

Ag Radio programs for July 6 - 12, 2015

Green Stubble Fields

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Gee, you get a couple of dry weeks and wheat harvest explodes on you! I've seen a lot of stubble fields and boy are they turning green in a hurry. That's no surprise and not a big priority right now. BUT, there is potential trouble lurking out in those fields. Most fields had at least a few areas that died early due to wet soil conditions. Some of these areas weren't even harvested. In other cases they were harvested but those lightweight seeds that died early just blew right through the combine. But here's the thing about those lightweight little seeds. They can still sprout and grow. Those plants, as well as a lot of those weedy grasses like foxtail and crabgrass, can harbor potential pests like wheat curl mite that carries wheat streak mosaic. Yes, I see some wheat streak mosaic every year so it is around here. That volunteer wheat can also serve as a green bridge for Hessian Fly. We had fields that had Hessian Fly this year and some of those fields may have lost as much as 5 to 10% of their yield. I'm not going to worry too much about those weedy fields during July. I'm not even going to worry much about them through most of August. But to reduce the risk of insect and disease issues building up or even just surviving during summer, we need that green bridge gone two weeks before wheat planting in that field or adjacent fields. If you till the field, then about two weeks before planting is enough. If you are planning on doing it with herbicides. Add 14 days to that two weeks for the herbicides to work. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Seed Treatments

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. To my knowledge we didn't have any issues right around here with Flat Smut. We see other kinds of smut or bunt every year in the wheat crop, but I think we dodged the flag smut. But here's my point. Any of the smuts or bunts, and that includes flag smut, are easily and cheaply preventable with seed treatments. Virtually all of the seed treatments will work on the smuts as well as many of the seedling diseases that can hurt a young germinating stand in October. We are not talking a big expense here. We are usually talking less than a bushel per acre of value. It isn't that expensive. If you are buying your seed wheat from the elevator or a dealer, don't think twice, just ask that it be treated. If you are using your own seed, then take it to an approved seed conditioner, have it cleaned, to improve test weight, and then have it treated. Everyone used to do drill box treatments on their wheat. While we can still buy drill box treatments, and the fungicides in them are effective, the problem becomes one of proper distribution so that all the seeds have the treatment on them. You quite honestly just can't do an effective job of adding a seed treatment IN the drill box as you load it. You will end up with a lot of untreated seed. Those smut diseases infect the plant as it is germinating. We are protecting the germinating plant so that the smuts don't infect it. With all that's going on with the treatments and the diseases they protect against, the question should no longer be ARE you treating your wheat seed, but rather why AREN'T you treating your wheat seed? This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Weeds in RR Soybean Fields

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Weed control is going to be a challenge in our soybean fields this year. With all the rain early and then the rush to get wheat harvested and the rest of spring planting finished, weeds simply got away from us. The Roundup Ready technology got us a little lazy and now that we are having various herbicide resistant weed issues developing, we need to go back and relearn some old lessons. Any weed is going to be easier to control when it is less than 3 inches tall. Once weeds get over 6 inches tall, they become a challenge to control with any product and glyphosate resistance only makes things worse. Fortunately we have a whole host of post emerge products that we can tank mix with glyphosate to improve control. One thing that will help with any post emerge weed control program that involves glyphosate is to remember to use full rates of glyphosate and also remember to use ammonium sulfate at the rate of 17 lbs per 100 gallons of spray. This helps counteract some of the issues with hard water as well as just an overall improvement of herbicide efficiency. To enhance marestail control, consider adding Classic or Synchrony. Then put a note in the back of your mind to pay more attention with burn down treatments in spring or fall. For velvetleaf consider adding Resource, Cadet, FirstRate, Synchrony and Harmony. Sunflower and cocklebur are still well controlled by glyphosate but multiple flushes of germination before the crop canopies may require multiple treatments. For waterhemp and Palmer amaranth we may have some real problems so give me a call on those! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC,

1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.