

Any frost or freeze damage to wheat?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Before I get started on this morning's topic a quick reminder about the meeting on April 18th about dealing with the EPA rules on spill prevention control and countermeasure, sometimes also known as the gas tank ruling. That meeting is Thursday night, April 18th at the Junction City Fire Station on Lacey Drive near the interstate and it starts about 7:30. Peter Tomlinson from Extension Agronomy will be on hand and between the two of us we are hoping that we can answer all of your questions regarding the details of this rule and how it will affect you if in fact it even does. Okay, I'm sure that some of you may be a little bit concerned about the short little blast of wintery weather last week and what impact it may have had on the wheat crop. In my opinion, the impact locally was zero other than we did get some nice rains in part of the county. Most of the wheat was just starting to joint or not even that far, wheat at early joint, or before, can take temperatures down into the mid teens before we start to see damage. Now, while it seemed cold a couple of mornings last week, I don't think it got nearly that cold anywhere in the area. A year ago, this weather could have given us a problem, but with everything running average to a little behind average another blast of cold weather wasn't a problem. Three weeks from now, these same temperatures could be devastating and I'm not going to rule out that possibility. The good news is that the long range forecasts are starting to look better! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Controlling Cactus in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Cactus are a normal part of the Flint Hills tallgrass ecosystem. While they aren't as common here as in the shortgrass prairies of western Kansas, we will have them none the less. They'll be most often found in those shallower drier sites in the Flint Hills and we'll probably see them expanding in some areas due to the past couple years of drought and subsequent overgrazing. Most often we are talking about one of the many different species of prickly pear cactus. When heavy grazing pressure, or drought, or both, reveals larger patches of cactus, pasture managers start to get concerned and want to try to do something. Essentially we have one herbicide that we can use on prickly pear cactus and that's picloram. You can find picloram in Tordon 22K, Surmount and Grazon P+D. All of these have prickly pear on the label but for spot treating only except Tordon which also has a broadcast treatment. Cactus are not easy to control. The very nature of a cactus is to be resistant to water loss from the plant and this sets the plant up to be hard to get herbicides into the plant as well and for that reason I feel it is necessary to use spot treatment with high volumes of carrier. We used to recommend puncturing the pads with a fork, but newer information indicates that isn't necessary. Texas Extension, where they have a lot of cactus feel that Surmount is the best option. You need to be sure to add a non-ionic surfactant and maybe a little spray dye to help you know what you've sprayed. Then apply to the point of runoff. May and June are probably going to be the best times to spray cactus. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

Alfalfa Weevil

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. What a crazy dichotomy between last year and this year. A year ago we were swathing the first cutting of alfalfa. This year you would be hard pressed to make a windrow! But that's okay! The bad news is that even with last week's cold blast, alfalfa weevil are hatching and getting active. The good news is that it looks like we're going to have a pretty good synchronized hatch That should enhance the ability to control. So far none of us that have been out scouting have seen any adults laying eggs. The kicker is going to be the timing of your treatment. There is no systemic action, all the products are contact killers so we need to have the weevil larvae active at the time of spraying. We had an entomology update last week and the good news is that there is no evidence, after extensive testing, of insecticidal resistance in alfalfa weevil. Which means that past apparent failures in control of alfalfa weevil come down to application errors. There's a bunch of stuff we need to pay attention to when treating for weevils, which will be very soon now. We need warm enough weather that the larvae are out and feeding. Ideally, above 60 degrees at the time of treatment. We need to be applying enough water to get good coverage of the plant. Even with the smaller growth we've been seeing so far this year, I think we need to still be looking at 10 gallons per acre minimum with 15 to 20 being preferred and required as the alfalfa gets bigger. These two factors are probably the biggest reason why we've had problems controlling alfalfa weevil in the past. So get the weevil active, get the spray on them. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.