

Sugar Cane Aphid Update

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Sugar Cane Aphids are out there. They are in every field. In some fields the numbers aren't building up very fast, others are to the point of needing to be sprayed. As I discussed last week, we aren't too concerned, at least this late in the season, with potential yield loss. What we are concerned about is potential harvest issues. When aphids feed you can have honeydew, a sticky substance, produced. Sugarcane aphids cause a LOT of honeydew production. Sugarcane aphids also like to feed up on the plant, not the lower leaves like greenbugs do. So they are feeding on leaves liable to get taken into the combine. Sugarcane aphids will move into the head and feed so you can have honeydew produced in the head as well. When this stuff gets taken into the combine it just starts to coat everything on the inside of the combine and if you have very much of it you have a mess. What we are currently recommending is that if you are finding more than 50 sugarcane aphids per plant that are associated with large amounts of honeydew production and this is on 30% of the plants, you need to get it sprayed. Even if you appear to be getting to physiological maturity or black layer and are starting to get a lot of colonies in the heads with heavy honeydew, you probably need to get it sprayed. So far we are recommending two different insecticides. Transform is from Dow Agro and Sivanto from Bayer are the products that have been used most in Kansas so far. If you have any questions about SCA, call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Planting Wheat for Grazing

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 talked about good or at least acceptable wheat varieties if you want to graze. This morning I want to talk about general management of wheat planted for grazing, especially grazing and grain harvest. You want to plant wheat about mid September so you can start grazing as soon as possible. Since ultimately you are liable to lose some tillers to the grazing pressure I like to plant a little bit higher rates on fields you're going to graze. Increase rates about 15 to 20%. Remember it is critical to get that seed at the right depth. About 1.5 inches is probably ideal. It may be more critical with fields to be grazed as you need to get a good root system established early to keep the wheat from being pulled out. Shallow planted wheat will have problems getting a good root system developed. If you are considering using an insecticide seed treatment, check the label first for grazing restrictions. Some won't let you graze, some you have to wait 30 or 45 days. I like to see more fertilizer applied for fields to be grazed. In addition to the normal starter fertilizer you will want to apply 30 to 50 pounds of nitrogen before or shortly after planting. You need to be careful not to get too much nitrogen in direct seed contact. But broadcasting before, especially on clean tilled fields, and then planted through can work good. Or fertilize shortly after planting, ideally just ahead of a rain. The as the early season growth gets going take time to check fences or get fences up. Normally we figure 6 to 8 weeks after planting you can start grazing. But go and try pulling up a few plants first! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Hessian Fly Management

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Over the years there has been so much misinformation out there about Hessian Fly I think most wheat producers simply tune it out. But Hessian Fly is still a serious pest in wheat. I see some damage every year and I fear that the situation is ripe for a total train wreck in some fields. Sadly, the damage can be so subtle a producer may never know that they have it and still lose 10 to 15% of their yield. There's a few ways to help reduce the impact of Hessian Fly starting with planting varieties that have at least some Hessian Fly resistance and planting at the best management planting date, which for around here is probably in that October 10 to 15 time frame. Fly free dates are misleading and only indicate when peak emergence is likely to occur. We can have fly activity clear in to November most years. The old days of plowing under wheat stubble certainly reduced populations as did burning stubble, but for many other reasons, I don't recommend either. What I do recommend is crop rotation and not planting wheat into wheat stubble. While they can travel, they don't like to fly very far. Likewise though, controlling volunteer wheat so it's dead two weeks prior to planting can sure help. Finally, consider using insecticide seed treatments. Studies have shown that these treatments may provide up to 30 days of protection against Hessian Fly and other insect pests. An extra 30 days just gives us that much more time to shut down Hessian Fly egg laying in the fall. But regardless, be advised that Hessian Fly is a real and ever present threat to wheat production! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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