

After Wheat Harvest

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We finally got some decent days last week to work on wheat harvest which is good because it turned out that we really had some decent wheat to harvest. Those are the good kinds of surprises to have. Hopefully you are wrapping up wheat harvest, or have already wrapped it up. If you are double cropping beans into that wheat stubble, I hope it's roundup ready so you can deal with all the weeds AND volunteer wheat that will be coming along. Every single producer I talked to was commenting on how much wheat was going through the combine. We had a lot of third and fourth berries that set, but simply didn't form completely because of the warm and dry May. But I will guarantee you that every one of those light little seeds will sprout and grow. WE can't have that. Be ready to treat them as they get started. Another option, is to plant liberty link beans. By using Liberty Link seeds and liberty herbicide you have the chance to get a handle on some of the glyphosate resistant weeds in your fields or to clean up any volunteer roundup ready corn you may be dealing with. Some places in the corn belt are having a real problem with that! Wheat stubble can also be a great place to no-till new alfalfa into in mid August - more on that in coming weeks - or if you are going to row crops next spring, you can take this fallow period to get weed problems like shattercane or field bindweed under control by using something more than just glyphosate. You've been given a opportunity, use it! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Time to Start Re-thinking Fertilizer Plans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I don't care what crops you are growing, if you are still thinking that your fertilizer program is nothing more than nitrogen and maybe some phosphorus, you're heading for a train wreck! In the past couple of years we've started to see a lot of problems showing up. The increasing acres of soybeans and corn have pushed our soils beyond anything that we even considered 20 years ago. And the increasing yields of everything, simply takes more nutrients out of the soil. In the 40s, 50s even the 60s, most of our phosphorus fertilizer was essentially rock phosphate. Rock phosphate was loaded with trace amounts of lots of other nutrients so we had built up a lot of those micronutrients in our soil. All of our fuel was loaded with sulfur, sulfur dioxide came out of our vehicle exhaust pipes and eventually landed on the soil. Now we have sulfur free fuel and all of our phosphorus fertilizer is nothing but pure phosphorus. We are now seeing chlorine deficiency in wheat, sulfur deficiency in bromegrass, a whole bunch of micronutrient deficiencies in corn. Large equipment is creating more compaction in soil. Compacted soils, especially early in the season, can create nutrient deficiencies even when the soil test shows adequate levels. We always thought we had all the potassium in the world but guess what. That's one of our biggest issues in compacted soils - potassium deficiency. If you are seeing something strange in your field, let's look into it with soil tests and tissue analysis. Many of these deficiencies are easily fixed with just a few dollars per acre. Don't waste yield! Fertilize! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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Grass in Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As I drive around town or out in the country, I see lots and lots of annual warm season grasses. That's a nice way of saying we have crabgrass, foxtail and barnyard absolutely everywhere. Unfortunately, alfalfa fields are no different than anywhere else. I've seen a lot of alfalfa fields that are a bright yellowish green, and we all know that alfalfa is dark green. While all of these grasses can add some tonnage to your harvest, the truth of the matter is that they will ultimately take away quality, as in lower protein, and if it stops raining they will definitely take away yield of the preferred alfalfa. If you have roundup ready alfalfa then just get out there and spray when the grass has several inches of growth. Just remember that you need to wait five days after treatment before swathing. If you don't have roundup ready alfalfa, don't worry, there's still a lot of options. Gramoxone can be used right after a cutting, but I've never been a big fan of it. Raptor is going to give you good control of grasses and broadleaf weeds but you're going to need to wait 20 days after application until swathing and larger weeds will not be well controlled. Pursuit is also an option - it's going to be weaker on grasses. Clethodim which comes under a bunch of trade names is effective on grasses, but works better earlier in the year before first cutting. Ultimately though, my favorite grass herbicide in alfalfa, for non roundup ready is going to be Poast or Poast Plus. It's probably the best on larger grasses, you can swath in 14 days and it is very effective against all kinds of grasses. Regardless, if you have grass, spray! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.