

Ag Radio Programs for August 27 - September 2, 2018

Should You Plant Brome This Fall

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Two weeks ago I received a question from a producer wanting to know if he was nuts for wanting to plant bromegrass in September. I told him that I understood totally where that question was coming from. And I wouldn't blame him if he chose to NOT plant bromegrass this fall. But I encouraged him to proceed with his planning so he'd be ready to go. Take the soil test. Add lime or starter fertilizer if the soil needed it. Get the seedbed ready and be ready to go in early September IF the weather seemed to be encouraging it. Since then we've had about 4 inches of rain and the soil moisture conditions are much better. IF you were thinking about planting brome or alfalfa, AND you are going into a field where herbicide carryover isn't a risk, I wouldn't hesitate to plant. The weather patterns are weather patterns and could certainly change tomorrow, but it looks to me like they are acting a little bit more normal. I am concerned about herbicide carryover and I know a few producers have postponed plans to plant alfalfa until next year. Last fall was NOT a good year to plant brome or alfalfa. This year is looking much better. But for both of these crops it is crucial to get a soil test so we know that we are okay on soil pH and phosphorus levels. We've got 4 to 6 weeks of planting window ahead so we have time to get soil tested and fertilizer or soil amendments applied. But soil pH is so very crucial in establishing these crops and that HAS to be adjusted prior to planting so get those soil samples in soon. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Will We Find A Way to Stop Herbicide Resistance?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I read an online ag article last week about some weed science researchers who thought that they had found the way to forever beat herbicide resistance in weeds. I literally laughed out loud. The process they described will be another tool in the weed control toolbox that will work pretty good on some weeds, may not work at all on others but will eventually become less and less useful. When I was in college, studying to be a plant breeder - yeah, that's a long story in itself - we spent a lot of time discussing the gene for gene concept. The concept of this theory was that for every gene in the host plant that the plant breeder could manipulate to provide resistance to a disease, the disease had a gene that it could activate to overcome that resistance. For those that have been growing wheat for a few years, how many times have you seen a new wheat variety come out that was very resistance to leaf rust only a few years later, it wasn't resistant? The wheat cultivar didn't lose it's resistance. It was genetically still the same exact plant that it was when it was released. The wheat didn't change, the leaf rust did. Somewhere, in every weed species, there is a gene that allows it to overcome the effect of some herbicide. Regardless of how hard chemical companies try, the population will always be changing. Which means that as producers and weed managers, we must constantly be mixing things up, if you will, to keep the weeds off balance and slow the process of selecting the weeds with resistance. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Drought Water Resources

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. After the good rain late last week a few people have commented that some springs started running again and they actually enjoyed a few days of not having to haul water to the cattle. Speaking of cattle let's remember the high nitrate feed management meeting next Wednesday, September 5th, 7 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the Geary County Fairgrounds. Maybe the rain will continue and we won't have to haul anymore water. BUT that doesn't change the fact that a lot of cattle producers have already spent a lot of time and effort hauling water, making changes and may have to continue hauling water. There is the possibility that you can recoup part of that expense. There are some funds being made available to help reimburse some of the costs for equipment and even for hauling water. As I understand it, in talking to Angela at the Conservation District, there are two sources of funds based on the time frame of when the expense was made. Even though the latest drought monitor showed us finally moving out of D3 drought condition and into D2, we still qualify. I don't have time to cover all the details but get in to the conservation district office and talk to Angela or call her at 238-4251. Dates and receipts will be needed but there's probably even going to be some reimbursement for all that water you had to haul. If you still do need to haul water and don't have any other source, there is a procedure to allow drawing from Milford Lake, and a few folks have done it - call me for more information. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Sugar Cane Aphids

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Now that it's rained and sorghum is heading out and it looks like we'll have a crop, I guess maybe we need to talk about potential insect issues. I was kind of glad to see the sun and warmer weather return over last weekend as the sorghum plants need that heat to do their thing. Sugar Cane Aphids are on the move. We haven't detected any in Geary County yet but they have been reported as close as Saline county. Some of the wind and rain last week will have helped knock down some populations and there's been enough corn leaf aphids around to facilitate a buildup of beneficial insects. In fact, the aphids found in Saline county were attracting quite a few beneficial insects so treatment was not being needed.

Headworms, aka corn earworms, are a problem every year and are of greatest concern from pollination up to about the hard dough stage. Once the grain starts to color and move on to hard dough it becomes far less attractive to the headworms. Rule of thumb is that one headworm will cause a 5% loss in that head. If you are averaging one worm, especially a smaller worm, per head, you can probably justify spraying, assuming you have a good stand. If all you are needing to spray is headworms then there is a host of products available. They all work, go with what's cheapest or the applicator recommends. If by chance you need to spray for sugarcane aphids and headworms then your choices become very limited. There's only two products to mix with aphid sprays. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Early Fertilization for Brome

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 thinking about bromegrass a lot in recent weeks. I was thinking about how poorly it had done this spring and the issues with timely fertilization. With the break in the weather and nice rains through much of August I hope that your's is starting to perk up a little bit right now. I was asked about giving the brome a little fertilizer in the coming weeks to perk it up. My response was to simply ask, "what are you planning to do with it?" If you are thinking about some possible mid fall grazing, which I totally understand given the tight forage situation, then I might be inclined to give it 30 pounds of nitrogen and 30 pounds of phosphorus. But I would go ahead and still fertilize it in late November or early December at your normal rate. Now, if you aren't going to graze it this fall, I would sit tight for the time being, because I suspect that a lot of that nitrogen that you put on it back in February or March, or later, is still there. We recently ran a soil sample on a field that had 180 pounds of nitrogen put on in early spring and then planted to corn. The corn was whole plant harvested for forage in early July. The soil test was indicating that there was probably 60 to 70% of that nitrogen still present. I suspect that the same is true with the bromegrass. The plant may have taken it up by now, but it's in the plant and with the rain it should really be growing. Again though, I would still plan to fertilize that brome from mid November to mid December. We have to fertilize earlier. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.