

## Ag Radio Programs for June 29 - July 5, 2020

### Wrap Up Foliar Brush Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we are about to wrap up the month of June we also need to be wrapping up most of our foliar tree and brush treatments. Once we get into July leaves are getting pretty mature and are developing some pretty thick waxy layers that will really reduce the effectiveness of our herbicide treatments. Oh sure, sumac and buckbrush are still going to be fairly easily controlled but dogwood and definitely locust and hedge are going to be a lot tougher to control from here on out. On the other hand, the latter half of July on into fall and early winter is a really good time for basal bark treatment - my preferred way to go after honey locust and hedge - as well as cut stump treatments. Of course, if you want to put a big hit on dogwood, go out right now and rotary mow it down, then let it resprout and grow for 6 weeks and then spray with Surmount. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Bean Leaf Beetles Are Active

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Bean Leaf Beetles are getting right active again just as the soybeans are really taking off and growing well. These are those little beetles that sort of look a little bit like ladybugs. They have two color phases, tan and red and have six very angular black spots on their back. They appropriately prefer to feed on the leaves of plants in the the bean family. Soybean growers can get pretty excited in a big hurry if they start to see holes in their soybean leaves but you need to remember a couple of things. A little bit of damage can look like a lot of damage. In fact most people over estimate 3 or 4 times the percent of leaf area lost based on visual observation. Secondly, early season feeding like in the V2 thru V6 stage is rarely going to impact yield. Even in late season we need to see 50 or more beetles per row foot to justify treatment. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## New Custom Rates Book

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was quite excited last week when I received notification that the 2020 Kansas Custom Rates book was available. Just as a reminder, two of the most popular publications that the Kansas Ag Statistics Service generated were the Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates Survey and the Kansas Custom Rates Survey. Unfortunately, neither of these were required by law so when funds got tight, those pubs got cut! But a few years ago K-State Ag Econ and the Kansas Dept of Ag picked them up and now publish them on an alternating basis. Bluestem Pasture rates is released in odd numbered years and Custom Rates is in even numbered years. The publication can be found on line at the [AgManager.info](http://AgManager.info) website. We also have copies available at the Extension Office. Stop by and pick one up or call and we'll mail it to you! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Dicamba Application Requirements

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm sure many producers and commercial applicators are anxious to get their on-hand stocks of dicamba used up while they can but don't get in such a hurry you forget all those requirements. Applications can be made to dicamba resistant beans up through the R1 growth stage OR 45 days after planting OR July 31<sup>st</sup>, whichever one comes first. You have to wait until 1 hour after sunrise and stop 2 hours before sunset. Right now that means applications can be made from roughly 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. But also remember wind speed needs to be at least 3 and not over 10 mph with no temperature inversions. Easiest way to check inversions is on the [mesonet.k-state.edu](http://mesonet.k-state.edu) website. Also remember you buffer distances on all sides and if you are doing the application you need to make a record of the application within 72 hours. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Big Round Bale Storage

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Bromegrass is getting baled up as time allows between planting and harvest. Prairie Hay is going to be getting cut and baled within a couple of weeks. A lot of hay producers use big round bales especially if they are baling for their own use. Unfortunately a lot of valuable forage is lost because of poor handling and storage following baling. It's hard to imagine sometimes but 30% of the hay in that bale is in the outer 6 inches of the bale. It doesn't take much spoilage or weathering and you've lost a third of the hay. Bales shouldn't be left out in the hay meadow for any length of time. Store them in a well drained area, on gravel or crush rock is preferred and have the rows running north and south with rows far enough apart for good air movement. This allows the sun to hit all sides and dry the bales after a rain or snow event. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.