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### ***Soybean Seeding Rates***

The only expense items in the KSU Soybean Cost Return Budget for Northeast Kansas that are greater than seed cost are herbicides and land rent. With that in mind, it's obviously an input worth some time to evaluate as you head in to soybean planting season.

A recent Kansas State University study looked at a dataset of soybean yields from the Kansas Soybean Yield Contest by yield category (some of the better yields in the state in many cases...). Low yield environments were classified as those below 60 bushels per acre. Medium yield environments ranged from 60-64 bushels/A, and high yield environments were above 64 bpa. The study looked at yield by seeding rate results to determine an 'optimal' level.

Not surprisingly, soybean yield by seeding rate results were all over the board, with the ability to attain high yields at almost any population. Growing season weather combined with a multitude of in-season hurdles typically results in a great deal of variability.

What was interesting from the study was the confirmation that low-yield environments often respond *better* to higher populations than it might seem they would. For example, yield results showed plant densities could be reduced by 24 percent when moving from the low yield environments to either of the medium or high yield environments. In other words, if seed cost is of concern, and you have the knowledge of a farm to allow for more site-specific management – knowing where you can consistently achieve a medium or high yielding environment as outlined in this study - it might be worth a look at soybean seeding rate to further fine-tune that input cost.

Want to take a closer look at this study? Request a copy of Soybean Seeding Rates and Optimal Plant Densities from any District Office or by e-mailing me at [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu).

### ***Poison Ivy Identification and Control***

For those folks highly allergic to poison ivy, knowing how to identify it is a key to reducing exposure. Because it can show up in three different forms: erect woody shrub, a groundcover that creeps along the ground, and a woody vine that will climb trees, knowing what to look for is important to being able to avoid it.

Climbing poison ivy forms numerous aerial roots giving the vine the appearance of a fuzzy rope as it climbs up almost anything in site. Leaves can vary, too. The compound leaf will always have three leaflets, but margins can be toothed, incised, lobed, or smooth. Leaf size is variable, too, with the middle leaflet typically larger than the other two with a long stalk (the other two are closely attached to the leaf stem). Often confused with Virginia Creeper, poison ivy has three leaves, not five like Virginia Creeper will have.

Poison ivy can be pulled out by hand when soils are damp, but wear gloves and a long sleeved shirt at a minimum (wash clothes immediately and rinse out the washer, too...). It can also be cut off and the stump or cut area treated to prevent regrowth. Plants in the shrub form can be sprayed with a labeled herbicide.

For more information on poison ivy and it's control, check out this publication by K-State Research & Extension Geary County Agricultural Agent Chuck Otte: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/49828674/poison-ivy-bulletin-geary-county-extension-office> . A copy can also be requested from any District Office.