

Ag Radio programs for December 31 - January 6, 2013

Topeka Farm Show and new publications

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I probably don't need to, but I want to remind everyone that the Topeka Farm Show is next week - January 8th, 9th and 10th. I will be at the Extension booth on Wednesday evening the 9th from 4 to 8 p.m. It always seems to be cold and snowy that week - we'll see if this year holds true to form. But this is a great way to spend part of a day early in the year. Everybody will be there with their latest information and it'll be the same way at the Extension Booth. This is usually the first chance that all of us have to see the new chemical weed control publication from the college. The electronic version is available online already so I suspect that we'll have copies of this ever popular bulletin available to hand out. If you don't pick it up at the farm show, we should have it in the Extension Office any day now. A quick look at the electronic version shows that it is even bigger than last year's book meaning that we have even more herbicides to try to keep track of in 2013! One of the great things that I like about this publication are some of the reference charts of premixes, approximate costs and comparisons of what's in all the different glyphosate products on the market. What we do already have in the office are the yield trials from all the Kansas Performance Tests. It seems like seed companies are pushing to get your early signup before the current year's tests are harvested. But the results are in and you are welcome to pick up copies of these bulletins, free of charge, at the Extension Office. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Weed Control options

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Corn growers are going to have some new herbicides in their arsenal for 2013. I'm sure a few years ago everyone thought that glyphosate was going to be the only herbicide that they'd need for at least corn and soybean production. But everything keeps turning and changing and sure enough, we started to find weeds that were glyphosate tolerant or resistant and our heavy use of glyphosate only quickly created issues with being back in the situation of needing MORE than just glyphosate. I said years ago that trying to depend on only one herbicide, be it glyphosate or whatever, is foolish and just asking for troubles. Okay, enough preaching and on to the new herbicides. The new active ingredient is pyroxasulfone. It is a chloroacetamide putting it in the same mode of action as such things as Harness, Dual II Magnum and MicroTech, or Lasso for you old-timers. It is a seedling growth inhibitor so needs to be applied before weed seed germination and activated by rainfall or irrigation. It is going to be found alone in the product Zidua or in premixes under the name Anthem, Anthem ATZ and Fierce. Alone it is going to be very good for small seeded weeds especially good against pigweeds, including ALS and glyphosate resistant populations. BUT it needs to be applied pre-emerge to be effective. It is a little weaker on bigger seeded weeds like velvetleaf, morningglory, shattercane and especially sunflower. So tank mixes with other products or using the premixes will certainly enhance control of these. But if you are having issues with resistant pigweed consider these. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

How Snow Helps Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We've all seen it year after year. We get some snow on the dormant wheat crop and the following year it always seems to look better and yield so much better. Over the years I've heard many reasons stated as to why the wheat does better and the bottom line is that many of them are myths. The most common one I've heard is that the snow brings a lot of nitrogen to the soil. That one is patently wrong. Years of testing snow for nitrogen, and other nutrients, has shown that even big snows have negligible nutrients in them. So toss nitrogen credit out the window. The answer is far simpler than that, it all comes down to moisture and temperature protection. While it takes, on average, ten inches of snow to provide one inch of water or rainfall equivalent, there tends to be very little wastage of the water that's in snow. The snow generally melts slow enough that all the water can go into the soil. Runoff from snow events is far less than from rainfall events. Snow is also a great insulator against severe cold and wind erosion. If we can get a little bit of snow on the ground, and get it crusted over, it holds the soil in place, helps to keep the soil warmer and protects the crowns of the wheat plant. Snow cover usually results in less winterkill although extended periods that result in ice cover can smother wheat plants. Finally, with a little snow and moisture, the roots and crown of a wheat plant will keep functioning and we will see root development in the winter, even when the top growth of the plant appears dormant. So, snow helps the wheat crop, just maybe not in the ways you thought! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.