

Ag Radio programs for September 18 - 25, 2017

Dicamba Labels

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In the herbicide world 2017 has been a very interesting year, specifically when it comes to dicamba and dicamba sensitive crops. We saw a lot of dicamba used on soybeans this summer. We saw a lot of damage because of drift or off target movement. We saw Missouri and Arkansas suspend dicamba use in mid summer and the ag press is reporting that Arkansas is now taking steps to limit dicamba use to ONLY be January 1st to April 15th because of the drift issues that they saw this year. I suspect that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Dicamba is a plant growth regulator that messes with hormonal balances in the plant. Because of it's chemistry it is potentially volatile meaning that vapors can come off of an application and the vapors can move with the wind. If you can smell it, the vapor is present. Soybeans are extremely sensitive to dicamba, UNLESS they are one of the new dicamba resistant varieties. Many steps were taken by the industry to create less volatile formulations of dicamba. But if the herbicide labels aren't followed to the letter, you will get volatilization and drift. If that drift damages your non dicamba resistant beans, well, that's one thing. If it damages your neighbor's beans, that's a whole different story. When you look at the dicamba labels for spraying resistant beans there are no less than 9 different areas of consideration from spray tips to rates to temperature inversions to additives, etc. Failure to follow any one of these items can result in drift and every additional drift complaint is a nail in the coffin of this new technology!

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Weeds in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As I do every year in September and early October, I've started getting questions about what to spray this or that "weed" in pastures. Which particular weed the pasture manager is asking about depends on the year. In any given year, based on both weather conditions and pasture management, there will be certain plants that thrive. Sometimes these are annual plants, sometimes they are perennial plants. They are likely present every year, to some extent or another, but how many there are, or how obvious they are, will all depend on what the rainfall, temperatures and livestock management has been on that particular pasture. I've received questions, so far this month, on annual broomweed, ironweed and goldenrod. I'm sure there will be other questions coming in. September and October are not the times to be spraying pasture for weeds with a very few exceptions. Plants like broomweed, goldenrod and ironweed or honestly not overly invasive plants. They are native forbs that will take advantage of overgrazed and abused areas in pastures. Annual broomweed sprouts from seed and starts growing in the spring - it is not very competitive so an abundance of it means it doesn't have much competition. When a plant is in full bloom, like these plants are now, it is not a good time to control it. For perennials like ironweed and goldenrod, spraying in mid summer is going to give you much better control. But control is meaningless if the underlying root cause, over-grazing isn't fixed. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Planting dates for wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. At the rate we are going we are liable to be dusting in wheat this fall. What's that old saying, plant in dust and the bins will bust. Anyway, we are a little bit early to be in that best pest management planting or BPMP date range. We've pretty well tossed out the old Hessian Fly Free date as we have found that Hessian Flies are active often well into November. However, we also know that the later into October we go, the fewer issues we see not just with Hessian Fly but with aphids, wheat curl mites and other insect and disease problems. For Geary and Dickinson counties our BPMP is September 25 through October 20. Naturally if you are seriously wanting some grazing you need to get that wheat planted as soon as possible. But when looking just at grain production that late September through October 20 date seems to be spot on. In some multi year studies near Hutchinson maximum yield was obtained with a planting date around October 15th. Which falls pretty close to what I've always felt locally. I feel that the sweet spot for wheat planting for grain production was about October 10 to October 20. Early planting can lower wheat yield almost as much as late planting and by November 1st we can already be looking at a yield decline of nearly 25% from that peak yield in mid October. To compensate, when planting dates start to move past November 1st, we really need to start increasing seeding rates. But that's a discussion for another day. For now, for grain production only, I'd aim for starting seeding around October 10th. For dual purpose, grazing and grain, get it planted now! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soybeans - Early Leaf Drop or Disease?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Soybeans started dropping their leaves rapidly last week. The previous week we had seen wilting, last week I saw a lot of plants just sort of give up and leaves went yellow and started dropping. But we also need to not just assume that this is all dry weather or end of season. If we are in a non-irrigated field, then more than likely the leaf drop is probably dry weather. Just to be sure pull up a couple of plants and slice through the tap root. The heart of the tap root should be white or creamy color. If you are seeing brownish discoloration then we may have other factors at play here including various root rot diseases. Charcoal rot is one that can come on after good early season growing conditions then followed by warm and dry weather. What I'm actually more concerned about however is if we start to see some early leaf discoloration and leaf drop in irrigated fields. Sudden Death Syndrome started being detected in late August in eastern and southeastern Kansas. SDS is going to be favored by wet conditions or irrigation. Look for leaves developing small bright pale green to yellow circular spots on the leaves. As this progresses we start to see leaves turning chlorotic between the veins followed by brown streaks developing between the veins. Eventually the leaflets fall off but the petioles, the little stems that the leaflets attach to the plant with, stay on. This is different than normal leaf drop where the petioles fall off too. SDS is strongly correlated with soybean cyst nematode. So far we haven't had a lot of fields with cyst nematode, but we need to stay alert for these diseases! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Crops Hodge Podge

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This is one of those programs that you can call crop potpourri! We'll just hit a hodge podge of topics with one or two lines. Sorghum maturity - I was worried about mid August that we were having so much cool weather that sorghum might be challenged to mature before a frost. The recent warmer weather has pretty well eliminated that concern. Milo fields should be far enough along that sorghum headworm is no longer much of a concern and really, sugarcane aphids probably aren't going to be an issue either. We may still get some infestation but it's going to be so late it should be a non factor. It's been nice to see clouds and have a chance of rain back in the forecast, but I'm afraid we've already had some significant drought damage to the soybean crop. Because of that I would suspend any future insecticide applications on soybeans UNLESS you happened to have double crop beans under irrigation, which I'm pretty sure is a pretty limited sample size as it would require irrigated wheat, which I just don't see a lot of around here. Full season beans should be far enough along that the seeds that are going to make anything are getting large enough and hard enough that insects will pretty well leave them alone. We started seeing a fair amount of soybean leaf drop developing last week from the dry weather. Get out and walk those fields. If you start to see some weird mosaic patterns in the leaves in parts of the field that are drying down, call me or send me a photo. Sudden Death Syndrome, SDS, is starting to show up in parts of the state so we want to monitor this. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.