

Condition of the Wheat Crop

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In between cold spells I had the chance to get out into some wheat fields and take a look at things! I intentionally went to fields with the latest planted and smallest wheat I could find. I figured this was where damage was most likely to be seen. Fields had emerged but were pretty much at the one tiller stage with 3 to 4 leaves in most cases, sometimes only 2 leaves. Leaves were obviously frozen and showed it. I expected that and wasn't really looking at the leaves, I was carefully moving the surface soil away so I could see the area just above the crown. Most of what I was seeing was showing a bright white which is a good sign. Even with the very cold temperatures, if there would have been damage already this would be desiccated and yellow to brown. I did not see any of that. I was somewhat surprised that as I tried to dig up plants I hit frost and frozen soil at a fairly shallow level. I didn't think there would have been that much moisture in the ground, and that is a good sign. Perhaps had I gone to fields with bigger wheat there would have been less surface moisture. I'll visit those fields next time I'm out. Serious freeze damage can show up fairly soon. Freeze stress damage may not show up for another 6 to 8 weeks. The cold weather back just before New Year's put everything into as deep a dormancy as you could expect. The mid week change in weather last week actually did some good with a little moisture and ice to seal off the surface. Too early to know for sure but we're still checking! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Dicamba Record Keeping Requirements

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Slowly details are starting to emerge as to the new requirements for dicamba usage and reporting. Just as an FYI, we will be having a special session at our soybean production school on March 14th that will qualify as the required training that applicators have to have to use the Xtendimax, Fexapan or Engenia products. There are 21 items that the EPA have outlined that users of these dicamba products have to track. I don't know if I have time to mention all 21, but I'll try! Items that need to be recorded when using these products include: Name and certification number of applicator. Product name and EPA registration number. Total amount applied and application month, day and year. Location of application, crop or site being treated and size of area treated. Proof of dicamba applicator training. Application timing, whether PRE or POST and number of days after planting. Receipts of purchased product and product labels. Yup, gotta keep both of those. Documented awareness of nearby susceptible crops and sensitive areas. Sprayer cleanout procedure and dates before and after applying dicamba product. List of all tank mix products and EPA registration numbers for those pesticides. Start and finish application times, spray nozzle and pressure, air temperature at boom height at start and finish of application times, wind speed and direction at boom height at start and finish and a record of buffer distance requirements. So are you sure you want to use this technology? This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Farm Pond Ice Safety Guidelines

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The recent bout of cold weather has produced significant ice on farm ponds, assuming that they still had water in them. Some people want to go ice fishing when this happens while others are trying to break through this ice, sometimes with a tractor, to get water for cattle. Where some people want good thick ice, others would prefer to see nominal ice so they can break it with an axe. In the first round of frigid temperatures at the start of the year I heard one producer talk about how tough it was to get ice broken in the creek with the front end loader on the tractor. Now I'll bet you that you've heard, as I have, that you need three to four inches of ice to support a person and 8 to 12 inches to support a vehicle, like a car. I spent a lot of time on ice, ice fishing in college. I've had a lot of ice experience. And what I can tell you is that those numbers are pretty accurate IF you are in an area that has pretty constant temperatures. But around here, we have funky ice. Temperature swings, just like we've seen already this month, can create bad ice in unpredictable areas. If you have a good spring fed pond, you are going to have unpredictable ice thicknesses. Milford Lake went from 98% ice covered to 50% ice covered in a matter of three days. We just don't have predictable enough ice around here to trust it. If you are breaking ice on farm ponds or creeks for livestock, do so with a great deal of caution and avoid doing it alone. Tie a rope around you and around a tractor for protection. Ice can't be trusted! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Why the problem with dicamba

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The entire dicamba conundrum is what I would call a tragic comedy. It is fascinating and sad at the same time. Yes, we've used dicamba for 50 years now, but there is so much we did not know about it. More than likely, because of the issues surrounding the whole glyphosate resistant weed issues, this technology was rushed into use five years earlier than it should have been. We still needed a lot of research in how this stuff moves. Does it work? Yes, IF you use it early before weeds get very tall and you use it in conjunction with a good preplant or pre-emerge herbicide program. But if you do the old glyphosate routine where you wait for the weeds to get 3 feet tall and it's a hot day in July when you finally spray, you aren't going to get satisfactory control and you will have drift issues. Part of the challenge is that you are working with a product that only requires 1/20,000 of a normal usage rate to cause visual damage symptoms in standard soybeans. 1/20,000 of a normal use rate is .0004 ounces of active ingredient or 1/1000 of an ounce per acre of the standard formulations. At that rate, you can see visual damage to non-resistant soybeans. But it might take 3 weeks to show up. You can do everything right and have a wind switch 48 hours later and have damage appear hundreds of feet away. Last summer and this summer there are air monitors being used to sample dicamba vapor in the air. All of this is simply to ask anyone who is using this technology to be very careful! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Ag Lease Termination Deadline is drawing near

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If we're all lucky, this will be the last radio program that I do this season on ag leases. The only reason that I'm doing one now is because we are about ten days away from the ag lease termination deadline. If you do not have a written lease with specific dates in it, Kansas statutes explicitly state that ag leases run from March 1 to March one for a period of one year. Additionally, primarily on oral leases now, those leases automatically renew annually unless proper termination is given. So once you shake hands on that verbal agreement, you are bound in perpetuity until you give proper notice of termination. The statutes are also very clear on how that termination will be done. Termination of an oral lease will be done in writing, said notice will be given to the tenant at least 30 days prior to March 1st and it will set the termination date as March 1st. The exception is that if any of the land has been seeded to a fall planted crop, primarily winter wheat, then the lease on those acres expires the day after the crop is harvested or August 1, whichever comes first. To be legal you can't give a verbal notification. To be legal you can't set a termination date other than March 1 UNLESS you put it in writing and both parties sign the lease. You can't tell the tenant to have their hay bales off the field by February 1st or livestock removed by the end of January. It has to be March 1st. The notice can't be mailed on January 30th, which is 30 days prior to March 1, it has to be in their hands. It's straightforward, it's simple and it's the law. If you have any questions on this, give me a call! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.