

Volunteer Wheat Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. With the recent rains I can pretty much guarantee that wheat stubble fields will be turning green. I'm not too worried about the weeds that are going to show up, but the volunteer wheat is what we need to be thinking about controlling the volunteer wheat. Volunteer wheat invariably leads to wheat curl mites. Wheat curl mites blow out of volunteer wheat into newly emerging wheat in the fall. And we all know that wheat curl mites carry the wheat streak mosaic virus. With the increasing amount of corn being planted in the area, we need to be aware that wheat curl mites, and the virus, can survive in corn. This may be one of the reasons why we've been seeing a lot more wheat streak mosaic in our area the past few years. You need to a two week break in the "green bridge" which is any plant that the curl mites can live on before blowing into new wheat. With any luck, corn will be dried down enough ahead of wheat planting that we won't get direct infestation. But if you have volunteer wheat for the mites to blow to, they can keep going on that until they can blow into the wheat crop. Get that volunteer wheat DEAD two weeks ahead of planting. Now, while you're out there spraying, don't just use glyphosate. Use some 2,4-D or dicamba for enhanced control on broadleaves, especially any that might be glyphosate resistant. If you are going back into the field with wheat, watch the recropping intervals, and make sure to hit the bindweed spots extra well when you are spraying! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

2,4-D on Forage Sorghum and Sudan

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've had more questions than normal on spraying broadleaf weeds in forage sorghum and sudangrass this summer. It's probably because we've had more getting planted in the hopes of not running short of forage again this winter. One of the things to remember is that 2,4-D will damage sorghums and that includes sudans and sudan hybrids. The damage will be a bigger concern in grain production than in forage production. Also keep in mind that not all 2,4-D or dicamba products are labeled for forage sorghum or sudan. Damage is going to be the least when sorghum is in the 2 to 5 leaf stage, generally up to 8 inches in height. One of the problems is that as it gets bigger more spray collects in the leaf whorl and allows for greater damage. Taller sorghum also tends to intercept more of the spray in the canopy instead of on the weeds. And of course, you're going to have better control with weeds less than three inches tall. If you are spraying sorghum over 8 inches tall, you really should be using drop nozzles, but when was the last time you heard of anyone using drop nozzles? Not in today's world of 90 foot spray booms! We also know that higher temperatures and higher relative humidities will cause more damage to the sorghum so pick cooler days with lower relative humidities when you spray. By lower temperatures I'd really like to see it below 80 degrees, but definitely below 85 and that's while treating and for a couple of hours afterwards. And of course, always read and follow label directions, important with the many different 2,4-D formulations out there! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK,

I'm Chuck Otte.

I don't like burning wheat stubble

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I was down in McPherson county recently judging at their county fair. It was a nice morning, gentle south winds and the smoke columns from burning wheat stubble fields were everywhere. In today's agriculture, there aren't a lot of times that I can condone burning stubble. Sure, if you want to plant alfalfa that can be a pretty good way to get a great seed bed, but I better not see you tilling it then before you plant. And sometimes I think going in to the stubble may be just as well as burning and then no-tilling it in. But burning stubble does a lot of things that many producers don't think about and it doesn't do some things that producers often think it does. In the latter camp is reducing cheat problems. In the long run, burning stubble doesn't have much impact on the annual bromes. Just getting into a good rotation will do more than anything! Burning stubble does increase erosion risks. It does reduce rainfall infiltration rates and soil organic matter levels. Burning stubble will increase soil moisture loss due to higher wind speeds at the soil surface. But the one gripe that we can put a pencil and paper to is the nutrients in the stubble. A 50 bushel wheat yield will leave, in the stubble, 27 pounds of N, 7.5 pounds of P, 37.5 pounds of K and 5 pounds of sulfur. The value of these nutrients is between 40 and 50 bucks. All of that, and I mean ALL of it, could be lost with one good windy day after the burn. At the very least, figure at least 50% of it, or 20 to 25 bucks worth of fertilizer is going to be lost when you burn the stubble. Think about it long and hard before lighting that next match! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.