

# ZFSelect® Seed NEWS

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## Wheat seed varieties available from ZFS

In addition to soybean and corn seed, ZFS offers a selection of wheat seed representing several brands. In the chart below, please find an outline of varieties we think deserve consideration.

Variety	Type	Relative Maturity	Plant Height	Head Type	Description
DF 105	Red	Early	Short	Awne	Yields well in all management types. Good tillering.
DF 112	Red	Mid-late	Medium	Awne	Best in high yield environments.
DF 119	Red	Early	Medium	Awnletted	Similar to DF 112, but better standability.
Jonah (New)	Red	Late	Short	Awnless	Moderate disease package. Good milling and baking scores. Would likely benefit from fungicide applications.
Red Dragon	Red	Mid-early	Medium	Awnless	Good straw height, standability. Strong disease package.
DF 218	White	Mid-early	Short	Awnletted	Better standing than Ambassador. Suitable for organic production.
DF Ambassador	White	Early	Medium	Awnless	Performs best under high management. Quality straw.
Whitetail	White	Early	Short	Awnless	Excellent winter hardiness.
Jupiter	White	Mid-season	Short	Awnletted	Consistent performance, good disease package.

Be sure to watch for results on these upcoming DF varieties.

DF 121	Red	Mid-season	Medium	Awne
DF 131	Red	Mid-late	Medium	Awne
DF 261	White	Mid-late	Medium	Awnletted
DF 271	White	Mid-season	Medium	Awnletted



## COVID impacting export of U.S. soy products

By Ben Glass, ZFS Seed Division and Specialty Program Manager

While we perhaps get weary of hearing about COVID-19 and the politics around it, one thing we cannot ignore is the impact it is having on our day-to-day lives.

Supply chains are massive, complex systems, so it takes time for the beginning of the chains to feel the effects from the other end, but that time has arrived, as a shortage of shipping containers is causing headaches for exporters of soy, and many other products.

“It took longer to have a ripple effect inland, but now we have a mess,” said ZFS International Sales Manager Darwin Rader, who is on the board of the Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance, a national association of companies focused on specialty food-grade soy products.

Rader fears the inability to export soy products and a variety of other goods will



ZFS File photo

**A TIGHT SHIP:** A shortage of shipping containers brought on by the worldwide COVID pandemic has reached the Midwest and is making the exporting of soy products more difficult.

linger late into the year and possibly into 2022.

“Last October and November, we started getting notices from ocean carriers that they were not going to ship out as much exports (from the U.S.) because they wanted to deliver empty con-

tainers back to Asia as fast as they could,” he said. “Consumers here were ordering things online that drove the consumer goods market in ways we hadn’t seen in the past.”

Rader said the problem is

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## Early planting requires due diligence

By Ben Glass, ZFS Seed Division and Specialty Program Manager

There has been a lot of research and promotion of planting soybeans early to get more yield. If you have not tried planting earlier, I encourage you to try it.

However, what has not been discussed as much are considerations for later in the season when soybeans are planted early. Since there have been few recent years in which early planting has been possible, my thoughts are more observations and just general things I think should be considered.

A big one I noticed last year when soybeans were put in the ground early was the weed pressure later in the season. If you plant early and then spray early (specifically thinking about non-GMO soybeans), you are likely going to lose your residual earlier than you have experienced in previous seasons. You may also find



ZFS photo by Gary Brower

**A HEAD START:** Planting soybeans early may help increase yield, but to earn that extra boost at harvest, there is some work required on the part of the producer.

the herbicide efficacy is not as good if temperatures are cooler. It is even more critical to scout the fields later in the season and see what is developing under the canopy.

Another area I want to touch on are diseases and insects. Early planting puts seed out into the world where it has longer exposure to diseases and insects. Yes, treatment can help, hence why it

is part of the recommendation when planting early, but it is not a “silver bullet.”

You may see more evidence of diseases that infect early, so make sure you know what you have in your treatment package to help prevent infections. If the treatment is not labeled for the disease, you are getting limited value.

Also, if a field has a history of a particular disease,

it is not a good candidate for early planting.

Be thinking of which fields will provide the best opportunity to get that seed germinated and growing when you plant early.

Also, one more thing, if you do plant early, give yourself more time to plant so you do not feel like you need to plant all at once. Spread your planting day risk a bit.



## Conner Heeg joins ZFSelect Seed team

By Conner Heeg, ZFS Seed Division intern

My name is Conner Heeg and I am from Fowlerville, Mich. I am currently a senior at Michigan State University, where I will graduate in December with a degree in Agribusiness Management.

I am extremely excited to join the ZFSelect Team this summer as the Seed Division intern. My passion for agriculture started with 4H and FFA, where I became

involved in show cattle. I met some great individuals who inspired me to pursue a degree in agriculture.

In the summer of 2019, I worked for the crop pathologist at the Bayer Research Farm in Mason. At Bayer, I gained experience with soybeans that I can apply at ZFS.

This summer, I will be building relationships on grower visits, moving field

signs, as well as doing miscellaneous tasks on site in Zeeland. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be in my position, as I know there is so much to learn at a company like ZFS.

My mission is to be an asset to the ZFS team, as well as growers in our non-GMO program, all while absorbing as much information as possible.



Conner Heeg  
ZFS Seed Division Intern

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## Zeeland Freight a strong producer partner

By Greg VanderWal, Zeeland Freight Services

Zeeland Farm Services started out as Meeuwssen Produce and Grain in 1950, and the company's solitary focus at the time was the transport of agricultural products, primarily produce, in and around the West Michigan area.

ZFS has certainly grown over the years, and the company's name change to Zeeland Farm Services was reflective of the increased services being offered to the

ag sector. But, for more than 70 years, ZFS has maintained a strong transportation fleet, and a couple of years ago it was spun off into its own company, Zeeland Freight Services, LLC.

Today, Zeeland Freight serves customers throughout the Midwest, as well several states in the eastern U.S. and Great Plains.

With more than 100 trucks on the road, Zeeland Freight is able to haul a wide variety

of products, and offers several options to producers who may need help transporting feed or crops.

The fleet has four different size trailers to haul grain and feed commodities. There are regular-size hopper bottom trailers that can carry 800 bushels, while our three-axle dump trucks can handle about 1,000 bushels.

And then there are the big boys - the eight-axle dumps and eight-axle hopper bot-

toms. The heavy duty dumps can haul loads of up to 1,800 bushels, while the big hopper bottoms can take on 2,000 bushels per load.

Zeeland Freight Services operates a modern fleet with electronic logs dispatched from Zeeland, all maintained by our own state-of-the-art service garage.

To learn more, call Zeeland Freight Services dispatcher Don Lewis at (866) 748-1820.



## MSU annual Weed Tour returns June 30

After being cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Michigan State University Weed Tour returns on June 30 at the MSU Agronomy Farm.

The event will kick off with registration and check-in from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., with the field tour beginning at 9:30, followed by a boxed lunch.

After lunch, there will also be a weed tour of the MSU non-GMO trial plot.

The registration fee is \$30, and includes a tour booklet and the boxed lunch.

*ZFS will cover the cost of registration for all producers who notify us by June 24. Email brookez@zfsinc.com or call (616) 748-1835.*

Recertification credits have been requested for Certified Crop Advisors, and Private, Commercial Core, and Category 1A Pesticide Applicator Licenses.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all attendees will need to adhere to Michigan State University health and safety requirements, which include

filling out a health screening form prior to attendance and adhering to all social distancing guidelines. As a condition of attending a Michigan State University (MSU) Extension program, all staff, contractors, vendors and participants are required to follow the MSU Community Compact.



## COVID a disrupter for soy supply chain

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also starting to gum up other parts of the supply chain as trains and semi trucks are having to wait for several hours to find shipping containers, or are not finding them at all.

“So it drives up their costs,” he said.

However, Rader also said the U.S. is seeing an uptick of soy exports because of what India is going through with COVID, and the fact that India is on the verge of becoming a net importer of

soy in the near future. As India's middle class grows, the country is using more soy domestically, which is creating opportunities for ZFS to export more non-GMO soy products.

In anticipation of this growing demand, coupled

with supply chain issues, ZFS has re-evaluated our internal processes and storage opportunities for non-GMO soybeans. With these changes and more awareness, we do not anticipate major issues during fall harvest in 2021.