

### Last Cutting of Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was coming back from national county agent's conference in Indiana and saw a lot of grass and alfalfa being mowed and swathed, which reminded me that I hadn't really talked about timing of that last cutting of alfalfa. The point to remember is that ideally we want alfalfa to go into winter dormancy with as much food reserves in the roots as possible. Under good growing conditions it will take 3 to about 5 weeks to get those reserves refilled. Cutting at the wrong time one year won't kill your alfalfa. It may reduce the first cutting but it won't kill the stand. We are in the last week of September. It's been warm and may stay warm so we'll get good growth if you cut it now. If it's ready to cut, cut it and we'll likely be okay. If you've cut it within the past two weeks, I'd say you're done for this year, well, until after it goes dormant anyway! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Wheat Seeding Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I know folks have been planting wheat already and ya know what - I'm okay with that. While I still hold that the best time for planting wheat is October 10 to 20, K-State is now saying that the optimum planting date for wheat is September 25 to October 20. Geary and Dickinson Counties are on the north edge of that zone such that I don't think I'd even have a problem pushing that start date up to September 20<sup>th</sup> or the late teens. With early planting though I'd be more inclined to use a systemic insecticide seed treatment to reduce aphid risks and the barley yellow dwarf that they may be carrying. If you are planting early for the purpose of grazing always check the label. Many of these products restrict grazing for 31 to 55 days post planting. But in many cases, that'll still work out just fine! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Keep an Eye on Stinkbugs

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are late enough in the season that soybean defoliators aren't really much of a concern for me. However we still have a risk, especially in late planted or double crop, of insects that feed directly on the seed pod and seed. Soybean podworm and stinkbugs head that list. All we need is about 1 podworm per foot of row to justify treatment, especially if the podworms are small. Stinkbugs have a threshold of 10 per 25 feet of row. With stinkbugs it doesn't matter if they are adults or juveniles - they all cause damage. Get out and start walking your fields, hit 3 or 4 different areas and just start looking. If you aren't sure if you need to treat, give me a call and I'll come out and check. We're probably only 2 to maybe 3 weeks away from being late enough not to worry, but that's a lot of time yet for damage to occur! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Seed Treatments for Aphids

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I am regularly asked about seed treatments for wheat. First of all I feel that we need to use a fungicidal seed treatment every single year. There are so many potential problems that we can prevent by simply using a seed treatment. Now days we also have the option to use an insecticidal seed treatment. Some of these work well against seed eating insects, like wireworms, others are systemic in nature and will provide limited control of things like aphids that we will see moving in on wheat in the fall. I say limited because the efficacy is good for about 30 days. Aphids are going to be attracted to the biggest greenest wheat in an area. Fields planted early are normally going to get more growth and would benefit most from systemic seed treatments. One thing to be aware of though is grazing restrictions on the wheat so read the label! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Still Time to Treat Sericea

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While it is getting a little bit late, if you need something to do, there is still time to treat sericea lespedeza. We normally want to treat that just as it is starting to bloom, but because of the good late summer conditions we can still get some control applied if we hurry. For fall treatments we want to focus on herbicides that contain metsulfuron. That would include Escort, Chaparral and about any of the Cimarron products. Apply with a handgun and thoroughly wet the plant. I think sometimes we are prone to hitting the big patches because they are easy to see but we need to be looking for those individual plants also because these individual plants today become the big patches tomorrow. If you notice sericea plants that are starting to lose their nice green color, it's probably too late to treat those until next year! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.