

### Wheat Variety Selection

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This is the time of year that we are thinking about fall wheat planting and trying to decide which varieties we want to plant this fall. The wheat variety test plot results are slowly coming on line and the annual publication should be out pretty soon. What I can tell you about this year's wheat variety test plot results is to treat them with caution. We've got stuff all over the board this year and this year was far from normal. Take a glance at this year's yields. Look at the stuff that was in the top yield group. Make some mental notes for possible future varieties from this. But for making changes, look at multiple year averages. Consider all options when selecting your varieties. Sometimes producers are only interested in what has the best disease resistance. That's trying to hit a moving target for sure. A better approach, in my opinion, is to use varieties that have critical disease resistance, like soil borne mosaic and then look for varieties that have historically had good yield potential but whose leaf disease resistance has fallen a little bit in recent years. Then be prepared to just treat with a fungicide at or slightly ahead of flowering to control those leaf diseases. Remember, this year it paid big dividends when those moderately resistant varieties were treated with fungicides. It means monitoring conditions to the south to know when disease pressure is building, but that's okay, I'm here to help. So, take a look at those variety test results. Make some notes, and start making plans! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Basal Bark control of large pasture trees

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. About middle to late June is when I essentially encourage pasture managers to hang up the brush spraying equipment for the summer. By late June the growth stage of most shrub species plus the physical characteristics of the leaf pretty much make it really tough to get good control on woody shrubs. So hang up the spray handguns until it's time to spray sericea. However, starting in mid-July we can enter a new phase of wood control in pastures. From mid-July thru January is a great time to do basal bark treatment as well as cut stump or frill applications. I'll be honest - basal bark treatment can be kind of messy. You are generally using Remedy Ultra or PastureGard HL as a 25% mix in diesel oil or kerosene. Then you thoroughly spray the bottom couple feet of trees all the way around - basically to the point where it's just starting to run off. While it's messy, here's the really good thing about it. It is probably the best way to kill hedge and locust without getting root sprouts or at least not very many root sprouts. I don't care what you use, if you cut a locust or hedge off and treat the stump, anytime of year, you will get re-sprouting and root sprouts. By doing a basal bark treatment and then waiting until a year from now to cut the tree down, most if not all of those problems are gone. You treat it now or this fall. Then you wait until late next summer and fall when you can tell that the tree is in fact dead, and then you cut it down. Yes, I know it's harder to cut a dead locust or hedge than a live one, but take your choice - a tough cut, or constant retreating of sprouts? This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soil tested lately?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The difference between a good manager and a great manager are often paying attention to the little things. Being able to garner a few extra dollars of profit per head or an extra bushel or two of yield per acre is often all it sometimes takes to switch between just breaking even to making a profit. So paying attention to the little things can often have a big benefit. Soil testing is one of those little things. I do not believe that you have to soil test every single year. I do think it's a good idea to soil test at least every 2 or 3 years. Soil pH and phosphorus levels move slowly so this is often enough to keep track of changes there. I do feel that it is imperative to soil test every time you are getting ready to plant a new field of alfalfa. I've seen too many issues with new alfalfa fields in recent years from low soil pH or low phosphorus levels. A simple basic test can detect these potential problems in a hurry and allow corrective action to be taken prior to planting. If you are planting new alfalfa this fall, get that soil test taken NOW. In wheat fields, I'm far less concerned about soil pH, but phosphorus levels are a potential issue. OR a place to save a few bucks if you have high enough phosphorus levels that negate the need for starter fertilizer. When you stop and think about what 50 or 100 pounds of starter fertilizer costs - that could easily be somewhere between 10 and 20 bucks an acre saved if you have high phosphorus levels. So take the time to get into those wheat fields that you have tested in a few years and get some soil samples pulled. As for testing for nitrogen, after May and June, I wouldn't. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.