

Wheat Disease Update

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, compared to a year ago we aren't getting a lot of wheat development yet, but it's time to start some periodic updates of what's happening in Kansas and what we are seeing to the south. Even though wheat development is somewhat slow here in Kansas, things are already hopping to the south. Rust development has already been reported from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Primarily this has all been stripe rust so far. Leaf rust has been reported in Texas already, but no where else. What happens in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi don't really concern me all that much because prevailing winds carry the disease spores from those state east of here. Texas is another story though so leaf and stripe rust showing up already in Texas and starting to spread . So far the reports out of Texas are that the we are seeing no new races of stripe rust, at least yet. Everest and Armour are getting hit with stripe rust in Texas, but they were last year also. The good news is that reports out of Oklahoma are negative so far. But I imagine in another week or two that this will probably be changing. Every year folks ask me about half rates of foliar fungicides on wheat with the topdress. While this can do a good job of cleaning up things like tan spot and speckled leaf blotch, we've usually been hard pressed to show any economic advantage. And if it stays dry like it did last year, we probably won't need fungicides this year. But there's a lot of spring left, so stay tuned! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

SPCC Planning

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We are still getting questions, and justifiably so, on the EPA's spill prevention control and countermeasure. There may be a deferral of this action until this fall, but that is still up in the air and I think that producers need to carry forward with their plans to document that they do or don't need to have an SPCC plan. To that end, we have scheduled a meeting for Thursday evening April 18th at 7:30 p.m. We're still getting the location determined so bear with us, and stay tuned, but we'll have Peter Tomlinson from K-State with us to discuss what the SPCC calls for and how to make your plan. Just as a quick reminder if you have more than 1,320 gallons of oil, fuel, etc stored at your farm, in containers of 55 gallons or larger, you do need to make a plan. Right now the EPA really wants to work with folks and get prevention countermeasures in place. If you are making an effort and a spill happens they will be far more understanding than if you haven't done anything. Containment can be fairly simple. Making the plan will take a little bit of time, but it's no big deal. There are worksheets for you to put it all together. And the best thing is that you don't have to send the plan off to anywhere to be approved. You write the plan, you file it with your other farm business paperwork and you review the plan annually and make sure that any other farm employees know the plan. That's it. No filing fee, no waiting for approval, nothing like that at all. So keep tuned in for the location of our meeting and if you want to get started on your plan, give me a call and I'll get you the worksheets! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Early Season Pasture Management

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We're well into that time of year that we would normally see the plumes of smoke roiling up into the atmosphere. So far, the only plumes I've seen have been at Konza or Ft Riley. In many years I would be encouraging folks to start making plans for controlled burns. And even though we have enough moisture to insure good early season growth, in my opinion, I'm standing by my earlier recommendations of no burning. The USDA even came out with an advisory of not burning in virtually all of Kansas this year. The scenario is such that we just can't afford to lose any early season soil moisture. Conditions are very volatile and if there IS enough fuel to carry a fire, which there isn't in many pastures, we just can't recommend it in good conscience. In a year when every pound of forage has great value, we can't afford to be losing 3 or 400 pounds of forage. If you have some areas of taller growth and it is level enough, you could swath it down or bush hog it. If you have areas of brush, you could even bush hog it and then be prepared to spray later. Or just don't do anything. Because we might have a short forage season again, take a little extra time to check fences. Short feed supplies will always put a stress on the fence. If you've been doing cut stump treatments or dormant basal bark treatment for control of larger trees or shrubs, you need to stop that now. Both of these work good in the dormant season, well, really anytime from July on, but they don't work good from March or April thru June. But you still have time to treat musk thistle rosettes now. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.