

### Freeze Damage

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Winter tried to make a brief return last week. The snow was not a problem, but the cold temperatures had the potential to be a problem. However, after checking mesonet weather station records, my own weather station records and anything else I could find, it seems like about the coldest it got anywhere was 28 degrees which may nip a few tops of alfalfa plants but shouldn't cause the wheat a problem. With that said I'm still going to hold off total judgement because there's always cold pockets in low lying areas that seems to have wheat that's a little advanced where it got a little colder. It seems to happen every year so we may see a few scattered pockets of damage but for the most part, we should be in good shape. It did not get cold enough to hurt alfalfa weevil though so if you haven't sprayed, you need to soon! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Keep Sorghum in the Rotation

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I grew up on a farm raising irrigated soybeans and grain sorghum because corn rootworm had gotten so bad my Dad could make more money on sorghum. I spent five years and received my MS working on a grain sorghum breeding program in college. To say sorghum has a soft spot in my heart is an understatement. But I think the siren's call of corn and soybean has pulled more acres away from sorghum than may be justified. We find excuses not to plant sorghum when we should be spending that same energy keeping sorghum in the rotation. Sorghum has some very attractive characteristics starting with drought and heat tolerance. We can deal with insect problems, we can deal with the weed problems, and with glyphosate in the non sorghum years, we can deal with shattercane. So don't give up on sorghum! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Stripe Rust Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've long known that hot spring weather favors leaf rust and cool spring weather favors stripe rust. So April has been a pretty good month for stripe rust. By April 15<sup>th</sup> it was found in extreme southeast Kansas on lower leaves of wheat. This is the right part of the state where we would first expect it to be seen. While we've been having a lot of north winds, which will slow the northerly spread of this disease, all it takes is one humid warm day with a south wind though and those spores will be to Nebraska. With all of that said, don't be buying your fungicide just yet! Spraying now won't do any good. We need to wait until flag leaves are out because that's the one that it pays to protect. You need to be checking on the stripe rust resistance of the varieties you have planted and then scouting looking at older leaves first! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Don't Be In a Hurry with Fungicides

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't care if it's wheat, corn or soybeans, Over the last ten years, when we've started being more likely to use fungicides, far too many fields are being sprayed either too soon, or way too late. Part of the problem is that producers are talked into spraying a fungicide, but they aren't quite sure what diseases they are spraying to protect against. Each disease has a different threshold, a different timing needed for optimal control. I've heard of a lot of fungicide being applied at the same time as glyphosate or other over the top post emerge herbicides are being applied. The logic given to me was, we'll, we were spraying and it only added a couple of dollars per to the cost. The problem is that constant to excessive use of ANY pesticide will more quickly select for the resistant individuals. It works well, just look at glyphosate resistant weeds! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Soybean Seed Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. For all the money I see being spend on soybean foliar fungicides I'd like to see the same zeal when it comes to soybean seed treatments. Soybean producers are getting better because many of the seeds are automatically coming pre-treated. While maybe less of an issue with double crop beans, with earlier planting of soybeans we have much greater risk of seeding diseases and there are about four different diseases that cause very similar looking issues at germination. We've had a goodly amount of rain this spring and soils have been cool so we should be on high alert for seedling diseases. Since we do have different pathogens that can cause problems and many fungicides won't control all of them, it's important to check what disease it is if you wind up with issues. A change in products may be in order next year! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.