



Plain View

Management of Russian wheat aphid and greenbugs

Demonstrating the Benefits of Diversity

By Shanna Boyett, Graduate Student, OSU Agricultural Communications and Jeff Bedwell, Major County Extension Educator

At left: Brook Strader took time away from planting to visit with us and discuss his operation of Wheat, Canola, German Millet, Sudan Grass, Grain Sorghum, Cattle and Alfalfa.

Brook Strader, from the small Oklahoma community of Homestead, visited his grandfather to help out on the farm nearly every summer of his childhood. The boy visiting from his Navy home in Florida found his way back to his grandfather's farm as an adult. The farm has grown tremendously from his grandfather's original 600 acres. Brook, along with his wife Cody and children Ella and Brant, now manage 1875 acres of cropland and 400 acres of grassland in Blaine and Major counties.

The operation's crops consist of wheat, canola, alfalfa, grain sorghum, German millet and sudan grass. Brook also has a pure-bred Angus cattle operation of around 100 cows. He sells a few bred heifers each year as well as a number of bulls.

Moisture conservation is a major factor since all of the Strader operation is dryland. Therefore, a more recent change in the operation has been the incorporation of no-till wheat this year. "I've just been into it the last two months, but it's looking good," said Strader. Other reasons for giving no-till a try include cost of production, labor, and organic matter buildup.

A large part of the Strader operation consists of stored wheat. In fact, around 40 percent of the grain he harvests every year is for seed. Brook sells registered and certified seed and contracts with Foundation Seed and AgriPro.

Brook is heavily involved in his community from helping out with school activities with his wife who is a speech pathologist to serving on the North Blaine County Water Board. He has also been involved with the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association and the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association. Brook serves on Major County Extension's Program Advisory Committee. His involvement with OSU Extension goes far beyond committee

service though.

Brook hosts test plots for OSU Extension on his farm. The Cooperative Extension Service, with the help of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, started his variety plots four years ago to allow wheat producers the opportunity to see how new varieties compare to those the producers are familiar with in the area.

Because of Brook's interest in crop diversification and his general curiosity about agriculture, the plots have also been planted in canola and grain sorghum and some soil fertility demonstrations have been done at the plot location. This year an additional twist at the plot location includes no-till wheat. A tour of these types of plots by producers takes place at least once annually where featured speakers from the OCES and the state Wheat Commission share current news and information relevant to wheat production.

Brook Strader also cooperates with the Areawide Pest Management for Wheat project. Like other cooperating growers, he has participated for three years with grower focus groups and annual cost of production assessments that help the AWPM research team to evaluate the costs and benefits of crop diversification as well as to observe changes in growers' operations over time.

Brook is impressed with the Glance 'n Go field scouting tool in helping him account for greenbugs in his fields. Other pests Brook reported in his operation include army cutworms, weevil mill, grasshoppers, and aphids in the alfalfa.

To read more about the Strader operation, please visit our Website.



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Check out our Press Release from November 22, 2005.

“Developments to Wheat Scouting System Account for Natural Enemy”

The Cereal Aphid Expert System and Glance ‘n Go sampling system for wheat has been recently improved to account for activity of the beneficial wasp, *Lysiphlebus testaceipes*. Other improvements to the pest sampling system include reusable Glance ‘n Go forms.

The system includes an Internet-based decision support system, a simple presence/absence field scouting procedure, and easy to use sampling forms. Glance ‘n Go helps growers save time and money by allowing them to accurately and rapidly sample their wheat crops.

To find the full version of this release as well as more information about this month's grower visit our website at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Business/docs.htm?docid=6555>



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For comments about this update or our program, please contact Dr. Norm Elliott at 405-624-4141, ext 227, or Norman.Elliott@ars.usda.gov

Areawide Pest Management for Wheat

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