

### After the Cold Hits

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. October was nice. Even into late October we had above normal temperatures down to right warm temperatures. The month was several degrees above normal - it was a very mellow month. My Dad always used to talk about the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940 that may have looked a lot like the one we went through last week. In fact the correlations are pretty darn similar, just maybe a day or two earlier. None the less, it went from balmy to blustery in less than two hours. I was sitting in my office when the front blew through and I watched it drop 20 degrees in 90 minutes! Pretty darn amazing! So what has all of that, plus the reluctance to warm back up to normal temperatures (by the way, normal for this week of November is highs in the low 50s and lows around 30) done for us? Well, for those that were waiting for a good hard freeze to knock the prussic acid out of the sorghum, we got it! The good news is that even with lows into the teens I doubt that we had any damage to the wheat crop. And by the way, if you didn't get some wheat planted - just forget it. When it does warm back up the ground will have already cooled off so much it won't get enough growth. Anything in the ground, even if the sprout hasn't cleared the soil surface, should be okay and it will be vernalized. I'm not worry about tiller and head production next year. Wheat that had a lot of growth will be protect the soil from fast cooling. The tops will burn down, but it will be okay. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Brome grass fertilization, Musk Thistle Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, the cold weather came blasting in last Monday, and got really cold, and hasn't shown a strong desire to move on very quickly. While some probably wanted this hard freeze to finish getting milo harvest done, it may have curtailed some other late fall plans. Two things that we can probably still consider is bromegrass fertilization and spraying musk thistles. As long as the ground isn't frozen too hard November and early December can be an ideal time for fertilizing bromegrass. Figure 80 pounds of nitrogen, 30 pounds of phosphorus and about 10 to 20 pounds of sulfur. If you can go out prior to fertilizing and easily stick a screwdriver several inches in the ground then it's thawed enough to fertilize. If not, wait for it to warm up. But regardless, don't wait until March to fertilize. Get it on now!

Two good things about musk thistle are that they are very slow to go dormant in the fall and there aren't nearly as many as we used to see - for whatever reason. But they are still out there and we still need to stay on top of them so they don't get out of hand. Again, you don't want to spray when the ground is frozen hard and it's probably better to treat when the temperatures are above 50, but as long as there's still green in the musk thistle, they can be controlled. Fall treatment works very well, but you probably want more than just 2,4-D. Consider Milestone - even the 3 oz per acre rate gave 99% control, 4 and 5 ounces gave 100%, Tordon 22K at 10 oz per acre and Chaparral at 1.5 ounces both gave 100% control as well. Fall spraying also has less chance for off site damage. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

## Farm and Ranch Succession

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The number of businesses that are successfully passed from the first to the second generation is amazingly small. Notice I said, successfully passed. The number that make it from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> is even smaller. Amazingly, this apparently doesn't matter if it's a main street business or a farming business. Over the years I think that family farms are more successfully passed on from generation to generation than many other businesses, but it does become a struggle. How does the older generation manage to step out of the way to allow the next generation, or two, the opportunity to step in and assume the leadership of the operation. Let's face it, it does become hard to let go of control. Tradition and family history often get in the way of new techniques, innovation, ideas and the desire to possibly take the family farm in a different direction. Farm and ranch succession can happen but it has a better chance of being successful if there is a plan in place. To assist with this, K-State Research and Extension is hosting five succession planning conferences across the state. We are fortunate that one will be in Manhattan on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Kansas Farm Bureau Plaza. It's a day long session, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but it will be worth it. The folks putting this on understand farms and they understand the challenges of succession planning. There is a cost for this event. \$60 for the first family member and \$40 for every additional family member registered. This fee includes one set of materials per family, lunch and snacks. If you need more information and want to get registered, give me a call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK,

I'm Chuck Otte.