

2016 Missouri Crop Performance Trials can be accessed on the web by <https://varietytesting.missouri.edu/>. These are MU's variety testing program.

Information contained in this newsletter is intended for use in Northwest Missouri and may need to be adapted to other locations. We ask that you credit University of Missouri Extension if you use this information

Bacterial Leaf Streak found in Nebraska , Kansas and Iowa has not been found in Northwest Missouri. This past summer, a representative from APHIS and myself sampled 10 fields per county in the region and none tested positive.

Corn Growers had an excellent meeting January 19 in St Joseph. Bottom-line—if we have good weather and excellent yields, ending stocks continue to increase putting pressure for lower prices.

What is your breakeven yield and price? Time to push the pencil and know when you are making a profit . Your Extension Ag Business specialists are recommending you look for opportunities to lock in a profit by marketing a portion of your expected crop.

Our Ag Business Specialists are promoting flexible lease agreements. These are cash rents but flex on the upside so lower cash rents protect renter but provide upside advantage to the landlord. Also, crop share rents are being used by landlords in which they have a good tenant. It's always good to have a written agreement when it comes to leasing land. Read any lease carefully to fully understand what you are signing.

Area “Staying in the Farming Business” meetings are being promoted heavily in the Northwest Extension Region. Get some great ideas and strategies on how to adjust your operation to handle lower crop and livestock prices. One idea can save you a lot of money. These are designed by the Ag staff to help all producers as they move forward. A three ring binder of resources is provided at these meetings. Call your local Extension office and ask where the next scheduled meeting will be held. I encourage you to attend these meetings as feedback from attendees have been excellent. Time to act now before spring rush is on and so your plans are in place for a successful year!

Welcome new staff! **Katie Neuner** is located in Lafayette County and is your new Ag Business Specialist serving Carroll, Chariton, Lafayette, Ray and Saline Counties.

Kathi Mecham is the new commercial horticulturalist located in Carroll County and is serving Caldwell, Carroll, Lafayette, Livingston, Ray and Saline Counties.

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