

Corn Leaf Diseases

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I had a lot of people at the fair two weeks ago asking me about leaf diseases in corn. Yes, we have some! As of late last week there was gray leaf spot in just about every corn field. Fortunately a LOT of fields were sprayed the week of fair or just before. Gray leaf spot can impact yield especially in the more susceptible hybrids. The one we worry even more about is southern corn rust. We have common rust in corn annually, especially late in the season. Southern corn rust comes in earlier and can be far more aggressive causing more yield loss. As of late last week it had been found in Shawnee County. But it had also been found in some border Nebraska counties to the north and west of it. It's probably here, we just haven't seen it. The fungicides that were applied will be active on this. But stay tuned for further updates! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Volunteer Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Drove by a wheat stubble field last week - the ground was pretty much a carpet of green! Some of those nice rains have done a nice job of sprouting that light weight wheat seed that went through the combine. In some ways that is good because the more that gets sprouted now the more we can get killed. Volunteer wheat in late summer and early fall can be an absolute haven to all sorts of diseases and insects and other critters that carry diseases, namely wheat curl mites and wheat streak mosaic. We need to break that green bridge at least two weeks before planting wheat this fall. We want volunteer wheat destroyed at least 14 days ahead of planting. If that is from herbicides then it needs to be sprayed enough further in advance so that the wheat is dead and dry two weeks before. If you use tillage, then two weeks out is fine! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Culling the Herd

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Cow herd managers have historically culled cows in the fall at weaning time. So you get to October, everybody is selling cull cows and you know what happens to the price. What if you cull your cows here in a couple of weeks and send those culls to market before everyone else does? You probably already have a good idea of some of the ones that you are going to cull and the vet will be able to preg check here before long so you'll know the open ones to get out of the herd. If you wanted you could even pull the ones out now that you're going to sell and start putting some weight on them in the next few weeks. The other advantage to moving cull cows out now is that you can reduce stocking pressure in pastures. Some pastures are looking pretty good and others haven't had the rain and could use some rest! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Don't Be Average

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I collect a lot of sayings. I used to scribble them down on pieces of paper and have them around my office. Well, that got to be a mess so I have a file that I put them in now. I was recently looking at those sayings and ran across one that struck me, again. "If you manage for the average, your performance will decline." How many times do you aim for an average crop? You figure what your yields have been over the past 5 years and you manage for the average. You have to keep pushing yourself, your livestock, your crop yield. I see producers all the time trying to save a little money on fertilizer and they fail to take advantage of the horsepower that these newer hybrids and varieties have. I think we are often scared of a disaster or a failure so we get overly conservative on inputs. Manage for the exceptional to make progress! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Crop Insect Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've had a bit of a lull on crop insect issues of late and I really don't think anyone is minding. We had some potato leafhoppers back in July but that's likely behind us now, but there are some things on the horizon we need to be looking out for. Little bitty grasshoppers seem to be showing up everywhere. Keep checking field edges for evidence of damage. As sorghum starts to head out be looking for sorghum headworm. And for the next couple of week I'd be watching soybean fields for pod feeding insects. Bean leaf beetles can get active on small pods. Green cloverworms can also but we normally have a disease that takes out the cloverworms before we have to spray. The one that has been increasing in recent years and causes me concern are green stinkbugs. Keep you eye out for them and call if you are seeing quite a few! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.