

## Stripe Rust Alert, Week 2

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The Stripe Rust situation continues to escalate. If you are out scouting your fields, stripe rust is fairly easy to detect as once the rust pustules show up instead of being scattered randomly across the leaf, they are in nice neat rows or stripes, hence the name. Stripe rust and leaf rust can show up on the same leaf, but right now, all we've been seeing is stripe rust. So far, and this could change tomorrow, the stripe rust has not been on the flag leaf. Remember, the flag leaf is the critical leaf for maximizing yield and test weight. We want to keep that flag leaf as green and photosynthetically active as long as possible. Some fields are now heading out while others are still getting the flag leaf to full emergence. We don't want to treat until that flag leaf is fully emerged, but we need to have treatments, if we are going to use them, applied by flowering. Most of the fungicide products will give good control. I would lean towards the triazole products or the mixed modes of action generally a triazole and strobilurin. Not all fields should be treated, especially this year. If it looks like yield potential is under 40 bu/ac, save your money. It's unlikely that you'll see enough response to pay for it. No varieties are truly resistant to stripe rust and Everest and Armour are well known for their susceptibility. 1863 will get stripe rust but the past few years it hasn't flourished on it - with that said, I have seen stripe rust on 1863 this year. So, keep an eye on your fields and have control options lined up in your best fields. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Is plant analysis accurate or even helpful?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In some parts of the country, tissue analysis is a common practice to determine if crops are being adequately fertilized. In much of Kansas this simply has not yet become a common practice which leads to the question of whether more tissue analysis should be done or if any should be done. Tissue testing, just like soil testing, can be very valid IF it is done right. For example, we are at the time, heading to flowering, that tissue testing could be very helpful. You could go out and randomly collect 40 to 50 flag leaves from a field for analysis. Notice I said random, not all within 100 feet of each other. Walk a zig zag pattern across the field collecting them from all over, not just the best looking or worst looking plants, but a mix of them all. Place these in a paper bag, not a zip lock style bag, and we can send them in to the soils lab at K-State. We then compare the results to a known standard range. Values below the sufficiency range indicate a shortage of nutrients and then we need to figure out if it is a true soil deficiency or production problems, like soil compaction or drought that is preventing the nutrients from getting into the plant. Likewise, values well over the sufficiency range can indicate problems too. High levels can indicate over fertilization OR it can indicate that a plant is trying to compensate for low levels of one nutrient by taking up more of another nutrient - which is what happens with micronutrients sometimes. Like I said, heading is a good time to collect flag leaves for analysis. If you are interested in doing some tissue testing, give me a call and we'll talk about it! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.

## Pasture Rental Rates for 2015

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Earlier this year I had high hopes of seeing a bluestem pasture rental rate report from the ag statistics service this year, but it now appears that this won't happen. In fact it may be several years before we have a true pasture rental rates survey report. I've been hearing of pasture rental rates of anywhere from \$27 to \$70 per acre. The past couple of years per pair rental rates have been running from \$150 to \$225 which, all things considered, is probably well below what they should be. Given the on going good cattle prices, pairs should be going onto grass at \$250 to \$350 and maybe even higher. Cattlemen aren't going to like those rates, but if you are pushing a pencil you know that these aren't out of line. If you are chasing those higher rental rates, a word of warning to closely monitor stocking rates and try to keep them at 8 to 9 acres of grass per pair. While that may seem like a lot of acres, remember that most of our cows and calves are much bigger than they were 25 years ago so stocking rates need to be adjusted accordingly. The other thing to keep in mind is that landlords have ridden rental rates up with the high price of cattle and need to be prepared to let them slide back down when prices finally retract. One final thing - please have a written contract. Don't just state what the rental rate is going to be, indicate how many head or pairs will be allowed in the pasture. State in dates and out dates and maybe include penalties for late removal. Include destocking clauses in case of drought and indicate who is responsible for fence repair, noxious weed control etc. All of these things impact the final rental rate and all too often they are left for granted and that's when problems develop. This has been Ag Outlook on the

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