

### Volatilization of Surface N Applications

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With the crazy weather many corn producers have already switched from knifed in anhydrous ammonia to surface applications of dry urea or liquid UAN solutions. Which invariably raises the question of how much of that nitrogen will be lost to volatilization. If you look in the literature and research you will find estimates quite literally from 1% to 40% and quite honestly, any of those estimates could be correct. How much is lost comes down to time, temperature and humidity or rainfall. Several days of warm humid weather will result in maximum volatilization loss. Cooler weather especially with gentle rains soon after application will get that N into the soil where losses will be much less. In general, when we have to surface apply at this time of year, I like to apply 10 to 15% extra to compensate for volatilization losses. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Use of Starter Fertilizers in Corn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This year, perhaps more so than many other years, starter fertilizers are going to be really crucial at corn planting. We basically have three choices for starter: 2 x 2 placement, surface dribble and in furrow. Given the challenges this year there may be some inclination to get as much nitrogen on with the starter as possible. Because of seedling toxicity issues, in furrow needs to be limited to no more than 8 pounds of N + K. Phosphorus isn't salt based so it's not a problem. Fortunately you don't need much space between the fertilizer and the seedling so surface dribble and 2 x 2 subsurface has enough soil between the fertilizer and the seed that we don't have those same limits. We don't generally give a limit and some producers will apply the full rate of N in this manner, although it can slow down planting process. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Weed Pressure and Weed Seedlings

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we try to get burndown herbicide applications on our corn ground and/or soil residual herbicides, it's really important to make sure we recognize the weeds that are already present at the time of the application as well as our historical knowledge of weed pressure in each particular field. The historical weed pressure will dictate which combination of soil residual herbicides you use. The weeds that are currently present will dictate what burndown combinations you use. The problem is that weed seedlings, even up until they are 3 or 4 inches tall, can sometimes be a challenge to identify. So here's what you do - dig up the weeds you can't ID and bring them in to me. OR, take a photo of the weed and email it to me at [cotte@ksu.edu](mailto:cotte@ksu.edu). But please, make sure that the weed fills the screen in the photo and is in focus! Thank you! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Seed Treatments Crucial This Year

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Every single year I am asked if fungicidal seed treatments are necessary. To be blunt, I'm through hemmin' and hawin' around. Just do it - no matter what crop you are planting. They may truly be needed only once every five or ten years. But in that one year you are going to save back more money than any years that they may not have been needed. It is becoming less and less of an issue as we have less and less bin run seed. With most of the corn and soybeans now days, it's hard to get seed that isn't already treated. Milo absolutely and use an insecticide too. This year soybean seed treatments may be even more crucial as across the board we had reduced soybean seed quality last year. Poor quality seed will always have lower germination and weaker seedlings, the perfect conditions for seedling diseases, so just do it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Soybean Disease Management

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A quick reminder that our Cover Crops and Coffee field day will be next Thursday morning, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Call me for location and specific time details. We don't have one soybean seed in the ground yet for the 2019 crop and I'm going to talk to you about foliar fungicide treatments. In most years, foliar fungicide treatments do not have an economic impact on the soybean crop. Last year we could have seen a big impact on seed quality had we treated at about R4 or R5, well before we knew that we were going to have any problems. You'll be getting a lot of pressure for soybean disease and insect treatments as we get into August. Many of those treatments will not be needed. We have good predictive tools to know if we should treat. Keep listening and I'll be watching the weather and the bugs closely to see if there is a need! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.