



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Extension Agronomy

eUpdate

03/28/2019

These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Kathy Gehl, Agronomy eUpdate Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Kathy Gehl, 785-532-3354 kgehl@ksu.edu, or Dalas Peterson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-0405 dpeterso@ksu.edu.

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Cattle should be removed from wheat pastures when the crop reaches first hollow stem (FHS). Grazing past this stage can severely affect wheat yields (for a full explanation, please refer to the eUpdate article "[Optimal time to remove cattle from wheat pastures: First hollow stem](#)").

First hollow stem update

In order to screen for FHS during this important time in the growing season, the K-State Extension Wheat and Forages crew measures FHS on a weekly basis in 36 different commonly grown wheat varieties in Kansas. The varieties are in a September-sown replicated trial at the South Central Experiment Field near Hutchinson.

Ten stems are split open per variety per replication (Figure 1), for a total of 40 stems monitored per variety. The average length of hollow stem is reported for each variety in Table 1.



Figure 1. Ten main wheat stems were split open per replication per variety to estimate first hollow stem for this report, for a total of 40 stems split per variety. Photo by Romulo Lollato, K-State Research and Extension.

Table 1. Length of hollow stem measured March 25 of 36 wheat varieties sown mid-September 2018 at the South Central Experiment Field near Hutchinson. The critical FHS length is 1.5 cm (about a half-inch or the diameter of a dime). Varieties that already passed first hollow stem

are highlighted.

Variety	Hollow stem length (cm)
	(3/25/2019)
WB4303	2.70
SY Benefit	2.12
Spirit Rider	1.83
AM Eastwood	1.62
SY Achieve CL2	1.55
Zenda	1.41
Ruby Lee	1.23
WB4792	1.17
Gallagher	1.13
SY Grit	1.11
EXP	1.07
TAM 204	1.02
Stardust	1.00
Green Hammer	0.99
Smith's Gold	0.99
Langin	0.98
WB4595	0.97
Byrd	0.90
Tatanka	0.90
Paradise	0.89
Bob Dole	0.80
NE10478-1	0.76
WB4269	0.73
WB-Grainfield	0.68
WB4699	0.67
EXP 40-1	0.67
WB4515	0.67
Showdown	0.61
Iba	0.59
SY Rugged	0.56
Larry	0.56
Joe	0.55
Lonerider	0.55
Doublestop CL Plus	0.54
Whistler	0.52
Bentley	0.49

As of March 25, 2019, the varieties WB4303, SY Benefit, Spirit Rider, AM Eastwood, and SY Achieve CL 2 had already reached first hollow stem. At least another five varieties should reach first hollow stem in the very near future (Table 1), and all varieties had started to show minor stem elongation. First hollow stem is generally achieved within a few days from when the stem starts to elongate, so we advise producers to closely monitor their wheat pastures at this time.

The intention of this report is to provide producers an update on the progress of first hollow stem development in different wheat varieties. Producers should use this information as a guide, but it is extremely important to monitor FHS from an ungrazed portion of each individual wheat pasture to take the decision of removing cattle from wheat pastures.

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