

### How Late Can We Plant Corn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are into the first week of May. Corn growers were rolling like crazy last week trying to play catch up. Many of them feel like we have been running real late. Well, maybe late by the calendar but not by the soil temperatures and weather! The cold snowy weather we had a couple of weeks ago really chilled out the soil temperatures. So how late can we plant corn? You can plant corn clear into June and have something to harvest, but that's not what you're thinking. Naturally it all depends on the weather and how fast it turns hot and how hot it gets. But in general, if we can have corn in the ground by May 10<sup>th</sup>, I'm not overly concerned about yield penalties. If you're getting finished with corn planting this week, then great! If you're going to be finished by early next week, no problems. Beyond that, it starts to get shaky! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Optimal Soybean Planting Dates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The way it's shaping up this year we're going to roll from corn planting right into soybean planting without much, if any, of a break. Which may raise the question of whether we are early or late with our soybean planting. Soybeans have a much longer optimal planting date window than corn does. Soybeans are simply more flexible in their development and blooming than corn. We generally feel that optimal planting window for soybeans is May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. We are on the very north side of that window though so even planting as early as May 5<sup>th</sup>, really isn't pushing the window all that far. With that said there are some early season soybean planting trials being run around the state where beans are being planted in early April and even late March. I don't have any results from that yet but when I do, I will share them! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Stripe Rust Alert

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Late last week I was finding stripe rust pustules on the lower leaves in area wheat fields. Incidence was low, as in less than 10% of the plants in fields were showing pustules although quite a few leaves on other plants had some suspect looking areas that were probably developing. The weather we've been having has been perfect for stripe rust to really explode in fact K-State plant pathologists have our region in a high risk area for additional development. For fields that have a high yield potential, and I'd suggest 50 bushels or higher, then I'd be getting fungicide lined up to be applied. Plant development was moving along quickly and flag leaves are visible in most of those high yield potential fields. It is the flag leaf we want to get protected with fungicide. If you have questions on whether or not to treat, call me! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Bush Honeysuckle in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As if we don't have enough invasive woody shrubs, here's another one to be on the lookout for in pastures, especially right long wooded areas. Bush Honeysuckle was heavily planted as a wildlife plant and ornamental over the past 50 or 60 years. It is covered with fragrant pinkish white blooms in the spring and bright red berries in the late summer and that's part of the problem - the birds eat the berries and spread it everywhere. In timber stands it has become a very serious weed as it crowds out everything else. It does seem to be quite susceptible to fire, especially late in the spring fires. It's a challenge to control with herbicides although triclopyr based products are going to be the best. Since it also holds its leaves very late into the fall we can sometimes use glyphosate to control it after everything else is dormant. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Can We Still Burn Pastures?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There is a belief that once we get past the first of May we can no longer burn pastures. This is not quite correct. Yes, the pasture grasses are growing well now and burning them will reduce forage production slightly but more importantly it will also delay being able to turn cattle out into that pasture. But you will not hurt the grass. Remember, grass evolved under fire and keeps its growing point below ground. If you have pastures that you aren't using yet for whatever reason, you can still burn them. In fact burning pastures now will actually do more damage to woody shrubs than burning in the March and April time frame. Pastures will green up very quickly with a May burn but the burn will be slower and appear to be smokier, although most of that extra smoke is actually water vapor from the green vegetation. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.