

### Flowers in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Pasture and rangeland managers please take note! From now through first frost, some of your pastures may appear to be over run with blooming plants. I say it every year and I will repeat it again, do not panic. We have a lot of native forbs, that's the technical name for wildflowers, that will bloom in the late summer and early fall. Most of these are native and which ones bloom in abundance in any particular year depends on the weather that year AND the management of the pasture. Annual broomweed is the bright yellow one that appears to be nothing for a plant. It's going to show up in heavy traffic areas or overgrazed areas. If you have a lot of it all over your pasture it is a good indicator that a discussion of stocking rates is in order. If you have one in particular that has you concerned, bring it in for an ID and discussion! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Nitrate Testing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Cattle producers are very familiar with the potential issues of high nitrate levels in forages. And virtually any forage, under the right conditions, can have potentially high nitrate levels. But certain plants are notorious nitrate accumulators. Weather can have a big impact on nitrate levels and we see the worst issues when we have drought impacting sorghums, sudans, millets and even corn. With sorghums and sudans we also have the secondary risk of prussic acid poisoning but that pretty much dissipates quickly with growth and the impact of mechanical harvesting. Nitrates however never go away. Ensiling the forage will reduce the nitrates about 1/3, but they'll still be there. If you are harvesting forages and concerned about nitrates, bring me in a good sample and I'll get it over to K-State and usually have results back in 24 hours! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Culling the Herd

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Cow herd managers have historically culled cows in the fall at weaning time. So you get to October, everybody is selling cull cows and you know what happens to the price. What if you cull your cows here in a couple of weeks and send those culls to market before everyone else does? You probably already have a good idea of some of the ones that you are going to cull and the vet will be able to preg check here before long so you'll know the open ones to get out of the herd. If you wanted you could even pull the ones out now that you're going to sell and start putting some weight on them in the next few weeks. The other advantage to moving cull cows out now is that you can reduce stocking pressure in pastures. Some pastures are looking pretty good still and others been hit hard and could use some rest! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Are You Checking for Volunteer Wheat?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Early August is when any post harvest wheat seed dormancy is pretty well gone and every rain shower seems to be bringing up more volunteer wheat. If you are going back into that stubble field with wheat this fall or even planting a field within a quarter mile of that field, then you need to have that volunteer wheat destroyed two weeks prior to wheat planting. We primarily worry about wheat curl mites and wheat streak mosaic and yes, we do have wheat streak in our area, but that volunteer can serve as a green bridge for many other diseases. Yes, volunteer that comes up after you destroy the existing volunteer COULD harbor issues, but normally the reinfection period is long enough that it no longer serves as a threat. If treating with herbicides then you want that volunteer brown two weeks out. Tillage is an instant solution! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Sericea Lespedeza Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is the time of year we switch gears in our herbicide selection for late summer treatments of sericea lespedeza. We treat earlier in the season with triclopyr to try to control vegetative growth and now we use metsulfuron at blooming time to try to stop seed production. With several years of this combo treatment we can get a pretty good handle on sericea populations. If your pasture has missed rains and the sericea is sort of stunted and not blooming, then don't treat until it is. If you see your sericea blooming and blooming well, then get it sprayed from beginning bloom up through full bloom. You want to use something with metsulfuron as an active ingredient. This would include Escort XP, Chaparral, Cimarron Max, Cimarron Plus or just plain old generic metsulfuron. Best to use a handgun and plenty of water! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.