

Wheat Stubble Watch

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Wheat harvest was starting pretty good - then it rained. We'll see how long it takes to finish now! In the meantime, don't forget about those stubble fields once you pull out of them. For those fields harvested before the rains, there WILL be weeds and likely volunteer wheat coming along. All that light weight kernels that flew out the back of the combine, are very capable of germinating and after a short period of rest, likely will with any rainfall that occurs. Weeds of all kinds are already coming. If you double cropped beans into the fields, don't be too tardy in getting some postemerge herbicide on. If you aren't double cropping it still becomes crucial to control the weeds and volunteer wheat. Anything growing out there is using soil moisture which could be crucial and we all know the problems that come with volunteer wheat. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Don't Let Weeds Get Big

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In the glyphosate hey days we didn't care about how big weeds grew. We mixed up the roundup, went out and sprayed the field and the weeds died. And for some weeds that's still the case. BUT, we now have glyphosate resistant weeds and we have to depend on other herbicides to fill in some of those gaps. If you look at the labels on any herbicide you will normally see maximum weed heights to insure good control. These maximum heights are never in feet by the way, they are usually 4 to 6 inches. With warm conditions and rain, pigweeds can go from seedlings to over 6 inches tall in 3 or 4 days. Post emerge weed control has to be very timely to be effective and really points out the need for a good pre-emerge weed control program. Don't get caught behind the clock, be timely with your herbicide applications! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Timing Prairie Hay Harvest

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We aren't too far out from the start of prairie hay harvest season. Prairie hay harvest is always a balancing act between quality and quantity. Far too many producers wait until well into August by which time crude protein can be 5% or below. But the producer wants tons. Ironically, from July 1 to August 1 you don't gain that much extra yield. Most of that increase in weight is going to be seed stalks and seed stalks don't have much for protein. In native hay protein comes from leaves. Once the native hay species start developing seed stalks they are through growing leaves. We are at that point now. Fifty years ago K-State forage researchers knew that the best tradeoff between quality and quantity came in mid July. Cut your native hay now and then the grass plants has the rest of the summer to recover before dormancy sets in. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Dicamba Season is Over

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you were using XtendiMax, Engenia or Tavium dicamba products for weed control in your beans remember that the season for applying those products is over. June 30th was the last day you could legally apply those and that doesn't matter whether it was full season or double crop soybeans. Yes, I know that beans are running late this year. We had double crop beans going in after wheat right next door to full season beans that were barely cracking through the soil. With some of the rains we are likely going to see more weeds trying to come on, especially if you went a little cheap on the pre-emerge program. But the drift issues from dicamba are just too great for the regulators to allow applications after June 30th. There are plenty of other post-emerge products you can mix with glyphosate if you need to. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Potato Leafhoppers in Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many years we get into that 2nd cutting of alfalfa and especially that 3rd cutting and there just isn't much there. We often attribute this lack of growth to lack of moisture which it may be. But just as frequently it is likely that your alfalfa field has potato leafhoppers. These are small, lime green, wedge shaped insects that suck the sap out of alfalfa plants. If you walk through an alfalfa field and see a lot of little green critters jumping then that is probably them. Potato Leafhoppers blew back into the state from points south a couple of weeks ago. The females lay eggs in the stems, the nymphs emerge and start feeding on plant juices. They inject a toxin in the plant that causes V shaped yellowing on the leaves and stunts growth. Often if it's about time to swath that'll take care of them but sometimes you will have to spray! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.