Newly released hybrids said to boost yields

If you want to learn how to boost yields, especially during drought years on the High Plains, the Monsanto Learning Center was the place to be Friday.

Agricultural producers and others traveled there for an agAcademy Yield Chasers event, hosted by Asgrow and DeKalb, that focused on several agronomic practices—including how to deal with drought—that were tailored to boost yields and more.

Monsanto agronomist Mark Reiman focused on productivity during drought and showed off the center's rain-out shelter that creates a controlled environment over crops.

By monitoring moisture amounts through a shelter on rails, Reiman said research done at the center can help farmers manage drought.

Monsanto's DroughtGard hybrids were designed to help mitigate yield loss during drought stress.

The hybrids became available commercially during the 2013 growing season to benefit farmers in the Western Great Plains whose dryland acre average yield ranges between 70 to 130 bushels per acre compared to an average of 150 bushels per acre on average for dryland and irrigated yields in the United States the past few years.

Reiman noted that farmers who irrigate can do a lot wrong in growing their crops and still be okay.

But dryland crops, which are controlled by how much rain Mother Nature provides, are a different story.

As a result, he said agronomic practices such as no-till and use of drought-tolerant hybrids are even more important.

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