

Regional Agronomist Report for Agronomic Programming
Wayne Flanary Holt County

The value of crops and livestock in the Northwest Missouri is an economic driver for the region. The value of all crops including row crop, forages and commercial horticulture and livestock are listed in the table below. To maintain a competitive viable agriculture requires the latest research, education and resources to continue its growth.

2002 Census Value of Ag Per County	
Andrew	21,551,000
Atchison	42,825,000
Buchanan	21,261,000
Caldwell	9,044,000
Clinton	15,934,000
Daviess	17,904,000
DeKalb	10,771,000
Gentry	14,226,000
Grundy	15,921,000
Harrison	19,453,000
Holt	40,419,000
Livingston	26,626,000
Mercer ----	Data not available
Nodaway	42,072,000
Worth	5,200,000
Total	303,207,000

The agronomic programming effort is focused on timely delivery of crop management information and research to the 15 counties in NW Region. The programming effort is accomplished through media such as radio, newspaper, newsletters, meetings and answering grower's questions.

Each week, "Crop News and Notes," an agronomic column is written and distributed to area papers and radio stations in Northwest Missouri. The column communicates information regarding fertilizer usage, pests attacking crops, and various crop management topics. The column is sent to 17 local newspapers and 11 radio stations.

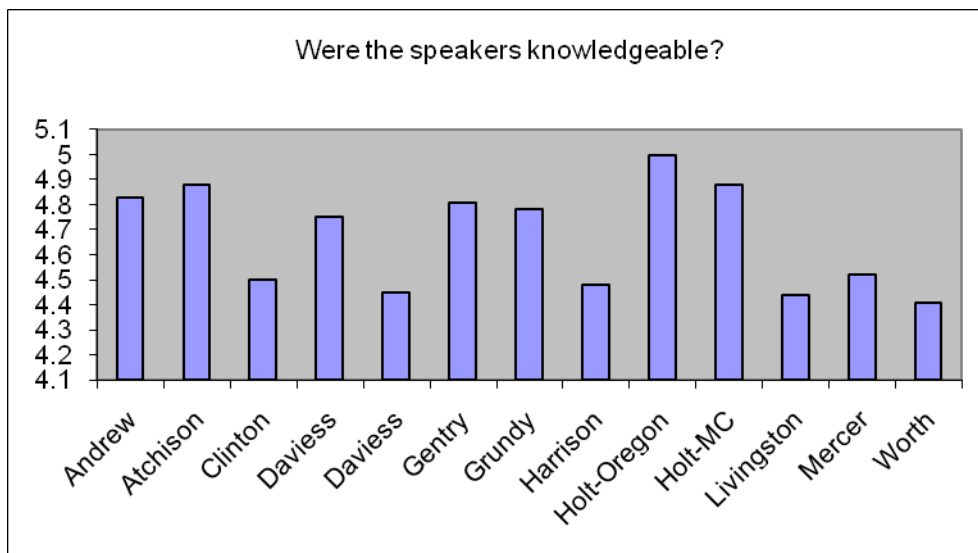
Another way we communicate with growers is through the use of an electronic email newsletter with a distribution list of 329 growers. The monthly electronic newsletter allows us to quickly inform producers of a pest outbreak and what control measures should be taken.

Winter Ag Update meetings focus on critical topics such for both row crop and livestock producers. Pest topics such as soybean rust, soybean aphid, soybean fungicides, seed treatments, new technologies are presented yearly at these meetings. Private pesticide applicator license recertification and training is conducted also during the Ag Updates.

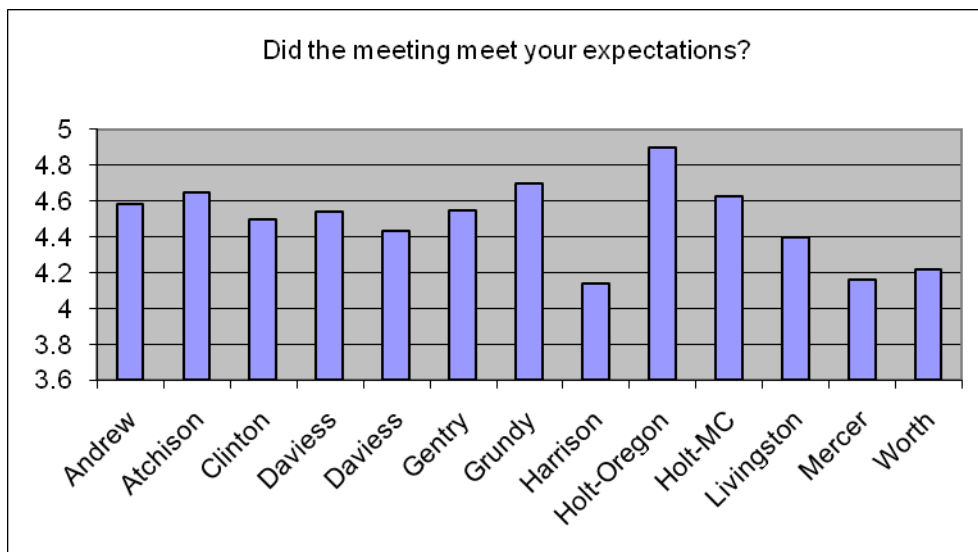
These meetings are presented with Extension Ag staff teaching along with the CPDs of each county helping support our efforts. Over 150 growers attended meetings in the 15 county region.

The value of these meetings is shown by the responses of the attendees. The questions are asked in a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair; 3 = Average; 4 = Good and 5 = Excellent. The following is graphs of the survey data with the question asked as the graph title.

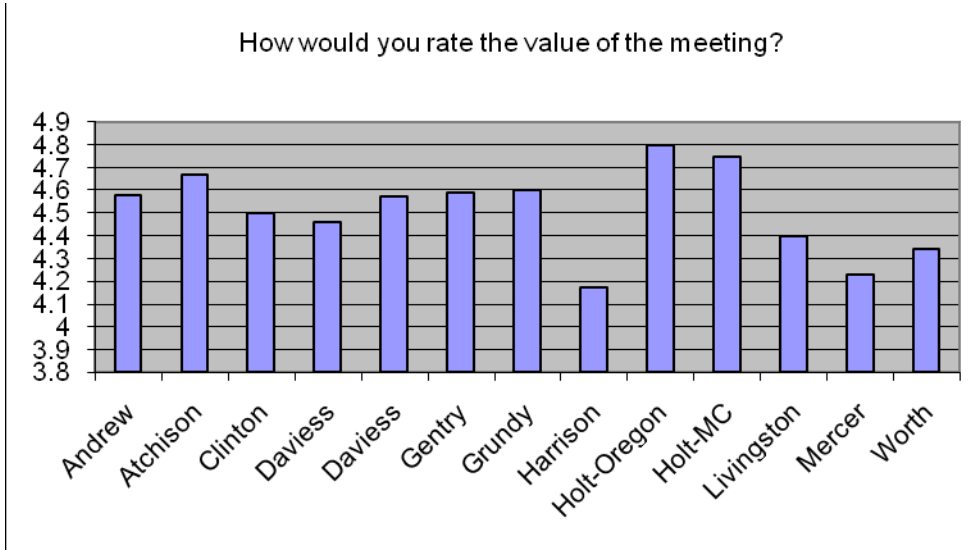
All counties indicated the speakers were above a scale of good.



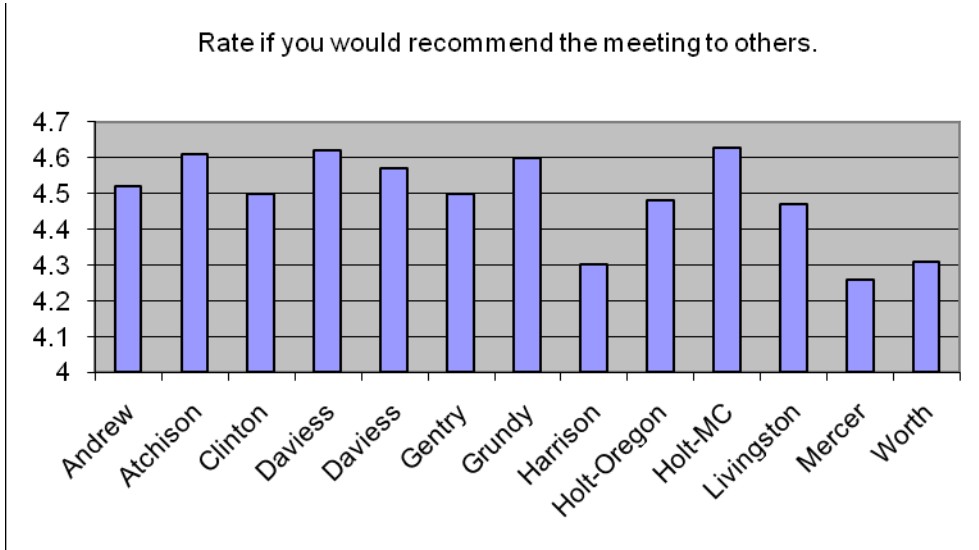
Again the meeting exceeded an average of 4 which indicates above good.



The participants indicated that the meetings were of great value indicated by the scale over 4.



Growers indicated that they would recommend the ag updates to others.



Other meetings such as the Corn and Soybean grower’s association meetings are held annually along with other timely meetings to address emerging crop pests and issues.

Crop management demonstrations are conducted for local growers at the Graves-Chapple Farm and the Hundley-Whaley Experiment Station. The farm is a show place to demonstrate no-till farming practices. Soil erosion reduction is a critical issue in Northwest Missouri and we must continue to maintain our progress. Nitrogen management, planting populations, hybrid and variety selection, pest control practices are demonstrated during field days and information from the site is delivered through an annual report, on the web and during winter meetings. Jim Crawford, farm coordinator,

provides management for Graves-Chapple Farm and Bruce Burdick, superintendent, provides the management for Hundley-Whaley.

The results of an area grower needs assessment are as follows:

1. Provide an unbiased resource to provide us research and education.
2. Provide us with evaluations of new products and technology.
3. Help us understand how technology fits on our operation and how to use it.
4. Help us understand how to use crop inputs efficiently and profitably.
5. Keep us informed of pests that may attack our crops.

From this list, we continue to improve and deliver programs to area crop and forage producers.