

### Native Hay Cutting Time

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 somewhat dismayed by the amount of bromegrass that I saw still being cut after July 1<sup>st</sup>. I know that there were issues with rain, but still. So now that you've got the wheat finally cut, and hopefully finished up on the brome, keep going right ahead and move right into the native hay swathing. I think that producers sometimes feel that the longer they wait the more tons of native hay they will get and while there is some truth in that - the amount of extra tonnage never makes up for the lost protein and quality of the hay. The minute native grass species start pushing up that seed stalk, protein starts to go down hill. Cattle in pastures do so will in May and June because the protein of the native grass is so high. Performance doesn't fall off in July and August because of the heat but because of the drop in the protein content of the grasses. There's going to be a lot of very low quality, low protein brome hay this year. Don't make the problem worse by delaying putting up your native hay. There's no reason why native can't be 7 to 8% protein IF you put it up in early to mid July. The other thing that you want to have happen is for the native grass to have plenty of time to regrow and restore the root reserves. The minute you cut the grass plant it will start to regrow, assuming there's adequate moisture, and there is right now. That regrowth draws down food reserves in the roots. It will take 6 weeks to get those reserves replaced so that the plant will start off and grow well next spring. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Basal Bark Treatment Time

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. By the time we hit the end of June it's probably time to put up the foliar brush spraying equipment. By now most woody species have developed such a thick waxy leaf surface herbicides are hard pressed to get through and into the plant. There may be some special perennial weed control needs out there but if you are trying to kill anything but maybe sumac, you're going to be disappointed with the results. However, July marks the start of the six month long basal bark treatment season. Basal bark herbicide applications are a very good option for dealing with hard to control tree species like hedge and honeylocust, but it will work on any tree species that has gotten more than 3 inches in diameter. Basal bark herbicide treatments are strong mixes, usually with kerosene or diesel oil and then sprayed on the base of the tree from about 20 inches down to the ground. You apply a thorough soaking spray to all the way around the base of the tree. The principle component of basal bark treatments is the herbicide triclopyr. Pathfinder and PastureGard HL are designed for trees under 6 inches in diameter. Pathfinder is a ready to use product. PastureGard is triclopyr plus fluroxypyr 25% in kerosene or diesel. For larger trees just get straight triclopyr such as Remedy Ultra or Trycera and again, mix in diesel oil or kerosene in a 25% mixture. That would amount to 1 part triclopyr to 3 parts kerosene. The real advantage, in my opinion, to a basal bark treatment on hedge or locust is that we seem to get a better kill and fewer root sprouts than if we cut and then treat the stump. Kill and then cut! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

## Come Out To The Fair

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Next week is the Geary County Free Fair. The rodeo kicks off on Friday and Saturday night and then Monday evening the 21<sup>st</sup> fair activities get cranking up. The ever popular youth pedal tractor pull is Monday night. Quite a few of the indoor projects are checked in on Monday afternoon and evening - clothing is already judged by Monday night and foods are judged Monday afternoon. A change this year is that the horse show has been moved to Monday night at 7 p.m. If you want to see all the livestock though, you need to come back out on Tuesday. All projects have to be in place by noon on Tuesday. Which also means that Tuesday is a big judging day for most of the inside exhibits, other than clothing and food. Tuesday afternoon is the goat show and then in the evening is the bucket calf and beef show. Wednesday morning the poultry and rabbits are judged - by the way if you've never watched judging on these you need to come out bright and early Wednesday morning. It is fascinating! The 4-H sheep show is Wednesday at 6 and the swine show is at 7. Everything wraps up on Thursday night with the project and livestock auction and the exhibits are released after the sale. Other items you may want to watch include the BBQ contest on Wednesday evening and home made ice cream and horse drawn carriage rides every night. The Geary County Free Fair is heavily steeped in tradition and it is always the best little fair in Kansas. Take some time out of your schedule next week, come out to the fair grounds on Spring Valley Road and enjoy some good old fun! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK,

I'm Chuck Otte.