

Ag Radio Programs for August 26 - September 1, 2019

Wheat Variety Selection

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. First of all, remember the farm bill informational meeting, Tuesday night the 27th, 7 p.m., Geary County 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building. I don't have time in two weeks worth of radio programs to talk in depth about new wheat varieties. There's a bunch of varieties out there and honestly, I want you to pick up the variety test bulletin or pull it out of High Plains Journal and look at the Manhattan results as well as Belleville and Beloit's tests. Because weather is so variable also be sure to look at the 2 and 3 year averages. In spite of crazy weather there were some incredible yields. Yes the quality was hurt by the weather but still. What this shows is that many of the newer varieties have the genetic horsepower to yield 75 and 80 bushels plus IF we get the right weather and IF they are adequately fertilized, which honestly we often don't do! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Iron Chlorosis

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've been taking you along on the ride of trying to figure out the bright yellow beans in a local soybean field. The first hint of problem came when I got tissue sample analysis back last week. Between good and bad locations of the field, everything was very similar except, iron and manganese. In the very yellow parts of the field iron and manganese were 40 to 50% lower than in the normal looking parts of the field. Soil test results showed very little difference in nutrient levels. But here's why we have to do on-sight visits. The areas where the soybeans were yellow were lower areas where water had stood. Saturated soils can greatly impact roots ability to take up nutrients especially some of the micronutrients. When pulling the soil samples there was an obvious difference in soil texture which also added to the problem. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wheat Seed Quality

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In case you haven't guessed it yet, wheat quality in our part of the wheat state took a real hit this year because of all the rain at just the wrong time. What this has done is create a real challenge for wheat growers and may really run up the price of seed wheat this fall. I've heard horror stories of high cleanout rates on seed wheat and less than great germination rates. If you are keeping back your own seed wheat this year you really need to do three things. First of all pull a sample soon and let's send it in to the seed testing lab for germination. This test can take up to two weeks and they are getting busy. Secondly have all your seed wheat cleaned and a gravity table would be preferred over just an air screen but either one needs to be done. And finally, use a good fungicidal seed treatment. This may be more important this year than ever! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wheat Planting Date

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you haven't noticed we've pretty well quit talking about the Hessian Fly Free Date in wheat planting because there is no such date. Now days we talk about agronomically optimal planting date. Last year if you weren't planted by about the 5th of October, you didn't get it planted until the very end of October. Most years we'd never say that a planting in late September would be preferred. But that won't happen every year. On a year in and year out basis I would say to shoot for planting between October 10th and 20th. If you need more than a ten day window to plant then I'd start a little bit sooner. If you want some wheat for grazing, look at planting a Hessian Fly resistant cultivar and do it in late September. Once we get past about October 25th, we need to increase seeding to compensate for fewer tillers. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Insects

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've been spending a lot of time in soybean fields lately looking for insects, diseases and general condition. At this time diseases are pretty much non-existent OR at low enough levels that we just aren't worried. There are insects out there but I've yet to see a field that would justify treating. In fact most of the chewing insects are at pretty low levels so far. What is of concern though is stink bugs. About a week ago I really started to pick up a noticeable increase in stink bugs and stink bug egg masses in soybean fields. Egg masses are often on tops of leaves and look like little white barrels clustered together. It only takes ten stink bugs per 30 foot of row to justify spraying. We don't have any fields there yet, but we're headed in that direction. Keep walking bean fields but don't be in too big of a hurry to spray! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.