

Stripe Rust Alert

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. After a dry spring and not much rain, all of a sudden we've got a serious rust potential that has developed. Late last week stripe rust exploded up through the central corridor of the state including Geary and surrounding counties. Any rust disease needs humidity and free moisture to spread and infect. Stripe rust is favored exactly by the temperatures that we've been seeing. Now, don't rush out and line up spraying immediately. There's some things to consider first. Let's start with yield potential. Unless you think that the field has at least a 40 bu/ac yield potential don't even consider going any further down the road. Fungicide applications are going to run \$12 to \$15 per acre for generics up to \$25 to \$30 per acre for the top brand names. Given the expected yield response to fungicides, you need to be at or above the 40 bushel threshold to justify the expense. Secondly, what variety is planted? Some varieties seem to be holding up well while others have lost stripe rust resistance. Next, are you finding rust in your field. If you find rust in your field and more than just 1 or 2% and you have favorable disease development weather, then spraying may be justified. Fungicides are going to last about 3 weeks and the goal is to protect the flag leaf. Spraying before full flag leaf emergence is not recommended. Postpone spraying as long as possible but get it done by flowering and then be sure to pay close attention to harvest restrictions. Give me a call if you have questions! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Fill Out the Surveys Please!

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Last week I had two interesting ah-ha moments, or perhaps more of "there you go moments". I had a landowner contact me to see what pasture rental rates were. As I do I checked the latest bluestem pasture rental rates bulletin, now almost two years old, made some adjustments and told the landowner what I felt a good starting range was. The land owner scoffed and said that they were getting twice that and further added that the ag statistics service was always way out of line. I responded that the information they sent out was only as good as the information that they collected from landowners and land renters. Again I received a scoff and a response of "I never bother to fill those things out." Does anyone else see a conflict here? A few days later I was at our annual ag agents spring workshop and we were listening to the northern plains national ag statistics service regional director. Dean was lamenting the fact that of the 12 NASS regions, his had the worst non return rate of farmer surveys. Okay, I hate surveys and reports as much as you do. I have to fill out a weekly crop conditions and progress report. And I am proud of the fact that I have several years of perfect return rate. I don't think a lot of you realize how many big companies put a lot of trust in those reports that you may or may not be filling out. Their actions have serious consequences on your farming operation. It is to your benefit to fill out those surveys when you get them from NASS. Do not tell me their reports are garbage and in the next sentence tell me you never fill out the surveys. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soybean seed treatments

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If there aren't soybeans in the ground already, there soon will be. There's been an ongoing, shall we say, discussion, over the past several years regarding whether there are any benefits to fungicidal soybean seed treatments. Deep down inside, even without overwhelming statistically valid evidence, I've been leaning towards the camp of saying, do it! Keep that thought in mind. We haven't seen much soybean cyst nematode issues in Geary County and subsequently we haven't seen a lot of SDS or soybean sudden death syndrome yet in the county. Both have been confirmed in the county, but as we continue to grow more and more soybeans, we will see more of both. Cyst nematode we know how to deal with or at least minimize the issues of nematode through using resistant varieties. SDS is another issue however. K-State has been doing some studies on the impact of different seed treatments on SDS. Experimental and labeled seed treatments were used on susceptible to resistant soybean varieties in fields with high SDS occurrence. Results showed that these seed treatments, especially some of the as yet unlabeled seed treatments showed significant positive results. Even though some of these products aren't available yet, I think it points out that there are potential benefits from using soybean seed treatments. I still stand by what I've been saying in recent years. If you are planting soybeans in the first half of May, use a seed treatment. If you are planting in no-till conditions the last half of May, use seed treatments. If you are planting in June, it may not matter. But, given the relatively minimal cost of seed treatments, why not use them anytime? This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.