

## Ag Radio Programs for August 19 - 25, 2019

Don't be in a hurry to spray sorghum insects

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last week I was talking about sorghum headworms starting to show up. Which coincides with sugarcane aphids being found in parts extreme southern Kansas. Right now sugarcane aphid populations are under stress because of the high numbers of predators present in sorghum fields. We've known in past outbreaks that predators can effectively control sugarcane aphids given time. That's the good part of the equation. The not so good part of the equation is that most of the sprays that we use for headworms will pretty well wipe out the sugarcane aphid predators. And in the absence of the predators, the sugarcane aphid populations will quickly rebound. If you planted a sugarcane aphid resistant sorghum hybrid it's not a big issue. If you didn't, and you are finding headworms, we'll need to monitor all insects closely! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

How much more rain do we need?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was a little worried at the end of July because it really was starting to get dry. Then it started raining again in early August and I haven't been worried much since. How much more rain do we need for the corn and soybean crops? Most corn I've seen is at or near full dent - some may even be at black layer. At full dent the corn only needs 2.5 inches of water which is about a foot and a half of saturated soil. I think the corn's covered! Soybeans need a little bit more moisture yet as they are running a little late. At beginning seed development we need about 6.5 inches of water to get most beans to maturity without yield loss or plant stress. We likely have at least half that if not more in the soil already but likely need another rain or two. Grain sorghum probably needs a bit more than beans right now, and both need more heat! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Watch farm ponds for HAB

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The reports out of the southeastern US of several dogs dying from blue-green algae exposure brings to mind that this is an issue we simply have to have on our radar every summer when we depend on ponds as a key water source for livestock. Blue-green algae is in every body of water in the state but only becomes a problem at times. Remember, we are talking a bacteria here, not really an algae. It isn't that long stringy stuff we see in farm ponds. It isn't pondweed or duckweed, those tiny little plants we will see on many ponds. Blue-green algae looks scummy, like a thick mat, or foamy or like paint was spilled on water. It can be red, pea-green, blue, blue green or even brownish red in color. And to me it has a very distinctive odor. If you see any of these in your farm pond, keep the cattle out and give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Yellow Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Soybeans are supposed to be a dark green color. If they aren't then there are problems. I've seen a few soybean fields with some yellow areas in them. Sometimes we'll get a little glyphosate flash but that usually goes away after a few days. Some of the fields I've been investigating and still investigating, have had yellow patches all summer long. It's detective work to figure out why. If we don't have nodulation it could be nitrogen deficiency. It could be sulfur deficiency or iron chlorosis. We pull tissue and soil samples from good and bad areas of the field for testing. It could be herbicide carryover so we talk with the producer about previous crops and herbicides used. It could be SDS in which case the yellowing leaves will start turning brown. Hasn't happened yet. If you've got yellow soybeans, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Farm Bill Meeting Coming Up

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Sign up for the 2018 Farm Bill is supposed to start September 1<sup>st</sup>, which cracks me up as that's a Sunday and Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> is Labor Day so no one can get in to sign up until the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the earliest! We don't know how long it will run yet but likely at least a couple of months. Just to let you know up front, decisions you'll need to make on this Farm Bill are much simpler than 4 years ago! And to explain that in more detail we're holding a farm bill informational meeting on Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 p.m. at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building at the Geary County Fairgrounds. There's no registration and no charge for the meeting. Show up, listen, ask questions and that's it. I'll be doing most of the presentation and Jennifer from the FSA office will be there to help answer procedural questions. It should last only about 90 minutes. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.