

## Wheat Outlook

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I suspected that if we started to get normal, or warmer, temperatures, the wheat would rapidly advance in development and it has. By the end of last week every wheat field that I was in, whether it was 8 inches tall or 18, had flag leaves showing. I suspect by the end of this week there'll be quite a few wheat heads in some fields. Wheat doesn't like temperatures over 80 and when we get that, the wheat grows rapidly, too rapidly, which leads to poor carbohydrate accumulation in kernels as well as rapid aging and will quickly use up that rain we got last week. It also greatly accelerates the water use rate in the plant. What all of this is leading to is a less than rosy outlook for the 2018 wheat crop. IF you were thinking about destroying your wheat crop and planting something else there and you want to get the replant insurable, we are probably too late to be able to do that with herbicides. You will need tillage to get that done as glyphosate will simply not kill it before heads start to emerge from the boot. The next question that no one has asked yet is about fungicides. When I was in fields late last week I saw no disease pressure that fungicides would help with. Additionally, the amount of leaf rust and stripe rust in the state was so low, and the rain forecast for the next 10 days is also so low that coupled with the low potential yield in many fields, I just don't think we can justify treating most wheat fields UNLESS it is an irrigated wheat field which I'm not sure we've got many of. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Alfalfa Update

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It has been a very strange spring for alfalfa. Cold and dry conditions have resulted in very slow development. Occasional warm spells allowed some alfalfa weevil to hatch which then resulted in a good number of them being killed by some of those low temperatures. In all my sweeps of alfalfa fields this spring I have yet to turn up a single adult. I'm sure they are out there and there were some spring laid eggs, but I just haven't seen them. What has resulted now is a hodge podge of alfalfa weevil infestations. The rain last week will be a nice boost to get some more growth but we are rapidly coming up on blooming for many fields. I was finding a lot of blossom buds in the tips of alfalfa stems late last week. They were small yet but they'll be far more obvious this week as you are out and about. As of last week, some fields were not even close to having a high enough population to justify spraying. A few fields were at a level that needed spraying and the rest were in between. At this time if you go out and you can find 1 larvae per stem then you can likely justify spraying. However, you've got to watch that pre-harvest interval. Several products have a 7 day or longer waiting period. If you are starting to see buds you may just want to harvest early and forget spraying. If you aren't finding any buds AND you have a shorter preharvest interval product then go ahead and spray. Regardless, once that first cutting is off you will want to monitor the regrowth for any additional feeding. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Soybean Row Spacing

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. An old long gone agronomist friend of mine once said, yield is important, but it isn't everything. Ray was very correct in this and I see it more and more every year. In today's case, we're talking about row spacing in soybeans. We seem to have pretty well settled into two row spacings for soybeans, 15 or 30 inches. One of the big differences in this is 15 inch beans are frequently planted with a drill while with 30 inch rows we are usually using a planter. Right there will give you two big differences as a planter will give better stand establishment than will a drill. It's simply a function of how they work. In high yielding environments, long term average over 50 bushels per acre, 15 inch rows will give you equal or slightly better yield than 30 inch rows. In lower yielding environments, under 45 bushels per acre, 15 inch will be equal or slightly lower yield than 30 inch rows. The difference in yield, across many studies, is only a couple of bushels per acre. Any individual field may have more than that based on many factors. 15 inch beans will canopy over quicker. This is a valuable advantage under higher weed pressure. But that can backfire if you have less than ideal seedbeds due to establishment issues. My thought process would be that on hill ground and lower yielding fields, IF you have a good planter, use it. But if yield levels are higher, OR we have good seedbed conditions, fire up the drill, plug every other hole and use it to plant, maintaining the same population. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Iron Chlorosis in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It doesn't matter whether it's a person or a plant. If the individual is short of iron, it's tough to get the problem fixed. In people we call it anemia. In plants we call it chlorosis. Some plants are more adept at getting iron out of the soil than others. Additionally, soil pH can greatly influence iron availability to plants. Iron is much more readily available in acid soils than alkaline soils. As soil pH goes up past 7, iron becomes tied up in the soil. You can add more iron to the soil but some of that will also be tied up. In horticultural settings we will sometimes use sulfur to lower soil pH to make iron more readily available. On a field size scale, this is economically prohibitive. Iron is one of the nutrients that can be readily taken up by the leaves of plants so sometimes we will use foliar feedings. Again, this can be a challenge. Soybeans can be sensitive to iron chlorosis and it will show up as yellow areas in your field. As we grow more and more soybeans in fields where we haven't had beans before we may start to see more iron chlorosis issues. Sometimes it's a cultivar sensitivity issue, ask your seed dealer for iron chlorosis ratings, sometimes it's a soil pH issue, it can even be a high residual nitrate issue. If we get into a chlorosis issue we may need to look at foliar treatments this year but then consider other things like chelated iron seed coatings in future years. But the first step is to identify a problem. If you see some unusual yellow soybeans this growing season, let me know! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

It's going to be a weird spring

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 kind of spring where we have seasonal compression. Winter seemed to hang on a long time which leads to a compression of when we get crops planted. I don't remember a year when we had so little corn planted in April. Many of you are turning right around and getting ready for soybean planting. Climate prediction center was out with updated three month outlooks on April 30<sup>th</sup> and are showing a VERY strong likelihood now of the next three months having above average temperatures. Warmer than average temperatures are going to accelerate everything. Stressful growing times like this make it crucial for crop producers to be watching crops closely. Potential nutrient deficiencies are going to show up in a hurry and anyplace where we have compaction is going to be very obvious. When these things pop up, I don't want you to wait until 3 weeks later when you see me. At that point in time I can only speculate at what's going on. Call me when it shows up so we can start working on diagnosing what's going on. Sometimes we may need to take tissue samples for nutrient analysis and it is crucial to get these when symptoms are being seen OR at certain stages of growth. Just like your own health, early intervention becomes crucial for an accurate analysis and possible correction of the issue. Everybody's got a cell phone now days - snap a photo and send it. Sometimes that's all I need, but other times, it's going to start with a "well that's weird" and go from there! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.