

Too Late To Burn?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I'm guessing that more than likely 95% of the burning is done by now. It never ceases to amaze me at how stuck we get in tradition and after years and years of tradition, it becomes reality that may or may not have any basis. How do you decide when you are going to burn, or at least would like to burn? In some cases we have to have the wind in a certain direction. If that happens March 25th, that's when we'll burn. If it happens April 25th, then that's when we'll burn. But in other cases, what has been your rationalization to burn? To remove old fuel? To improve performance (if you answer that you'd better be running yearlings because it doesn't matter with cow/calf herds)? To control brush? Let's stop with that one right there. Which brush? If it's cedar trees, you can burn anytime and control those. If it's any other brush species, and you've already burned your pasture, you probably haven't done much good! I don't know how many times that I tell people they need to burn later to control brush and they tell me the pasture is too green to burn. Well, assuming you left enough fuel last year or overwinter, it will still burn. In fact you can probably burn it anytime during the summer. It won't be a fast burn, but it will burn! I bring this up because some might have given up hope of burning this spring, when there is still time - and trust me, it will green up very quickly and you won't lose much grazing. But I also bring it up because we'll be talking about late summer burns soon! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Burn Update

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We've had some time to ascertain what the big week of burning April 7 through April 13th did. A lot of burns on the 7th, 10th, and 11th produced some big smoke plumes. We've all heard about the screaming from Nebraska especially from that Tuesday April 11th massive burn. Looking at the infrared satellite analysis, as I have stated before, the entire Flint Hills region was on fire. What my Nebraska friends need to be aware of is that there were a fair number of fires in Nebraska that day too. Kansas wasn't the only culprit on April 11. By the way, that smoke plume pushed all the way north to South Dakota and Minnesota and then winds pushed it east towards the Great Lakes. The smoke from April 12th's fires which the satellite shows were NOT from Geary county also pushed north, but then came back south with a weak system. I bring all this up to point out that the smoke doesn't just disappear into nothingness in a few hours. It can stick around for days and continue to be monitored. Speaking of monitoring, what happened with the air monitors on those big burn days? From the period of April 7 through the 13th there were no ozone exceedances that were over the 8 hour 70 ppb threshold. Some got close and one got to exactly 70, but none went over! That is very good news. Particulate matter - which is what makes smoke visible - was another story. Exceedances were recorded in Oklahoma on the 7th and in Lincoln NE on the 8th and 12th. Both of these Nebraska events were the day after big burn days in the Flint Hills. Hopefully, were past the big burn days and smoke issues! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soybean Herbicides

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Seems that I spent quite a bit of time talking about corn production last week, so let's talk about soybeans for several program this week! Just as we talked last week we need to be careful of what mixes we use in our burn down applications. Dicamba and 2,4-D can be very helpful but unless you are planting Xtend soybeans, you need to be very careful with dicamba and regardless of which beans you are planting, watch those waiting intervals to planting with 2,4-D and in some cases rainfall accumulation requirements. One thing to note with the Xtendimax formulations of dicamba - do not use ATS or any other adjuvants as you can cause a great deal of issues with drift. ATS and adjuvants essentially counteract all the non volatilization products added and make it as bad or worse than the old original Banvel dicamba formulations. Even though we may be 2 to 4 weeks away from soybean planting, I would seriously consider getting your soil residual products applied at the same time. One of the problems we had last year was once we could finally plant we were spraying and planting at the same time and then we had dry weather and herbicides failed to get activated. You can look at many different products but it is looking like the Valor and Authority based mixes are going to be in that top tier of control, especially for the glyphosate resistant pigweeds. If you know or suspect glyphosate resistant pigweeds then bite the bullet and go with the higher end of the rate range. And if you haven't noticed it yet, those fields are turning green really fast now! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Soybean Fertilization

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. One of the reasons that soybeans have become so popular over the years, well, other than their profitability, is because they don't need nitrogen fertilizer. They are a legume and as such, they are able to utilize atmospheric nitrogen. While this gets a lot of people all excited, they often miss out on a very critical second point. Soybeans still need phosphorus. How much phosphorus depends on soil test levels and yield goals. We are still using the same basic threshold that we've been using for the past decade. If you have phosphorus soil test levels of 20 ppm, it is highly unlikely that you will see a yield response to additional phosphorus even at yield goals of 60 and 80 bushels per acre. If you are just a little bit over 20 ppm you may want to add a little bit just to maintain soil phosphorus levels, but 15 pounds per acre may be plenty. As soil test levels for phosphate drop however, fertilization rates jump up in a hurry. Dropping from soil test levels of 20 ppm to 15 ppm and all of a sudden you need 20 to 25 pounds per acre. If soil test levels drop down to about 10 ppm, you're all of a sudden looking at application rates of 40 to 50 pounds per acre. Yes, that means you're looking at a 15 to 20 dollar fertilizer bill, but that's only 2 to 3 bushels per acre. Not putting that phosphorus on may easily cost you 10 bushels in yield. If you are applying straight phosphorus remember it is not a salt based product so direct seed contact is not an issue. If you are getting it in something like a 10-34-0 liquid fertilizer, you want to be very careful as the nitrogen component can quickly hurt your stand! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Optimal Soybean Planting Dates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've long been an advocate of planting soybeans either a little earlier than we traditionally have, or just wait and plant in a post wheat harvest stage. Well, we're starting to get some data from long term studies that show that I'm not really all wet! This study has been done at five locations across the state but I'm going to limit my comments to Manhattan and Topeka fields. In the studies three maturity groups - an early, medium and late maturity variety was planted early, medium and late. For maturity groups they looked at a 3.0 for early, a 3.7 to 3.9 for medium and a 4.5 for late. At Manhattan they planted April 22, May 15 and June 3, at Topeka it was May 2, May 20 and June 18 for early, medium and late. Not surprisingly, across all planting dates, the medium and late maturity group beans always did best. In our part of Kansas, those shorter maturity group beans just don't have the yield potential. It appears that there is an advantage to planting in May, as opposed to June. The trend lines may not be strong, but they seem to be pretty consistent at least over the years of the study. What we did not see were penalties from planting early and there could be some benefits in spreading work load out. Get you corn planted, turn around and start on your beans. If you do plant early with beans, especially no till, use seed treated with fungicide/insecticide seed treatment. IF you are concerned about it being a dry year, then there are some advantages to later planting the end of May or early June. Ultimately though, we all know that good yield is predicated by weather, especially rainfall! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.