

### Wheat diseases developing rapidly

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. A couple of weeks ago it was dry and we were concerned if we were going to have a wheat crop. Now it's a couple of weeks later, we've had a half a foot of rain or more, the wheat is growing like gangbusters. In just a few short days we have gone from virtually no disease issues to everything getting ready to explode. With lush growth, moist soils and more rain possibly on the horizon, you can expect an explosion of powdery mildew on susceptible varieties. This is going to show up in the lower leaves and while it can look bad, it generally isn't anything to be concerned about. In reality, many of the early season leaf diseases like powdery milder, tan spot and speckled leaf blotch aren't a concern. What we ultimately want to do is to protect the flag leaf and specifically protect it from stripe rust and leaf rust. Fourteen days ago we had no stripe rust in Kansas or Oklahoma. Last week stripe rust was found in several counties in southern Kansas and in a few cases the rust was already on upper leaves. That's not good. But it is still too early to be thinking about spraying as flag leaves aren't at a treatable level yet this far north. Leaf rust has been seen in Texas and Oklahoma but not yet in Kansas. Stripe rust is favored by cool weather, leaf rust by warmer weather. Either one can be devastating to a wheat crop. In the next couple of weeks monitor you fields and research observed resistance to each rust disease as to your planted varieties so you can have a treatment plan. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Alfalfa Weevil

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This has been a crazy year for alfalfa weevil. As of last week in southern and central Kansas alfalfa weevil were already pupating and adults were emerging. Which brings up the curious quandary of whether we can and will have second generation alfalfa weevil damage. We've never seen this before. Back before the rain started, many alfalfa fields were already at treatable levels. During those rainy days I'd often drive by alfalfa fields and see increasing levels of damage in fields that weren't treated. Long range forecast is for more rain. Which all brings up the question of if you hadn't yet treated, what do you do. There's no way to make a blanket recommendation. You need to get out in the fields and look. If you haven't treated your alfalfa yet you will be finding damage. At this point what you are looking for is how many more weevil larvae are present. Not just how many are present, but what size are they. If you are still finding one per stem and they are pretty good sized, which may be hard to judge unless you've looked at thousands over the past 30 years, then there's probably nothing that can be done. They are about done feeding. BUT if you are finding at least one per stem and they are still fairly small, then you need to get the field treated just as soon as you can. Alfalfa weevil are cool weather pests. They love temperatures from 50 to 75 degrees. If you are still finding small larvae, cooler weather will favor them. At this point, I would switch from the standard pyrethroids to the newer product, Steward. It will give longer control with less impact to the beneficials! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

KSFIRE.ORG

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Several weeks ago we had a very good roundtable discussion about prescribed burning and smoke management. It was a good meeting and we focused on not only the need to burn, but the challenges of smoke management. What was disheartening to me was that when the audience was asked if they had ever heard of the smoke management web site, only 1 or 2 people raised their hands. I've been talking about this website for several years. So write this down - K S F I R E dot O R G, that's KSFIRE.ORG. From that page you can link to all sorts of general information on prescribed burning. But what you really want to do is click on the little graphic that says, "Click here to access the smoke model". When you click there the first thing you will see is two graphics showing potential contribution to major cities for fires ignited on the next two days, or today and tomorrow if you check it first thing in the morning. Each county, or even parts of a county, will show green, yellow or red. This doesn't mean that it will be safe to burn or not, it simply means that fires in that county will, won't or might contribute to air quality issues in the major metropolitan areas. You can then click on a tab that says, Your Fire Impacts and can see where the smoke from a fire that you start will likely go over the following 24 hours. From there, you can then proceed to review weather conditions to see if it is even going to be safe or possible to burn. And after all those steps, you can then start laying out your plan, which I hope you'd already done, and get permission to start your burn. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Burn Down Herbicides

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's the second week of April. In the past month we've had six inches of rain. Guess what the fields you plan to be planting this spring are going to be looking like. If you said, green, you are very correct! Corn planting is going to start very soon. And even if you are looking at soybean planting in May, it may be a good idea to get that done as well. If you have not yet applied a soil residual herbicide, it is probably time. At this point you are probably going to want to look at a burn down combo along with a soil residual herbicide or combo. For a burn down combo I'm going to want glyphosate plus 2,4-D or Dicamba. In corn, 2,4-D doesn't have much of a planting restriction but dicamba can be 5 to 7 days depending on rate. In most cases we should be good to go on either or both of those in conjunction with glyphosate. Whatever residual products you use, I really feel that atrazine needs to be a part of it. Atrazine still gives pretty darn good control of many broadleaf weeds. Then depending on what other weeds you are facing, you can add a secondary mode of action, like Bicep to really expand control of grassy weeds. With soybeans, dicamba is going to require 14 to 28 days waiting period before planting, 2,4-D will require 7 to 30 days depending on rate and formulation. In most cases you are probably going to be okay with any of those. Then the soil applied residuals come into play. With soybeans there are so many and it really depends on what your weed pressure is, and unfortunately, we have just run out of time for today's program, so call me! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Let's take it easy out there

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I was talking to a friend in southern Kansas last week. He said that the rain had put them so far behind schedule with corn planting that many of the producers, at least on irrigated fields, were switching from corn to cotton. We don't have that luxury here, but we also aren't really feeling like we're behind the 8 ball yet on time. There's a lot of things in farming that we can control, but weather isn't one of them. It used to amaze me that my father didn't show stress when it came to weather. At times when I thought he'd be frazzled to the maximum, he stayed calm for one special reason. There was nothing he could do about it. He would study the weather, make contingency plans but he didn't let the weather get to him. We may dry out tomorrow and be dry the rest of the summer. We never know. But all you can do is go forward at a reasonable pace. Don't push getting on fields too soon. Compaction doesn't happen when you leave ruts, compaction happens when it is moist, but dry enough that you can still roll. And compaction doesn't go away in a hurry. Take your time. Don't try to do too much in one day. Not only does efficiency go out the window when you rush about, so does safety. Now more than ever I am so keenly aware that we only have one life and one mistake or poor choice, is there a difference, and you've got a catastrophe. Some catastrophe's you can recover from, some you can't. A phrase that's always meant a lot to me says: If you don't have time to do it right the first time, when are you going to find the time to do it a second time. Be calm, farm on. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.