## Basal Bark Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Controlling trees and woody brush in pastures is as much about timing and techniques as it is about herbicide selection. In May and June, just after brush has reached full leaf stage we use foliar sprays. But by now a lot of those leaves are tired and have a thick waxy layer on the leaf surface. Foliar sprays are far less effective. BUT, the plant is in full blown build up the food reserves in the roots mode. Which means that now through the end of the year is a good time to use basal bark treatments. Basal bark treatments are a concentrated herbicide solution, about 25%, usually mixed with kerosene or diesel and sprayed on the bottom 1½ to 2 feet of the trunk. Spray all the way around to runoff including any exposed root flares or root shoots. This works great on hedge and honeylocust. Then cut down when dead! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cut Stump Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I talked about basal bark treatments which I really like for those tough species like hedge or honey or black locust that are prone to root sprouting after cut and treat techniques. I really find that if you can get those species killed standing, before cutting, sprouts are less of an issue, For most other tree species cut stump treatments seem to work very well. We have many products that work well for cut stump treatments - of course good old Tordon RTU seems to be everyone's go to but there are many other products that are generally triclopyr, 2,4-D or dicamba based as well as a few other speciality products. Like basal bark treatments, cut stump works best from now through mid-winter. Just remember to treat as soon after cutting as possible, generally within 15 minutes, and thorough coverage of the stump. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Keep an Eye on Volunteer Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've had some really good county wide rains of late. Which means it's time to be on high alert for volunteer wheat. The hot summer blast in June as we were in the final stages of wheat growth really caused a lot of shrunken and shriveled kernels, some of which went out the back of the combine. While wheat has a normal built in dormancy, that has pretty well worn off now and with those rains and typical summer tempeatures, some of those wheat stubble fields could be getting pretty green real soon. If you double-cropped beans into that stubble that volunteer wheat is still going to grow, and use water and nutrients. Don't let it get too big before you go after it. And of course, there's the concern about wheat curl mite and wheat streak transmission so make sure that volunteer wheat is destroyed two weeks before planting! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Not All Thistles are Bad

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When many landowners see thistles, the immediately think of musk thistle and they tend to go into full attack mode. Full attack mode is fine if you are dealing with musk or one of the other non-native thistles. But we have several native species of thistle that bloom NOT in the spring when musk thistle blooms, but on into summer and early fall. These thistles are not a problem and generally don't need to be controlled. IF they seem to be getting to be a problem in a pasture, we need to talk about stocking rates first! Most of the thistles that I see blooming this time of year are things like tall thistle with it's dark green fairly limber leaves or wavyleaf thistle with it's very gray appearance and pale pink blossom or maybe bull thistle, not native. with it's very narrow leaves. But all of these are good for pollinators so just let them bloom. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

How To Take Hay Samples

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't think I can overemphasize the need to routinely test forage samples. Each cutting of alfalfa will be different. Each different hay meadow will be different, each year will be different. When it comes to crude protein and energy, I've found that most people over estimate their grass hay especially. Collecting a good representative hay sample isn't difficult, it just takes a little time. You want to avoid just pulling some hay out of one spot of one windrow because just like a single soil sample, you don't know what happened right there. Borrow one of the office's hay probes and sample at least ten bales of hay from each field. Composite the samples to get a good average representation of that cutting and then we can help you get it analyzed. When you know what you have you can do a better job of feeding it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.