

Ag Radio Programs for August 31 - September 6, 2020

Pre-plant Nitrogen in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Wheat pre-plant preparations are under way and will really start gearing up by mid-September. Many wheat growers like to get as much of the nitrogen applied before planting as possible and I support doing that with some caveats. First of all, it needs to be put into the soil, not on the soil. Too much volatilization risk. Year in and year out anhydrous ammonia is the best choice for these preplant options and often the best value. Just make sure you allow 10 to 15 days between application and planting to eliminate the risk of anhydrous toxicity. If price differentials favor a dry application I would want that to be worked into the soil immediately and when using something other than anhydrous consider one of the stabilizers. You may also want to consider half before planting and half as topdress. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

The Importance of Starter Phosphorus on Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We generally say that if soil phosphorus levels are above 20 ppm you are likely not to see a response to applied phosphorus. I say generally because when it comes to wheat, things can be different. The good thing about phosphorus is that it's fairly immobile in the soil so you can build up soil phosphorus levels without concerns of losing it in the next year or two. But in times of tight economics you can utilize those high P levels and not worry about starter. But there is an UNLESS involved here. As soils cool in the fall, wheat roots become less efficient at extracting phosphorus and phosphorus itself becomes less available. In studies of late planted wheat there appears to be a positive impact on plant growth and yield when starter is applied, regardless of soil P levels so if you are planting after Oct 20th, use starter! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Be On the Lookout for SDS Symptoms in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Within the past several weeks soybean sudden death syndrome, or SDS has been reported in various parts of the state including the Kansas River Valley. Soybean producers need to be on the lookout for this disease. Yield losses can range from almost 0 to as much as 25%. Since it is a soilborne fungus there is no treatment for it but there are SDS resistant varieties. Once you have SDS in the field, it'll always be there. Look for plants that are showing pale green to yellow circular spots that progresses to interveinal scorching and ultimately the leaflet falls off, but the petiole stays attached to the plant. The disease is going to be worse in fields with a history of soybean cyst nematode, fields planted early into cool and wet soils or compacted areas of fields. If you see some suspect soybeans, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sericea is Blooming, Time to Treat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With all the rain we had in July the sericea lespedeza is growing well and now blooming so time to get out and treat it. The whole goal is to stop the plant from producing more seed which is why August and September treatments AND late summer pasture burning are very effective. Sericea has tiny white flowers right along the stems so it's really easy to identify at this time of year. For late summer treatments we need to be using herbicides that are metsulfuron based. This would include Chaparral, Escort, and most of the Cimarron products. While booms can be used on large patches handgun spot applications may be best and apply with a lot of carrier to get good coverage. Be careful with drift around desirable trees or sensitive crops and please don't use these products in a fogger or mister type of applicator. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Watch Your Corn for Dying Tops

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Corn is rushing headlong to maturity - in fact much of it is at black layer now so the yield is already determined, all we can do is wait for dry down. BUT in the meantime, start checking out your field for corn plants that show the top of the stalk, about 3 leaves worth, that is dying while the rest of the plant is still green. This is likely anthracnose top dieback and can be an early indicator of potential stalk rot problems. If you are starting to see this in fields especially at levels approaching 10% or more of the plants we need to look into this. A quick and dirty test is known as the push test. When you find these plants, stand next to them and extend your arm out and push on the stalk. If it buckles over easily we may be setting up for anthracnose stalk rot lodging problems. These fields should be given high priority for early harvest! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.