

### New Dicamba Application Rules

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's a long ways to soybean planting next spring, but we are starting to get a little glimmer of what the dicamba rules might be for dicamba resistant soybeans. There's a long ways to go and many of the things I'm about to tell you have no specifics applied to them, and of course, some states may enact stricter rules as Arkansas already has. But I am glad to see that they are moving forward quickly on this issue and rest assured that there are going to be a bunch of research on this in the off season and next growing season as well. BASF, DuPont and Monsanto - the major players in this issue, have all voluntarily agree to the following label changes for over the top dicamba use in 2018. Products will be restricted use for next year. Only certified applicators can buy and apply dicamba over the top and they will be required to have dicamba specific training. Farmers must maintain records regarding use of dicamba products. I don't know if this includes applications by commercial applicators or not. The maximum wind speed for application has been dropped from 15 to 10 mph. That one item alone, may limit how much is used in Kansas. There will also be a reduction in the time of day that dicamba can be applied - no specifics on this - but it is obviously an effort to avoid inversion layers during application. There will be additional tank clean out language on the labels as we;; as increased awareness of risk to nearby sensitive crops. Like I said, we've got a long way to go on this but we will be discussing this at our soybean production school in later winter so stay tuned! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Field Bindweed Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Far too many people ignore field bindweed. With the advent of roundup ready crops, it's become a non issue in many crop fields, or at the least, unnoticed in no till fields. But as I walk around fields and waterways and pastures and brome fields, I'm still seeing a lot of field bindweed. From now until we start getting temperatures into the low 20s is a great time to control field bindweed. If you are in crop stubble fields, then consider glyphosate and dicamba. I don't want to go with straight glyphosate for several reasons and at this time of year dicamba has little drift risk. Dicamba and 2,4-D can also be used in crop fields after harvest and in pastures or brome grass, including waterways, as well. Picloram, or Tordon is probably not used as much as it should be in pastures or in fields going back to sorghum or corn. Tordon can be persistent in the soil so it should not be used in fields rotating to soybeans next spring. In pastures is probably where I still see the biggest patches. An underutilized product for pastures, is quinclorac, often sold as Facet or QuinStar. This product is very active on field bindweed and is probably better than Tordon. It needs to be kept out of cropland unless you're going back to sorghum. It has long residual in the soil and shouldn't be used in fields that may be planted to soybeans or alfalfa within the next two months. Another product that could be used in CRP, roadsides and non-cropland sites, is Plateau. But if all you have is 2, 4-D and dicamba, use it. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Fall Anhydrous Ammonia applications

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As we have increased the acres of corn that we are growing around here we have also increased the amount of anhydrous ammonia that we are applying in the fall. While it is unreasonable, in my opinion to think we can put all of our nitrogen on in the fall as anhydrous, I think we can realistically get  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  applied. Now keep in mind that this works for corn but not for sorghum simply because sorghum is planted so much later than corn. Nitrogen is a very mobile nutrient. When it is applied to warm soils, and warm is 60 degrees and above, it converts quickly to plant usable forms. Unfortunately, plant usable forms are easily degraded or leached out of the root zone. Anhydrous is not easily degraded as long as it is injected into soil with just about any moisture content. If it goes into bone dry soil it will just dissipate out as a gas. You'll know this happens as you can smell it if you walk back over the ground shortly after applying it. Anhydrous ammonia has an extremely high affinity for moisture so it will rapidly grab on to any moisture in the soil. In warm soils the anhydrous then start to be converted. But as we have soil temperature move below 60 these conversions happen at a slower rate and once the temperature move to less than 50 degrees, the bacterial processes that turn the nitrogen into losable forms all but stop. Soil temperatures are still too warm for fall application. A few days ago they were still running around 60 degrees or higher. It's going to be several weeks before we get soil temperatures low enough that we won't risk losing nitrogen. So continue to focus on harvest and there will be plenty of time for anhydrous applications later!

This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Fall applied weed control ahead of corn and sorghum

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. You're probably going to get tired of me talking about this, but in this era of increasing numbers of herbicide resistant weeds it is critical to be thinking about weed control just about 12 months out of the year. And not just thinking about it, doing something about it. I think most of you already know what crops are going into what fields in 2018. Wheat is in the ground or about in the ground. The remaining fields, whether harvested yet or not, are pretty well straight in your mind about what you're planting. So if you aren't planting cover crops, take a proactive step and get some weed control applied this fall. What we are looking at trying to accomplish is knocking down any winter annuals and subsequently the seeds that they may well produce before we get treatments applied next spring. One of the things that the glyphosate technology did to us was cause us to worry less about seed production. We need to get back to a mind set of reducing the seed bank! For fields going to sorghum or corn, the best fall treatment is going to be atrazine - likely a pound to a pound and a half plus 1 to 2 pints of 2,4-D will give good burndown of a lot of the winter annual weeds. If you have winter annual grasses, i.e. cheat, then add crop oil for enhanced control. If you have a lot of cheat, you may want to up the atrazine to 2 pounds per acre. Notice that glyphosate is not in this mix and likely doesn't need to be. The beauty of this application is that not only will you get good control of fall weeds, the atrazine will also give you pretty good control of early spring germinating weeds including marestalk. If you have a lot of wheat or cheat, you may want to include some glyphosate. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Late fall brome and alfalfa fertilization

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Fertilization of brome grass and alfalfa are both essential to keeping them healthy and productive. I'm sure everyone knows that about brome grass but it may catch a few alfalfa producers off guard. Over the past several years I've heard a lot of people complain about their brome grass not producing the tonnage that they used to get. I believe that there are several possible factors contributing to that. One is that not adequate nutrients are being applied. Sure, nitrogen is being applied but what about phosphorus and sulfur? These can all be very crucial and if you aren't meeting the needs of all three, then you will be disappointed. If you haven't soil tested your brome fields for a few years, then this would be a good time to do that. The one thing that I think producers, both brome and alfalfa, could do a better job of is timing the applications. I feel that far too many people are waiting until far too late in late winter or early spring and then this lateness is exacerbated by recent dry early springs that we've been seeing in recent years. I dug out some of our bulletins on brome grass and fertilizing and time after time it talks about November and early December applications before the ground freezes up. Late winter applications, as soon as the soil thaws are acceptable. Acceptable, not preferred. Brome and alfalfa fertilization done in November or early December simply enhances the likelihood of getting a precipitation event to carry that fertilizer into the soil in time to do some good for next year's crop. And yes, both crops have adequate surface roots to take up that phosphorus which we all know tends to not move very far into the soil with rainfall. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.