

Evaluating Crop Nutrient Status for future years

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've been out and about the area quite a bit in recent days looking at a lot of wheat fields, amongst other things. What has really hit me hard is the number of clumpy looking wheat fields and brome fields. The clumps are usually a darker green and with more growth than the areas around the clump. We all know the cause of these clumps, it's bovine organic fertilizer. Unfortunately it speaks volumes about the fertilization program that these fields have had in the past several months. Whatever the program was, it wasn't enough OR it wasn't applied early enough. If it is this time of year, it is getting late enough into the season that there will be yield lost from under-fertilizing. Many wheat fields have flag leaves showing. Head size was determined many weeks ago and fertilization applied in the past month may help put 2nd and 3rd kernels, but that won't nearly make up for the loss of head size and fewer primary kernels. I know that there were a lot of folks that didn't want to fertilize too early for fear of having no moisture, no crop and wasted fertilizer dollars. So a late fertilizer attempt may have been made but it's going to be too little too late. Or maybe the cost of fertilizer has caused you to back off on rates. Well, if you backed off that far on rates, you've just increased your cost per bushel. And that's probably not what you want to hear. Bromegrass needs to be fertilized in late fall or early winter, November and December would be great. Wheat needs to be done by January at the latest next year. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Wheat Scouting report - freeze and diseases

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, Okay, I've been able to get a lot of wheat looked at over the past ten days and in a nutshell, what I've seen isn't very much. Well, not much freeze damage I mean. Sure, there were some burnt leaves and an occasional dead tiller, but compared to a lot of the rest of the state, we're still looking good..... knock on wood! So let's turn our attention to wheat diseases. Picking up some wheat streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf around the area. Both of these are arthropod vectored and not planting too early and controlling volunteer wheat in the late summer is a great way to reduce the risk. There simply isn't much genetic resistance to either one, yet, fungicides don't work on viruses so that leaves cultural controls or simply luck. So let's move on to leaf diseases. Things like tan spot and speckled leaf blotch are in every field but restricted to lower leaves, like usual and I'm not worried about them. I have not picked up any stripe or leaf rust, but both are present in low levels in Oklahoma as of a week ago. Stripe rust is also being found in southeast Kansas. At this time the risk is somewhere between low and moderate, but things can change in a hurry. And the crazy weather is liable to spread wheat heading out over a couple of weeks, At the time that heading starts we need to really evaluate disease levels in the mid-canopy. Disease in mid-canopy at heading time results in a 50-50 chance of a 10% yield loss. And that is probably enough to justify a fungicide treatment especially if you have known rust susceptibility issues. So let's keep checking leaves! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.

Pre-herbicide treatments vs over the top

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This could be a very challenging spring for row crops. Corn is getting planted late because of cold weather and rain. We can gripe about one but we'd better not gripe about the other. Soybean and sorghum planting may occur on schedule but I guess we'll just have to wait and see on that. With corn and soybeans, most producers are using glyphosate resistant sources so there is a natural tendency to think about using glyphosate only for weed control. The problem is that economics come in to play and producers want to get by with just one treatment. While this may have worked some years, this is now turning into a recipe for disaster. There's two problems with this approach, the first being glyphosate resistant weed populations, the second being early season weed pressure and subsequent yield loss. All crops suffer yield loss from weed competition. But what's underestimated is how much loss occurs especially from early season competition. The way around both of these problems is to use a pre-emerge residual weed control herbicide program in conjunction with glyphosate post emerge. There are many good and inexpensive residual options that will give you 30 to 45 days of early season weed control as well as controlling some of those nasty glyphosate resistant weeds. Once you get 4 to 6 weeks down the road you can follow up with glyphosate which should get you over to crop canopy stage and then you don't have much of an issue. So identify your weed problems and let's make plans for that two pronged approach of a pre-emerge residual and glyphosate, if needed. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.