

## Hessian Fly

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I harp on Hessian Fly every year. And very few folks listen to me because they don't readily see Hessian Fly damage. Leaf rust or wheat streak mosaic or barley yellow dwarf is readily visible. You can drive by on the road and pick out fields with a bad case of any of these diseases. It really is that obvious. But Hessian Fly, unless you have a really bad case of it, or unless you spend time walking fields and paying really close attention, you'll never see. Hessian Flies get active in August and September, usually even into October. They tiny little fragile fly emerges after rain or even fog, like that Saturday morning a week ago, and flies around to find seedling wheat, laying her eggs in the grooves of the leaves. In a few days the tiny larvae hatch and move down into the sheath of the leaf and down towards the base of the plant where the larvae feed on the sap of the wheat plant for 1 to 4 weeks. Shoots that are infested aren't really obvious at first but they are stunted. In severe cases they will be killed. Secondary tillers may come up yet that fall or next spring. They can also be infested. Here's where the subtle losses start to add up. Secondary tillers yield less than primary tillers. Tillers stunted but not killed are far more prone to lodging. Planting varieties with some resistance can help as can planting after the fly free date of October 5<sup>th</sup>. The jury is still out on how much help systemic insecticidal seed treatments are, but if you insist on planting early, I'd use them. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Gypsum vs Lime

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. When you've been around agriculture and crop production long enough, you keep seeing the same things go round and round and round. Put a new label on it, put a new pretty face on the advertisement and it will sell. With that said let me quickly add that what I'm about to talk about does have some value, under some situations, to some producers. But just remember that every advertisement is designed to sell something.

Know what you need and don't buy anything unless you know it will be of benefit to you. We all know what lime is and we use it when we need to. Gypsum, also known as calcium carbonate. It is a mineral mined in Kansas. It is used to make sheet rock. It is also a byproduct in coal powered electrical generation known as FGD - flue gas desulfurization where sulfur is removed from air emissions and can be applied to soil. Both lime and gypsum can add calcium to the soil. We honestly don't have a big problem with calcium deficiency in our soils. Lime is used to raise the soil pH of acid soils. Gypsum, even though it contains sulfur and calcium, does not affect soil pH. You have to use elemental sulfur to lower soil pH. The only place we probably need to use gypsum in Kansas is to remediate sodic soils, or high salt soils. We don't have sodic soils around here. Bottom line is that while there are a lot of folks pushing gypsum right now, there are probably not a lot of places that we can justify it. Even though a ton of gypsum contains 320 pounds of sulfur, it simply isn't a good choice to add sulfur to soils which we do need. There are better options. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Calibrate Yield Monitors

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I recently had the chance to visit with some corporate officials that are looking at bringing high tech high end business concepts to agriculture. Sure, we may scoff at this concept and challenge what high end corporate executives know about agriculture, but they know that they don't know. But they do know about costs of production, or what they would call business costs. These are executives that took high end companies to a new level by figuring out how to save an extra penny here and there. These guys also know about technology and what they have figured out is that a lot of you producers have yield monitors and you watch them to see how moisture and yield are going and you maybe collect data and that's about the end of it. These companies are going to be bringing some new concepts to agriculture and it'll include less about getting the entire field to yield better but more about getting the best possible yield from each acre, which could mean applying less fertilizer in some cases. But the first step is that you have to take the time to calibrate your yield monitors so you have some valid data. And then actually moving that data from the monitor to the computer so you can start trying to figure out what you've got. Now don't ask me to help you calibrate that yield monitor. That's not my job - talk to the whiz kids at the dealership. But when you're ready to start trying to make sense out of those yield maps or figuring out what the term benchmarking means and how you can use it, then I'll be there to step in and help you figure it out. Because a penny a bushel, may be a big thing soon! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.