

Armyworm Alert

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you aren't aware that we have a bad fall armyworm infestation this year then you haven't been paying attention. These voracious feeders can cause problems in alfalfa, sorghum, virtually any newly seeded crop, brome grass, even corn. We'll likely have one more generation before they slow down. If you find armyworms in a field, size of the armyworms are important. If they are approaching 1½ inches in length they are about to pupate and likely don't need to be controlled. But an abundance of fall armyworms under one inch in size is another story. So far I've seen damage in alfalfa, newly planted sudan and brome fields. Established alfalfa is a case by case basis as to whether we need to treat. Sorghum fields need to be monitored because fall armyworms can join corn earworms in feeding on developing seeds in the heads. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Timing of Cattle Vaccinations

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Timing of cattle vaccinations has often be very tradition oriented. One of the most stressful time for young cattle is when they are being weaned. This is often right before they go to market or head out to winter pasture or backgrounding. Vaccines are going to be most effective when they are given a few weeks before the calves become at risk for the various diseases, frequently respiratory diseases like IBR and BVD. Once the vaccine is given it takes a few weeks for immunity to develop and get to maximum strength, figure three to four weeks. That likely means gathering the calves up for these vaccinations a month before weaning. If the calves are going to stay on the ranch for a few weeks after weaning then the vaccinations can likely be delayed until weaning time so the cattle aren't stressed anymore than necessary. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Get Cover Crops and Fall Grazing Fields Planted

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When we think about fall planting season we often just assume it's wheat planting but we have to remember that we may also be planting alfalfa right now as well as various cover crop blends or triticale, rye or wheat for fall cattle grazing. We are certainly in prime time for alfalfa planting and need to wrap that up by mid September. Cover crops can have various requirements but given the weather I'd get the seed in the ground so when the rain arrives it's ready to start growing. While we discourage planting wheat for grain production until early October, if we want fall grazing opportunities we probably need to get the seed in the ground anytime from now on so it has time to get well enough established that it can be grazed without being pulled out of the ground. Remember two weeks and green bridge breaking as well! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Watch for Armyworms in New Seedings

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fall armyworms are showing up everywhere and if you have any new crop seed in the ground or about to go in the ground you need to be on high alert. Fall Armyworms do not overwinter in Kansas and have to fly here from the south usually arriving in July. If we have a problem any year depends on just when they get here and how many arrive. This is a good year for fall armyworms and we have at least one more generation to go. They love tender young foliage of recently emerged plants of almost any species. They can wipe out a field of young plants in about 3 days and you often won't have a very large window to treat to save that crop. Once you have any late summer seeded crop in the ground you need to start checking on it beginning about the time it should emerge and then every day after that until frost! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sugar Cane Aphid Alert

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Milo producers need to be alert and start monitoring their fields for sugarcane aphids. Sugarcane aphids were found in Geary County early this week. Just because they were found in one field though does not mean you need to rush out and get the airplane lined up to spray. The one field where we have found them had some pretty good populations BUT there were also a lot of beneficial insects that were, if you will, whooping up on them. If you have 30% of the milo plants with large populations, a lot of honeydew being produced and few beneficial insects or aphids that have been parasitized then you likely need to spray. But let's keep monitoring this closely. If you want to receive routine updates on this make sure you are on my email list by sending me an email at cotte@ksu.edu. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.