

### Getting an early start on soybean weed control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This fall immediately following harvest, is a good time to get a jump on weed control in next year's soybean crop. I think it is safe to say that if you are still relying ONLY on glyphosate for weed control in soybeans, you are asking for disaster. Between weeds that have never been well controlled by glyphosate, and weed populations that are now resistant or partially resistant to glyphosate, and yes we have both in this area, you're going to need more. You probably already know which fields are going to have soybeans next year. Get out into those fields, post harvest, and evaluate weed problems. Specifically you want to look for pigweeds, velvetleaf, cocklebur, marestail, morningglory, kochia and crabgrass. All of these will either be poorly controlled or not controlled at all with glyphosate. Of these, kochia and morningglory are lowest on my concern list, marestail and pigweed are highest. Marestail seems to be the most consistent weed problem in soybean fields and really points out the need for additional control. While a lot of marestail germinates in the fall, you can get a fair amount in the spring. I would strongly encourage you to stroll through your 2014 soybean fields and if you see a fair amount of broadleaf weeds, get in there yet this fall and treat with 2,4-D and dicamba. These are low cost and have good control of many broadleaf weed species. Then follow up next spring with a glyphosate and first-rate tank mix. But the important thing is to start thinking now for spring! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Wheat planting into grain sorghum and soybean residue

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. First of all a heads up to soybean and sorghum producers. I've been seeing a lot of fields with lodging starting to happen - most of this is likely due to charcoal rot from some of the periods of dry weather. Nothing you can do now other than to be aware and be ready to move into fields that are lodging sooner! Compared to 25 years ago I think most producers are doing a much better job of crop rotation now than they were then. No-till technology, including Roundup Ready technology and changes in the 1990s with the government farm program can be thanked for much of this. But one thing that we have discovered is that planting wheat into crop residue can be an interesting experience. Perhaps most surprisingly, planting into corn stubble impacts the wheat crop less than planting into grain sorghum or soybeans. Part of this is very likely due to getting into the corn stubble fields earlier. Soybeans can also surprise wheat growers in getting punched down through that stubble and get good seed placement. With grain sorghum residue we have several impacts occurring, but the take home message is that wheat yields can be reduced as much as 20 bu/acre if you don't adjust seeding rates and nitrogen rates. I'd be sure to put down a good dose of starter fertilizer regardless of soil test results when planting into sorghum, I'd boost seeding rates to 90 to 120 pounds per acre, more later obviously. And then really push the nitrogen. I would shoot for 100 to 120 pounds of total nitrogen when planting wheat into grain sorghum stubble and nearly that much in beans! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Controlling alfalfa weevil with fall treatment

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you haven't heard about it yet, you will soon enough so let me get you up to speed. It appears that a late fall insecticide spraying in alfalfa fields can significantly reduce alfalfa weevil populations the following spring. K-State started looking at this last fall and are continuing trials this fall. The challenge right up front is the timing of the spray. It appears that a fall treatment is going to have a 2 to 3 week window of control. Weevil adults can start to return to fields in and start egg laying by mid October, although it may not be until several weeks later, depending on the year. Weevil adults don't like hot dry weather so they are likely to wait until temperatures start to cool down. Last year, treatments were applied roughly every two weeks or October 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Weevil infestations were then evaluated on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The November 6<sup>th</sup> treatment resulted in significantly lower weevil populations than the other treatments in both sampling dates in April. The reduction was over 50% from earlier treatments or no treatments. But here's the kicker: even with these significantly lower infestations, they were still high enough that treatment was needed to prevent serious defoliation. This is from one year's data and way too early to make any recommendations. So if someone is talking to you about spraying this fall, at this time I can't recommend it. We need more data. Just last week I was talking to Jeff Whitworth, KSU entomologist about this and he strongly feels we need a couple more years worth of study! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.