

Dicamba Situation in Arkansas

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Arkansas has probably had more issues with dicamba than any other state. The Arkansas Ag Department's State Plant Board voted to approve regulatory changes for dicamba herbicide application on dicamba-tolerant crops in Arkansas. This now goes to their State Legislature for action. New restrictions apply to all current and future dicamba products including Engenia, Fexapan and Xtendimax. Changes include: No in-crop applications of dicamba from May 26 to Oct. 31, hort and range uses excepted. A ½ mile buffer required around non-dicamba crops. One-mile buffers near university and USDA research stations, certified organic crops and commercially grown specialty crops between April 16 and May 25. Dicamba cannot be mixed with glyphosate between April 16 and May 25. Glad we aren't in Arkansas! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Private Applicator vs Restricted Use Product

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Restricted use pesticides require applicator certification to purchase and use. The problem sometimes comes in that there is confusion because of what various labels say. Every state and region may use slightly different wording. Don't let it throw you. If a pesticide label (and by pesticide we mean herbicide, insecticide or fungicide not JUST insecticide) says that it's a restricted use product, in Kansas you must be a certified applicator meaning that you've passed the private applicator certification test or the commercial applicator certification test. There may be additional training that you need like the dicamba training or the just enacted gramoxone training that you have to take on the EPA's web site. If you aren't sure what training you need, call me and let me know what you want to spray, and I'll tell you! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With soybean acres increasing threefold in the past 30 years I have a simple question for you. How many of your soybean fields have been tested for soybean cyst nematode? I casually polled a few farmers the other day and the answer was a resounding "zero". I think we have often thought of cyst nematode as a problem in the corn belt or southeast Kansas. But it has been detected in Geary County also. It can be a devastating disease and increase the incidence of sudden death syndrome. The problem is that many infected fields visually look like all the other fields. Normal looking fields that have cyst nematodes can be losing up to 25% yield potential. Once you can really start to see visual symptoms of cyst nematode you are losing significant yield. You can still test this spring. Contact me for more information. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Are We On the Verge of a Stem Rust Outbreak?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. How many of you remember back in the late 80s when there was a new K-State wheat variety that was about to be released that was then pulled and essentially dead filed. It made a bit of a ruckus at the time because for the several years prior to that it had looked really good. It was dead filed because it was susceptible to stem rust and we had a stem rust outbreak. We may be headed to another stem rust outbreak. In western Kansas we are currently planting 35% of the acres to varieties that are susceptible to stem rust. In central and eastern Kansas it's only 10% of the acres, but that's still too many. So this serves as a warning to be sure you know what the stem rust resistance is of the varieties that you planted and then to also keep this in mind when you start determining what wheat varieties you're going to plant next fall. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Frogeye Leafspot in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Historically we haven't had a lot of disease issues in soybeans that needed to be sprayed. We didn't grow that many soybeans, so diseases were slow to build up. Soybean acres have basically doubled in the past 25 years. We will start seeing more diseases especially when we start growing soybeans following soybeans. Diseases like frogeye leaf spot overwinter on soybean residue which means that if you plant beans on beans you have a much higher chance of seeing the disease. Last year, because of rain starting in early August when blooming started, we saw a lot of disease issues and there were fields that would have benefitted from fungicide treatments. IF you have beans on beans this year, we need to really start monitoring weather and the beans, once they start to bloom, for potential disease issues. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.