

Ag Radio programs for December 9 - 15, 2013

Does this mean a long cold winter?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've started having a few folks asking me if two recent cold snaps are an indication of a long hard winter as has apparently been predicted by some sources. And no, I do not read nor pay attention to the old farmer's almanac. Well, what I do pay attention to is the NOAA Climate Center's long range forecast. I feel that over the past decade they've hit the long range forecasts as well as any source. They are currently showing the Dec thru February period as being equal chances of normal, above or below temperature and precipitation. November was colder than average, but not a lot. 2.5 degrees is something to take note of, but a long ways from being outside the range of expectation or what we call one standard deviation. In other words, 2 years out of 3 we'd expect to be within this range. We know that while weather patterns often flow for weeks and months on end, we also know that there is not that strong of a correlation between this month's average weather and next month's average weather. We'd expect December to be colder than November and January to be colder than December. But that's about all we can say with any certainty. Yes, the coldest weather of the season came in last week but it was quite a ways from being record cold. What it does serve as though is a reminder that we are about to officially enter the winter time frame. Colder weather is here and we need to be prepared around the farm and the home for those realities. Get ready, snow may be next! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Cut stump and basal bark treatments

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Even though it may be cold and not fit to do a lot of things, winter, at least through mid to late January, is a good time to do basal bark and cut stump treatments of trees and shrubs in rangeland. Cut stump treatments are what we do to trees, other than junipers which you don't need to treat, immediately after cutting them off to kill the roots. By immediately I feel best about treating within 5 minutes but certainly within 15 or 20 minutes. Cut stump and basal bark treatments seem to work best when done between mid July and mid January. By late January there is already sap starting to flow up and we just don't get as much of the herbicide down to the roots. In cut surface applications treatments are normally applied to the outer area of the cut surface, basically that inch or so on the very outside area of the stump. It is helpful if your herbicide has a dye in it to make it easier to see where you are treating. Remedy ultra probably has the widest species use label and will work good on everything except Russian Olive. Basal bark treatment is a stronger concentration that is sprayed all the way around the bottom 2 to 3 feet of the trunk of a tree while it is still standing. This is particularly effective on honeylocusts to reduce the amount of root sprouting that you always seem to get when you cut and treat a locust. Treat it this winter, then wait until late summer to make sure it is dead. Then cut the locust tree down next fall. For some reason using a basal bark treatment seems to get a far more complete kill than cutting and then treating. So unless you want to treat a bunch of sprouts, try it! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Clearfield wheats for our area?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Yes, I know we're about two months past wheat planting time but I want to visit a little bit about Clearfield wheats because you will be hearing more and more about them in the next two years. Clearfield wheats are wheats that are resistant to a certain family of herbicides, basically the herbicide Beyond. Clearfield wheats are not GMO crops as the gene was found naturally occurring in wheat. The great part about Clearfield technology is that Beyond herbicide gives excellent control of those troublesome weedy grasses like cheats and even jointed goat grass. In fact it also gives excellent control of winter annual broadleaf weeds and even good control of summer broadleaf weeds. It seems like every year there are more and more Clearfield wheats being released for producers. For those producers who are in continuous wheat, it is an excellent tool for controlling grassy weed problems. The downside is that most of the varieties have historically NOT had resistance to soil borne mosaic. One of the basic tenants for wheat varieties to be used around here is that they MUST have soil borne resistance because it is virtually all of our wheat fields. But now we are starting to see the first Clearfield wheats becoming available with good soil borne resistance. The other exciting thing is that many of this next generation also has good resistance to wheat streak mosaic which is a growing concern in our area. Now if we could just get resistance to Barley Yellow Dwarf, we'd really have a super wheat. But for now, make sure your CL wheat has soil borne resistance!

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