

False Chinch Bugs

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many of us are familiar with chinch bugs, which fortunately we haven't had many problems with for quite a few years. But there is another critter that looks a little similar called the false chinch bug. False chinch bugs can feed just like the regular chinch bug but they rarely become nearly as big of a problem. In some areas of the county we saw some population explosions this spring which concern me that they may show up in crop fields. Normally false chinch bugs are only in crop fields in large numbers as nymphs and they are rarely are field wide. Once they become adults, they tend to fly out of fields and disperse looking for plants in the mustard family, their preferred foods. If you find what appears to be chinch bugs and are concerned, lets first make sure they aren't false chinch bugs before you start spraying! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Corn Disease Scouting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We continue to get timely rains and the corn crop is looking great. Gray Leaf Spot was around the county but many fields, either because of crop rotation or good resistant hybrids were showing low to no levels of infection. Quite honestly, we are past the point to truly worry about gray leaf spot. However we still need to be concerned about southern corn rust. At the start of last week there was no southern rust in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas or Nebraska. By last Friday it had been confirmed in one county in Nebraska and one county in Kansas. That is how fast and far these diseases can spread. If southern rust is present in a field between silking and milk stage fungicides may pay. After that, they are of questionable value. We have common rust all the time so before you panic let's make sure you know what you have. 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 have been out in soybean fields lately and yes, there are holes in the leaves and there are bean leaf beetles feeding. Bean leaf beetles are rarely an issue with foliar feeding but keep an eye on the pods for feeding damage. Green cloverworms are going to start showing up in fields as well. Again, their foliar feeding is of little concern and once we think their population is about to get out of control there is a natural fungus that goes to work and pretty well cleans them out. The one insect that does concern me as we head towards August are stink bugs. We have been seeing more and more damage from these rascals in recent years and I've already seen quite a few stink bugs around in general. Treatment threshold appears to be an average of 10 stink bugs per foot of row throughout the field so keep looking! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Warm Nights Are Hard on Plants

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Photosynthesis is a very complex bit of biochemistry yet is so crucial for all life on this planet. It truly is amazing. But what many people don't know is that while the sun and sunlight are important, there are plenty of processes that have to happen in the dark as well. Hot weather is hard on plants not JUST because of the daytime heat, but without cooler night time conditions, some of the biochemical processes can't happen. A lot of these night time processes are what helps plants, including crop plants, survive the hot weather. This means that if we get into a cycle of a lot of really warm evenings where temperatures never drop below 70, know that your crop plants, or weeds for that matter, are going to be more highly stressed and less susceptible to herbicide controls or crops may be more sensitive to injury. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

The Fair is Over

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Normally I would have been on the air a week ago inviting and encouraging you to come out to the Geary County Free Fair. I didn't do that this year because while the fair just wrapped up, because of Covid-19, we couldn't have the public out observing the projects or events. To say that it was one of the strangest fairs ever is an understatement and I hope we never have another fair like this! If you missed seeing the exhibits you are in luck IF you have access to Facebook. If you go to the Geary County K-State Research and Extension Facebook page you should be able to see photos from the fair this week and even see videos from the various livestock shows during the week. We appreciate the coverage that KJCK was able to give us and we really did miss all of you at the fair, but let's hope for better things next year! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.