

### Harvest Priorities

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Given the lag time between when I record these programs and when they air, some producers may already be harvesting wheat. May was just about perfect conditions for many wheat diseases including fusarium head blight or scab. I was seeing a lot of scab in fields in past weeks. When practical you need to harvest fields with high levels of scab separately from those fields with lower levels. Infected kernels are lighter weight and you may be able to blow them out with increased fan speeds but that can be a two edged sword. Fields with higher infection levels should be harvested sooner whenever possible to give less time for the mycotoxin DON to build up. Scab occurs from rainfall during wheat blooming time. Fields planted into corn stubble are at greater risk. At this point, all we can do is harvest management. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Watch the Heat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It is summer. And we've already had some classic summer heat. We've got a lot of work to be done in the next few weeks and we'll be out in this heat, and sun, a lot. We need to look out for our own well being and that of those we'll be working around. Take frequent breaks to get out of the sun. Be a steady drinker, not a gulper. If you find yourself getting thirsty, you aren't drinking enough OR, to be blunt, if you aren't needing to go to the bathroom regularly you aren't drinking enough. If someone starts to act unusual, get them into cooler areas and if necessary to the emergency room. If someone should be sweating but their skin is dry or clammy, that's not a good sign. Be alert for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Lastly, skin cancer is far too common. Wear sun screen, a wide brimmed hat and just be careful out there! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Watch for Grasshoppers

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Grasshoppers are native to Kansas and the prairie states - well, they've native to the entire country but they are especially common in the plains states. Kansas has over 100 species of grasshoppers documented in the state but most of the damage to crops is by a dozen or fewer species. Most species overwinter in egg cases in the ground. Those eggs hatch out in the spring and the small little grasshoppers start feeding. Grasshopper problems are less in wet years and worse in dry years as we have natural fungus controls that reduce the populations in wet years. This may be turning into a dry year and we can have grasshopper problems on most any crop. The key is to monitor field edges and especially grasses around the edge of fields. If large numbers start to build up we have good control options but the key is to catch them early. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Double-cropping Beans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As wheat gets harvested we'll likely see a lot of planters pulling in right behind the combines to follow up with double crop beans. IF we have adequate rainfall this can be a profitable operation. But I emphasize IF we have adequate rainfall. Looking at farm management records for the past 5 or 6 years and current new crop bean prices, etc., etc., we should likely figure on about 20 bushels per acre being a break even for double crop beans. Over the past 6 years we've been averaging in the mid 20 bushels per acre with some folks routinely into the low 30s. Unless you know from a current soil test that you have good phosphorus levels I'd try to put some phosphorus down with the planter and if possible in the seed furrow but don't have any nitrogen in that, phosphorus only. And then watch for the weeds! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Bean Leaf Beetles

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Beans are popping out of the ground everywhere and growing like crazy. Bean leaf beetles are a very common insect pest throughout much of the growing season. Bean leaf beetles sort of look like a lady bug only they are orangish brown with little square black spots on their back. They eat round or oval holes in soybean leaves which can cause concern to producers. While the holes may be obvious, the damage is virtually non-existent. Rescue treatment threshold for seedling beans is 6 to 8 beetles per foot of row. So don't be in a hurry to treat right now. The adult beetles will feed a little bit and then start laying eggs at the base of soybean plants. The larvae will feed on roots and nodules for about a month before they turn into adults. The bigger concern will be when they start feeding on pods so just standby now! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.