

Stripe Rust Action

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I was kindly chastised last week for over hyping the stripe rust issue and the farmer doing so was probably right. But I can almost promise you that this will be the last stripe rust program for this year for the simple fact, that given the post application harvest waiting interval, if we don't spray this week, we probably won't! I will add that a late application may be in order because of some additional protection for head scab from the Triazole products. Rain during wheat flowering is a recipe for scab and it looks like we may be setting up for another good year for that. Given the stripe rust levels to the south as well as what I'm seeing here locally and throughout the central corridor of Kansas, if you have a wheat field that looks to have some pretty good yield potential, 40 bushels plus, and you can get a plane lined up to treat for stripe rust, I would treat for stripe rust. In those fields that are uneven, came up late, small heads, I probably wouldn't even go out and look, I just wouldn't spend the money on it. Remember we want to protect that flag leaf so make sure most of the flag leaves, that leaf right below the head, is fully out and if the field is pretty much headed, the flag leaf is pretty well emerged. If your field is fully headed out but not yet flowering you can use triazoles, strobilurins or the combo products. If you wheat is starting to flower though, you are restricted to the Triazoles based on harvest restrictions. The triazoles will give excellent stripe rust control and good scab control. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

How much standing water can a crop handle?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. After this many years I shouldn't be surprised by the weather, but I still am. How we can go from so dry to so wet so fast is still beyond me. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining about the rain...okay, yes I am. What we need is rain nicely spaced out over time. An inch a week would be really nice, not three to six inches in one day as some parts of our area saw last week. As I was driving around, post deluge, last week I saw a lot of water standing in a lot of fields, not to mention what wasn't visible in wheat fields. There will be hail damage to wheat, there's simply no way around that. Unfortunately we won't know how much damage for a while yet. Once all heads are out and pollinating we should have a better handle on damage. Standing water can be a bigger problem though. Our crop plants can not handle a lot of standing water or even saturated soils for very long. Plant roots need oxygen and after 24 hours of submersion, roots start to die. After 4 to 6 days, damage starts to become real obvious. Damage will show up quicker in warmer weather. And after 7 to 10 days most plants are starting to die. There's not a lot you can do unless you can drain off standing water, but most fields are designed to do that already if they can. I think it is safe to say that many fields will have some areas that will have some water damage - just how bad may not be known until you go through with the combine. If you had corn fields that drowned or washed out there's probably still time to replant assuming it dries out sometime in the next ten days. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Ideal row spacing for soybeans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I imagine that once we start to dry out, soybeans will be going into the ground. One of the soybean production discussions I've been following in recent years was discussions of what different producers, and researchers, considered to be ideal row spacing for soybeans. Previous studies have shown not much difference between 7.5 and 15 inch row spacings as long as the same number of seeds are being planted per acre. I will tell you that planting the same number of seeds in 15 inch vs 30 inch rows will frequently result in fewer plants per acre. The reduction in stands runs from 5 to 15% depending on location and year. But don't let that population difference worry you because yield is what matters. In recent years, including 2015, narrow row yields were slightly higher, enough to be significantly different, at two out of three locations. At the third location the 15 inch rows yielded less than a bushel per acre less and the yield there was 65 bushels per acre, and that was non-significant. Bottom line, narrow rows shouldn't cost you any yield and they may increase yield a little bit. If you plant in 15 inch rows you may have a slightly lower stand establishment percentage but it won't hurt yield. The other advantage with narrow rows comes with weed control. With 15 inch rows you are going to get canopy developed sooner. This light interception is a critical factor in helping with weed control. Many weed seeds need sunlight to stimulate germination, or, if the young seedlings are shaded they often die or at least don't develop as quickly as if they were in sunlight! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.