Dickinson County Wheat Variety Plots

In the spring of 2015, Crop Service Center along with agronomist Kirby Rector, put out test plots to study the response of chloride on wheat. We noticed testing on chloride has not been done for the last eight years in this area and we decided to take action. The plots were set up by Dorivar Ruiz Diaz of K-State's Agronomy Research & Extension. All the soil, tissue, and grain testing was done by the K-State labs. The plots were put in between February 11th and February 26th. The first significant rain was on May 5th. The wheat would not have been able to have chloride uptake until the heading period which in turn is late for the plants to have a benefit. After May 5th between 13 to 18 inches of moisture fell in the next 35 days. One of the two Dickinson County plots received a fungicide application. Fungicide response was a yield increase on all plots with a low of 8 bushel to a high of 38 bushel in the Jewell county plot. Chloride like nitrogen and sulfur need to be in the soil solution before spring greenup. Chloride applications should be made in the December to February time frame. Under less than ideal weather conditions, these plots (all varieties included) still averaged 6.5 bushel in Dickinson County. One plot in Saline County averaged 3.6 bushel. The return at today's prices was 2 to 3 times the investment. The chart below shows the different wheat varieties planted and the average yield in the two Dickinson County plots. Crop Service Center currently has chloride plots out on milo and corn in several Kansas counties and will continue wheat trials in the future. If you have any questions about the test plots, chloride, or would like more information please contact your Crop Service salesman!