

Please Be Careful on the Highways

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've been talking to several ag producers the past week or two as they've been working their way through harvest and we got to talking about their encounters with passenger vehicles while they've been on the road with ag equipment. So my question this morning is to all of you out there on the highways that encounter farm equipment. **WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU PEOPLE THINKING?** I actually wanted to say something other than heck, but Mark and Jerry won't let me! First point - that farm equipment has every right to be on that highway just like you do. Sure, they may only be able to travel at 20 mph, but by statute they have every right to be there. Get used to it. You live in an agriculture community and at certain times of the year, you will encounter agricultural equipment on the roadway. What are you people thinking passing on a double yellow line? It doesn't matter that you think you can get around them in a hurry - you need to just slow down and sit tight until it is clear. The law does say that IF more than three vehicles stack up behind ag equipment, the operator does need to pull over and let them pass **WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**. Many of these rural roads have no shoulders so you're just going to have to wait a while. Please, slow down and take it easy. Your impatience is going to cause an accident where people will get injured and possibly killed. We don't need that. So just muster up some patience, slow down and don't cause an accident. **PLEASE!** This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Nitrates and Prussic Acid

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The delayed hard killing freeze isn't doing us any favors. Particularly when it comes to kicking cattle out onto stalks and stubble field. Let's review nitrates and prussic acid because I have been getting a lot of calls on it and I think we are in a potentially dangerous threshold right now. The two compounds are very different and both can be deadly to livestock. Prussic acid kills in minutes and takes a very small amount. But the good news is that within a week after a hard freeze, of say 25 degrees, prussic acid, and it's risk is gone. Prussic acid is not a problem in corn, only in sorghums and sudans and that includes shattercane and johnsongrass. Some areas may have gotten that cold at the end of last week, others may well be waiting. Given the extended season we've had and how potentially toxic even one mouthfull of high prussic acid feed is, I'd just keep cattle off any forage that has really any sorghum, sudan, johnsongrass or shattercane until one week after a hard freeze of 25 degrees. On the other hand, nitrates can be in anything and we've seen levels all over the board this fall. Nitrates kill much more slowly, giving a vet a chance to save a cow with nitrate poisoning, something we just can't do with prussic acid. Nitrates do not go away after the plant dies or is harvested. BUT cattle can build up an amazing tolerance to high levels if given adequate time. Remember the base rules though, provide lots of high quality water, always fill the cattle up before turning them out on fall forage like this and then check them every few hours for the first few days! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Fall Alfalfa Weevil Management

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I remember a spring, long, long ago when it wasn't always a given that we'd have to treat for alfalfa weevils. There were some springs that we were able to get by without spraying at all. Well, let's face it, those days are long gone. In today's world it's not a matter of if we'll have to spray for alfalfa weevils, but when and can we get by with just one treatment! It's helpful to remember the biology of the alfalfa weevil. Yet this fall, until it gets really cold, the females will be out laying eggs in the stems of the alfalfa plant. Then she'll burrow into the soil and debris at the base of the plants to survive winter. Sometimes as early as late February they'll get active and start laying eggs again. Spraying for the adult weevils in the fall just hasn't proven to be consistently effective because the egg laying season can be spread over such a long period of time. We do know that in another few weeks the fall egg laying will be done for this year. After that, anything you can do to remove those alfalfa stems will help reduce at least the early season weevil hatch and feeding. The females will get active in the spring and do some more egg laying, but those eggs will hatch later in the spring than fall laid eggs. Removing old growth by haying after frost can help. Grazing cattle on the field after frost can be very effective at destroying the eggs in the stems and even trampling some of the hibernating weevils. Burning the alfalfa field can be effective, but difficult to do. Rolling has been done but grazing the field post frost seems to be the most effective method of destroying those eggs! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.