

## Tractor Safety

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I spent some time last week helping teach the annual tractor safety classes for 14 and 15 year olds. As I listened to the other presenters and even my own talk I realized that tractor operators of any age should have to sit through this class every year. It isn't because any of you are unsafe tractor operators, but mainly because familiarity breeds contempt. We are on those tractors every day, so much so that we start to get lax in what we do and don't do and safety starts to get shoved further and further back. We are in a very busy time of year. We will put a lot of hours on that equipment in the next couple of months. Take some time to review and think about tractor safety. We've lost too many farmers and ranchers in my 40 years here and I don't want to lose anymore. Take safety for granted and you eventually will pay the price! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Farm Machinery Safety

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We always talk about tractor safety on the farm, but in reality that's one small part of the farming/ranching equation.

There are so many pieces of equipment that we use across the span of a year, and any one of them can injure or kill us. Skid steers have become a crucial piece of equipment on just about all operations, and some of you are absolutely amazing at what you can do with that piece of equipment. But with great utility comes potentially great danger. Skid steers are loaded with all sorts of safety features which work pretty good, if you don't disable or bypass them. Let's face it, there's a lot of power and a lot of moving pieces on all that equipment. Respect it, keep guards and shields in place and before you EVER start to work on something, even something simple, shut off all the power and let it stop completely! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Harvest Safety

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't know if anyone is harvesting wheat yet, but we are likely getting close, especially given this weather. Combines are likely our largest, most expensive and most technologically advanced single piece of equipment on the farm. But harvest season, whether it's summer or fall, puts a lot of big equipment on the road. Non-farm drivers out there, please be patient around that ag equipment. They have every legal right to be on those roads just as you do. A little patience goes a long ways! That equipment does not accelerate, break or corner like your car does. Give them plenty of room to maneuver as they go from field to field or to the grain elevator. Farmers, just accept that most of those drivers have no clue about what you are driving. Be patient, ignore the blaring horns and rude hand gestures, and keep your head on a swivel! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Brush Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've noticed a lot of rough-leaved dogwood blooming and smooth sumac blooming in the past week or two. The start of blooming on both of these species signals the time frame when their root reserves are at their lowest, making them the most susceptible to herbicide control. Sumac blossoms are going to look a little bit like a very open milo head. Sumac is also one of the easiest brush species to control. One to 2 quarts of 2,4-D per acre is all you need to get very high control of smooth sumac. Dogwood is one of the toughest ones to control however. Best control, 1 year after treatment, has come from Grazon P+D plus Remedy. Plan on mixing 1 quart of Grazon P+D plus 1 pint of Remedy Ultra OR 1.5 pints of generic triclopyr per acre. Mix these amounts in 20 gallons of water. Surmount also works well. 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. With all this rain, sericea lespedeza is making a lot of good vegetative growth right now. Since we did get the rain AND we are getting good growth, this is a very good time to get that early season treatment down. In that early season vegetative growth stage we usually are going to focus on products that contain triclopyr so Remedy Ultra, Trycera, Garlon 4 Ultra, or PastureGard HL. You want to focus on good coverage with lots of water. Whenever possible, a handgun is the way to go. Refer to whichever triclopyr product's label that you are using for proper mixing rates. Also check in areas previously treated for any seedlings that are coming along. Once we get into the bloom stage in August or early September, rainfall dependent, then we want to switch to one of the many metsulfuron containing products! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.