

2019 Hard Winter Wheat Tour April29 - May2

Trip Summary

We had 78 people drive or ride with us on this year's tour. Three countries represented this year and the "who traveled the farthest award" went to a grain trader in Switzerland. Great representation across the value chain with growers, university people, seed companies, media, millers, grain companies and bakers all contributing scouts. We ran 20 cars across our six standard routes beginning and ending in Manhattan, KS with overnight stops in Colby and Wichita. We were joined each night and heard reports from scouts in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado. We used yield formulas supplied by NASS/USDA. We change cars assignments each day and try to have some expertise in each car to train those inexperienced. We are joined each night by local producers, agronomists and grain handlers to offer local insight. In addition to reporting statistics on each car each day we encourage each attendee to take a guess at the final crop size for Kansas. We take an average of those guesses and report it to the trade. This year's crop tour will be remembered as cold, wet, muddy and late. Very little reports of disease or insects. Yields reported we above average with more uniformly good fields in the west versus central regions. Central areas show the effects of last falls late planting due to wetness. Lots of drown out and really late development. I really like our crop estimate of 306.5 million bushels. That is exactly what the yield formula and acreage would suggest. It looks like our group is evenly split between the group that thinks the crop is too late and may suffer from heat later on and the group that thinks the crop may get bigger because of good moisture. Personally, I guessed 335 million bushels that I justified by the unbelievable soil moisture profile we found. There have not been many years when you walked in mud everywhere in Kansas.

Other negatives – As I write this it continues to rain and there is growing concern about drowning the fields. Some worried about protein levels under these conditions. Need a few weeks of open weather.

Other positives – The western third of Kansas along with eastern CO, southern NE and northern OK look exceptionally good this year.

As in all years our tour took a snapshot in time as best we could. Environmental conditions over the next six weeks will determine this crop. All of our data is available on our website. In addition to the nine media representatives on the tour I spoke to all radio and other media that requested. We continue to have great participant feedback and we certainly bring value to the industry as evidenced by our attendance.

Respectfully submitted, Dave G Green, Exec VP Wheat Quality Council

www.wheatqualitycouncil.org dave.green.wqc@gmail.com