

Foliar Fungicide Window is Closing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you are planning to spray fungicide on your wheat crop and haven't gotten it done, you are rapidly running out of time. Our goal is to protect that flag leaf and we've been having plenty of good infection weather and growing levels of rust throughout the state. Remember, the threshold is probably 40 to 50 bushels per acre yield potential or more to justify the expense. The 14 day forecast is looking dampish and if that holds into flowering time we are going to be at high risk of head scab. If that continues and you are spraying do NOT use strobilurin fungicides as it may result in elevated levels of the mycotoxin commonly called DON. Stick with the triazole fungicides in that scenario. And watch harvest restrictions. Some products have a days after application until harvest some have growth stage so be sure to pay attention! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't remember the last time we had a first cutting of alfalfa as late as this. Some of that cold weather has really slowed things down. Remember, for established alfalfa determine harvest by the presence of new growth at the crown. It may be a little bit different in timing based on amount of flowering present than later cuttings. For a new planting, let it get well into bloom before you cut. If you had enough frost damage to cause new tillers coming up so you have a mix of different aged shoots just do the best you can and recognize that you may have more blooms than normal in it. If you have a new planting that doesn't look so great, give me a call so we can investigate. With the cool weather newly emerged weevil adults would be slow to leave fields. With warmer temperatures I would expect them to be leaving soon! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Delayed Planting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Corn planting was stalled by cold then stalled by wet soils. If it isn't one thing it's another. If you are still trying to finish up don't get too concerned yet. Soil temperatures really cooled off through much of last week but are warming back up rapidly. If you had hoped to get going sooner on soybean planting it's probably just as well that you didn't. Soil temps that had been up in the upper 60s fell back to 50 or a little below the middle of last week. Even corn doesn't like seedbed temperatures that low and soybeans definitely do not. Looking at the long range forecast temperatures are returning to normal or above so soil temperatures are going to be warming up quickly as well. In fact the long range outlooks currently have both temperatures and precipitation trending above normal but hopefully not like last year! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Bean Leaf Beetles in early Beans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are at the very start of soybean planting so I'd be surprised if there are any beans out of the ground yet. But right now bean leaf beetles have been coming out of hibernation and feeding in alfalfa fields. Bean leaf beetles overwinter as adults. They have an amazing ability to detect when soybeans start coming out of the ground and will quickly move from alfalfa to the soybean fields. Bean leaf beetles can be reddish or yellowish green and sort of look like a ladybug. Producers often get excited about early season feeding damage from bean leaf beetles but it always looks far worse than it really is. As long as there are good growing conditions and defoliation is less than 50% there is no need to treat. When you start looking at those holes it often looks far worse than it is and 50% is going to be a lot of feeding damage. Don't overestimate! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Disease Resistance is Fluid

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Disease resistance in plants is a somewhat fluid thing. For every gene that the plant breeder can manipulate to impart resistance, the disease has a gene that can change to overcome that resistance. Since first being identified, leaf rust in wheat currently has at least 32 races out there. So when a new wheat cultivar comes out and is said to be leaf rust or stripe rust resistant, understand that this is a very fluid thing. Last year's beautifully resistant cultivar can become a rusty mess this year. The resistance didn't "break down", the rust strain simply shifted. We are noticing quite a bit of that happening this year with stripe rust - I won't mention any cultivar names as we're still breaking down surveys. BUT what it indicates is that you need to be walking all of your wheat fields and looking for any evidence of rust. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.