

Late Season Hay Harvesting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Have you noticed how much brome grass and native grass have been growing this month given the rain? Yeah, everybody has noticed that. So it's no surprise that I have been asked almost daily about late season hay harvesting. I absolutely understand where this question is coming from. But let's understand some of the basics that we need to be aware of in this issue. Both bromegrass and native hay, after they are cut in a haying process, will start to regrow. When the regrowth starts it's going to need to pull food reserves from the roots. These reserves will start to be restored in 2 to 3 weeks, weather dependent of course. All told, we generally feel that we need at least 6 weeks, maybe 8, to get those reserves back to a full tank of gas if you will. Going into winter dormancy with less than a full tank won't likely kill a stand in one season, but after the year that those grasses have gone through, they are already a bit stressed. Most years, late season harvesting gives you very low quality hay. Right now with all that new growth we do have some good quality hay potential there. One option is to wait until the plants have gone dormant enough that they won't start to regrow. For native hay, that's going to be the latter part of October. For bromegrass we are probably looking at early November. Both of those dates could be pushed back IF we have extended warm weather. So at this point I'd encourage you to just hold off for a while. Grazing is another option but right now, go easy on the grass. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Mosquitoes

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I think we all knew what was going to happen after those big rains on Labor Day. Yeah, big rains, standing water, warm temperatures is the perfect recipe for a mosquito population explosion. Speaking from personal experience, they are out there and they are vicious! People have varying responses to mosquitoes. Some simply become recluses in their homes. Many of us continue as normal but just slather up with repellents and know we'll still get a few bites. Others immediately want to start fogging or spraying their yards. The last approach, what I call the chemical warfare approach, is probably the least effective. The problem is that many mosquito species will fly over a quarter of a mile every day in search of meals. Additionally, many of our chemical treatments never get to where the mosquitoes are resting during the day. The first step is to make sure we aren't producing more mosquitoes. Empty and clean bird baths and pet watering bowls once a week. Make sure that if there are saucers under potted plants that they aren't holding water. This hold for plants inside your home as well. Make sure that gutters and down spouts are draining off all the water. If you have large water ponds use mosquito dunks. Late summer is the highest risk time for West Nile Virus and it has been detected in Kansas this year. If outside use appropriate repellents to protect yourself from mosquito bites. Many people aren't seriously affected by West Nile, but to a very few it can be fatal so be careful! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Optimum Seeding Dates for Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. While some wheat seed is already in the ground, there's a lot of wheat still to be planted. In recent years there's been a lot of changes in our thinking on planting dates and rates. First of all, we've done a pretty good job over the years of hammering the concept of the Hessian fly free date. But what we've found out over the past 15 years is that there's no true fly free date. In warm falls, there are still Hessian flies out flying around and laying eggs clear up to Thanksgiving. There are certainly more Hessian flies early in October, but just because you plant after the old fly free date, doesn't mean you have no Hessian fly risk. The varieties we plant have changed too. We used to want to plant early in October to get enough plant growth to get good yield. What we've got today are varieties that don't need as many leaves and tillers produced in the fall to still have good yield potential. In fact, excessive fall growth, if you aren't grazing the wheat, can hurt yield. But what we look at now days is the optimal date for yield. Many years of studies have shown that a mid October planting date, for our area, probably has the best yield opportunity in most years. By mid October I'm looking at a ten day to two week window essentially either side of October 15th. October 10 to October 20. If it's a warm fall, maybe a few days later. If it's a cool fall, then a few days earlier. If you're planting later than mid October following soybeans increase seeding rates, and we'll discuss that, tomorrow. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Optimum Seeding Rates for Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Yesterday we discussed optimum seeding dates for wheat and today we'll discuss seeding rates. We need to discuss seeding dates first because seeding rates are going to be dependent on seeding date. Wheat has a tremendous ability to flex based on plant population, under ideal conditions. Planting early in the season we can get by on minimum planting rates which for eastern Kansas we consider to be in the range of 1,125,000 to 1,350,000 seeds per acre. Depending on seed size, that lower end planting rate is going to range from 70 to 85 pounds per acre. Which is why I'll tell you early in the season to plant 70 to 80 pounds per acre. If you are planting wheat, from now through October 15 to 20, that's the rate I'd go with. After the 20th I'd start increasing rates 10 to 15% per week. There are several situations that I'd want to adjust that rate. If you want to get a lot of grazing in, I'd start off at 90 to 95 pounds per acre to get more plants, thereby more heads, to compensate for any potential loss of stand from the grazing. If you are planting into heavy stubble, as in a corn field, then up the seeding rate. IF that corn was harvested for forage, it's probably not crucial to do that as you don't have near the amount of residue to fight through. The place where you will really need to push the seeding rate is planting into sorghum stubble. In sorghum we know we have more issues with stand establishment and I'd push seeding rates by about 20% over normal, not to exceed 120 lbs per acre. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Pre-harvest glyphosate treatment on sorghum

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. One of the things we often struggle with in sorghum production is getting the plant dried down so we can get a decent and timely harvest. Sorghum seems to be maturing nicely this fall so it may be less of an issue this year, but even if it is and you want to plant wheat behind the sorghum, then treating with glyphosate pre-harvest can really help. Glyphosate is registered for use as a harvest aid in sorghum. You need to wait until grain moisture is less than 30%. You need to wait at least 7 days after treatment before you start harvest and you'll be better off waiting at least 14 days to give the glyphosate time to work and to gain any benefit. If the grain is dry enough and you just want to get the sorghum killed to facilitate wheat stand establishment then spray, wait 7 days, harvest and then you can plant as soon as you can get into the field. If you are using it as a harvest aid what can you expect for results? Several studies at K-State and elsewhere have not shown any negative impact on yield. The next question is what impact will it have on subsequent wheat yields if you plant wheat in right after harvest. Studies done a few years ago show that treating sorghum with glyphosate before harvest, then planting wheat post harvest, you should see yield increases of 12 to 13% over untreated fields. If you do use glyphosate as a preharvest treatment be ready to roll with harvest after the waiting period. Standability is going to be hurt and increased lodging is likely to occur. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.