

## Ag Radio Programs for June 27 - July 3, 2022

### Dealing With Volunteer Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Wheat harvest and wheat quality have been all over the board this year. Good test weights, low test weights, yields from above average to well below average. The heat we've experienced both in May and then again in June likely caused a lot of kernels that had set to not finish filling and get blown out the back of the combine. When this happens we are perfectly set up for lots of volunteer wheat. It's amazing how many of those lightweight kernels seem to have no problem germinating when they are laying in the field. Wheat generally has a short dormancy period but about a month after harvest they are going to have no problem germinating when they get a little rain. Keep an eye out for that volunteer later this summer and be prepared to take action. Volunteer harbors insect and disease pests that we don't need! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Blue-Green Algae in Farm Ponds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I receive questions about blue-green algae in farm ponds every year. Blue-green algae isn't an algae at all but a blue-green bacteria. It is found in virtually every body of surface water across the entire country. It's normally occurring. The problem comes from water with lots of nutrients and warm conditions. Honestly, while blue green algae blooms can form in farm ponds, it normally doesn't since farm ponds are rather turbid. Blue-green algae is not a bunch of little plant like things on the surface of the water or the long green filamentous growths we see. It often looks like an oil or paint scum on the surface of the water and to me there is often a very noticeable odor associated with it. The blooms that it can produce can develop toxins that can cause illness and death in any mammal. If you have questions, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Managing Heat Stress in Cattle

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. To all of the conspiracy theory doubters out there, heat stress in cattle is real and it does kill them. Cattle deal with heat differently than humans. Cattle in pastures are less likely to have extreme heat stress like was seen in the feedlots in western Kansas, but in some of the extreme conditions we've had, we still need to be checking on them regularly. Some of the problems a couple weeks ago was the extreme swings we were seeing in the weather from cool and damp to brutally hot and humid in a matter of a few days. Cattle were still acquiring their summer hair coats. The key things to keep in mind is basically minimize stress on the cattle and make sure that they have plenty of fresh water. A simple temperature increase from 70 to 90 will double a cow's water intake. Keep the water flowing and an eye on the herds! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Cut Off Date for Dicamba on Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you grow dicamba resistant soybeans, today is a crucial date because it is the cutoff date for over the top applications of any of the dicamba herbicides registered for post-emerge use on soybeans. Yes, cotton dates are later but last time I checked we don't have any cotton being grown locally. You can still make over the top applications to soybeans after this date, you just can't use any of the dicamba products. There are a lot of other herbicides for post-emerge use in soybeans but it becomes very very crucial to get weeds sprayed when they are small, and that means generally under 4" in height. A few may go up to 6" but I'll just tell you that control will be much better when weeds are only a couple of inches tall. And of course, for many weed species, and grasses especially, glyphosate is still working well! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Post Wheat Harvest Stubble Weeds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A couple of days ago I was talking about controlling volunteer wheat in wheat stubble, but we also need to talk about weeds and grasses in general in wheat stubble. Many of our annual grasses can foster wheat curl mites and wheat streak mosaic also. Of course, if you are double cropping beans into the wheat stubble you'll be on top of the weed issue already. But if you are going fallow so that you can plant alfalfa in August or go back to wheat or just wait to plant next spring, then it becomes very important to keep those weeds under control to preserve soil moisture. But keeping weeds from setting seeds is also a good way to reduce the number of weed seeds for next year. Every plant of any kind, that reaches maturity, is going to produce anywhere from 100 to 1 million seeds.

Something to keep in mind! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.