

Ag Radio Programs for April 5 - 11, 2021

Get Cattle Off Wheat NOW!

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The rain finally stopped last week so I could get out and scout some fields. I had to put lead shot in my pockets so I didn't blow away a couple of the days but I did get out there. Wheat is growing very fast right now. I didn't find a lot of hollow stems in the fields I was in but I was finding a lot of plants, most of them in fact, where the head was just starting to move above ground which is what we would have traditionally called jointing. This is important for two reasons. One has to do with herbicides and applying before jointing - most namely dicamba. But more importantly it also signals that IF you have been grazing your wheat and you still want to harvest it for grain, the cattle need to be off of there NOW. Every day you leave them on will likely cost you 3 to 5% of your potential yield and we don't want that! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wheat Disease Forecast Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I mentioned that I had finally gotten back out into some wheat fields. In addition to looking at stage of development I was also looking for leaf diseases. In a nutshell, I didn't see any. Period. Nothing. In fact the wheat looked pretty darn good! I talked recently about low risk from stripe rust because of this winter's cold weather. Low risk does not mean without risk. On March 19th sporulating stripe rust was observed in Louisiana and on March 22nd it was in Stillwater, OK. Given some of the wind last week I'm sure spores are already this far north. The dry conditions last week were in our favor though. We are still assessing the stripe rust risk as low for this year's crop so don't be in a hurry to treat anything. Make sure I have your email address though as I will be sending out regular updates through the season. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Lack of Brome Response to Fertilizer

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I routinely hear producers talk about not getting any response from fertilizer applied to brome or disappointing response.

Two things pop into mind when I hear this. First, is timing. Was the fertilizer applied early enough that precipitation could get it in the ground. If you applied fertilizer prior to mid March you are in luck. If you are just now applying it, don't expect much. Secondly, I wonder how long has it been since a soil test was ran on the field. Soil fertility for any crop is sort of like an old wooden barrel. Each stave of that barrel represents a nutrient and the barrel can only hold as much water as the shortest stave. If the phosphorus stave is sort of short, it doesn't matter how much nitrogen you apply, it just won't help. If it's been a few years, or never, since you tested your brome soil, then let's start there! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa Weevil Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Earlier this week I talked about scouting wheat fields last week. I was also scouting alfalfa fields and found my first very small alfalfa weevil larvae. Based on accumulated growing degree days they were right on schedule. Obviously we have a lot more eggs to hatch and we hopefully will only spray once.

We accumulated a lot of growing degree days over the weekend and earlier this week. More eggs are hatching as we speak. Given current value of alfalfa, and the size of the alfalfa if you are averaging 1 weevil larvae per stem, you need to treat. A few quick things to remember. Spray on a day when it is sunny and the temperature is above 50 degrees to make sure that the larvae are up where the spray can reach them and then be sure to use 20 gallons of carrier per acre. We've seen poor control when gallonage is reduced! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Giant Ragweed Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Unlike a lot of other weeds that we fight in soybeans and even corn, giant ragweed is probably not high on everyone's concern list, but it may about be getting ready to. Giant ragweed is well named. Mature plants in well fertilized fields can reach in excess of 12 feet tall more commonly only 5 feet tall.

Glyphosate resistant populations have been confirmed in Kansas. Because of it's size and aggressive nature, one plant per square yard can reduce soybean yield up to 75%! It is a major contributor to late summer allergy issues as well. Fortunately, because it germinates fairly early in the season, it is usually well controlled with burn down herbicides especially if they contain 2,4-D or dicamba and especially sulfentrazone which would include Authority, Sonic, Spartan, Broadaxe or others. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.