

Soybean Fungicides

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. With a month of rains behind us the soybeans are looking pretty good and producers may be starting to wonder if they need to treat for diseases, insects or both. We've spent a lot of time studying fungicide and insecticide applications on soybeans over the past 7 years. Granted while one or two of those years were kind of like this year, every year is different. Fungicide applications in most tests are done at the R3 stage which is when a 3/16 inch pod is formed at the 4th fully emerged trifoliolate from the top of the plant. Basically about where we are right now. Bottom line is that when averaged over 11 sites over those years, the difference was 1.1 bushels per acre which was not significant nor did it justify the cost of spraying. Bout the biggest advantage in any test was roughly 3 bushels per acre. Right from that you should get the idea that I am not going to recommend spraying for soybean diseases. Granted, if soybean rust WERE to move in then the game is changed. But as of the middle of last week the closest soybean rust was found was extreme southeastern Arkansas. Unless we have a hurricane come through there and up into Kansas, soon, we aren't going to have an issue. As for insecticides, there's a lot we still need to do to get a good scouting model. We are starting to see a an increase in corn earworms feeding on pods so we need to be examining pods and look for pod feeding. Treatments may need to be applied but we aren't quite there yet, stay tuned! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

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. Last week I was talking about weeds in pastures. Since then I've been up and down a lot of roads and been looking in a lot of pastures and I just want to warn you that there are a lot of pastures that are going to be turning yellow once we get into September. Just get used to that fact right now. We've seen the weed periodically at the end of the grazing season. It's called Annual Broomweed and it always causes a lot of attention. Pasture owners and managers see it and sometimes they see a lot of it and they get concerned that it's taking over their pastures and killing out the grass. And they want to do something so what can it be sprayed with? Okay, here's where the concept of cause and effect goes haywire. There is a cause and there is an effect, but many landowners have it backwards. The weed is present and there's not a lot of grass. But the weed is present because there isn't a lot of grass. Annual broomweed loves areas of pasture with very little cover. Heavy grazing or areas where water or mineral is found can cause over grazing. These bare soil areas will be populated with some plant by mother nature. And often it is going to be annual broomweed. It's a plant that right now is becoming obvious and it's lime green and doesn't have a lot of leaves on it, which makes it hard to kill. In September it will start sporting bright little yellow flowers. The truth is that spraying won't help in the least on this rascal. Don't waste your time. Manage your stocking rate to leave a little more grass, move water and mineral feeders around and spend time spraying sericea lespedeza instead! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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Abnormal Ears in Corn

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you have been out in your corn fields this summer you have probably been seeing a lot of things going on with the ears. A recent crop production update letter had no fewer than 10 ear issues and bottom line is that most of them had to do with stress and/or poor pollination. Much of the corn was planted later than normal this year so ear development and pollination also occurred later than normal so we had development occurring during some of the little bit of hot weather that we had and that earlier moisture stress. Poor kernel set will often come back to hot and dry weather at pollination. It'll cause irregular sized kernels and abnormal rows on the ears. Some ears may exhibit arrested development so you have a weak little cob and no grain. Or you may get multiple ears at one leaf node. Both of these can come back to stress at an early stage of ear development. If you are seeing ends of ears not covered by husks, this can come from stress early in the development stage followed by improving conditions following pollination and the ear literally outgrows the husks. We've been seeing a lot of banana ears this year which are ears with a curve in them like a banana. This is often caused by poor pollination on one side of the ear although we don't know for sure why. Stink bug damage has been postulated but not proven. We always see a little bit of tassel ear as well as tip dieback or pull back. This year we are seeing kernel red streak. Kernel red streak is caused by wheat curl mites feeding which also brings back the need to control volunteer wheat! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.