

Ag Radio programs for August 14 - 20, 2017

Cover Crop Grazing

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I used to be very questioning about cover crops. I could see their utility in soil erosion control and weed control through competition but I just didn't know if they had much more use than that. And then there was that whole thing of water use if it was a dry year. Well, the past ten years or more of research and visiting with producers who have been using cover crops have changed my thinking on cover crops. They have a place, they need to be used more, and livestock producers especially should be looking into them. Well, to that end here's an opportunity to learn a bit more about cover crops and especially cover crop grazing. The Dickinson county extension office is holding a meeting this Thursday evening, Cover Crop Grazing. It starts at 6 p.m. at the Nichols Education Center, 1003 N Brady in Abilene. The kicker is that you need to register TODAY. Call 785-263-2001 to register. The meal is free but you have to register. There will be two speakers - Ted Barbieri with Phillips Seed will be one and the other will be Dr. Janylynn Farney, Extension Beef Systems Specialist. Janylynn has been doing a lot of research in southeast Kansas on cover crop grazing and is emerging as one of the leading authorities in the state on the topic. Then on Friday, from 10 til noon there will also be a cover crop tour in northern Dickinson County. Thomas Roth with NRCS will be conducting that. You can get directions Thursday night at the meeting or contact me for the location of where it starts. Not sure if you need to register for this or not, but you may want to just in case! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Butterflies may be of concern

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There is a little butterfly known as the Painted Lady that is getting a lot of attention right now because they are starting to show up everywhere. If you don't think you've seen any yet, go look on the front of your vehicle!! The Painted Lady is sometimes known as the thistle caterpillar because the larvae are often found feeding on the leaves of thistles. Through a combination of factors this year we are experiencing a once very ten to fifteen year population explosion. While more commonly a resident of central and southern states, huge numbers are being found clear north into the prairie provinces of Canada. While they regularly feed on thistles, they are often found feeding on soybeans. While the butterflies are enjoyable to watch, we need to be checking soybean fields for damage. Treatment threshold is reached when you are finding an average of ten per foot of row. The caterpillar is easy to ID and separate from other caterpillars feeding in soybeans. Saltmarsh and wooly bear caterpillars look fuzzy or hairy but painted lady caterpillars like spiky or prickly. They are a pale yellowish green and the spikes are whitish. The chrysalis or cocoon is a pale yellowish white and can be found hanging from the undersides of leaves. Feeding and damage will continue for one more generation, so be on the lookout through the month of August. There are numerous soybean insecticides labeled for control and if treatment thresholds are met, one treatment should do it!

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Other soybean pests

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Yesterday we talked about an uncommon soybean insect pest, the painted lady butterfly. Let's continue on today with some of the more typical or common late summer insect pests that we expect each and every year. Garden webworms are around annually but frequently don't require treatment. This caterpillar pulls together soybean leaves and spins webbing around it for protection from predators. It's a darkish green caterpillar with three spots in a triangle on the side of each body segment. Plus they are about the only caterpillar that will form webby masses in beans. Generally we don't need to treat for webworms but we often see them so want you to be aware. Bean leaf beetles are gearing up as they do every August. Bean leaf beetles are the pest responsible for many of the holes we find chewed in bean leaves. The bean leaf beetle is about a quarter inch long, can be red to light tan and has six black spots on its back. While their feeding damage is found every year producers often assume that it is far worse than it really is and apply unwarranted treatments. Ironically, while the beetles will eat a lot of holes in leaves, the remaining green areas are still carrying on photosynthesis. A leaf that looks to you and me like it is nearly all gone is actually only at 50% feeding damage. The beetles fall off the plants when disturbed so it is often necessary to put a towel or sheet down between rows to knock beetles on to for a count. Treatment thresholds now are generally considered to be 50 per row foot. But, if there is extensive pod feeding damage, you may need to spray at lower levels. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Spring Oats and Turnips for fall forage

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Last week I talked about small grains for fall or winter grazing and I want to continue that theme today. One good option is to plant spring oats and forage turnips in the late summer for fall and winter grazing. And given the current soil moisture conditions I would see no problem with planting them anytime now. Obviously the seed can't be placed in the same drill box, but if your drill has a second small seed box it can be done, OR just broadcast the turnips ahead of time and then plant the oats right over the top of them. The action of the drill is usually enough to get the turnip seed into the ground. I would seed the oats at 60 to 75 pounds per acre and the turnips at 2 to 3 pounds per acre - 2 pounds if applying with a drill, 3 pounds if broadcasting. Most of the oats will freeze out once the temperatures are down into the teens but you can get a lot of good forage before that. The turnips can grow through much colder weather and even stay green under snow cover, if we have any. Turnips can have 24 to 25% crude protein in the leaves and 16 to 18% in the roots. However, as anyone who has grazed turnips before can attest, grazed turnips can be pretty washy for the livestock so free choice dry hay or dry forage is strongly recommended. I'd also plan on about 50 pounds of nitrogen and probably 15 to 20 pounds phosphorus ahead of or at planting to ensure good growth of especially the oats. Assuming that you have good soil moisture and get quick germination you can generally plan to start grazing six to eight weeks after planting. Potential yield would be about 2 to 3 tons dry matter per acre. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Wheat Varieties for fall 2017

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. While I don't have printed copies yet, the 2017 wheat variety trial booklet is now available on line. If you don't want to view it online, just let me know and I'll get a copy printed out for you! Now, I realize that many of you planted far fewer acres of wheat last fall and you may not plant much this fall. But for a fair number of others, wheat is still a crucial part of your crop rotation. Just because the profitability isn't that great doesn't mean we totally skimp on inputs though. We aren't looking to maximize agronomic yield however, we do want to maximize economic yield and the best way to do that is minimize per bushel costs through agronomically sound practices. The test results out of Manhattan, Belleville and Beloit are interesting but not sure we have enough information on some of the newer varieties to go all in on anything yet. Everest continues to hang in there but if we have a good stripe rust year, plan to spray. In fact, I'd wish that folks would pay less attention to rust disease reactions and just plan to spray foliar fungicides every year. The first thing I'd look at is whether a new variety you are considering has soil borne and spindle streak resistance because we have those in nearly every field. A couple of new varieties that interested me don't have a rating for soil borne mosaic, so I'm holding off recommending those at least for this year. One newer one for you to look at, especially if you have cheat issues, is Syngenta Doublestop CL Plus. This Clearfield wheat has some good characteristics AND allows use of the herbicide Beyond for grass control. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.