

Start Spraying Brush in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Normally I say that the first half of June is the best all around time to spray brush in pastures. Keeping in mind that all the major brushy species that invade pastures have different ideal treatment times, early June is the best time if you prefer a "one size fits all" approach. I think we can sort of move that sweet spot back about a week this year as the cool May slowed development of many woody species. Just a few things to remember, whatever herbicide you are using, read and follow the label for proper mixing rates and any surfactants to use. Many pasture managers still think they need to mix some diesel fuel in with the spray mix but that tends to be self defeating as it can knock the leaves off the shrubs before the herbicide can be taken up by the plant. Only use adjuvants that are recommended or suggested on the label. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

2019 Kansas Farm Management Association Summary

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A few weeks ago the Kansas Farm Management Association released their annual summary of farm income from their members. These numbers are about as representative of the cross section of Kansas agriculture that you're going to get. While accrual net farm income was up in 4 of the 6 regions and for the state as a whole, we need to note a couple of things. Over 70% of net farm income in Kansas in 2019 was from government payments. In fact statewide, slightly over 50% of net farm income was from MFP payments. That's the market facilitation program payments that are intended to partially compensate farmers for low commodity prices due to loss of exports due to trade wars. The other thing to note is that over 40% of farms failed to have enough net farm income to cover family living expenses. Concerning numbers. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Hours Until Rainfast

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's happened before and it will happen again. You need to get a burndown herbicide treatment applied and there's rain in the forecast. Or you just sprayed the pasture earlier today and out of nowhere comes a big old thunderstorm. Which then leaves you wondering how long does it take for herbicides to get taken up by the plant so they are rain fast. A University of Nebraska Extension Weed specialist studied this and developed a pretty good chart. For most burndown herbicides they will be rainfast in an hour or two. The shortest time was Roundup Power or Weather Max and Gramoxone SL at 30 minutes. A lot of the herbicides, like 2,4-D were 1 hour. First Rate and Scepter were 2 hours and surprisingly Liberty and virtually all dicamba products are 4 hours, which kind of surprised me. Call me if you want a copy of this chart. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Double Crop Options

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The way this wheat crop is progressing I was getting a little concerned that we wouldn't be harvesting until the 4th of July.

But heat returned last week and that has helped to really move things along. Many wheat producers will likely be trying to get fast turn around and get soybeans double cropped in - even while the combines may be running in some fields. A couple of things to keep in mind is first of all potential herbicide carryover from what you used for the wheat crop. Second is to get good burn down of existing weeds. Depending on what soybean you are using, 2-4,D or Dicamba may be an option to add to the glyphosate you'll likely use. I would also consider pre-emerge herbicide to help out as well. Stick with the same maturity group or even a tad bit later. Plant full rate and add a little fertilizer as well! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Other Double Crop Options

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I was talking about beans for double crop after wheat harvest. But one that is too often overlooked is summer annual forages like pearl millet, sudangrass or even some BMR forage sorghum. I think producers often shy away from all of these for fear of high nitrates. But if you have good soil moisture to get the plants up and growing and you use little additional fertilizer we can manage to avoid nitrate problems many times. Even if we do have some elevated nitrates, we can test after harvest and then find ways to make use of them. We sure figured that out in 2018. Rather than shy away from these summer annual forages, let's learn how to work with these and manage the nitrates. The good thing about these summer annual forages is that you can often plant them well into July and still expect good yields. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.