



# Double Crop Soybean Wheat Row Spacing Study – 2008

**Wheat**

**Planted:** October 9, 2007  
**Harvested:** June 21, 2008  
**Rows:** Various  
**Seeding Rate:** Various

**Previous Crop:** Corn  
**Tillage:** Disc (twice)  
**Herbicide:** 0.6 oz. Harmony  
**Insecticide:** Cruiser

RAINFALL	
April	4.64 in.
May	6.36 in.
June	3.12 in.
July	8.90 in.
August	0.80 in.
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.82 in.</b>

**Soybeans**

**Planted:** June 23, 2008  
**Harvested:** October 17, 2008  
**Rows:** Eleven 15" rows  
**Seeding Rate:** 220,000 seeds/A.

**Previous Crop:** Wheat  
**Tillage:** No-Till  
**Herbicide:** 24 oz. Durango  
 (two applications)  
**Insecticide:** None

**Purpose:**

This study was started a few years ago to compare wheat planted in 15" rows to traditional drilled 7.5" rows. Interest in this cultural practice was generated from reports of growers throughout the country using 15" row Kinze planters to plant their wheat. With bulk fill 15" row planters becoming more common for planting soybeans, the question has been raised whether or not a grower could use the same planter and save the cost of a drill. In the fall of 2007, wheat was planted in both 15" rows with a Kinze 2000 planter. In addition to looking at wheat planted in various row spacing, we are testing the soybeans planted behind this row spacing in order to evaluate the entire double crop system.

Wheat Row Spacing	Brand	Population	Bushels* Per Acre	Brand	Population	Bushels* Per Acre
7.5" Rows	BECK 122 Cruiser	1,500,000	91.2	BECK 399NRR	220,000	63.9
15" Rows	BECK 122 Cruiser	1,500,000	86.3	BECK 399NRR	220,000	58.4
15" Rows	BECK 122 Cruiser	1,200,000	82.6	BECK 399NRR	185,000	56.4
15" Rows	BECK 122 Cruiser	900,000	81.1	BECK 399NRR	158,000	56.0

\* Bushels per acre correct to 13% moisture.

Wheat Row Spacing	Average Wheat Yield	% of 7.5" Row Yield	Average Soybean Yield	% of Yield following 7.5" Row Wheat	Gross Income^
<b>2007</b>					
7.5" Rows	67.7	----	27.0	----	\$772.52
15" Rows	60.8	89.9%	29.5	109.1%	\$752.13
<b>2008</b>					
7.5" Rows	91.2	----	63.9	----	\$1,346.51
15" Rows	86.3	94.6%	58.4	91.4%	\$1,251.20
<b>2007-2008</b>					
7.5" Rows	79.4	----	45.5	----	\$1,059.72
15" Rows	73.6	92.7%	44.0	96.7%	\$1,002.57

^ Gross Income based on \$6.98/Bu. wheat and \$11.11/Bu. soybeans.

**Summary:**

The average yield for 15" row wheat in 2008 was approximately 94.6% of the yield recorded for 7.5" rows. This is up from 89.9% in 2007 due to raising wheat populations in 15" rows up the same 1.5 million seeds per acre that was used in 7.5" rows. Soybean yields following 15" row wheat did not show the same yield boost that we saw in 2007 thus lowering gross income further. This study has been expanded this fall to include 3 replicated locations that will evaluate optimum planting populations for 15" row wheat as well as the soybeans that follow. Many thanks to Lester Farms (Hopkinsville, KY), Pasture Belt Farms (Owensboro, KY), and Hirsch Family Farms (Ft. Branch, IN) for providing testing locations for the upcoming year as well as Dr. Palle Pedersen (Iowa State University) and Dr. Chad Lee (University of KY) for assisting with this project.