

Ag Radio programs for September 28 - October 4, 2015

Why so many pigweeds this year?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. First thing, a reminder of the Grain Sorghum Field Day next Friday in Manhattan. Call me at the Extension office for more details or to get registered. There's a lot of weeds in soybean fields this year and wheat stubble fields and just about everywhere for that matter. I'm sure many folks are blaming it all on glyphosate resistance. Well, there is that, but that's not quite all of it! Glyphosate resistant populations of Palmer amaranth and waterhemp have been increasing dramatically all across the state. Palmer amaranth resistance has been around for a while but waterhemp is a little bit more recent of a development. It isn't going away and it's only going to become more widespread. We also had to deal with wet weather in May and early June. This caused us to plant later than desired, we weren't able to get timely application of burn down products or early preplant herbicides OR, we got the herbicides on at normal time just before it turned off wet. Six weeks later when we got started planting, many of the herbicides were wearing off just as the beans emerged. Normally we would have started to get some good canopy cover to suppress weed development. All of this points to the need for a multipronged weed control approach in future years. We'll be having a special clinic on dealing with herbicide resistant weed populations in January so plan to attend. I'll continue to talk about it but just plan on using a pre plant/pre emerge product and if you don't use a pre, don't call me! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Wheat Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We do a fair amount of talking about corn and soybean populations, a little about sorghum populations, but rarely do I hear anyone talking about wheat populations. People are always asking me how many pounds per acre should they be planting. I feel that there is a general belief that all wheat seed is the same size when it really isn't. In general wheat seed is assumed to be 15,000 seeds per pound, in reality it can easily range from 12,000 to 17,000 and extremes would be 10,000 for big seeded varieties clear down to 20,000 for small seeded varieties or light test weight wheat. We probably should be planting 1.2 to 1.3 million seeds per acre to make sure we get the 800,000 to one million plants per acre we need most years. At the average 15,000 seeds per pound we would need 80 pounds of seed per acre to make that 1.2 million seeding rate. If we have a small seeded variety that's coming in at 17,000 seeds per pound we'd only need 70 pounds. But if we have a big seeded variety at 12,500 seeds per pound we'd need 96 pounds of seed per acre. Fortunately, a lot of seeds fall in that 14,000 to 15,000 seeds per pound range. And under good growing conditions wheat has the ability to adjust to varying populations. But I really think we need to spend a little bit more time paying attention to seed size and actual seeding rates. We may be looking to disease or fertility issues as to why yield wasn't where we wanted it when we should be looking at our seeding rate and drill calibration instead. Then there's also that whole seed depth placement issue..... This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Fertilizing Cool Season Grasses

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I wish I had a dollar for every time a producer has commented that their fertilizer application on their bromegrass just hasn't been doing them any good. I'm convinced that most producers are fertilizing their bromegrass too late and they frequently aren't putting on enough fertilizer or the right fertilizer blend to do the most good. If you want to fertilize twice a year, you should be putting on 40 pounds of nitrogen and 10 pounds of phosphorus right now. Then the rest in a few months. But most producers want to fertilize just once. That's fine, I can understand why. But if you want to do a little late season grazing you need to fertilize now and that goes for fescue as well as bromegrass. Okay, I'm convinced that we aren't getting fertilizer applied in a timely fashion. Years of studies have shown a slight edge, and I mean just a few hundred pounds difference, from a February application versus a November application. The problem is that too many years the February application all of a sudden becomes a late March or April application because of weather problems. So let's aim to get those brome fields fertilized in November or very early December. Next, let's pull a soil sample to see where our phosphorus levels are. Many times an apparent non response to nitrogen is because phosphorus levels are so low. In the absence of a soil test, we should be applying 80 to 120 pounds of nitrogen, 25 to 30 pounds of phosphorus and 10 pounds of sulfur. Do that this November, then let's see what next year's brome crop looks like! I think you'll see a difference. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.