

### Don't Let Weeds Get the Jump

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It quit raining, the heat returned and plants are growing like gangbusters! Most corn has canopied over already so post emerge applications are likely done but we have a lot of soybeans that are just really getting going and there may very well be breakthroughs of your soil applied residual herbicide, assuming and praying that you applied a soil residual herbicide. When dealing with rescue post-emerge herbicide applications it is very crucial to get the weeds when they are small. Yes, I know in the early days of Roundup Ready technology it didn't matter, but now we have so much glyphosate resistance and are dependent on dicamba and other herbicides. Many of these have height limits of 4" weeds. In weather like this, pigweed species can go from 2" to 6" in 48 hours. Don't delay on those rescue treatments, get it sprayed! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Keeping Wheat Seed Back?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While we don't do it as often as we used to, we still have a fair number of producers who keep some wheat seed back for replanting. If you are one of those, here's a few key things to remember. Keep back seed that has good test weight, at least 59 pounds before cleaning. You also want it dry for storing 90 to 120 days. If you do not have aeration available in your storage bin it really needs to be below 12% moisture. Have a sample germination tested in late August and with the weird weather this year, you may also want an accelerated aging test, or stress test, performed on it as well. Once you know you have good germination on the seed plan to have it commercially cleaned. Then also get it treated with a seed fungicide. Insecticide treatment likely isn't necessary but fungicide treatment, absolutely! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Consider Growing Season Pasture Burns

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Dogwood is becoming one of our tougher invasive brush species to control in pastures. Because it tends to be later leafing out, most controlled burns are too early to do much other than knocking the top growth back - sometimes. One of the things that we are seeing in those late summer, or growing season pasture burns, occurring in mid to late Aug, is that they seem to really put some hurt on the dogwood. If you have a bad dogwood problem it will take several years of herbicide treatments to get it under control and late summer burns will likely help. These late summer burns require a little special management. Double stocking is one way to still use the pasture and accomplish this. Rotational grazing can also be used or simply pulling cows off early, early weaning the calves and moving the cows to drylot or winter pasture early. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Annual Forage Insurance

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Some of you may have been using the risk management product known as Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance to compensate for loss of forage production in dry years. Well, there is also a program known as Annual Forage Insurance that is a rainfall index product like PRF. It can be used to protect annual crops, including any crop used for haying, grazing/haying, grain/grazing, green chop, grazing/green chop or silage. Think wheat, triticale, forage sorghums, sudans, just any of those annual forages. It has great flexibility and provides indemnification if low rainfall impacts your ability to grow forages. It has a lot of moving parts and decisions you need to make when you sign up and you can select specific periods of the year you want to insure for. Contact your crop insurance agent for more information. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Are Tree Leaves Good Cattle Forage?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've all seen the trees out in the pastures that have an obvious browse line indicating clearly how high the cattle can reach to eat the leaves. But have you ever wondered if those leaves are any good for the cattle, nutritionally, or is this just a bored cow thing? In general, tree and shrub leaves have pretty low digestibility even if the protein might be high. You can also have problems with leaves of some species having high tannic acid levels which can tie up protein in the rumen and decrease feed efficiency of their normal forages. Of even bigger concern is the fact that some leaves have the potential of being toxic to cattle. Cherry and oak are probably the best known for potential toxicity issues - cherry especially. Oak leaves and acorns both can cause problems. Not always, but enough that you need to stay alert. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.