

Prussic Acid Management

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While we've had some light frosts around the area, enough to kill the leaves on sorghum and sudangrass we've yet to have a hard enough freeze to kill the entire plant and it looks like it might be a while yet before that happens. This is a potential issue if you want to graze that stubble or forage. Once a light frost has killed back the leaves on those plants, the crown of the plant and sometimes even the lower stalk, will continue to grow, especially if we have some rainfall. Those new shoots will be very attractive to cattle grazing that field and those small, tender young shoots are likely loaded with prussic acid. As we all know, prussic acid can kill a lot of animals and do so very quickly. It's going to take a good hard freeze, down into the mid to lower 20s, to really kill those plants. Then wait a week after that before grazing. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Musk Thistle Control Reminder

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's been a pretty mild fall so far but we've had enough rain to get the musk thistle germinated and growing good. Musk thistle is hardy and will keep growing actively until we start getting temperatures down to the low 20s and even into the teens. So until that happens, it's a good time to treat for musk thistle. Many people immediately turn to Tordon for musk thistle control but in the fall we have many other options that are equally effective. While you can use straight 2,4-D I honestly feel that 2,4-D plus dicamba is a much better fall option. Other options that may give a little better control than 2,4-D plus dicamba include Chaparral, Cimarron Max, Cimarron Plus, Escort XP or generic metsulfuron, GrazonNext HL, or Milestone. Of course there is also Tordon. Do not apply to frozen ground, and follow label directions. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Internal Parasites of Cattle

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Internal parasites of cattle are common yet inconsistent. Researchers feel that in pastured cattle 20% of the animals will carry 80% of the parasite load. But naturally, it becomes incredibly difficult to figure out which animals are carrying the load so we tend to treat them all, just in case. We also know that management has a big impact and that cattle in a dry lot or eating out of bunks will have lower parasite loads. For calves most researchers feel that treating calves within the first three months is crucial and then following up with a second treatment within a year will keep that parasite burden low enough so as to not impact performance. There are many excellent treatment options and most producers do treat on a regular basis but like everything else, you need to stay current. Set up a plan with you're herd veterinarian. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

The Crop Genetics Are There

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've been enjoying visiting with local crop producers about their fall harvest. For the most part, people are both pleased and somewhat surprised with this year's yields. One producer's comment may have summed up what many folks were thinking when he said "I guess you don't need water to grow soybeans anymore." Well, you do still need some water at the right time, but it brings up a good point. Over the past 20 years plant breeders have bred in a lot better water use efficiency, or what most of us would call drought tolerance, to the soybean and corn varieties we have available. This year really showed it. But what it also points out is that most producers are not taking advantage of those genetics through proper fertilization. Folks, the horsepower is there, but you need to fuel it with a good fertility plan! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Insect Watch in New Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Some nice rains across a wide area last week should help the new wheat crop get germinated, if it hadn't already, and growing well. We always like to see the new plants get a good crown, a few tillers and a decent root system before it enters winter dormancy. But we really need to keep an eye on that new wheat for insect issues. The fall armyworm that we had earlier this season is likely done or about done. But we still need to be on the lookout for army cutworm and what I call the true armyworm. Regardless of which caterpillar we may be dealing with you need to just keep an eye on new wheat fields as the wheat starts emerging and growing. Telltale signs to look for: wheat seems to be disappearing OR when you walk through a field looking at plants and see window pane feeding. If either of these happens, call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.