

### The Dicamba Dilemma

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The dicamba dilemma is not getting any clearer. We've got a long way to go to spring planting and lots of legal issues for the courts to wrangle through. But let's move forward with our discussion this morning assuming that we WILL be able to use dicamba at least into spring and early summer. If you are doing your own spraying here's some things to keep in mind. Dicamba is an extremely volatile compound I don't care what any of the advertisements say about the new formulations. Non dicamba resistant soybeans are very susceptible to the vapor drift. Even if you apply dicamba on a cool day with no wind, if the wind and temperature come up a day or two later, you are liable to get some volatilization and vapors moving off the field. I'd honestly like to see dicamba used only when the temperature is below 80 or at least 85, and that's forecasted for the next several days. Secondly, if the wind is blowing towards sensitive crops, even if you are over a quarter mile away, don't spray. The new label limits wind speed to a maximum of 10 mph. That's not an average speed, that's a maximum wind gust. Yes, the volatilization risk from dicamba is that bad. What's a sensitive crop? Anything growing around a home, especially vegetable garden plants. Non dicamba resistant beans are certainly a sensitive crop and grape vines are also pretty sensitive. Dicamba is a hot topic and everyone is becoming more aware of the issue. Protect yourself every which way if you are spraying it! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Upcoming Meetings

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As we veer rapidly into a new year it also means that we are veering rapidly into a whole new round of Extension Meetings in the area. The first one is going to be here in Junction City on Tuesday evening January 9<sup>th</sup> with our Ag Lease Workshop where we'll talk about the basic of the Kansas Ag Lease law and then considerations for putting together an equitable lease. It starts at 7 in the evening and we are at the 4-H/Sr Citizens building. No registration required, just show up with your questions. On Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> in Emporia there is a day long Farming for the Future meeting. It starts at 9 and goes until 3:30. We've got a bunch of ag economists on the schedule to talk about the current farm financial situation, land values, crop and livestock market outlook, and Farm Financial Management. I've heard all of these speakers before and this will be very well worth the time. Registration can be done online or give me a call. There's a \$20 fee for this but that includes lunch, and they always have good lunches at Emporia Extension meetings! On Thursday evening January 18<sup>th</sup> we are having a calving school in Alta Vista at the Baptist Church on the south end of Main Street. The doors open at 5:45, meal starts at 6 and the meeting at 6:20. You need to call in and preregister - there is a \$5 fee for the program and it is well worth it. We've got a couple of top notch vets presenting the program and as we head into calving season it will be a good program to get you ready! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Evaluating soil condition

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Historically we tilled out soils. We'd disk, we'd chisel, we'd plow we'd work up the shallow compaction and with deeper ripping or chiseling we'd bust up that tillage pan at about 6 inches that was basically caused by years of plowing. But then we started doing more and more reduced or no-till and the iron sat next to the tree line and collected tumbleweeds. But we are finding that no till doesn't mean no compaction, in fact in some ways no till makes soil compaction worse. Wetting and drying, freezing and thawing while they help some, don't get rid of compaction zones. We know that deep tillage when the soil is good and dry, can help break up that compaction but first you have to know if the compaction is restricting root development. And to effectively do that you gotta get out and do some digging. Ideally you'd get out in areas of the field and dig a few holes about 18 inches deep. What you are looking for are dense layers that have a very platy structure and roots that hit these areas and then travel sideways. If the soil appears platy but roots are going through it, then tillage won't help. If you think that you need to till, then figure out how deep the compaction goes and then go an inch deeper than that. You don't want to go any deeper than you have to though because doubling the depth quadruples the energy it takes to do the tillage. But then you want to leave a few strips untilled, but marked, so that when you harvest the following crop you can see if there was any yield improvement. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Cold Weather Impacts

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. After going through the first 3 weeks of December with temperatures 10 degrees above normal, we're finally getting temperatures more like what we would expect for the end of December. Of course, the question then comes up as to whether this is going to cause problems for the wheat crop or anything else for that matter. Here's my take. In short, yes, we will see some problems from this weather. How big of an issue they will be is yet to be determined as the coldest weather may not have arrived just yet. The best way for wheat plants to deal with cold weather is to first get well established in the fall with a good root system. Then have good soil moisture in the top 6 to 12 inches of soil. Finally, to have had fall and early winter temperatures that stepped down in a fairly normal fashion. When all of these factors have occurred, winter wheat will have been able to develop maximum cold hardiness as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Well we really haven't had any of those things come together like we'd like to see. Soil moisture conditions in many fields is not good. Fall growth, even for fields planted in a timely fashion was not all that great. Dry soil allows the cold to go so much deeper into the soil. When the soil has good moisture conditions it takes longer for the soil to freeze and ultimately damp soil won't get as cold as dry soil. Areas that are drier and more exposed will be expected to see more damage, such as terrace tops. Areas where there was poor seed placement will also have issues. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Only 4 radio programs this week

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**Because of holiday programming on KJCK, there were only four Ag Outlooks this week.**

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