

Stink Bug Update in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There are stink bugs in the soybeans. There's always stink bugs in soybeans in late September. AND their feeding can cause yield loss. Evaluating populations of stink bugs is a challenge because they often fold up their legs and drop to the ground as you go through the field looking for them. We know that if you are averaging 10 bugs per 30 feet of row you can likely justify spraying. We also know that the later we get in the season the less of an issue it is as the stink bugs stop feeding on the seeds as they get firmer and less juicy. In all honesty, we are probably over the hump on stink bugs.

Unless you have some after harvest beans that appear to have really good yield potential, I'd stop scouting for stink bugs and turn my attention to *Dectes* stem borer (listen tomorrow for that.) But stink bug concern season for me is basically over! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Scout for Dectes Stem Borer

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Dectes Stem borer is a pest that we're finding more and more often in soybeans. The little gray beetle with long antenna is the adult that doesn't really do much damage. But the females lay eggs where the leaf attaches to the stem. The young larvae hatch and immediately burrow into the stem where they start feeding. This burrowing into the stem usually kills the trifoliolate leaf there which is actually quite obvious to see if you are scouting a field. Once you find this you can break off the dead leaf and usually see the entrance hole where it tunneled in. Then you can split the stem and confirm the presence of the little borer larvae. The feeding damage generally does not hurt soybean yield directly. BUT infested plants are far more likely to fall over and lodge making harvest losses higher. If a field has a heavy infestation, harvest it first! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Stalk Breakage in Corn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Several folks noticed, as I did too, that after that good rain right before Labor Day weekend, a lot of the corn had stalks that broke over about half way between the ear and the tassel. Which prompted quite a few people to ask why. If you had been watching you likely noticed that where this upper stalk breakage occurred in fields was where there had been the more obvious drought and heat stress. A lot of this stress was occurring right when the plants were trying to finish filling the ear. The plant starts to cannibalize sugar from parts of the plant to move to the kernels and ears. While this early indication was above the ear, the rest of the stalk is likely also at risk with wind or rain from here on out. Go out and start checking stalks lower down on those plants and be ready to harvest those fields as soon as possible! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Be Sure to Treat Wheat Seed

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'll bet you have insurance on every vehicle you own and on your house too. You hope you never have to collect on it, but it's there for your protection. Fungicidal seed treatments do the same thing. We have many seed borne diseases in wheat that are easily stopped with seed treatments, most noticeably smut and bunt. The seed treatments will also protect against most all seedling damping off diseases. It may not be much of a concern to you right now, but if it turns cool and dampish (and wouldn't that be nice) we could see a lot of seedling disease issues. Virtually all commercially purchased wheat seed is treated now days but check to make sure it is. If you are using kept back seed you can get it treated OR use the planter box treatments. They may not be quite as effective but in the end, it's better than not having any treatment at all! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Proper Timing of Wheat Planting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the past 20 years we've slowly moved away from using the Hessian fly free date for wheat planting because we found out it really wasn't very effective. We have slowly migrated towards a recommended window for planting that optimizes the opportunity for best agronomic yield and it is called the BPMP which stands for Best Pest management planting date. Geary County is on the north edge of Zone 3 BPMP and our range of recommended planting dates is September 25 to October 20. I will take that one step further and tell you that in following wheat planting over the years I find the real sweet spot to be October 10 to 20. Earlier is certainly fine and some years that's been when there's been the moisture to get the wheat up timely, but that 10 day window in mid October just seems to work really well. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.