

### Double-crop options after wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As early as the wheat harvest got started I'm betting that there are going to be a lot of producers double crop soybeans into the wheat and a few might even consider milo. But since most of you doublecrop beans, we'll keep this morning's discussion on that. In past years double crop beans have been quite profitable at fairly low yield levels because of the success of just needing to use glyphosate for weed control. We'll probably need to look at additional herbicide options now, stay tuned later in the week for a program on that, but I think we can still find good profit opportunities from double crop beans. While a good crop of drilled beans canopying over the soil is going to be a good weed control option, a soil residual herbicide should be considered. We don't normally fertilize double crop beans running on the assumption that there's adequate phosphorus left over from the wheat crop. I don't always know that I agree with that and think sometimes some starter phosphorus would be a good idea. It's very important to use as long a maturity bean variety as you normally plant or maybe even slightly, emphasis on slightly, longer maturity. Soybeans flower based on a combination of temperature and daylength. If you switch to a very short maturity hybrid you'll get a short plant with pods close to the ground and no canopy. Sticking with your standard maturity will give a larger plant with good canopy. Too long of a maturity will give an even bigger plant, but it may not mature in a timely enough fashion to beat the frost. And seeding rate for double crop should be like full season. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Armyworms in Brome?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I saw a note in one of our newsletters about armyworms in brome grass. I've seen a lot of brome already put up for hay and the brome grass that's in ditches or hasn't been cut yet I haven't really seen noticeable damage so we may be escaping it around here. Armyworms start off as a small caterpillar feeding on the leaves of not only brome grass but other grasses including wheat. Small caterpillars have small appetites so the early damage is frequently not seen. But all of a sudden one day they get much bigger and so do their appetites! If they consume all the grass leaves or wheat leaves they may even move into nearby corn or grain sorghum fields and cause feeding damage there. Fortunately, by that time they are usually very close to pupating so treatment is rarely needed in corn or beans. The wheat has matured so they aren't a threat there anymore. When they pupate they move to the ground and do so in the litter on the ground. The resulting moth is one of the miller moths that we often see around lights at night. There are parasitic wasps that lay their eggs on the caterpillars with the resulting larval wasp eating the armyworm from the inside out and killing them. If you see an area where there has been armyworm damage and you find dried up armyworms on the ground with a little white cocoon around it, then the armyworm was killed by the parasitic wasp. There are many insecticides labeled for armyworm control but we generally only need to treat about one year in ten! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Common Bunt in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Anyone that has ever grown wheat or spent much time in a wheat field just ahead of or at harvest has probably seen smut or bunt. The two most common versions are common bunt, sometimes called stinking smut, and loose smut. Both of these are seed borne diseases that are easily dealt with by using seed treatments. I'm a firm believer in seed treatments but in the case of these diseases, it becomes far more critical that you use a seed treatment IF you are a seed producer or plan to keep your own seed back for next year. A small percent of infestation with either of these can become much, much greater if the seed is kept back for next year. Loose smut, while more common is less of a problem. It'll show up as heads that don't have normal seeds, they just have masses of black powder where the seeds should be. The black spores go into the combine, land on seeds and if left untreated and the seed is planted, the disease infects the plant as the seed germinates and then that new plant will have the disease and produce no seed. Common bunt is not as easily noticed and most producers don't know they have it until they have a load of wheat rejected because it has a strong fishy odor. If you stick your nose in a sample of wheat with common bunt, you WILL know it. Kernels infected with common bunt are usually deformed and have a gray color. If cut open it won't have the typical white color and then there's that smell! Don't confuse the fairly common physiological black point of wheat, which is fairly common and not a problem, with stinking smut! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Planning ahead for native hay harvest

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We're a month out yet, but I want to start harping on timely cutting of native hay. Perhaps even more so than bromegrass, timely cutting of prairie hay is crucial to maintain a high quality product. It's more critical because you are dealing with something that has a lower protein level to begin with. When it comes to hay, 5% crude protein is the crucial break point. Hay less than 5% crude protein takes more for the cow to digest it than it gets back in nutrients. Good bromegrass could be 10 to 12% crude protein so if it drops down to 7 or 8%, you've still got some usable forage quality to work with. Unfortunately, with prairie hay we are starting with something that is only 8 or 9% crude protein at the upper end. If we wait too long into the season, we end up with something that is 5% or less and is honestly only suitable for bedding! With bromegrass we are dealing with a plant that we harvest early and it then has all summer and fall to recover and rebuild food reserves. With native hay, however, if we cut it too late in the season, it doesn't have a chance to recover. We generally feel that the native grass species need about 6 weeks of good growing condition to recover. This means that we need to cut them by the end of August. However, we also know that crude protein levels start dropping as the plants start to head out. To be right honest, your best prairie hay is going to be made in mid to late July. As with alfalfa, the quality is in the leaves. As seed stalks start to develop and especially heads, they dilute the protein in the leaves and that's the problem we want to avoid.

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## Post-harvest weed control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Controlling weeds in wheat stubble requires a careful consideration of what weeds are present and what you plan to do with the field next. If you aren't going to do anything with the field until wheat planting this fall or spring crops next spring, then our decisions become very simple as we have a fairly wide open palette of options. Given how early harvest has started I suspect that many of you are planning to, or already have, gone back in with double crop soybeans. If this is the case then it becomes crucial to control weeds that are growing. I've seen some big marehail in some wheat fields. In all honesty you aren't going to be able to do much with these. Once marehail gets over 6 inches tall you just aren't going to have good luck controlling it. Even if you don't have LibertyLink soybeans, you could use Liberty as a burn down herbicide option to deal with glyphosate resistant pigweeds and waterhemp. I don't think we consider Liberty as a burn down option often enough. Don't use it on Roundup Ready soybeans once they are up and growing though as you will cause serious damage. Again, I don't care what you are using, if you have a lot of weeds over six inches tall, you aren't going to find anything that will give you stellar control. I also know that we frequently do not use a residual soil applied herbicide in double crop beans but I would really encourage you to use even a basic inexpensive residual herbicide. The more classes of herbicides we can use to control weeds the better off we will be in the long run. If you use 2,4-D or dicamba in the burn down, watch planting intervals. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.