

Be on the lookout for Hessian Fly damage

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Boy I hate it when I'm right! Last week I was talking about being on the lookout for Hessian Fly, and sure enough, no sooner was that on the air but producers to the south of us were finding substantial damage. In the past couple of weeks, wheat in southern Kansas has been greening up already, or should have been greening up already. Plants were showing green up but about half the tillers were not greening up - generally the oldest tillers. If you were just driving by on the road you'd probably assume that this was winterkill or freeze damage. And if you didn't get out and start walking the field, getting down on your hands and knees and digging around the plants, you'd still be thinking that! So when they started peeling the outer layers of leaf tissue off of these dead tillers, low and behold they were loaded up with flax seed stage of the Hessian Fly. Hessian fly, as a larvae is a small grub or maggot like critter that is feeding on the juices in the tiller. Once they've finished feeding they form a pupae that lies right at the base of the plant in the leaf sheath and looks exactly like a flax seed which is a small medium brown flattened oval. One fly per stem will several damage it if not outright kill it. The field in Neosho county had 4 and 5 flax seed per tiller. These pupae will emerge in the coming weeks and a spring generation will go to work in these fields. There's nothing to be done now other than to be aware of the problem but preventative action will need to be followed! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Pre-emerge Weed control in Corn

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's going to be just a few more weeks and corn planting will be getting going. Even if you are using a Roundup Ready corn hybrid, I hope by now you realize that glyphosate alone isn't going to take care of your weed problems. Assuming you have emerged weeds and grass, then glyphosate plus either 2,4-D or dicamba needs to be used especially if you have emerged marestalk that you need to control. You need to pay attention to the label of the 2,4-D or dicamba and pay attention to the In addition to the burndown herbicides I would seriously consider a soil applied residual herbicide. We have several groups of herbicides and because of increasing issues with resistance I would strongly consider using one that is a combination of two different modes of action. Probably the most economical would be a mix of an acetamide with a triazine. Atrazine along with something like acetochlor, s-metolachlor or metolachlor. Assuming you don't have any restricting conditions, going with a full rate of atrazine is going to give you the best weed control. Of course there are many other products to consider. HPPD inhibitors, like Balance Flexx, Corvus, Callisto, Lexar and Lumax have been gaining popularity but again, the addition of atrazine will greatly increase control. The same thing goes for the PPO inhibitor herbicides like Valor, Fierce and Sharpen. Lastly there are the ALS inhibiting herbicides which still work fine as long as you haven't started to develop ALS resistant weed populations. The addition of Hornet will improve grass control with these. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Warm weather means we need to be scouting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Warm weather has finally arrived and things are going to start to happen fast now. Alfalfa, bromegrass, and wheat are all starting to green up with new growth. If you haven't gotten fertilizer applied by now, you need to do it as soon as possible. This year is yet another classic example of why I like to see these crops all fertilized in late November or early December. When we have to wait until mid March, we are losing effectiveness of the fertilizer and ultimately costing us production or yield. We also need to be out walking those alfalfa and wheat fields and checking out the new growth. If you notice a lot of birds, blackbirds or crows most likely, spending time in a field, it probably needs to be checked for army cutworms. This is the time of year that they are going to get active and they can be quite damaging to new growth. Check alfalfa for weevil infestation. I'm pretty certain that in a couple more days, if not already, we will be finding tiny little weevil larvae. Now it is far too early to spray yet, but let's be out there checking for early infestations. Likewise we need to be walking those wheat fields and determining if we have early season problems. Dead tillers on wheat plants greening up are going to likely going to come from two sources this time of year. Winter kill is one, Hessian Fly is the other. If it's Hessian fly you'll be able to peel away the leaf sheath and find the flax seed pupae. If it's true winter kill, if you slice into the crown it will be a mushy straw color instead of a healthy greenish white color. If it's Hessian Fly, we need to talk about options! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.