

Volunteer Wheat Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It is getting down to crunch time for volunteer wheat control. The rule of thumb says that we want volunteer wheat DEAD two weeks before any PLANTING of wheat in the area. Now I've had a lot of people try to play word games with me... is that two weeks before planting or emergence? Of they'll spray glyphosate 14 days prior to wheat planting. The guide is volunteer wheat is DEAD two weeks before PLANTING. If you are going to control the volunteer with herbicides then you need to allow however long it will take for the herbicide of choice to turn the volunteer crispy dry! If you are using glyphosate then you need to plan two weeks from treating to crispy. The reason for two weeks is that we want to make sure that those little wheat curl mites have time to die before any wheat comes up. The mites can live quite a while without eating so we want to get those little rascals starved to death. Now, if you are going to use the old fashioned way and plow or disc that volunteer under, you can probably accomplish that right at two weeks out as you are effectively burying the volunteer wheat under a bunch of soil. If you are going to be planting back into this stubble field with wheat this fall and you are using herbicide to control and you are thinking about using something like dicamba or 2,4-D in combination with the glyphosate keep in mind that to avoid crop injury you need to allow 45 days between a dicamba application and planting and 2 weeks plus ½ inch of rain after 2,4-D. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Starter Fertilizer and early season N for wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I'm seeing a lot of soil tests come through the office for wheat right now and that is great. Keep in mind that it is unlikely that we have much residual nitrogen in the rooting zone after all that rain in July and early August. So many producers may need to apply 20 to 40 pounds of nitrogen with the starter fertilizer. While this is a wise idea, especially if you are planting after early October, you need to proceed with caution to prevent nitrogen volatilization loss or seeding damage. First of all, surface applications of any nitrogen source are going to be subject to volatilization loss UNLESS you are immediately following that application with tillage to incorporate the fertilizer. But a surface application may be your only real option. Surface app with incorporation would be a good way to apply phosphorus starter fertilizer. One absolute no-no is to apply any urea or UAN fertilizer in direct seed contact. Both of these products will cause seedling damage at very low rates. Obviously the best option would be to knife in the fertilizer in a subsurface band. Or you could use surface banding, sometimes called dribbling, in streams on 15 to 18 inch centers. If you are going to apply fertilizer with the planter in direct seed contact, do not put more than 21 pounds of nitrogen plus K_2O in sandy or dry soils in 6 to 8 inch row spacings. In medium to fine textured soils with decent moisture you can bump that to 30 pounds of N plus K_2O . Phosphorus isn't a concern in seed contact. If you have questions about your starter fertilizer plan, please give me a call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Start planning now for next year's pasture burning

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Some of you may think that my calendar is a little wacky, or maybe just me in general, but the next month or two would be a good time to start working on your pasture burning plan. Start looking at pastures as you are gathering cattle this fall and decide which pastures need to be burned. Just because you didn't burn this year it doesn't mean that you have to burn next year. But if you have a lot of fuel or if you have a lot of cedar trees to control then you may want to burn in 2014 if the conditions remain good.

Remember, in general, burning once every three years OR burning $\frac{1}{3}$ of your pastures each year is a good plan. Once you've decided which pastures you want to burn take some time later this fall to go around the area and rotary mow or bush hog one or two passes and establish that outer edge of the planned burn area. I know not many people do it, but then later this winter you can slowly work your way through this burned area and burn a several foot wide fire break. By burning a strip around the perimeter of the area to burn you'll take care of any fuel that is there and also encourage an early green up of that area. Either one of those acts will establish a great fire break so when it comes time to burn you are ready to go. This technique is especially good for small tracts or areas that may be a bit tricky to get burned otherwise. You know those areas - you need wind from a weird direction and you may have it for a brief period of time, so you want to be ready to go when that morning arrives! Oh and while you're out doing that, be sure to look for musk thistles also! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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