

Ag Radio programs for June 16 - 22, 2014

It's going to be a messy harvest

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, now that we've got the rain, the prediction of wheat harvest issues are going to be coming even more front and center. There are weeds coming in some fields, there's no two ways about it. And with possible thunderstorms seeming to pop up every 3 or 4 days in the forecast, who knows where this is leading. If you have weeds that are already pushing above the top of the wheat you may want to get serious about doing some spraying. I would honestly stay away from anything other than Aim or Glyphosate. Glyphosate has a 7 day waiting period which is okay because it'll probably take a couple weeks to truly kill the weeds. But it may have a good place especially if you have perennial weeds. Aim works fast and only has a 3 day waiting period. But weeds will start to regrow in 2 to 3 weeks depending on the rate used. The other thing that's already showing up in fields is saprophytic molds, especially in the heads. Parts of heads that may have been killed by frost damage are going to be the worst. But the longer we have to wait after the grain is mature until we can harvest, the more of this stuff will develop and the dirtier harvest will be. The good news is that this is just a nuisance thing. It really won't impact seed quality or germination if you keep seed back for planting this fall. It is a concern is if it keeps raining, especially after the grain is mature because then we have test weight issues. And if it continues too long, there's always going to be some concern with sprouting in the head. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soybeans - replanting, late planting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Soybean planting was going along great, until we hit June 1st. That's when the rain started and days suitable for field work since then have been few and far between. The truth of the matter is that we are already past the optimum planting date for soybeans. But the good news is that soybeans can probably handle delayed planting better than any of our other summer crops. Generally, we have found over the years that as you go later into the season planting soybeans, including double crop beans, you just stay with the same maturity group that you were going to plant. Some people have switched to much shorter maturity groups and that usually backfires as the lengthening nights causes the plants to just bloom so darn early that they don't make enough leaves to really grow much yield. There are some considerations though that will improve your yield opportunities with later plantings. If it looks like you're going to have a good yield environment, then go ahead and increase planting rates 30 to 50%. This is especially the case if you are into very late June or July. Again, the shorter season and changing photoperiod will result in a shorter vegetative period, late planted beans don't canopy as well so it would probably behoove you to plant in narrow rows, like 15 inch as opposed to 30. The theory is to get more canopy closure earlier and more leaves in the canopy. I would also plan to use a little starter fertilizer. If you know you have real high phosphorus levels then this probably isn't as much concern, but I always say, why risk it, add the starter fertilizer just to be sure! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Last call for foliar treatment of brush

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We've got a little bit of a bizarre year here, but maybe every year is bizarre in it's own right. Cool spring caused later brush greenup in the pastures. Which meant we were pushing optimal treatment dates back a week or two. And now we've had a bunch of rain which is actually going to extend the leaf development and growth stage. Normally once we get past the middle of June, herbicide efficacy on woody shrubs tends to really drop off. Many people mistakenly think that later in the summer is a better time to control brushy species because the plant is taking food reserves into the roots so it'll take herbicide with it. While that works with many perennial forbs, like bindweed, and it works on basal bark treatments, where the herbicide is going directly into the phloem and straight to the roots, it doesn't really work with foliar treatments. By mid July, sometimes earlier, sometimes later, leaves have generally developed very thick waxy cuticles on the leaf surface. This is to help the leaf not lose excessive moisture, but it also does a very good job of blocking a lot of foliar applied herbicides from getting into the plant. Additionally, many wood species shut off transfer from leaves down into the plant much earlier than we realize. By spraying just after brushy species have fully leafed out, food reserves are at their lowest and herbicides really do get taken down into the root system where, because of the very low carbohydrate reserves, more damage is done. I'd definitely want to be done foliar spraying brush by the second week of July though. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.