

Poison Hemlock Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Poison hemlock is an annoying weed that has been gaining ground. It looks all ferny and frilly in the fall and early spring then sends up a huge flower stalk with stinky white flowers, and then dies after producing seed. If it has a flower stalk, look for purple blotches on the stalk. It is common in old cattle lots and along creeks and streams. If you want to control it and it has already started to bolt. 2,4-D and dicamba aren't going to be that effective on it. You need to spot spray it with a lot of water and then some heavy hitters like Escort XP, Chaparral, Grazon P+D or Cimarron Plus. If you get on it before it starts to bolt, triclopyr plus 2,4-D will be pretty good and maybe even a good dose of 2,4-D and dicamba. But if it even has a flower stalk 10 or 12 inches tall you'll need to switch to the stronger herbicides. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa Weevil

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The middle of last week we achieved enough growing degree days that it was time to start scouting for alfalfa weevils, Wednesday to be exact. On Thursday afternoon of last week I stepped into an alfalfa field. I could see no evidence of weevil activity but on about the 6th or 7th stem that I pulled up and checked I was able to find a little first instar weevil larvae. It had probably hatched within the past 24 hours. The alfalfa was about two inches tall. It's too early to start spraying yet, we need a couple hundred more growing degree days to get more hatched and larger sizes. But it's time to start scouting. I would suggest every three days for right now. With the price of hay now, if you have alfalfa less than ten inches tall and have an average of one weevil larvae per stem, you probably need to spray. Stay tuned! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Smoke Management

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. [KSFIRE.ORG](http://ksfire.org). It's a slick little website that can give you an indication of how prescribed burns will react. Early last week I was in the southern Flint Hills presenting a talk. All the way down in the afternoon and all the way back after dark it was very smoky. After dark you could see fires everywhere. The problem was that the mixing layer was far too low and as night settled in an inversion layer was pushing everything to the ground. It'll be interesting to see what happened with readings from the monitors. We've got to avoid burning at times with low mixing heights and excessive cloud cover. Both of these items will cause air quality issues which raises the wrath of the general public. We need to keep fire as a tool and upsetting the general public isn't a good way to build rapport. Spend some time at ksfire.org. Please! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Watch Those Weed Sizes

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The weather has been collaborating against us which means that a lot of early burndown herbicide applications aren't going to be all that early. It also means that we need to pay close attention to herbicide rates and herbicide combinations. Corn is the first crisis we'll have to deal with. At this time figure you're pre-emerge and burndown are going down as one application. Think 2,4-D, Dicamba, glyphosate and atrazine as the base and then add specific other soil residual products depending on your field specific weed pressure. We all know that glyphosate isn't going to work well on pigweeds or marestail, but it still works very well on a lot of weeds and grasses so I think we need to keep it in all pre-plant burndowns. 2,4-D and dicamba are going to help control the marestail. And we have to have the soil residuals for the pigweeds! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cover Crops and Coffee

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Cover crops are gaining more and more attention and there's a lot of interest by many agencies in how they impact water quality. For a couple of years now we've had on-farm research being conducted in Geary County with cover crops and monitoring water quality. On Thursday morning April 25th we will have a cover crops and coffee field day at that field. We'll have coffee and cinnamon rolls starting at 8 and then a series of 3 presentations discussing soil health, water quality as well as corn and soybean yield and economics. The location is at the intersection of Clark's Creek road and Howard Road, or right south of where Harold Erichsen lives. Head south on Clark's Creek, stay on Clark's Creek when it jogs off to the right and turns from paved to gravel and in about 2 miles you'll be there! Call me if you need more details. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.