

### Treating for Alfalfa Weevils

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. By late last week I was seeing alfalfa fields that need to be sprayed. It's always best to get out and check your fields before calling the sprayers in so consider this your head's up to get out and actually put boots on the ground in the alfalfa field. If you are seeing at least half of the stems with evidence of weevils, it's time to get on the spray list! What you are going to spray with is really up to you and should be based on economics. Looking at the K-State Alfalfa Insect Management guide I'm seeing 15 different insecticides listed for alfalfa weevils. In 2015 all products, especially the newer synthetic pyrethroids gave good control. The original permethrin products may be a bit weak but everything else is still working good. With having to spray this early I would encourage you to go with the heavier end of the rates listed to give you the longest possible control. I would plan on applying at least 12 gallons of water per acre and would prefer 15 to 20. It is important to put plenty of water down to get good thorough coverage. You are basically wanting to get these products ON the larvae. We have no systemic action insecticides and they kill quickest by contact not ingestion. The other thing to consider is the weather. If you spray on a cold cloudy morning I can guarantee very poor control. Spray on a warm sunny day when the larvae are up on the tops of the plants feeding and you will have very good control. And if you aren't sure whether you need to treat yet or not, give me a call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Spring treatment of musk thistle

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We don't have as much musk thistle as we used to have and that's a good thing. The main reason for that is the biological controls, a couple of little weevil species, but also thanks to the diligence of landowners and land managers over the past 20 years. But musk thistle are still out there and spring is a good time to get those that you missed last fall, if you were in fact out spraying last fall. While musk thistle can show up nearly anywhere they are often found close to where you've had them in past years. I know a lot of folks like to wait until they start to bolt and send up that flower stalk, but it is really better to try to get them while they are still in the rosette stage. Pasture burning may singe the leaves off of musk thistle rosettes but it won't kill them. Usually 2 to 3 weeks after a pasture burn there will be all sorts of new growth coming up and a good time to spray them. It's also a good time to see them as the new green foliage really stands out on the burned pasture. When you treat them before they bolt, you can get by with some fairly inexpensive spray mixes. At this time you don't need to worry about using Tordon - straight 2,4-D or 2,4-D and dicamba (clarity or other generics) will work very well. Since most of the time you will be spot spraying I have found that one ounce of 2,4-D and one half ounce of dicamba per gallon of water makes for a real good mix. You can substitute Tordon for the dicamba if spraying a little later same half ounce rate per gallon of water. Of if you want to go with straight 2,4-D I'd use 3 ounces per gallon assuming 4 pound 2,4-D. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Anhydrous ammonia application and corn planting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. One question that I've been getting more often in recent years, thanks to the increased acres of corn being planted is how soon after apply anhydrous ammonia can I plant corn. It shouldn't be an issue this year because we've had plenty of time to be out working fields, but it is still something to keep in mind. We have two things to consider here. The first is how soon after application can we till the ground if we are going to. That answer is 3 to 5 days. The nitrogen is applied as ammonia which is a gas - we all know that. We need to have moisture in the ground to give it something to grab on to. Then it takes about 3 to 5 days to convert from ammonia  $\text{NH}_3$  to ammonium  $\text{NH}_4$  which then will readily bind to clay particles. Many of you will be no tilling however so that isn't a concern. A bigger concern are all the changes that applying that highly concentrated anhydrous ammonia can do with a seeding zone. Anhydrous diffuses out 2 to 5 inches from the point of injection quite quickly, depending on soil moisture. The diffusion actually tends to be in a tear dropped shape pattern in the soil with the teardrop going up more than down. We know that planting too soon after application can kill germination if it is right in that zone of diffusion. The good news is that generally, after 30 days, it is safe to plant IF we've had ½ to one inch of precipitation in that time. Without rainfall or irrigation, I'd want to wait a little bit longer. Planting perpendicular to the anhydrous injection will minimize risk and I think that by the time most of you start planting we'll be okay. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.