

Crop Disease Outlook

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, if it was going to get cold again, at least we got some snow to insulate the wheat crop. With the moisture that we've gotten in some of these snow events I'm anticipating good early season growth for the wheat. That usually means a fair amount of early season foliar disease. While there may be some inclination to apply a low rate of fungicide early in the season, be aware that we have rarely seen any yield response to these early season applications. We see all sorts of positive reduction in the diseases, but it usually doesn't carry through to yield. Even though it may be just a couple bucks per acre, I'd prefer to see you save your dollars and use a later fungicide application if it is warranted. One thing that this winter has really given us is a sense of urgency to get fields topdressed as soon as possible this year. Those of you who topdressed wheat or bromegrass back in November or December should be congratulating yourself for your foresight as it's really going to pay dividends this year. We saw more disease in our summer row crops last year, mainly because it actually rained during the summer. Some diseases overwinter well south of here and others overwinter on residue locally. With increasing no-till we are going to continue to see an increase in diseases but also indicates an increased need for crop rotations. One thing we need to be on the lookout for is soybean cyst nematode and sudden death syndrome in soybeans. They are connected and we need to be on the lookout for both! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Pasture Rental Rates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Before long you all will be working on pasture lease arrangements and I'll be answering questions about what the going rate for bluestem pasture will be this year. It used to be that annually, the Kansas Ag Statistics Service would release their bluestem pasture rental rates every spring in May. Then as a budget cutting move, it was axed after 2009, but somewhere they found some funds and did the survey again last year so we at least have something that's only a year old to work from. I have not heard if they are doing one again this year, so for right now, we'll be working on last years data. The first thing I always look at is the average acres of grass guaranteed. Last year a cow with spring calf was averaging 7.7 acres per pair. While this probably isn't too far off, I'd probably feel better with 8 to 9 acres per pair assuming that you have cows that are 1300 pounds or bigger. Not sure how big your cows are - take a look at the average of the last cull cows you sold. That would probably be pretty close. Cows are bigger now than they were 30 years ago and stocking rates need to reflect that. The other thing that concerns me is that if 7.7 acres is the average, then there's probably people stocking heavier than that which will have negative consequences for the pasture. As for prices, the range was \$75 per pair to \$250 per pair. The average was \$150 but you may want to figure that it'll probably cost you more like 175 to 200 if it's a good pasture. Like I said, I don't know if they'll do the survey again this year, but if they do, I'll be sure to let you know as soon as I find out! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Pre-plant weed control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It won't be long until March will be here and when that happens, a lot of those fields that you are going to be planting to corn, soybeans and grain sorghum will suddenly be flush with small weeds that are, well, growing like weeds! The moisture we've been getting in these snows, as well as the insulating effect that these snows have will do a great job of allowing those weeds to explode come late winter and spring. It seems that a few years ago we really didn't care what they were - we'd just hit them with glyphosate and maybe a little dicamba or 2,4-D and we'd be done. Well weed populations are changing and I feel that we need to be looking at more early season burn down applications that also contain some residual herbicide for early season control. We have a lot of cool season weeds that can have quite a bit of growth by the time we are planting in April and May. Some of these weeds never have been well controlled by glyphosate, like marestalk. Several products, including dicamba and atrazine are very effective on marestalk IF the application is done early, like March. If you have a lot of mustards then you may need to think about some 2,4-D as well and the good thing about a March application is it gives you plenty of time until planting for both dicamba and D to dissipate so as not to cause seedling problems. One product that seems to be very effective in burndown is Sharpen which can be quite effective against marestalk and pigweed or waterhemp. You need something with it, but I'd encourage you to consider this if marestalk is a problem! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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