

Wheat and Oat update. March 21, 2019.

Steve Harrison

I took notes in wheat plots on the Macon Ridge Research Station in Winnsboro, LA, yesterday. Plots in a October 30 planted field averaged in the flag leaf stage with a range of Feeke's 5 (No visible nodes) to 10.3 (pollinated). The plots looked good, with average to slightly above average yields. I do not expect anything like the 1290 bushel yields we achieved in Winnsboro last year. Excess rainfall all winter reduced tillering. The hard freeze we had about 10 days ago caused significant damage to the few lines/varieties that are fully headed. The majority of plots only had superficial leaf burn. Very early varieties, such as AGS 3000, will suffer significant yield loss. I did notice some plots that had frozen tillers that have since lodged.

Leaf rust is present in numerous plots, but not widespread enough to rate at this point. I did find a few stripe rust overwintering centers in my susceptible stripe rust spreader. I believe this is the first spotting of stripe rust in the state. I suspect that bacterial streak will be an issue later, given the leaf burn we have from the freeze.



Wheat plots at Winnsboro, LA. Picture at right is in a stripe rust overwintering center.

I stopped by the Baton Rouge oat nursery just before dark yesterday. Oat crown rust has increased very rapidly and conditions are ideal for continued spread. I expect susceptible spreaders to have 100% severity in the next 10 days.