



2003-2004 Tom Green County Dryland Wheat Variety Test

Cooperator: Gene Gully

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Summary:

Five wheat varieties were planted on the Gene Gully farm December 12, 2003 in the Mereta community of Tom Green County. Jagalene, Cutter and Coronado clearly topped the test with grain yields of 36 bushels/acre, 36 bushels/acre, 33 bushels/acre, respectively. Bearded varieties have always out-performed beardless types in this particular area and this test clearly shows this comparison. These varieties were raised using normal dryland wheat production practices. When reviewing the test results, producers should keep in mind that this is only one year's data. Year to year consistency should be a primary consideration in selecting varieties of wheat to be planted.

Problem:

Over 123,000 acres of wheat are planted annually in Tom Green County. Several new varieties of wheat become available each year and when combined with the varieties already available makes planting seed selection increasingly difficult. Producers need local data to help in selecting consistently high yielding adapted varieties.

Objectives:

Variety tests provide producers with the opportunity of comparing new varieties of wheat with varieties of wheat that have been successfully grown under varying weather conditions in Runnels County. Utilization of new varieties, which are equal to or exceed currently available varieties, should increase production and income of county producers.

Materials and Methods:

Cooperating County Producers:	Gene Gully
Location:	Tom Green County
Planting Date:	December 12, 2003
Seeding Rate:	52 lbs.
Drill Spacing:	7 ½ inch
Soil Moisture Condition at Planting:	Good
Fertilizer Applied:	None
Herbicide Applied:	None

In each variety of wheat, 0.34 acres were combine harvested. The actual grain yields from these samples are reported in Table 1.

Results and Discussion:

The 2003-2004 wheat crop was one that should go down in the record books. Grain yields were the highest they have ever been according to many grain producers. Rainfall came at the right times and temperatures were such that it allowed excellent growth and yields for producers throughout the Concho Valley. Not everyone was so fortunate though, Hessian flies were found in many wheat fields and many fields were destroyed by the pest. Heaviest infestations were in wheat fields that were planted during the September/October time frame and in situations where wheat was the previous crop. Management strategies will need to be implemented before next year's crop to combat this new pest for Runnels and Tom Green Counties wheat producers.

Jagalene, Cutter and Coronado topped this test with grain yields of 36 bushels/acre, 36 bushels/acre and 33 bushels/acre, respectively. Yield data and gross returns are summarized in Table 1.

Economic Analysis

The difference in yield between Jagalene, Cutter and Coronado were considerably better than WinMaster and HG-9. The difference in gross income between the highest and lowest yielding variety was \$66.60 per acre using the selling price of \$3.70 per bushel. In this test, the higher income of the top yielding varieties were enough to justify their selection over WinMaster and HG-9.

Table 1. Agronomic Data from Gene Gully's farm (Tom Green County, 2004)

Variety	Yield Per Acre (pounds)	Yield Per Acre (bushels)	Gross Return Per Acre @ \$3.70 per bushel
Jagalene	2160	36	\$133.20
Cutter	2160	36	\$133.20
Coronado	1980	33	\$122.10
WinMaster	1140	19	\$70.30
Hardeman Grain (HG-9)	1080	18	\$66.60

Acknowledgments:

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