

Poison Hemlock Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In the past couple of decades the plant known as poison hemlock has gone from being an interesting novelty to a real nuisance. Poison hemlock is poisonous if it is eaten. All parts, including the seeds are poisonous, but the roots are the most poisonous. It has a very fern or carrot like foliage and in recent years I have been seeing it show up almost anywhere but especially along creeks and old livestock pens. It is a biennial meaning that it starts growing one year and then the second year it sends up a seed stalk. The rosette form of the plant can get quite large in the fall of the year, being a couple feet across and standing over a foot high. When it sends up the flower and seed stalk the second year, the seed stalk can be as tall as 10 feet. Another key diagnostic feature is that the seed stalk or stem has purple spotting. It has white flowers and once it starts to bloom it has a very distinctive strong musky odor. Once the seed stalk starts to shoot up it is going to be very hard to kill and will die shortly after flowering anyway. Chemical control is going to be best for large patches. Triclopyr and 2,4-D will selectively take it out of grassy areas but use caution around ornamentals. Glyphosate will work also, but only use it in pure stands as it will kill everything. Several other herbicides are effective including dicamba, picloram, milestone, chaparral, escort, garlon, and plateau. Late fall is often the best time to treat this weed, especially if you have a lot of it. Plan to treat several years in a row! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Pre-harvest weed control in wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As promised, I am through talking about treating stripe rust in wheat. But now I'm going to start encouraging you to be thinking about preharvest weed control in wheat. If you think about it, this should not be a surprise. We have short thin wheat and with most of it headed out now, it isn't going to get any thicker. There's a lot of ground visible from overhead. We've had 4 inches or more of rain since mid April. If you get out there and start looking, I'll bet you are already starting to see a lot of weeds sprouting and growing in your wheat fields. All too often we are waiting for harvest to start and then we realize that the wheat field is going from golden back to green. By the time we are starting to think about treating, the weeds are taller than the wheat, the wheat is ready to harvest and we've got a real mess. So why not just start thinking now about getting a treatment lined up. Most of our preharvest treatments require the wheat to be in the hard dough stage and all require anywhere from 3 days to 2 weeks after application until you can harvest. Then you also have to allow enough time to get the weeds dying and drying down to make the treatment worth the time and effort. Obviously if the wheat is ready to harvest and you don't have many weeds, you cut it ASAP before the weeds, or rain, can come along. But once the wheat starts to turn even a little bit, I'd be getting out there every couple of days checking on weed growth and development. Herbicides labeled for preharvest use include Aim, dicamba, glyphosate, ally or metsulfuron, and 2,4-D. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Anaplasmosis in Cattle

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Anaplasmosis is a blood parasite that is spread by a whole host of biting insects including ticks and flies, as well as from injection needles, tagging tools and literally anything that may be contaminated with blood. The disease is most frequently encountered in the eastern half of the state although it is being found more frequently west of the highway 81 corridor. Clinical signs of the disease are seen in late summer through the fall months most often indicated by open mouth breathing, staggering and an aggressive attitude. Eye membranes may yellow and mature cows will often just die in late summer and fall. Many producers have been routinely feeding chlortetracycline in feed as a preventative measure. The label for CTC however indicates it's use for control of an active infection of anaplasmosis. Which means that until there are symptoms being seen, a vet can't prescribe use of Chlortetracycline under the new veterinary feed directive which goes into effect this coming January 1st. Veterinarians are currently trying to get the FDA to allow a positive blood test to qualify as an active infection even if symptoms aren't yet being seen. We have no idea if this will fly with the FDA but for this summer, you can continue to use CTC as you have in the past. Now anything else you can do to help control insects that might transmit anaplasmosis including fly and tick control as well as good hygiene when doctoring cattle to minimize blood contamination can all help. This is a developing issue and we'll be following it closely in the coming months! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.