

Pre-emerge herbicide programs for corn

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The most important thing you can do to lessen the risk of developing glyphosate resistant weed populations is to use a pre-emerge herbicide on your corn crop in conjunction with your glyphosate treatment post emerge. There is no single pre-emerge treatment that is going to be perfect for everyone. In fact, in most cases a combination treatment is going to be best. Start with your burndown treatment. It should be a combination of glyphosate and either 2,4-D or dicamba depending on the weeds present. If there's lots of winter annual mustards, go with 2,4-D. If you have a lot of kochia or marehail, lean towards dicamba. Probably the best combination pre emerge, in most cases in my mind, is an acetamide atrazine combo. The acetamide component is going to be very good for grasses and small seeded broadleaf weeds. The atrazine is going to do a good job on most of the rest of the weeds. There has been a trend towards using reduced rates. But in this era of growing herbicide resistance I would strongly recommend going with a full rate of whatever pre emerge combo you use. There are many other classes of herbicides that could be used, most in combination with atrazine. There's HPPD inhibitors, PPO inhibitors and ALS inhibitors. ALS inhibitors have probably had the most problem with resistant weed populations. There may even be times that you'd want to look at a 3 way pre emerge combination. If you have questions on pre-emerge treatments for corn, give me a call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Do you understand your consumers?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In production agriculture it is easy to think about the product we are producing, but not the end consumer. Livestock producers perhaps more so than others because the next step often is the consumer. It also becomes very easy to believe that all those people that are going to buy the beef that I raised, are families or individuals just like ourselves. But are they. Recent consumer surveys regarding food choices have been quite enlightening and speaking from personal experience, I feel that they are accurate. Two thirds of dinners served in the US are decided on the day that they are served and about the remaining third only the day before. Very few people plan out meals more than one or two days in advance anymore. Consumers freeze ½ of all the steaks and 2/3 of the ground beef they purchase in grocery stores and guess what? They find it a hassle to thaw before cooking! Nearly three fourths of the millenials, those born between 1980 and 2000, prefer to feed their children chicken. Finally here is one that I think we really need to work on. The majority of Americans are either not aware or do not believe the images of cows, calves and horses on grass are an accurate representation of current production practices. HmMMM. Hopefully people who have lived at least part of their life in our area have seen enough cattle on grass. The bottom line here is that the general food consumer in the United States does not know where their food comes from. Which means that all of us in agriculture have a lot of work to be done on food education! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soil testing in cool season pastures

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's getting to the point that if you haven't fertilized your cool season pastures, primarily bromegrass, by now, it's almost too late. Cut the rates in half and move on. BUT it does bring up the point that if you haven't soil tested your brome field in several years and it's been in bromegrass for 10 years or more AND you've been disappointed in the performance, maybe it's time to do a soil test. If bromegrass production is an important part of your operation you really need to soil test every 3 years or so. And what we are suggesting now days is actually a 3 sample process. The first sample is going to be the traditional composite sample of 0 - 6 inches. This is where we are going to test for phosphorus and potassium. By composite test I mean that we take samples from several representative locations around the brome field, combine these samples and then take a sub sample for analysis. We want to get a good representative sample. The second sample will be a composite of 0 to 3 inches that we are going to test for pH only. IF we add lime to a brome field, the effect is only going to go down a couple of inches. But that's enough to impact the soil pH and nutrient uptake if low pH is becoming an issue. Finally then we want to take a profile sample of 18 to 24 inches deep - again a composite sample from several sites - and test this for nitrogen AND sulfur. The Clean Air Act has greatly reduced the amount of sulfur in the air which has resulted in more sulfur deficiency. Sulfur, like nitrogen, is mobile and can move in the soil. Let's make sure we're accurately testing for all nutrients! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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