

## Highway Traffic Safety

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We are right in the middle of trying to finish up soybean planting and we have wheat harvest dead center in the bullseye. Which means that if you haven't already noticed an increase in ag vehicle traffic, you soon will! So here's my quick and dirty guide to vehicle safety on the roadways when you are around agricultural equipment. Slow down you fool you're driving like a maniac. Honestly that's all you need to do, just slow down. The biggest problem I see are impatient drivers that don't want to slow down and allow a couple of extra minutes. When you encounter ag vehicles on the roadway, all of the roadway regulations still apply. No passing zones are no-passing zones. Much of that equipment has a top speed of 20 mph and they may be going less than that. When you see one on the road, no matter which way you are going or it is going, start slowing down immediately. Don't assume that you can go by it at 70, since I know most of you aren't doing 65, and if you are coming up behind it, you will be on it before you know it. Just slow down. They have every right to be on the roadway too. If traffic backs up behind them, they do have to pull over and let it around, WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. Be patient. Let traffic pass in an orderly fashion. If a vehicle is turning, don't try to get around it in a hurry as you may drive right into an accident. That equipment accelerates more slowly, stops more slowly and takes more space to make turns. Please, we lose too many farmers every year to all sorts of accidents. Don't let your impatience be the reason that they, or you, are injured! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Spray Small Weeds

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've been watching a lot of corn and soybean fields in the past 10 days. And what I'm seeing really scares me. I see a lot of fields turning a funny pinkish red. This isn't the crop turning this color, it is seedling weeds, primarily palmer amaranth and tall waterhemp. Some of these fields apparently did not have a pre-plant or pre-emerge herbicide applied which means that the producer is planning to do everything with post emerge herbicides. Let me just say up front, that when that plan fails, I don't want to hear about it. If you didn't use a pre, don't call me! We said last year and I've been saying it again this year, even with some of the newer products on the market, you HAVE to use a pre-emerge product in conjunction with a post-emerge if you want to have clean corn or soybean fields. To maximize control IF you are using a post-emerge product, you have to treat small weeds. Small weeds does not mean a foot, it doesn't even mean a half a foot, it means 2 or 3 inches tall. Some people feel that the new dicamba resistant crops are going to be their salvation. Well, if you look at that label, it is very straight forward that weeds need to be under 4 inches in height. The label is also very straightforward that you need to be using a minimum of 10 gallons of water per acre. In these kinds of growing conditions, weeds can go from 2 inches to 6 inches in 48 hours. The chance of having 99% control just dropped to 50% control or less. Forewarned is for-armed. Get spraying! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Wildfire Awareness

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In the last two years we've seen two massive wildfires in southcentral/southwest Kansas. Hundreds of thousands of acres went up in flames, along with fences, homes and out buildings. We sit here in the Flint Hills and I see more and more houses going up in rural areas and all too often I see landscaping decisions being made that quite honestly put that nice new home at risk. If you are a rural homeowner you need to become more aware of wildfire, how it happens, why it's so hard to control and what you can do to make your property less at risk. The Kansas Forest Service, along with the Geary County Rural Fire Department and K-State Research and Extension are hosting a meeting on Wildfire Awareness. The meeting will be held on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Geary County 4-H/Sr Citizens Center, 1025 South Spring Valley Road. The meeting is free and rural residents are especially encouraged to attend. Jason Hartman, Fire Protection Specialist with the Kansas Forest Service will be discussing homeowner fire prevention, natural vs invasive land cover and fuel, land management practices, wildfires in the wildland-urban interface and landscaping for fire protection. All of these things have serious implications on how susceptible or resistant your home and property is to wildfire. If you look at the amount of fuel we had in the flint hills this spring, you can probably see that the catastrophe we saw in southwest Kansas could have just as easily been seen in the flint hills. Please come and learn what you can do so you don't become a wildfire victim. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

New Technology isn't necessarily the best

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I know that a lot of corn and soybean producers eyes have been turned to the slowly becoming available technology with the 2,4-D and dicamba resistant corn and soybean lines. After twenty years of wonderful success with roundup ready technology, and now that glyphosate isn't working on some weeds like it used to, namely waterhemp and palmer amaranth, many producers are looking for a new silver bullet. Well, let me just burst your bubble right now - these new technologies are not the silver bullet. We HAVE to return to the old methods of good weed control in the pre-plant period, and in some cases that may mean some minimal tillage, and then a pre-plant or pre-emerge herbicide. Post emerge herbicides should be viewed as rescue treatments or treatments to deal with escapes. If you've got 100 weed seedlings per square foot, which isn't out of the question, and your post emerge treatment only gets 95% of them, it may sound good, but that means you still have 5 weeds per square foot. I don't think anyone is going to consider that a successful weed control program. Now for the other shoe. Reports out of the southern states in recent weeks indicate less than ideal control with the new dicamba products and the dicamba resistant crops. Want to guess which two weeds were showing the poorest control? Yup, waterhemp and palmer amaranth. Reading between the lines of the reports it looks like the big problem was trying to control weeds that were too big. To maximize your chance of success, make sure you are treating weeds under 4 inches tall! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Early season corn issues

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The corn has finally gotten enough heat and sunshine that it seems to be growing pretty good, we may have seen or may still see some issues. Floppy corn or what is sometimes called rootless corn syndrome will likely be seen in several fields. There is a long detailed physiological explanation to why this happens but in short it is likely going to be seen in saturated soils, not just flooded, rapid drying of the surface soil, exposure of the crown, herbicides or shallow planting depth. All of these things can impact development of the crown of the plant and the crown is where the important secondary roots develop. The other problem is purple color in corn seedlings. Purple coloration of seedlings is caused by the expression of genes for the pigment anthocyanin. Multiple genes govern the expression of this color and it is often made more obvious by cold temperatures, essentially 40 to 50 degrees. Normally by the time the corn plant gets to the V6 stage, these genes have shut down and the purple coloration slowly disappears. This is a case where things probably look worse than they really are. Microscopic examination of the plants shows that the purple pigment is only present in the top layer of the leaf and the chlorophyll lower down in the leaf is ok. It also appears that this temporary discoloration has no impact on yield. HOWEVER, the purple coloration can also be caused, especially in warmer weather by phosphorus deficiency. If this continues on into warmer weather and doesn't go away, we may need to do some soil and tissue testing in those parts of the field! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.