

## Sugar Cane Aphid

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Last summer grain sorghum growers got their first chance to see sugar cane aphids and what they can do. We were fortunate that they built up late in the season and we had beneficial insects that took pretty good care of them and then they were gone well before harvest and when they quit feeding, the super sticky honeydew that they produce went away too so we didn't have much of a problem at harvest time. There were scattered losses in spots in fields but not too bad. Our friends in south Texas are already fighting them this year and they have been bad. What this means is that plenty of insects to the south of us and southerly breezes, we will have sugar cane aphids again this year. What they have seen in Texas is that losses can reach over \$60 per acre. They can be controlled, although our insecticide choices may be very limited this year. Through proper timing and treatment every dollar spent on controlling sugar cane aphids can yield \$4.50 in crops protected. We will be monitoring for this pest very intently this summer, in fact I spent an entire day in Manhattan last week on more training specifically about sugar cane aphids. Once we start to detect them in the area regular scouting will be crucial. And when I say regular I mean every 2 to 3 days. These populations can build up very quickly and that's why they are dangerous. Eventually beneficials will catch up with them, but in the meantime they can do a lot of damage especially late in the season, so stay tuned for updates! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Treating Brush in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The last report I saw it looks like Geary County burned roughly half of our native pasture acres this year. That's pretty good, although some of the areas that really need to burn, still haven't. Anyway, May is moving by quickly and we'll soon be on time to treat brush in pastures. One thing that I have to bring up every year is that burning a pasture and treating brush in that pasture the same year frequently doesn't work especially if the brush was top killed. If the stand of grass was so poor that a fire didn't go through the brush, then you can treat it like it wasn't burned. The key for good brush control is the right herbicide used at the right time with good thorough coverage using the proper application technique. Taking the latter first, a mist blower is not a proper brush control sprayer. Use a handgun or if the brush is short enough, mainly buckbrush, then you can use a boom over the top. You want to spray right at full leaf stage so this year that will be a little earlier than normal. If you want one time frame, aim for the last few days of May and the first week of June. Specifically buckbrush can be sprayed now, plum late May to mid June, dogwood mid May to mid June and sumac, mid to late June. As for herbicides to use, if you want one thing for all species, make sure that it has triclopyr in it, like Crossbow, Remedy or Trycera. If you are going after dogwood, which may be our hardest to kill then I'd consider picloram plus triclopyr which could be Grazon P+D plus Remedy. Apply with good thorough spray, use adjuvants if called for but no diesel fuel! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Alfalfa Weevils

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've had a lot of calls the past couple of weeks asking me what the heck is going on with the alfalfa weevils. My response is, I don't know! The up and down weather has resulted in a year when we have now had weevil larvae active for ten weeks. It's insane, I've never seen that before. With the cooler weather we've been having lately, I don't see where the adults are going to be leaving fields anytime soon. Fortunately, while the adults will continue to feed the amount of damage they do may be less than we've previously thought. With that said however, I wouldn't blame anyone for wanting to apply an adult treatment following a cutting. If you haven't cut yet, and there is enough to cut, probably need to do it soon just to get it off the field and stimulate re-growth. We haven't ever really seen weevil kill a stand, although it can look pretty tough sometimes. If you do spray prior to cutting pay close attention to that pre harvest interval. Some of these products can have up to two weeks waiting period, which could make it horribly late! Some people have been asking about fall treatments for alfalfa weevils. Fall treatments CAN help but the timing becomes very crucial. We have to get the spray on about the time that the females are coming in to the field to start laying eggs. Spray too early or too late and you've wasted your money. You can't time that by the calendar, you have to be out there monitoring to know when that is, as the time can vary by six weeks through the fall. It also won't eliminate spring treatment, but it may well knock down the populations giving you a fighting chance. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.