

Watch for the Weed Explosion

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It got really wet last week. And now it's going to get really warm. Guess what that means in your fields? Yeah, an explosion of weed seedlings or an explosion in growth of those that are already up. You're going to be busy the next two weeks trying to do everything at once. But you really need to watch those weed issues. Pigweeds can go from being seedlings to beyond recommended treatment size in about 4 or 5 days, especially with temperatures in the 80s. Literally, a 2 day delay in a burn down or post emerge herbicide application can move you from good control to poor control just that fast. Stay on top of this. Even if you got your pre-emerge products down, keep an eye on them as this heavy rain may cause some control issues. If a rescue treatment is needed you need to roll NOW on it. Delaying simply isn't an options! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Let It Get Rained On or Don't Mow?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One of the challenges in springs like this is managing alfalfa harvest. Ideally you have a nice warm dry spell right when the alfalfa is ready to harvest, you cut it, it dries quickly and you get it baled and put away. We all know how often that happens. So the alfalfa is ready to cut but it looks like rain for the next 3 to 5 days, what do you do? We aren't the only place that has problems like this, in fact points east face it far more often than we do. What a study several years ago out of Kentucky looked at was the loss of hay quality from getting it rained on compared to the loss in nutrient value from letting it stand. What the study showed was that if you could postpone harvest for 3 days or less you should let the alfalfa stand. If it would be longer than 3 days, you were going to lose more quality from being over mature than rain loss. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

White Heads in Wheat Fields

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As the wheat crop continues towards harvest we are probably seeing white heads show up in wheat fields. While most cases there's nothing we can do now, it's sometimes helpful to take stock for future management decisions. If just part of a head dies, it's likely hail or scab. If you've got just one dead head and all the other tillers on the plant are fine, it could be hail, but more than likely it's wheat stem maggot. Grab the head and pull. If it pulls out, look at the bottom of the stem and it'll look rotten or fed on and that's maggot damage. If one whole plant is dead and others around it are okay, it's likely fusarium root rot or take all. There's some ways to differentiate those. Finally, if you've got large areas that die prematurely, especially this year, well, it probably got flooded out, no surprise. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Delayed Soybean Planting? Don't Worry

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. So we had some rain in May, Again. More than likely your soybean planting got behind and you're trying to play catchup now in perhaps somewhat above average temperatures. Here's the good thing about soybeans. They are quite adaptable and have a pretty wide range of tolerable planting dates. For our area we have recommended planting date of May 15 to June 15. And even going a week or two past June 15th isn't going to hurt you much if at all. How many times have you planted after harvest double crop beans and they yielded every bit as good as full season beans? We're looking at the next 10 days to two weeks being warmer and drier than normal before we start swinging into potential for wetter conditions and normal temperatures. So we likely have some good planting days ahead and pretty good soil moisture. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Watch for Weeds in Maturing Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Given the excess rain in May and now the warm weather in a fast turnaround and I will guarantee that as those wheat fields start to turn towards maturity pretty soon there will be weeds starting to emerge. I know you're going to be tied up trying to get caught up on planting. And there's alfalfa and brome to put up before you want to think about wheat harvest, but you need to be walking those fields looking for possible weed issues. There are several herbicides labeled for pre-harvest treatment of weeds in wheat but you to remember that they all have from a 3 to 14 day waiting period until harvest and then there's also the need to give the herbicide time to work so you actually get some benefit from the herbicide. Also be careful of what you use in case you are planning to double crop after wheat so you don't mess those plans us. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.