

### Delayed Corn Planting Implications

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In a normal year we'd recommend planting corn in our area from April 10 to May 10. Well, this sure as heck isn't a normal year. The trouble with a cool spring is you don't know what's going to follow it. If it stays cool and it keeps raining, we probably aren't going to have too much problem getting a full season crop. In fact, all things considered this year, I wouldn't expect much yield loss from going close to May 20<sup>th</sup> with the corn planting. But certainly, try to get it finished up as soon as possible. I saw a lot of planters rolling last week before the snow rain and cold set back in. All of that corn that went into the ground will be just fine. Soils are just now starting to warm back up, again, so I'd expect to see shoots coming out of the ground by the middle of next week. I would not even think about switching to a shorter maturity unless we get clear up to Memorial Day and then I might be more inclined to just switch over to soybeans. And speaking of soybeans, I'd be wanting to start rolling on those acres just as soon as possible also. The only way that I could see us having a problem with the corn, other than a return to drought, is if we had an early frost like we did in 1981. By the way, does anyone else feel that this year is starting to act more and more like 1981? Anyway, delayed planting doesn't seem to hurt yield, for the most part, as long as we don't have heat stress at pollination and moisture stress during grain filling. These are the two time periods that hurt yields the most. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Options IF you have freeze damaged wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. For years I've listened to older farmer friends talk about the nine lives of wheat. So far this year I think we've worked through at least four or five of them. This year is starting to seem just a little too much like 1981 to make me too comfortable. I've looked at quite a bit of wheat in the area and so far damage has been minimal to non-existent. I'm just now getting out to look at the damage from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> event. It's always hard for me to tell in town just how cold it gets in those creek bottom fields around the county, but knock on wood, so far we've been lucky. Last week I was at a state wide Extension meeting and several of us were looking at wheat plants that had been brought in from various parts of the state. Trust me, if there had been a hard enough freeze to really cause damage, you would know it already. Some of this stuff looked bad, it looked real bad! Over a third of the state had temperatures below 24 degrees for anywhere from 3 to 9 hours on April 24<sup>th</sup> though. We missed that and our wheat was not as far along as some of that wheat was. If you think you have freeze damage the first thing to do is confirm it either with me and/or your crop insurance adjuster. More than likely, barring a real ice box location, you'll probably need to take the crop to harvest before the adjusters will want to finalize your claim. If there is a fair amount of damage you can always graze it or hay it and salvage something and then plant back in with soybeans or grain sorghum assuming the herbicide label will allow it. If you used a sulfonylurea herbicide, get some STS beans. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.

## Pasture updates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. So, we're still waiting for the grass to really get growing in the pastures. A few more days of 70 degree highs and you'll see a lot of difference, I'm sure. We finally got some rains that created a little bit of runoff. I see more water in draws and seeps and springs are starting to run again. That's good news at the front end of the bluestem season to be sure. I'm still not budging on stocking rates. Cow calf pairs should be given 9 to 10 acres. Even if we get good grass growth, the lighter stocking rate will put the grass into a position that it can start to recover. Nothing would please me more than to see a lot of pasture with good fuel loads come October. For hay meadows, you really want to cut early this year, meaning be done by July 20<sup>th</sup>, and always mow high, at least four inches, prefer six and that goes for brome grass too, mow it high and mow it early. We want these hay fields to get some good regrowth going into summer or fall, depending on brome or native. That gives them plenty of time to get root reserves built back up start making improvements to the crowns that will mean better hay and more hay next year. This is also going to be a great summer to get some brush control done with herbicides. Timing may be a bit trickier this year. We want to wait for brush to be fully leafed out which for most species of brush is the first part of June. We may need to push that preferred treatment time from June 1 to 15 back to say June 10 through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Just keep an eye on sumac and buckbrush - it will let you know when it's time to spray. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.