

Toxic Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I usually don't like to rise to the bait of sensationalism, but recently someone who knows NOTHING about wheat production was blogging on the internet about toxic wheat. A ridiculous article about glyphosate, the active ingredient in the herbicide Roundup, being the cause of gluten intolerance and why certain folks couldn't eat wheat products, was beyond the realm of logic. Using the same logic as this author did, one could see that the increase in autism is caused by organic food because the autism rate and organic food sales have increased in exactly the same manner. There's no connection between the two! So let's just put it out there right now that very few producers in Kansas ever spray their wheat crop with glyphosate. If they do it's because we've had a rainy period just ahead of harvest and they are trying to knock down the weeds to allow an efficient harvest. This is probably far less than 1/2 of 1% of the wheat in Kansas in any year. The amount that would be used would be about 16 ounces per acre. That works out to one one-hundredth of an ounce per square foot. And then the producer has to wait at least one week before harvesting - it's usually two weeks plus. Glyphosate, contrary to rumors again on the internet, has a lower risk of being a carcinogen than alcohol! As for outright potency - glyphosate has an LD50 of 5600 mg per kg of body weight. For comparison, caffeine is 200, aspirin is 1,000 and table salt is 3,000. So, the wheat is not toxic! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

The Internet is a Dangerous World

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I was thinking about how things have changed over the past 20 years. It was a little over 20 years ago that I first was able to connect to the internet. If you look at the changes from a day to day basis it doesn't seem like much, but if you look at it from a year to year status, oh my gosh! Many of us are old enough that we remember when there was integrity in publishing, whether that was books or newspapers or magazines. Sure, there were scandal sheet type of publications but everyone know what they were and put no faith in them. But for the most part, it was on paper, it could be trusted. Things have changed now, especially when it comes to things on the internet. Anyone with a computer and an internet connection can post anything with little fear of remorse or responsibility. And they often do! Rumors and falsehoods can be around the globe in less than 24 hours and have several million views. Yet when one tries to get the truth out there, nobody will listen. So, you need to develop filters and trusted sources. When it comes to food, food safety, agriculture, horticulture, natural resources and many other things, know that the Extension Office is here to help you out. We're in touch with the latest research from the Land Grant Colleges all over the country. The only thing we're selling is truth and knowledge so we aren't going to scam you. We don't use scare tactics and we'll never ask for your password. We're just here to dispel rumors and falsehoods and provide you with the information to solve your problems and lead a better life! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Happy Thanksgiving

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This is Thanksgiving week. What started out as a little celebration by the early pilgrim settlers for surviving their first year, has turned into an annual major event. Interestingly, that celebration was probably adapted from one of the six thanksgiving festivals that the Algonkian tribes of the northeastern US celebrated annually. Anyway, regardless of how it started, and there are some interesting stories and worthwhile reading out there, Thanksgiving has evolved into a time of feasting, certainly, but hopefully also a time when we quietly contemplate, and perhaps even occasionally vocalize some of the things that we do have to be thankful for. I always enjoy Thanksgiving week, especially because I take the time to do some baking and cooking, which I really enjoy doing. The flavors and aromas bring back wonderful memories of years long gone by. I'm thankful for those memories and the family that I shared them with. My father is now gone and my mother turns 97 this week. She is dealing with the ravages of dementia and her memories of who I am are rapidly growing dimmer. So I am thankful and I cling to those memories of her when she didn't struggle to remember her children. But my memories of who she was have not dimmed and I am thankful for those memories. So as you celebrate this week and even on through December, take a little extra time to enjoy those moments with your friends and family. They go by far too quickly and perhaps a couple more minutes of visiting, thinking and remembering will warm you in years and decades to come. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.