

Good Wheats for Grazing

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I was visiting with a producer the other day and we started talking about good wheat varieties for grazing. Grazing wheat is not something that a lot of folks around here do, but if you have cattle I really think it's something that more folks should consider. You can get some good late fall and early spring grazing and if you pay attention you can get the cattle off in time so as not to adversely affect yield. The ideal grazing wheat would have good fall forage production, as well as Hessian Fly and Wheat Streak mosaic resistance. Those last two are both challenges that planting early we may have to deal with. Afterall, you want to get grazing wheat planted around September 15th to 20th and that's going to put you right in the prime season for Hessian Fly. So here's the list of all the available varieties that have excellent hessian fly and wheat streak mosaic resistance and outstanding fall forage production..... yup that's about it! So we take a step back and realize that anything we plant is likely to have some weak points. So we'll focus on excellent, good or average forage production and hopefully a little bit of the other traits. Afterall, if cattle prices are good and the wheat only looks so so, you can always forego the grain and graze it out. At the top of the list I'm going to have to put 1863, Duster and Garrison. In the next tier of good forage producers I'm going to consider Armour and Gallagher and for the average I'd put Everest and Fuller. Call if you have questions! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Sugarcane Aphid

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Sugarcane aphids are out there. I haven't seen huge numbers yet, late last week it was 10 - 20/plant, but they have been found in Marion and Dickinson County as well as Riley. So they are here! These rascals are unlike other aphids we've dealt with in the past. First of all their numbers can explode in very short order. We have a lot of beneficial insects that feed on sugarcane aphids but aphid numbers can grow to serious thresholds before the beneficials have time to build up numbers for control. In more southern locations or in later planted sorghum, their feeding damage can result in yield loss. But even clear up to black layer, or physiological maturity, buildups of sugarcane aphids can cause problems. Sugarcane aphids cause a much larger amount of honeydew than other aphids, a lot more honeydew. If you remember back to times when we've had to deal with sorghum ergot, that's another condition that can cause issues with honeydew like compounds. What has happened in southern states with heavy sugarcane aphid infestations is that the inside of the combine can get so coated with that stuff that it gums everything up reducing the amount of grain that gets into the bin, and has even been known to cause thousands of dollars of damage to combines. If you didn't grow milo at all this year, count your lucky stars! IF you do have milo this year, get out there and start checking fields every few days. If you start to see leaves glistening with a lot of honeydew, call me ASAP so we can check treatment levels. All it takes is about 30% plants with infestations to start spraying! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of

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Controlling tall thick stands of weeds in wheat stubble

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I don't know if any of you have noticed but we have some wheat stubble fields that have some weeds in them. In some cases a lot of weeds and some really big weeds. Even if you were thinking about tilling these fields, you will probably need to get these weeds knocked down and dried out, but I suspect most folks are wanting to stay with a no till approach. For most I suspect that glyphosate will be included in the mix to control grasses but we know that with the amount of pigweeds out there, we need more than just glyphosate. What we use is going to depend on what is next for that stubble field. If you are going back into wheat this fall then you need to watch recropping intervals. 2,4-D and dicamba have anywhere from 7 to 45 days before wheat planting depending on the rates used. Gramoxone formerly known as paraquat, has been giving some pretty good results this summer also, although it can be a pain to work with! If you are going to corn or sorghum next spring then throw some atrazine in the mix as well. Now the disclaimers and the items to keep in mind. If you've got a lot of big weeds, nothing's going to work great. Regardless of what you are using you will want to be applying 20 gallons per acre or more of spray solution. You've to get as much of that weed wetted as possible to optimize control. Also, if you have let those weeds get really big, they will have produced seed. Once that seed is mature there is no herbicide out there that will sterilize it or make it so it won't germinate. I tell you that as a reminder that you will be facing these same weeds next year. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.