As I mentioned last month, “The 2016 Missouri rice growing season and crop was the most diverse we have experienced in many years.” “Overall, yields are off probably 15% of the past five year average.”

Most growers are now focusing and equipping for 2017. Their thoughts are focused on how to make a profit. Perhaps, by decreasing inputs, or choosing a new high yielding variety or change your basic operation? What new stuff should I consider to fit my operation or should I leave everything alone?

According to variety studies at MU Portageville and MRRMC Research Farm and other university trials, we have choices. “Choices” are perhaps the most exciting thing about living in the USA. Thanks to our farmers, industry, and universities there are several new varieties for 2017.

Hybrid varieties generally yield more and have a better disease package than non-hybrids. Some perform better than others under different situations so, study their strengths for your operation.

- New: CL XP766 or RT7311 CL in 2017) is a Clearfield hybrid version of Old: XL 753.
- New: CL 153 offers blast resistance and improved grain quality over OLD: CL 151.
- New: CL 172 simi-dwarf with blast resistance, better quality, yields than Old: CL 111.
- New: Diamond has excellent yield potential but is susceptible to blast and bacterial panicle blight so will probably require fungicide treatments.
- New: Gemini CL 214 is a long grain Clearfield line provides improved grain retention and Bacterial Panicle Blight resistance.

And we still have all the OLD varieties LaKast, Roy J and Taggart which have performed well and will be available in 2017.

Diseases and insects reduce yield and quality and increase production cost which lowers profit. IPM and consultants are a great investment and we should never let our guard down. High yielding hybrid and conventional varieties need to be scouted closely for early insect and disease detection then foliar applications can be made in a preventive manner. Hybrid varieties generally have a better disease package but don’t ignore them.

Although disease and insect pressure has been relatively low in MO the past few years we were hit hard in isolated areas with Sheath Blight, Blast and insects in 2016.

Due to a very dry fall, Missouri growers have regraded and prepared their fields for 2017 and are ready to plant. A good start for a profitable year.

Sam Atwell, Agronomy Specialists, University of Missouri Extension, New Madrid, MO
High Tunnel Workshop and Tour

Attention all growers!

The University of Missouri Extension-Oregon County will conduct a high tunnel workshop on **Friday, December 16, 2016, beginning at 1 PM.** The workshop will be held in the conference room located in the Oregon County Courthouse and conclude around 5 PM. Cost is **$10 per person** and we ask that you pre-register by calling 417-778-7490.

High Tunnels are becoming very popular. This is an opportunity for those interested in this innovative method of growing produce to learn about the program, to learn about the purposes of high tunnels and how they are being utilized locally.

Patrick Byers, MU Extension Horticulture Specialist and Jennifer Morganthaler, clinical instructor at William H. Darr School of Agriculture, will be the instructors. The topics for the afternoon program consist of an introduction to high tunnels, vegetable and fruit production, and cost share information provided by an NRCS representative. We will conclude the program with a visit to a successful high tunnel farm.

| **When:** | Friday, December 16, 2016 |
| **Time:** | 1 pm - 5 pm |
| **Where:** | Oregon County Courthouse, Conference Room - Alton, MO |
| **Cost:** | $10 per person (pre-registration required) |

To sign-up for the workshop or for more information contact: 417-778-7490
The 2016 watermelon meeting was very informative for those who attended. “This was the best melon meeting that I have attended”, said John of KenMo Ag.

During the meeting growers were introduced to vendors and their products included some who were new to the meeting. Growers reviewed the diseases that infected Missouri fields in 2016 and what could be done to prevent these infections. Examples provided to the group from the growing season provided visual references for the future season.

In addition, the Food Safety Modernization Act was discussed, paying close attention to how it compares to Good Ag Practice and the requirements of each. There are subtle differences with the checklists to comply. Although the compliance requirements will not be inspected before January 2018, it is important to understand the short list of requirements now and be prepared.

Jeffrey Vanlandingham was on hand to provide information to the newly available Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) for specialty growers in Missouri. This protection provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to $8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, specialty, or direct markets. These policies have not been available to Missouri growers in the past but were used in 2016 with payouts that resulted from natural causes.

Mr. Vanlandingham anticipates that there will be a higher degree of participation in 2017 as word moves from grower to grower of availability.

For more information about Whole Farm Revenue Protection talk to your local USDA agency or take a look at information provided by the USDA at http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/wfrp.html. Deadlines for participation are approaching but run no later than March 15.

If you would like a quick estimator for the WFRP go to http://www.rma.usda.gov/. Select Cost Estimator under the quick links, then select Detailed Estimate and use the drop down criteria to estimate your yearly payment in 2017 for Whole Farm Revenue Protection (76) in Missouri. You will need to add 2 or more commodities in your search. The amount to look for is the Producer Premium Amount.
**Mounting:** A horse should learn to stand still while you are mounting. To ensure your safety as well as the horse’s, lead the horse away from buildings and other objects before mounting. Recheck the cinch or girth to ensure it is tight enough to prevent slippage. The reins should be pulled back to remove the slack, but they should not be pulled back so much that horse begins to move backwards. Hold the reins in your left hand, face the side of the horse, and twist the stirrup to face you and place your left foot in the stirrup. With your right hand on the cantle, take one hop on your right foot and rise in the stirrup with your left foot. If your horse tries to walk forward pull back gently on the reins. Stand straight on your left leg while keeping your body close to the horse to allow your horse to prepare for a rider. Raise your right foot and leg well over the horse’s rump and be sure not to brush his rump on the way over his back. Place your right foot in the right stirrup and bear your weight in both stirrups before gently dropping into saddle. Mounting from the near (left) side is traditional; however, horses should be trained to allow mounting and dismounting from both sides in case you ever need to use the far side in an emergency. The horse should be trained to stand with a newly mounted rider and wait to be asked to walk.

**Riding:** Before hitting the range or trail, ride your horse in a familiar area. If a horse is going to buck, it usually occurs within the first few minutes of mounting. If you feel the horse preparing to buck, sit deep in the saddle and do not lean forward. Turn the horse in circles while keeping the horses head held high. This can be achieved by flexing the horse’s nose toward your knee as they move around. It is harder for a horse to buck a rider off if its head is high. Once you feel comfortable with the horse you are ready to move off in a new direction. If riding on roads with traffic the Missouri Highway Patrol suggests that you ride
facing oncoming traffic. Riders should dismount before crossing pavement. If you choose to ride across paved roads do so at a walk. When riding with a group ride side-by-side if possible and stay together. Horses are gregarious, meaning they band together and do not like to be left alone. If one rider needs to stop (i.e. to close a gate), it is best if the group waits for that rider. If you must ride in a single file be sure to keep at least one horse length between each other. Spurs should only be used by those riders who have experience utilizing this communication aid and should only be used on horses that are familiar with their use. Spurs should not be used by small children. Allow your horse plenty of time to observe a crossing and allow him free rein while crossing something new. Allow your horse to lower and raise his head to judge height and distance and improve his balance with the head and neck. When the ride is over and you head back to the barn it is best to walk, not run, the last quarter-mile to prevent a horse from becoming barn sour.

Post-Riding: When you arrive at the barn, train your horse to stand for a minute or two before dismounting. To untack your horse simply reverse the saddling and bridling process described above, starting with removing his bridle. Always unfasten the rear cinch, if being used, first to prevent an accident. Your horse may panic if the saddle should turn while you are unsaddling and the rear cinch is still fastened. If you have had a hard ride, loosen the front cinch gradually before taking the saddle off, allowing the blood to flow back under the saddle slowly. It is best to brush your horse with a soft bristled brush after you remove the saddle. Be sure to place your saddle and saddle pad or blanket in such a way to ensure they dry out.

Horseback riding is a skill that is learned and can be a rewarding and enjoyable past-time. With a little common sense and an understanding of the horse, your ride can be a great success. Happy trails to you and your companion.

For further reading see MU publication G2862, Practical Horse Psychology; G2878, Safe Ground handling of Horses.
2016 Regional Corn Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
Miner Convention Center, Miner, Missouri
(Next to the Drury Inn – E. Malone & I-55)

Registration: 8:00 a.m.  Program: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
CEU’s will be applied for.  Agriculture Extension Calendar of Meetings & Events

Agenda and Times:

8:00 a.m. – Registration, Coffee, Doughnuts
8:30 a.m. – MO Corn Growers Association Policy Update
9:00 a.m. – Sprayer Cleanout: Tips and Techniques– Fred Whitford, Purdue University Extension
9:45 a.m. – Break
10:15 a.m. – Residue Management in High Yield Corn Systems– Alison Vogel, University of Illinois
11:00 a.m. – Update on Drones for Agriculture – Kent Shannon, MU Extension
11:30 a.m. – New Precision Agriculture Tools for Corn– Gene Stevens, MU Fisher Delta Research Center
12:00 p.m. – Market Outlook – David Reinbott, MU Extension
12:30 p.m. – Lunch

Industry Representatives will be on hand to answer questions about their products.

To pre-register or if you have any questions contact Anthony Ohmes (573-243-3581) or David Reinbott (573-545-3516).
Veterinary Feed Directive for Livestock Antibiotics

Dec. 7th, 2016—6:00 p.m.

Changes and New Regulations will be reviewed by:

Craig Payne: MU Extension Veterinarian
Class will be held in Poplar Bluff, MO
YOU MUST PRE REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS
BY NOV. 30TH BY CALLING 573-224-5600 EXT 8

To register or for additional information contact Joel Tatum-Livestock Specialist at 573-224-5600 ext. 8 or tatumjo@missouri.edu

CLASS IS CONTINGENT ON A MINIMUM OF REGISTERED ATTENDEES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTION
Future Meetings & Events -

Winter Education Series - scheduled at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the Cape Girardeau County Extension office over next 4 months. Registration is $20/person to attend all four meetings or $10/person per meeting if choosing a particular topic. We have out of town guest speakers coming in November and December, so we ask that you please call to register so that we can plan accordingly. Please direct questions to Anthony Ohmes or Erin Larimore, (573) 243-3581.

Workshop 3: Livestock risk protection insurance and weed management in pastures on December 6th

Workshop 4: Weed management in row crops and grain market outlook on January 10th

Regional Corn meeting is scheduled for December 7th at the Miner Convention Center in Sikeston, MO. Please direct questions to David Reinbott (ReinbottD@missouri.edu) or Anthony Ohmes.

Regional Soybean meeting is scheduled for January 18th at the Miner Convention Center in Sikeston, MO. Please direct questions to David Reinbott (ReinbottD@missouri.edu) or Anthony Ohmes.

MU Missouri Rice Production meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2017 at the MU Lee Farm Fisher Delta Center in Portageville, MO. It will begin at 8:00 am. Please direct any questions to Sam Atwell (573) 748-5531.

Commodities and markets - http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx