

The honeymoon is over

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We had a great meeting last week on dealing with herbicide resistant weeds. I think Curtis summed it up well with a couple of phrases. The first was, "The honeymoon is over". When the roundup ready technology rolled out in 1996 it sort of tied in with an explosion of soybean and corn acres and a rapid decline in wheat and sorghum acres. That was for one particularly simple reason, weed control. Plant the crop, spray glyphosate a couple of times and harvest. Life was good, life was easy. While there are still a lot of weeds that glyphosate works very well on, we now have enough other weed species that are resistant to it and therefore we need to be looking at other options. The other phrase the Curtis used at the meeting is, "Use a pre or don't call me." What he was saying in essence was that you need to use a preplant or pre-emerge herbicide because there weren't many options for spraying pigweeds after they are already up. The days of rolling into a field that has 2 and 3 foot tall pigweeds and expecting control are gone, or they soon will be. Liberty Link technology so far is holding up, simply because it hasn't been used as heavily. But even still, you need to be treating small weeds, preferably 2 to 3 inches tall, maximum. One of the real challenges is that especially in beans, pigweeds grow really fast. They can go from seedlings to 4 inches tall in about 4 days. So once you see those weeds coming, regardless of what you are using, you'd better get out and get them sprayed NOW! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Weed MANAGEMENT

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I loved the roundup ready technology. It made my job really easy for nearly 20 years. It made your job easy too. But now, with the growing amount of herbicide resistant weed populations, we have to relearn a concept known as weed MANAGEMENT. Weed management isn't herbicides and herbicides only. They are one tool, but they aren't the only tool. A tool that has nearly been forgotten is crop rotation. Which is going to bring a bunch of cries of, but I do rotate my crops. Yes you do, roundup ready corn to roundup ready soybeans back to roundup ready corn. Do you see a recurring theme here? I really like a four crop rotation. I'm sorry that some of you feel that grain sorghum is a noxious weed, but I still think that it has a place in most farm's rotations. What we need to do is to make sure that we are using multiple modes of action in whatever crop we are growing and then as we rotate from crop to crop, we also rotate herbicide mode of action. I'll be honest - pigweeds are starting to scare the heck out of me. Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp have been documented with resistance to six different herbicide mode of actions. Fortunately not all of these are in Kansas, yet, but this is a wind pollinated plant and pollen will carry the resistance. So let's all start going back a few years and learning how to manage our weeds again. I'm not about to recommend everyone go back to preplant tillage and cultivation, at least not yet, but let's start paying a little bit more attention to the critical aspects of weed control in our crop fields! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Last day to terminate leases is almost here

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you are an agricultural land owner and you absolutely want to make sure that you can change tenants, and if you have an oral lease agreement, then you have to give written notice to that tenant by Sunday, January 31st. That notice to terminate needs to be in the tenants hand, not merely postmarked by that date. That notice has to specify the land to which you are referring and it has to set the termination date as March 1st, except for acres planted to wheat. The lease on those acres terminates the day after the last day of harvest. Sometimes landowners and tenants ask if they also have to have a new lease worked out by January 31st and the answer is no. You can work out a new lease or acquire a new tenant anytime. But if you and your tenant do not agree on new terms prior to January 31st, you won't be able to terminate them until next year and the terms of the old lease continue on for another year. On February 1st of this year you could serve notice that their lease will terminate March 1 of 2017. That would preclude them from planting wheat this fall. Well, actually they could plant wheat but since you'd already given proper notice they don't have the right to harvest the wheat. Of course, if tenant and landlord agree on just about anything, then a lot of these deadlines don't matter. The 30 days prior to March 1st really becomes an issue if the dispute goes to court, which we hope doesn't happen, but trust me, sometimes they do. So hurry about and get those notices delivered or simply know that you'll be working with the same tenant for another year! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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