet, now is the time to begin selecting hybrids to plant next spring. Balancing the need of your individual farms is a challenge and takes time and effort. But, those efforts can pay off with good, consistent crops through good and bad years.