

Ag Radio Programs for February 5 - 11, 2018

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This is the time of year that we seem to have meetings going on all over the place. There are three meetings coming up in about a month, all regional or statewide meetings and they are all in Manhattan. I'll hit them briefly right now so you can be thinking about them and then in a couple of weeks I'll remind you of them and give you more details. Congress is already working on a new farm bill and we're going to have a couple of meetings in the state talking about where we are headed with these. Three excellent well seasoned presenters will give an great day of programs. The date is March 1st, program runs from 9 to 2:30, location is Pottorf Hall in Manhattan, the cost is \$20 and you need to be signed up 5 days in advance or pay \$30 at the door. The very next day is the 105th Cattleman's Day at Weber Hall on the K-State Campus. The cost for this is also \$20 if registered by noon on March 1st or \$30 at the door. Greg Dowd, president of the Commodity Markets Council will be the keynote speaker discussing trade issues in the beef industry. In addition there's an outstanding set of speakers throughout the rest of the day. Lastly on March 8th is a soil health workshop focusing on cover crops. It will also be at Pottorf Hall in Cico Park Manhattan and will run from 9 to 2 with lunch provided. Seven outstanding K-State speakers are on the docket for the day. If you are interested in cover crops - this one will be good. Call me for more info on any of these events! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Dicamba update and vapor drift

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. About time for a dicamba update. The Arkansas Legislative Council recently approved the proposed ban on dicamba use in Arkansas from April 16th thru October 31st. Legal actions have already been taken to try to stop this ban from taking place, so stay tuned - it's a long ways to spring yet! One of the big issues with dicamba is vapor drift and it's also one of the least understood causes of drift and often, to be rather frank, an ignored issue. While the new technology dicamba is less volatile than Clarity and good old Banvel, it isn't NON volatile. Three, four even five days after application, you can get dicamba vapors moving off site. With the sensitivity that non-tolerant soybeans have, it's enough to cause noticeable damage. The potential for vapor drift is the driving reason that we have many of the new restrictions that we have and a big concern is inversion layers. Inversion layers are prone to happen when the winds are dying down in the late day, the sun is setting and cold air is settling. The easiest way to explain inversion layers is to visualize those times when smoke from a fire starts settling into low lying areas and moves erratically and very unpredictably. Now imagine the dicamba vapor, invisible as it is, moving the same way as the smoke. And wherever it moves, it is likely to cause damage on susceptible and sensitive plants. The next research need that's being addressed then is how much damage, beyond visual symptoms, does the vapor cause. And that, we don't know. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Thinking about oats?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It really disappoints me how many people fail to think outside the wheat-corn-soybean box now days. And far too often I don't feel that we think beyond the crop that's in the ground or about to go in the ground. We don't do enough to think about cover crops or other grain crops for that matter. One that I think is not given enough consideration, right behind grain sorghum that is, is oats. While local elevators may not want 'em, with a little bit of time on marketing, I think you would have no problem moving your oats. One of the areas that is too often overlooked, for oats as well as hay baled in small squares, is the horse market. Even if you don't want to harvest them for grain, you can make some pretty good hay with a timely cutting. Where I don't think people give good thought to their crop planning is when it comes to wanting to plant alfalfa or wheat. If you have an unplanted field and you want to go to alfalfa, oats would work very well. The crop would come off after wheat harvest, you'd have some down time to control weeds and the you could plant right into the stubble in mid August. We think about wheat following corn or soybeans and all of a sudden you've got dry ground and late planting - slip in an oats crop and then roll into wheat on October 10th with no problem. But treat the oats like you expect a crop, not a crop failure. Plant the end of February or the first week of March. Fertilize them like you mean it, control the weeds when they are small and there you go! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

New Dicamba products are not just for soybeans.

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. All the discussion for the past couple of years has been the Xtend technology in soybeans. Well there's also the new Enlist traits that are now available in corn. This utilizes a new formulation of 2,4-D for the same reason that we've got the dicamba technologies - to help control glyphosate resistant broadleaf weeds. Depending on which one of the new technologies you are using, you can also use them on sorghum. Enlist Duo and Enlist One are labeled for use only on Enlist corn. Of course Enlist Duo contains glyphosate which is why you can't use it on grain sorghum. Enlist one and enlist duo both contain the new Colex-D technology. There's a lot we're still learning about on this one as it's just been approved for foreign export. Look for more information coming out soon on this. The interesting thing about the Enlist trait is that the gene also confers resistance to Fusilade and Assure II. Which means if you have volunteer Enlist corn in soybeans, you can't use glyphosate or the "fop" herbicides to control it. Also remember that Xtendimax, FeXipan and Engenia also have labels for corn and sorghum. Unlike Status or DiFlexx however, these new dicamba products do not have a safener so you need to use the same care with them as you would with Clarity. For reference, these new dicamba products can be used on corn from emergence to the 5 leaf stage. On sorghum you can use at least 10 days prior to planting or from the 2 to 5 leaf stage, Later use will cause damage. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

The importance of staying in touch

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Agriculture is a dangerous profession. Depending on which source you go to, it is THE most dangerous job in the country. Regardless of whether it is #1, # 8, or #15, I think it's only fair to say that you put yourself at risk every day when you walk out of the house to go check the livestock, or check the fields. I think back over my life and start to tally up the friends and acquaintances who have died or been seriously injured while farming and it is too many. With the freedom to enjoy the agricultural life style, and I do get that, comes a great risk because you don't really have a safety department looking over your shoulder all the time. You, or your spouse, are the safety department. At 60+ years of age there are certain things that I will not do any more if I'm by myself. I won't run a chain saw or very much power equipment beyond a lawn mower. I make sure my office staff, if I'm on the job, or my wife, on my own time, knows where I'm going and what I'm doing. With cell phones it is easier to stay in touch, but we both know every place around the region where you're between two ridges and the cell phone says, "no service". So here's what I'm asking, my plea if you will. I've lost too many friends already, I don't want to lose more. Don't take those un-necessary risks. Let someone know where you're going and what you're doing. Check in occasionally whether it's with cell phone or two way radio. If you haven't heard from someone else on the farm crew in a while, go check on them. It may be nothing, or you may save their life. We've got no safety department, it's just you and me! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.