

### Roundup Ready 2 Xtend status

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We've been talking for sometime about some of the new traits that were coming along in the crops for advanced herbicide resistance. One that has a lot of people excited, for the opportunity to control glyphosate resistant weeds, is the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans with crop resistance to glyphosate AND dicamba. USDA deregulated these soybeans a year ago but they weren't released pending approval by China to allow import of dicamba resistant oilseeds. Obviously the Chinese market is of great interest in soybeans so things have been sitting tight. Earlier this year China did finally grant approval for the import of dicamba tolerant oilseeds which finally cleared the way for Monsanto to start selling these. Except for one little holdup, that being the fact that the EPA has not yet approved the use of any dicamba products for use on Roundup Ready 2 Xtend crops. In a nutshell, you can plant the RR2X soybeans, but you can not use dicamba on the growing crop. You can use it as a burndown but you have to follow the waiting periods before planting. And before you think you're going to plant them and use dicamba anyway, let me just say that it isn't worth the risk and possible huge fines or crop embargo. I can spot dicamba treated weeds driving down the road at 60 so it'd be a pretty easy thing to figure out. EPA's public comment period goes through the end of April. After that time the EPA will evaluate everything and I don't expect to see anything out of EPA until fall. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Drought impact on wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As you can imagine I've been looking at a lot of wheat the past few weeks. I've also been getting a lot of questions about dying wheat and how much of it is drought. It is actually quite easy, at this stage, to separate drought stress from plants dying from other causes. And the nickel tour version is this - if the wheat is right now turning yellow and brown and appears to be going from green to dead, it probably isn't drought. Drought damage is going to be showing up as rolling leaves and a bluish cast to the plants. The leaves, including the flag leaf, will roll up and depending on how severe the drought stress is, may or may not unroll over night. As you drive slowly past the field you'll see areas that appear a much darker color at some angles to the sun and very blue at other angles. It takes quite a while before a drought stressed plant actually starts to die as the moisture stress has slowed down all the physiological processes in the plant. When plants in parts of your field appear to be going backwards and leaves are dying, I would be very suspect of seed placement issues. Go out and start digging around the base of these plants. Look at root development and seed placement. If the seed isn't at least an inch below the soil surface you are probably going to find a very poor root system and the plant is going to die from that. If we were having rain the plant wouldn't look nearly as bad, but it would still be stunted. In this weather, these plants are going to die from lack of moisture due to a poor root system from not having been planted deep enough. But it wasn't drought damage. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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## Weed control strategies in grain sorghum

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We are still 4 to 6 weeks away from grain sorghum planting time but we need to be getting our weed control planned out and in place. Roundup ready technology has moved many producers completely out of grain sorghum production but with glyphosate resistant pigweeds becoming a bigger issue AND dry weather on the horizon, I'd encourage many of you to not forget grain sorghum completely. Right now is a crucial time in your grain sorghum weed control program. If you have winter annual grasses, the cheat grasses if you will, then you need to get these controlled before they get any further along in seed production. Seed prevention is still a crucial part of a weed control program that we've become way to lax about. If you know or strongly suspect that glyphosate resistant pigweeds are in your field you really need to include a residual product with your burndown herbicide. A pound of atrazine would be an excellent option as long as you don't have atrazine resistant pigweeds. If that's the case then atrazine plus metolachlor. Another option is two ounces of Valor applied 30 days or more prior to sorghum planting. The only caveat on this is that in addition to the 30 day waiting period before planting you also need one inch of rainfall. I may not normally worry about that but this year.... Valor has a different mode of action than glyphosate or atrazine so it will be effective in controlling pigweed populations resistant to either or both of these herbicides. So figure out your weed issues and get a plan in place so you can get those burndowns and residuals applied. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.