

Uncertain about Dicamba? Consider Enlist

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. No sooner than we are ready to go forward with dicamba technology on soybeans when the same old lawsuits are re-filed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, so here we go again. If you're looking for options to this whole dicamba fiasco there is also the Enlist technology. Enlist is a form of 2,4-D called 2,4-D choline. 2,4-D choline as one of many different types of 2,4-D, in this case it's an ammonium salt. Being salt based it's going to be far less volatile than the ester and amine formulations we've been using for over 50 years. There is also a premix package called Enlist Duo that adds glyphosate. Just because Enlist is low volatility it isn't NO volatility. It does have restrictions like the dicamba products so read the label. Just like dicamba it is going to be more effective on small weeds meaning 6 inches or smaller! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Grazing Wheat? There are Variety Differences.

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I routinely say that I think cattle producers should do more wheat grazing. Late fall and winter grazing, on in to very early spring can give you some fairly cheap high quality grazing without serious impact on your wheat grain production. There are some variety differences and I'm a firm believer that if you want to graze wheat you get it planted early. I'm not worried about excessive growth because we're going to be grazing that off anyway and we can compensate with extra fertilizer. Studies this last fall at Hutchinson of over 30 wheat varieties showed dry matter yields ranging from 470 to 1058 pounds per acre with an average of 737 pounds. While that's a big range, it was not significantly different likely due to challenges of dry conditions. And there's still time to get some grazing yet this winter and spring so get that fence up! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Understanding Marestalk

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Marestalk, also known as horseweed, is a plant that's been around forever and is native to North America. It was never much of a problem in crop fields because of spring and fall tillage. It would most likely show up in fallow fields, flooded out areas, just places where we didn't till. Being a winter annual, generally although a few will sprout in very early spring, it was seldom a problem in spring crops because pre-plant tillage always got it out. While it'd get started in wheat fields spring herbicide treatments with 2,4-D or dicamba usually took care of it and even if they didn't, it didn't really grow up tall until after harvest. But then came reduced tillage and heavy dependence on glyphosate to control weeds. But marestalk was never well controlled by glyphosate and now it has become a major weed issue in corn and beans. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Controlling Marestalk

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Controlling marestalk is very dependent on timely treatments. As I said yesterday, glyphosate is not effective on it and it has now also become resistant to ALS inhibiting herbicides. We have the added challenge that thanks to its limited leaf area, once the plant starts to bolt up the flower and seed stalk, which can get 3 to 6 feet tall, it is very difficult to control with any herbicide. So effective control must be done in the fall or early spring. We have a host of herbicides that are effective when applied prior to weed emergence, 2,4-D and dicamba are effective on small seedlings as is the combo product Scorch. There are a multitude of products that are effective both pre and post emerge including Trivence, Canopy EX, Envive, Sharpen, Acuron and Expert. Regardless to which product you use, get it applied early! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Finish Cow Herd Culling

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There are reasons for not being in a hurry to cull all the cows out of your herd. Waiting until mid-winter often puts you into the peak market for cull cows. But we are heading into calving season so why not get the rest of those cull cows out to the sale barn? Dale Blasi at K-State recommends the following priority for culling. First the Four O rule meaning cows that are open, old, ornery or oddball. And if I need to explain any of those... Next are those cows with physical or structural problems. Feet and legs, eyes and teeth are the most common things we want to look at but really just any that have had issues probably need to go. Lastly, those cows who have been poor producers. Sure, they have a calf almost every year but it just never does as well as the calves from other cows. Look to production records to help make that decision. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.