

Alfalfa Weevil getting active

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Unlike recent years, it took until about a week into April before I found my first alfalfa weevil. But they are out there and they are getting active. Obviously with no more warm weather than we've had, they are small and may be hard to find, so I always like to look at the leaves at the top of the plant for indications of feeding damage. Early damage is going to look like holes in the leaves or edges of leaves chewed off. Once you find this you can often take the tip of the stem and start opening it up and you'll often find the tiny little light greenish yellow larvae. In recent years there has been a lot of talk about weevil developing resistance to insecticides but extensive testing by the entomologists at K-State have not shown any resistance to be developing. The biggest problems seem to come with application and weather issues. First of all, don't be in too big of a hurry to pull the trigger on spraying. Wait until you are finding one larvae for every 2 to 3 stems before you spray. Next make sure you are using at least 15 gallons of carrier per acre and 20 would be even better. I know Joe hates it when I say that, but you need to get the spray into contact with the bug. Finally, make sure that the weather is above 50 when you spray and you're going to have temperatures above 50 for three days and no big rain storms. We do need to control alfalfa weevil because they can destroy a lot of that first cutting. And the damage that they do causes yield depression in every cutting the rest of the year! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Burn Down herbicides in sorghum

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As corn producers are getting ready to really gear up, grain sorghum planting is still 6 to 8 weeks away. But that's a good thing as it still gives us a lot of good options to get a jump on weed control. Most producers now days are planting sorghum no till which means a burn down herbicide is in order. There is a natural temptation to get corn and soybean planting all done before ever worrying about grain sorghum weed control. Yet because we do not have roundup ready grain sorghum, thank goodness, we need to depend on residual weed control for more to keep our sorghum fields clean. Because preplant weeds can take a lot of moisture out of fields, and because I'm a pessimist about not being out of a drought cycle yet, the sooner we get the weeds controlled the more moisture there will be still in the soil for the sorghum crop! For burn down I would stick to the basics of glyphosate and 2,4-D and or dicamba. Getting on this now will also insure that you can get marestail under control when it is still small will make sure that we aren't trying to kill three and four foot tall marestail later on. But I just wouldn't stop at the burndown. I would fairly soon after the burndown, or even before, apply a soil residual product. The combination of atrazine with a chloracetamide, such as Bicep II Magnum, Bullet, Lariat or one of the myriad name brand or generics. IF you know that you've had problems triazine resistant weeds then adding Callisto can really help tackle that or Verdict if you have triazine resistant pigweeds or some of the larger seeded broadleaf weeds. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Get A Plan Together

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I'm an optimist, except when it comes to drought. I just have a lot of concerns that we aren't out of this dry weather pattern enough that we can count on good rains through out the summer. In reality it doesn't really matter what we think the weather might be in any given year, if you are managing a pasture, you need to have a plan in place. About once every 4 weeks, throughout the grazing season, you need to be making an analysis of the grass condition and your cattle condition on that grass. We normally expect to have optimal grass growth from late May through early July. The first weeks of May the grass is just getting going, then it should grow like gangbusters during June before starting to slow down in July. Mid July to early September are the critical period for native pastures. You can graze the heck out of pastures up to early July. If we have adequate moisture to get good regrowth in pastures during July and August, heavy grazing in June isn't a concern. That's the entire theory behind double stocking or early intensive stocking. But most of our pastures are holding cows with calves, so before the cattle even go into the pasture, you need to have a plan of what you're going to do in late June if it hasn't rained and we aren't getting good growth, because you will need to move cattle off pastures. I heard one manger talk about thirds once. If grass is short in late June, take a third off to sell or feed elsewhere. If it continues to be short in late July, take another third and so on. The whole point is, now that there's a risk, and get a plan together now!

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