Ward County Producers Learn How to Improve Their Soybean Production Practices

The Situation
Soybean acres in Ward County have increased from 20,000 acres in 2013 to over 120,000 acres in 2015. Due to the increased interest in growing soybeans in northern counties in North Dakota, there is a need to educate new growers on the ways to make the crop profitable on their agriculture operation.

Extension Response
Ward County Extension Agent Paige Brummund, and state & area specialists presented a soybean production meeting geared towards producers currently growing soybeans or considering growing soybeans.

The NDSU Extension Service partnered with the North Dakota Soybean Council to provide this educational program.

Extension Agent Brummund also provided producers with timely information on soybean production via emails, news releases, and Facebook posts.

Impacts
Producers attending the meeting learned about variety selection, soybean diseases, projected cost of production and maximum economic yield.

A survey of the 80 people in attendance at the Ward County meeting indicated that 88% learned something new and useful and 75% gained important insight in the topics covered. All of the participants intended to apply the knowledge gained to their farm operations. Producers placed a value of $29 per acre on the information gained from the meeting.

Some of the examples of cited learning from participants included:
- Scout fields, use an inoculant
- Choose the right variety
- Spider mite and soybean disease info
- Fertility issues
- Phytophthora and aphids

Feedback
Comments from producer indicated they have obtained useful information that would make their operations more profitable.
- “The broadcasting of Phosphorus was interesting and would like to look more into it.”
- “I need to do more scouting.”
- “First time grower, all good information.”
- “Was very interested in the disease information.”

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