

### Frost Damage?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I spent a lot of time last week looking at corn fields and wheat fields looking for crop damage from the frosty weather we had the mornings of May 16 and 17. Officially we didn't have a freeze. But you and I both know that cold air can collect in certain parts of fields and evaporational cooling of dew on leaves can cause locations to develop ice when the temperature is actually still above freezing. Damage to corn became apparent in less than 48 hours and it can be very concerning in a big hurry when 3/4 of the corn plants in a field suddenly turn brown! In every field where I was inspecting this damage I basically told the producer to walk away from it for a week. In 95% of the cases, new growth will be showing up in a few days after the damage showed up and the corn will grow out of it in short order. Wheat is another story though. Much of the wheat was at flowering stage, or just getting ready to flower. At this stage it only takes 30 degrees to damage the flower parts. Unfortunately it can take up to 7 to 10 days before the amount of damage can be determined. I think we had damage and I'm still following up on some fields trying to discern just how much damage there was. In some fields we may not know until the combines pull in the fields, The damage in corn fields was crazy erratic. It wasn't always in the lowest spots or the draws like we'd expect. You might have 5 plants in a row showing damage and then a couple of plants that were fine. The wheat frost damage will be the same way! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## New Wheat Varieties

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Probably even before you are through with wheat harvest next month you'll be getting contacted by seed dealers wanting you to pre-order for this fall's planting. And like nearly every other year there will be several new varieties that you will be reading and hearing about and being offered an opportunity to try. I'm not going to tell you which new varieties to try, well at least not yet! I want to see how they did in this year's yield trials. But I have seen a list of some new wheat varieties and I'm going to give you some suggestions of what you want to look for. Being in the hard red winter wheat belt, we get pressure to try wheats not only developed in Kansas, but in Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas. Some of these breeding programs have given us some very good wheats in the past, but they've also had a bunch of wheats that are absolutely not appropriate for our area. Make sure that any variety you try has resistance to soil borne mosaic and spindle streak mosaic. We have both of these every year. Wheats from Colorado and Nebraska often don't have this resistance. Nebraska wheats can also be later maturity which can give us problems with heat and holding leaf diseases at bay. You also need to watch maturity on Oklahoma and Texas wheats. These can sometimes break dormancy way too early and give us freeze concerns. Hold off if possible until the yield trial data is released. It'll be on line before the printed copies are out there. I have access to a lot of information about these newer varieties so if you do have some questions, give me a call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## 2013 Ag Farm Analysis

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The Kansas Farm Management Association is a group of around 1200 farms from across Kansas who pay an extra fee for additional management and record keeping help from ag management specialists. The great part of this program is that all of the information collected is fed into computers and generates the best set of ag production data from anywhere in the world. Individual cost return analysis for every crop and livestock production scheme is generated from this large dataset. And since the farms range from medium to very large, it becomes a very good way to look at the impact of scale and it also gives us a pretty good reading on how the "average" farm in Kansas did this past year. The preliminary 2013 data was recently released and the good news is that the average farm did make money again in 2013. Not as much as the past several years and there were farms especially western Kansas, that lost money due to the drought. But as I sit in my office and look at the averages for the past five years a few things jump out. 2010 through 2012 were very good years - we all knew that. And producers used those good years to purchase new equipment. But while they were buying new equipment, they were also paying off loans and lowering their debt. Current assets to liabilities hasn't changed much in the past five years, but total liabilities to assets has gone down by about 5 percentage points. Over the past five years crop value per acre has gone up 20%, but crop production costs have gone up 28%. If you'd like a copy of this summary so you can study it too, just let me know! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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