

Ag Radio Programs for October 26 - November 1, 2020

Free SCN Sampling

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fall is a great time to test your soybean fields for soybean cyst nematode. We've already talked about it earlier this fall.

But now we have an even better reason to do it - you can have it done for free! K-State pathologists have managed to garner some funds so that cyst nematode samples will be tested for free. That is normally a \$25 or \$35 dollar test by the way. Fall, just post harvest, is a good time to collect samples and get them over to K-State for testing. Go out in your fields and pull ideally 15 to 20 samples 8 inches deep from right in the row. If you can't get 15 to 20 try to get at least 8 to 10. Focus on areas right inside driveways OR if your field occasionally floods, sample from that area. Another good place to check is areas where you may have had SDS or just poor production. Then bring the sample to the office for shipping. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Herbicide Applications in Dry Weather

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've been seeing more and more fall herbicide applications over the past decade. Fall herbicides are a good way to help get troublesome weeds like marehail under control. We also see fall applications of soil residual herbicides like atrazine to reduce competition and help control early season weeds like henbit in corn and sorghum fields. While this is a great option to reduce early season weed pressure there may be a challenge this year, namely drought. Weeds that are drought stressed and not growing well will not be well controlled by herbicides. Any soil residual herbicide needs rainfall or irrigation to activate it. We normally feel that at least one half inch is required to get the herbicide activated under field conditions. Of course, if we get some rain, then consider it a green light to get herbicide treatments applied! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Too Dry for Anhydrous?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Anhydrous ammonia is one of the most commonly used and cheapest forms of nitrogen fertilizer that we use in agriculture. We inject it into the soil, often in the fall, where it reacts with the soil moisture. There are some things we need to keep in mind when applying it though specifically soil moisture conditions and soil temperature. We need soil temperatures below 50 degrees to slow the reactions that can cause the nitrogen to be lost and there needs to be enough soil moisture for the ammonia to react with. Right now soil temperatures aren't quite there. But even more concerning, is there enough soil moisture in the zone of injection. Before you stick one coulter in the ground this fall dig down to the level of injection and see if there is any soil moisture there. If it's bone dry, you likely don't want to apply anhydrous this fall! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Gramoxone Licensing Crackdown

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't believe in spreading rumors but I am a firm believer in following safety and label requirements for all pesticides. Gramoxone, paraquat dichloride, is a commonly used herbicide that we use to burn down growing weeds. It has a very important place in no-till crop production. Gramoxone is also one of the more toxic herbicides we have and has some specific requirements for those handling, mixing and applying it. In addition to being a restricted use pesticide, requiring a pesticide applicators license, there is special training that everyone who handles, mixes or applies it needs to take every three years. I've been around pesticides all my life. Not many pesticides cause me concern but this is one of them and it's use may very well be under tighter scrutiny in the years ahead. Make sure you are properly trained! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Musk Thistle Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Musk thistle is a noxious weed that we've been fighting for about 50 years now. Years of apparent gains slipped backwards a little bit with more musk thistle being seen last spring than I've seen in years. We had enough rain in September and October to get a lot of musk thistle germinated and growing. Which is a good thing because it sets us up for some good fall control. When I say fall control, keep in mind that this weed will keep growing well into December. We have several good herbicides for outstanding fall control. I really think we can forget using 2,4-D unless you put it with dicamba but better choices include Milestone at 3 to 5 ounces per acre, Tordon 22K at 10 ounces per acre or Chaparral at 1.5 ounces per acre. Tordon is a restricted use product, the others are not and all will give you excellent control! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.