

Ag Radio programs for February 29 - March 6, 2016

Palmer Amaranth

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We've been spending a lot of time this winter talking about herbicide resistant weeds, especially glyphosate resistant pigweeds. Well here's even more depressing news. Last fall K-State researchers collected Palmer Amaranth seed from 157 fields in 24 counties, mainly south central and northwest Kansas. Those seeds were taken into the greenhouse, grown and screened for glyphosate resistance. They found that nearly 70% of those fields tested resistant to glyphosate. Additionally, about 10% also tested resistant to atrazine, glen and a few may also be resistant to HPPD herbicides like Huskie and Callisto. Oh joy. Oh, there appeared to even be some indication of partial resistance to 2,4-D. So other than being totally depressing, what does this mean to you. As we've been saying, a multiple mode of action pre-emerge herbicide is going to be essential. It may mean, especially in soybean fields, multiple treatments overlapping in time. You will probably also want to be budgeting a bit more money for weed control and keeping your landlord informed of possible higher costs if you have a crop share lease. Keep in mind that one female Palmer amaranth can produce 100,000 seeds and resistance is carried in the pollen. Even scattered plants across a field, in the fencerow or even in a ditch need to be controlled which may mean some time with a hoe, a corn knife or a sharp shooter. I grew up walking soybean fields and it looks like we may need to be going back to that plan of attack. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Possible consequences of warm winter temperatures

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I'm not sure that the wheat has ever really gone dormant this winter. That brings a whole host of possible consequences. The first being that it is growing and as such you need to have any top dress fertilizer applied NOW. If you still haven't gotten it done, get it done and the same thing goes for the bromegrass. We've had a great window of opportunity for traditional late winter fertilizing of wheat and brome so no excuses. If you are grazing wheat we appear to be several weeks away from needing to pull cattle yet, but that can change in a hurry with a full week of warm temperatures. I am concerned that we are going to have wheat well ahead of normal growth which always raises concerns for freeze damage. Not much we can do about it, but... Early growth is also going to use up more soil moisture, which is one of the reasons I'm opposed to early fall planting of wheat UNLESS you are going to be grazing it. Mild winter temperatures, which we have been having, also increases the likelihood that more leaf diseases will overwinter. Leaf diseases, like rust, need green tissue to live on. In hard winters, when all the leaves turn brown, the rust dies and has to blow back in from the south. If the disease can overwinter, then it can get started earlier and the earlier plants are infected, the greater the potential yield loss. Texas and Oklahoma have already found active infestations. Many years that is where our rusts blow in from, but this year we may be growing our own issues. It's too early to think about spraying just yet, but stay tuned as spring moves along for updates! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Alfalfa weed control and fertilization

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Some of those really warm days haven't done us any favors when it comes to dormant season weed control in alfalfa. We've had just enough warm weather in recent weeks that it is safe to say that the alfalfa is no longer dormant. As such, many or most, of the dormant season treatments are now off the table. One of my favorites, metribuzin has always given us good control of those winter annual grasses and broadleaf weeds at a reasonable cost. However, we still have a good option even if the alfalfa has broken dormancy. Raptor, in all reality, probably gives as good if not better control of most small weeds as metribuzin. The one weed where Raptor is weaker than metribuzin is henbit so just keep this in mind if you have a heavy henbit infestation. In general we want weeds to be less than 3 inches tall when we spray with Raptor. Raptor does need to be applied with a crop oil concentrate or non-ionic surfactant in addition to some liquid fertilizer. You'll also find better control if you spray when temperatures are above 40 degrees. Normal rate is 4 to 6 ounces per acre and I would probably lean towards the higher rates. The other thing that I like to see done with alfalfa this time of year is getting that annual application of 30 to 35 pounds of phosphorus to help keep those plants healthy and productive. You can probably apply liquid fertilizer and weed control at the same time and get this all taken care of at once. And to answer the question that is in the back of everyone's mind, no I haven't seen any weevil activity yet, we are probably a few weeks away yet, I hope! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.