

**WHEAT PERFORMANCE IN ILLINOIS TRIALS - 2016**  
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The 2015-16 wheat season was a very good one in Illinois, with good yields and good quality. The biggest problem by far was an unprecedented and unexpected outbreak of stripe rust, which hit the crop in early April in southern Illinois and very quickly decreased leaf area in susceptible varieties. Planted acres for 2016 were up slightly from 2015, at 560,000 acres. The July yield estimate for Illinois wheat was 75 bushels per acre, 10 bushels above the yield in 2015 and 8 bushels above the previous record of 67, the state average yield in in 2006, 2013, and 2014.

Wheat planting in the fall of 2015 was delayed moderately by wet weather; the 50% planted date was about October 14. The fall and winter were relatively warm, however, and the crop made more than normal growth during the fall and spent less time in dormancy than it normally does. There was heavy rainfall in late December, but most of the water drained off the surface before things froze up, and stands were good coming out of dormancy.

March was a warmer and a little wetter than normal, and April was close to normal with some areas a little drier than normal. Wheat came out of dormancy early and grew rapidly, with 50% heading by May 6, nearly a week ahead of normal. Most of the Illinois crop experienced rainfall during at least part of the flowering period, but the anticipated cool Fusarium head blight (scab) did not develop nearly as much as expected, and this disease had little effect on wheat grain quality in 2016. As mentioned above, stripe rust, which has seldom been a disease of economic consequence in Illinois wheat, was the big story in 2016. It arrived during vegetative growth and in some cases took most of the leaf area off before or during heading. Many widely-grown varieties have low levels of resistance to this disease, and as we noted on several of the tables in this report, this meant a very wide spread in yields, with the highest yields at a location often double the lowest yields. Levels of the disease are not uniform across a trial, which adds to the variability.

The 2015-16 wheat variety trials were planted on time in most locations, with the Belleville trial delayed by a week or so by wet weather. Plots in these trials were seeded at the rate of 36 seeds per square foot, and consisted of six, 7.5-inch rows trimmed to about 16 feet long before harvest. There were three replications. Yields were corrected to 13.5% moisture. Entries treated with seed-applied insecticide have insecticide treatment identified by product trade name in the tables.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Cooperators</u>	<u>Soil type</u>	<u>Planted</u>	<u>N fertilizer</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Elkville	Trent Funk	Hurst silt loam	Oct. 5	30 Fall 100 Spring	June 25
Belleville	Ron Krausz	Ebbert silt loam	Oct. 16	30 Fall 85 Spring	June 25
Brownstown	Lindell Deal	Cisne silt loam	Oct. 05	30 Fall 100 Spring	June 21
Orr Center	Mike Vose	Clarksdale silt loam	Sept. 30	30 Fall 80 Spring	June 23
Urbana	Jeff Warren	Flanagan silt loam	Sept. 28	30 Fall 40 Spring	June 24
DeKalb	Greg Steckel	Elpaso silty clay loam	Sept. 25	40 Fall 40 Spring	July 11

Participating companies are listed on Page 2, regional data in Tables 1 and 2, individual location data in Tables 3 to 8, wheat variety characteristics in Table 9, and the Fusarium head scab ratings in Table 10.

## Participating Companies

We thank these companies for their support of this program in 2016.

AgriMAXX Wheat Co  
7167 Highbanks Rd  
Mascoutah, IL 62258  
(855) 629-9432

Hoffman Seed House  
PO Box 66, 200 E 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Hoffman, IL 62250  
(618) 495-2617

Pro Seed Genetics  
N 4297 City Hwy E  
Kewaunee, WI 54216  
(920) 988-2824

Beck's Hybrids  
6767 E 276<sup>th</sup> St  
Atlanta, IN 46031  
(317) 984-3508

Kitchen Seed Company  
PO Box 286  
Arthur, IL 61911  
(217) 543-3476

Sedlacek  
633 Cedar Road  
St Jacob, IL 62281  
(618) 644-4789

BioTown Seeds  
Box 299  
Reynolds, IN 47980  
(219) 984-6038

Kratz Farms LLC  
4380 Sherman Road  
Slinger, WI 53086  
(262) 644-9426

Stone Seed Group  
5965 W State Route 97  
Pleasant Plains, IL  
217-546-8006

DeRaedt Seed Corp.  
10 N 971 Tower Road  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
(847) 514-8844

Lewis Hybrids, Inc.  
530 West Maple Ave.  
Ursa, IL 62376  
(217) 964-2131

Sunstar Hybrids  
14993 State Road 17  
Culver, IN 46511-9642  
(574) 842-2775

DuPont Pioneer  
421 Detroit Drive  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(800) 950-3489

Limagrain Cereal Seeds  
2040 SE Frontage Rd  
Ft. Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 498-2200

Syngenta  
14031 Trestle Rd  
Highland, IL 62249  
(765) 412-5420

Dyna-Gro Seed  
2660 Orr Rd.  
Bloomville, Ohio 44818  
419-310-6370

Martin Seeds, Inc.  
10045W Second  
Williamsport, IN 47993  
(765) 986-2030

UniSouth Genetics, Inc.  
3205C HWY 46 S  
Dickson, TN 37055  
(615) 515-3133

Equity Seed  
PO Box 978  
Westfield, IN 46074  
(888) 898-7333

Merschman Seeds, Inc  
103 Ave D, PO Box 67  
West Point, IA 52656  
(800) 848-7333

Virginia Crop Improvement  
9225 Atlee Branch Lane  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116  
(804) 746-4884

Green Valley Seed, LLC  
121 W College St  
Kahoka, MO 63445  
(800) 748-7943

Miller Bros. Farm & Fertilizer  
2001 Niemannsville Trail  
Walshville, IL 62091  
(217) 456-9311

GROWMARK, Inc.  
1701 Towanda Ave., PO 2500  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
(309) 557-6399

Moiner Seed and Service  
846 Yankee Lane  
Sparland, IL 61565  
(309) 469-2511

Hartke Seed Farms  
22679 Sunset Rd  
Litchfield, IL 62059  
(217) 324-2680

Pro Harvest Seeds, Inc.  
2737 N 700 E Rd  
Ashkum, IL 60911  
(815) 698-2204