Ag Radio programs for April 25 - May 1, 2016

Stripe Rust Alert

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, we all got the rain that we wanted, which the wheat really needed, and so you know what that means now, yup, rust! Specifically, at this time, stripe rust and it has a potential to really kick some yield out of these fields. Had this been two years ago it would have been a very easy thing to simply say, get it sprayed. But we had $8 wheat then versus $4 wheat now. The economics between the two becomes very different. You need to go through a whole host of decisions here to come up with whether you should be applying fungicides. First and foremost is the variety in the field susceptible or resistant to stripe rust. Call me up and with your variety names and I can tell you. Secondly, is the disease even in your field. In particular we want to protect the flag leaf and we shouldn't even spray until the flag leaf is fully emerged. Then we start looking for those distinctive long yellow streaks down lower leaves, with or without rust pustules. So we now have a susceptible variety planted and there is stripe rust in the field and the flag leaves are fully emerged, in fact the field is probably already starting to head. The final decision is what are the yield prospects in that field. It's hard to settle on a single number but I'd say if the yield potential appears to be less than 40 bushels per acre, don't bother spraying. If the field is looking really good then spraying would probably be in order. But remember, we need the flag leaf fully emerged. Give me a call if you want me to look at your fields! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Recommended Soybean Maturity group and Planting Date

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Agronomists and statisticians sometimes join forces and come up with some really interesting statistics. One I found recently was that since 1980, the average date of planting soybeans has moved a full week earlier. The driving force behind this is likely due to soybean producers figuring out which maturity group they should be planting and when it is going to yield the best. So we'll leave the statisticians behind at this point and just move on with the agronomists. It appears that the ideal time for soybean planting in our area is May 15th to June 15th and in early years, as this seems to be, and since we are on the north edge of this zone, we may even want to move that start date up to May 5th. I'm not going to argue with anyone on that. Now, here is where I find things getting interesting. We are also in the part of the state that is recommended that we plant maturity group IV beans. I'll take this a step further and suggest that a 3.8 to 4.3 maturity group is about where we need to be and most producers I talk to seem to be falling right in line with that. Recent studies at Manhattan have continued to look at this by planting early, mid, and late maturity group beans meaning group 3.0, 3.7 and 4.5, were planted planted in late April, mid May and early June. Basically, the mid and late maturity groups were equally productive across all three planting dates. So, get the rest of your corn planted, if you haven't already, then gear up and get ready to start planting those soybeans in about another week. And if you have any maturity group beans earlier than about a 3.5, see if you can exchange them! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

Planning ahead for forage needs

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We never know what the summer is going to be like in regards to forage production. We've had several good years of grass and hay production and we haven't been short of forage. But all it takes is one dry summer and we could be back to a world of hurt. One thing that isn't done nearly often enough in my opinion is putting up wheat straw that can be ammoniated to improve quality. You want to be careful feeding ammoniated straw to stockers or feedlot cattle, but for dry pregnant cows or carefully fed to stockers, it can be a very effective way to stretch forage supplies. That means, of course, that you manage wheat harvest in such a way as to facilitate baling the wheat straw later on. It's just a simple case of planning ahead. One other thing that we need to plan ahead on and do much more of, is grazing crop residue, particularly corn and sorghum stover in the fall and early winter. These crop residues can provide several months of excellent nutrition at a time when pregnant cows especially have a fairly low nutritional need. Not only does it provide cheap maintenance, but it also helps reduce the stover load out in those fields, enhances break down of those stalks in no-till fields and can even reduce the amount of material blowing out and filling up those road ditches. I know a lot of landowners are concerned about soil compaction from the cattle but let me challenge that thinking just a little. Other than right around watering locations, I propose that the large equipment that we are using today causes much more compaction problems than grazing livestock. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.