

## Ag Radio programs for October 26 - November 1, 2015

### Dusting in wheat?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. October has been dry. Granted that could change in 24 hours, but right now we are on the verge of a record dry October. That's one of those records you'd just as soon not break! I've seen a lot of wheat planted and some of it has come up, some of it hasn't. Many producers may be trying to finish planting but aren't sure if they should given the soil moisture conditions. If you are planting no-till into stubble, get out there and dig around a little bit to see how much moisture you really have. Some of these fields may surprise you. The challenge at this time though is how soon will it germinate. You can dust it in and hope for a rain or you can wait and see if it rains. But let's compound dry soil conditions with late in the season issues. If the ground is dry, the seed will lay there until it gets moisture. But we are past the prime wheat planting period and into that late period. We probably have about two weeks of planting time left and then we are just getting too late. One could always wait until the last minute and if we still don't get rain, change your rotation plans around to a spring planted crop. If you do plant, increase your seeding rate, and pushing it close to double normal in the coming week or so wouldn't be out of the question. You want to be careful with your planting depth as our modern day semi-dwarf wheats can be socked in too deep so that the coleoptile never emerges above ground and then the plant dies. Also make sure that you are using phosphorus in a starter solution and seed treatment. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Fall Treatments on Musk Thistle

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Unless it rains pretty soon, we may not have a lot of musk thistle to treat this fall. After decades of watching musk thistle numbers decline I've started seeing a little bit of an increase in recent years which does concern me. Fall treatment is a good option and I would start scouting in areas where you've had musk thistle before, or near areas where neighbors have not controlled musk thistle in the past. I'm not a fan of broadcast treatment. Load up a 15 gallon sprayer on a four wheeler and start cruising the pastures on these nice days. There are many herbicide options for fall thistle treatment. Probably the most common fall treatment is 2,4-D and dicamba. On a per acre basis I'd use a half pint of dicamba and 1.5 pints of 2,4-D. But since most people are going to be spot spraying use about .4 ounces of dicamba and 1.2 ounces of 2,4-D per gallon. Apply a good soaking spray wherever you find those thistle rosettes. Now, this year, given that it is dry and we could still have late sprouting rosettes after treatment, a better option might be Tordon and 2,4-D. For mixing by the gallon, use 0.4 ounces of Tordon and 1.6 ounces of 2,4-D per gallon. Wherever you find thistles spray them well including the ground right around the thistles. The beauty of having tordon in the mix is that it will have some residual soil activity and if we do have late sprouts, you will probably get them. But also follow up next spring, especially after a burn, to get any rosettes that you didn't find this fall. Oh, and the time honored use of a sharpshooter to cut them off and pop them out of the ground still works. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

## Fall Treatment for Field Bindweed

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Field bindweed is one tough perennial plant. It is well suited to our climate and will keep growing, even in dry weather, clear into November or early December, basically until we start to have routine cold weather into the lower 20s. So we still have time to get it treated this year. Over the past 20 years, extensive use of glyphosate either as a burndown herbicide or in Roundup Ready crops has really done a great job of knocking this pest down in those areas. But pasture, alfalfa, brome fields or brome waterways, not to mention fence rows and waste areas, are another story. It's still out there and still doing good. Fall is a great time to treat bindweed and because of its extensive root system, it is likely still growing really well. Historically, in grasslands of all kinds, we have used 2,4-D and Dicamba, but we need to also consider some other options as well. Straight 2,4-D as a fall treatment, after just one treatment, will give you about 55 to 60% control, 12 months after treatment. Add dicamba and that jumps to 87% control. BUT, do nothing and after 2 years control is down to 10 to 30% mainly because of seedlings. So multiple year treatments are going to be needed which explains why glyphosate, over several years of use, has been so successful. In stubble fields I would use glyphosate plus 2,4-D. This eliminates residue worries on spring crops. In grasslands I would suggest Tordon and 2, 4-D. One newer product to consider in grassland is quinclorac. Look for this product in Paramount. It seems to be doing an excellent job and more folks should consider this in pastures. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.