

Ag Radio Programs for September 9 - 15, 2019

Stem borers in beans, leaf feeders in sorghum

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we grow more and more soybeans we will be seeing more and more insect problems. Detect stem borer damage is showing up in beans right now. Often we notice it when plants are lodged during harvest. There is no genetic resistance or chemical control so timely harvest of severely infested fields is crucial. At this time of year damage is visible as scattered petioles that's what attaches the leaf to the stem, start to die. From now on they will burrow down through the stem and ultimately girdle the lower stem which leads to lodging. If you identify fields with heavier infestations, plan to harvest those fields first. And if you are in sorghum fields and are finding leaf feeding damage by a somewhat ragged bristly caterpillar, this is not the sorghum headworms or armyworms but the cattail caterpillar and of little concern! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Crunch time for controlling volunteer wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are into what I call crunch time for volunteer wheat control to reduce risk of wheat streak mosaic and other insect and disease issues. We want that volunteer wheat adjacent to any field that's going to be planted to wheat dead, two weeks before planting. There will likely be wheat planted by the end of the month. If you were going to spray out the volunteer with herbicides, it should be done NOW. From now on, tillage may be the best approach. If you're still going in with herbicides, go full rates especially if you have larger weeds. While fields downwind of wheat fields are the biggest culprit for infesting new wheat, I've clearly seen fields to the east, or upwind side, make significant infestation efforts. All it takes is one day of easterly winds to blow those critters over. So be a good neighbor and get that volunteer controlled. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Get alfalfa seeding wrapped up

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Our standard fall, really late summer, alfalfa planting season is August 15 through September 15. Planting alfalfa after mid September is just too risky. A lot of folks think that this is because the small plants will freeze out. Cold damage isn't really the issue, frost heaving is. Frost heaving is when freezing and thawing of the soil through the course of a winter pushes plants out of the ground. Some years we have some, some years we have very little. Last year I saw more than I have ever seen before and it occurred on many plants. If a grass plant or an alfalfa plant or even my garlic doesn't get a good enough root system developed to anchor it down in the ground the freezing and thawing will push it up and out. We are likely going to have wet soils this fall which makes it worse, so get that seeding finished up! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

SDS in soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. SDS of soybeans, sudden death syndrome, is a disease caused by a soil borne fungus. The fungus prefers wet conditions so this year is going to be ripe for it. While we haven't seen a lot in our area, we need to be alert for it. Soybean cyst nematode infested fields have a higher risk of SDS as do fields planted early when soils are cool and wet. It can reduce yields up to 25%. Look for leaves turning yellow that still have dark areas along the veins on the leaves. Iron chlorosis can sort of look like this but without the dark green areas along the veins. These leaves then curl up and die. It is often only in certain parts of the field. It is important to get this diagnosed though as the only control is through varieties that have SDS resistance. There's no perfect SDS resistant cultivars but some do have pretty good resistance. Ask your dealer. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soil Testing in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's just about time to start wheat planting which means it's probably past time to get your wheat field soils tested! With all the weather extremes of the past 24 months I feel that it is really important to soil test so we're getting the right fertility plan together. I recently did some extensive soil testing, including profile testing in a field and plugged those numbers into a recommendation for wheat. Even with all the rain there was a surprising amount of profile nitrogen that we could take credit for. But more importantly, we had a need for sulfur and chloride, two nutrients I bet many of you aren't applying! Sure it's a pain to take a proper profile test. But if it could save you applying any starter fertilizer, or save you 40 pounds of nitrogen or boost yields by 10 bushels, wouldn't it be worth it? Don't guess, soil test! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.