

## **Dr. Brent Bean**

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### ***2001 - 2002 Wheat Crop***

This year's wheat crop has gotten off to a mixed start. Because of the dry fall experienced last year, many producers elected to plant their dryland wheat earlier this year when we had good moisture. Those who waited to plant tended to have trouble with stand establishment. Overall the wheat is in fair to good condition with the warm fall and winter providing favorable conditions for forage production. A good 12 inch snow would likely be a welcome site for most producers in order to provide much needed soil moisture. Greenbug populations continue to be mixed but tend to be more of a problem in the eastern portion of the Panhandle. Wheat variety trials were established this fall in Dallam, Ochiltree, Hemphill, Oldham, Castro, and Briscoe counties. Plans are being made to have field days at each variety trial this spring.

#### **Meeting Announcement**

#### **Producing Quality Silage & Hay as a Cash Crop**

January 21 - Muleshoe  
January 22 - Hereford  
January 23 - Pampa  
Certified Crop Advisor CEUs - 5  
Cost: No charge  
Contact my office or County  
Extension Agents for details

### ***Sorghum Silage***

The feedyard industry is currently the largest consumer of silage in the Texas High Plains. However, dairy production in the area is steadily increasing and should create additional demand for quality silage. Sorghum silage requires less water than corn but has not been widely produced because of a preference for corn silage by the feedyards. Sorghum silage contains less energy but a similar roughage value as corn. However, new varieties of brown midrib sorghums have energy values intermediate to corn and conventional sorghum. Because of declining water levels and increased pumping costs, the production of corn silage in some locations cannot be sustained. However, new genetics in sorghums may provide an opportunity for an alternative crop to corn that would reduce water usage but produce acceptable silage for the cattle feeding and dairy industry.

In 2001 a sorghum silage variety trial was conducted near Bushland at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (See Table). The average sorghum silage produced was 25.4 tons/Ac using 13.2 inches of irrigation water. Total tonnage was highest with the photoperiod sensitive varieties yielding an average of 33 tons/Ac. The non-BMR forage sorghums yielded 6.5% (1.5 tons/Ac) more than the BMR sorghums. However, it is important to note that the BMR sorghums ranged in yield from 14.6 to 36.7 tons/Ac (Data not shown). Interestingly, at silage harvest there was slightly less lodging in the BMR varieties (10.8%) than in the Non-BMR varieties (18.7%). For a complete copy of the results from this trial go to <http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/research/crops/corn-sorghum/croptesting/> or contact your county extension agent, or call my secretary Tashell, at 359-5401.

### 2001 Sorghum Silage Trial.

Sorghum Type	Number of Entries	Silage Yield, Ton/Ac	% Lodging at Silage Harvest	Irr. Water Use Eff., Tons/Inch
Forage Sorghums (Excludes PS, haygrazers, grain sorghums)	43	24.5	14.6	1.87
Haygrazers	2	23.5	29.2	1.79
Photoperiod Sensitive (PS)	6	33.0	6.4	2.51
Brown Mid-Ribs (BMRs)	20	23.1	10.8	1.76
Non-BMRs (Excludes BMRs, PS and grain sorghums)	25	25.6	18.7	1.94
Grain Sorghums	2	24.3	0	1.84
<b>Test Average</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>1.93</b>

### Oats

Oats are an alternative crop to wheat in the Texas Panhandle and are planted for cattle grazing, hay, and grain production. Depending on the variety, oats can be planted either in the spring or fall. In the spring of 2001 we had the opportunity to compare 12 oat varieties along with TAM 200 wheat for forage, hay, and grain yield.

### 2001 Spring Planted Oat Variety Trial.

Variety	Height In.	Test Wt. lb/bu	Grain Yield, bu/ac	Forage Yield, lb/acre <sup>1)</sup>				Hay Yield, lb/acre <sup>2)</sup>
				09-May	25-May	12-Jun	Total	
Magnum	38	29.2	47	1,481	1,593	32	3,105	4,690 ***
Monida	31	34.0	74	1,390	1,526	24	2,940	4,831 ***
Walken	28	32.9	37	1,408	2,201	558	4,167	5,308 ***
Charisma	22	27.4	48	1,605	1,476	55	3,136	4,303 ***
Chilocco	31	34.3	77	1,753	1,564	66	3,384	4,309 *
Bob	24	35.1	63	1,490	1,456	34	2,980	4,086 *
Troy	31	32.0	73	1,639	1,595	12	3,247	4,825 **
Hyttest	32	37.4	77	1,459	1,318	10	2,787	4,776 **
Jerry	29	36.3	71	1,354	1,259	14	2,627	3,974 **
Dallas	21	33.0	88	1,485	1,663	96	3,244	3,528 *
Nora	22	33.2	85	1,379	1,467	242	3,088	2,973 *
TAMO 397	24	30.3	68	1,153	1,527	191	2,871	3,401 *
TAM 200 (wheat)				1,359	1,923	607	3,888	3,529 ***

<sup>1)</sup> Forage and hay yield are reported as dry weight. Total forage is the sum of the three dates. May 25, and June 12 forage is from regrowth.

<sup>2)</sup> Hay harvest dates are indicated by the number of asterisks. \* 5/25/01, \*\* 6/01/01, \*\*\* 6/12/01.

Hay yield was collected from the varieties when each reached the boot stage. Similar to the results from the forage yield comparison, Walken was the top hay producing variety at 5,308 lbs/acre. In addition, Magnum, Monida, Troy, and Hytest all produced over 4,600 lbs/acre of hay. The TAM 200 wheat produced 3,529 lbs/acre of hay. Since TAM 200 is a winter wheat and must be vernalized (several days of chilled soil temperatures) before it will enter the reproductive stage it is not surprising that it would not be a particularly good hay producer when planted in the spring.

The best forage and hay producing varieties were not necessarily the best grain yielding varieties. Top grain yields were obtained with Dallas, Nora, Hytest, and Chilocco all producing between 77 and 85 bu/acre. The lowest grain yielding varieties were Magnum and Walken, yielding 47 and 37 bu/acre, respectively. Test weights varied considerably, but were best with Hytest and Jerry with test weights greater than 36 lbs/bushel.