

Bad Looking Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I spent a fair amount of time in wheat fields last week looking at wheat that wasn't looking good. In short the wheat was stunted, looked very drought stressed and had few leaves or tillers. The poor looking wheat ran with the drill rows and was often just a few rows away from good looking wheat. Some of the issue certainly has been poor germination last fall and poor plant establishment. All of the poor looking plants had very limited root development while the good looking plants would have lots of secondary roots developing. What I was seeing, though, was that all the plants not doing well had the seed very close to the soil surface resulting in a plant that didn't have the proper development to allow it to develop secondary roots. Especially in soybean stubble fields, we need more attention paid on proper seeding depth. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Don't Be In A Hurry to Plant

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We know that we have a two to three week window of ideal planting time for corn each spring. Plant it too early and the seed sits in cold soils and does nothing. Plant it much after May 10th and we start to pay a yield price. We've got a week and a half of April left so it's time to be thinking about corn planting. But I don't want all you corn producers to be thinking you are late. We've had enough up and down temperatures that we're just now starting to get soil temperatures up to the 55 degrees I like to see before we put corn in the ground. Late last week we were still in the low 50s for mid day soil temps, so we continue to take 2 steps forward and one step back. But if you aren't started or aren't about to get started, it is time to be getting yourself there. But don't get in a rush, do it right, we aren't in a time crunch yet! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

If You Don't Get It Burned

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There's been a few pastures burned, a few that still would like to get burned and a lot that I don't think will burn this year. It's not the end of the world if you don't get it burned this year but it may give you an opportunity to get on top of some brush control. You have two choices to consider for brush control in unburned pastures. One is simply wait for full leaf stage and then spray. This is the simplest approach but still requires you to pay attention and be out there ready to spray at a time that might conflict with wheat harvest. The second option is to go in with a bush hog rotary mower in the next week or so and mow those heavier brush patches back to the ground. This will force the plants to regrow from the ground. It will also push the preferred spraying time back to later in June or July at maybe a better time. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Spring Emerged Volunteer Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. After a very dry fall and winter it is not uncommon to find a lot of spring emerged volunteer wheat in stubble fields that will be going to one of the spring planted crops. Which often then raises the question of whether this wheat is a risk to spread curl mites and wheat streak mosaic to nearby fields. For several reasons the risk of spring emerged volunteer wheat being an issue for spreading wheat streak mosaic is very low. But there are other things that should be considered. If you have a lot of wheat you could graze cattle on it or really just let it grow as a cover crop. On the other hand, in a year like this, a heavy stand of volunteer could consume soil moisture that could be crucial later on. It can also complicate the management of other weed species you have. So it's sort of a mixed bag of things to consider! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa Insect Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. More than likely there's a whole lot of alfalfa out there that's already been sprayed. Hopefully it was sprayed with at least 15 gallons of carrier and on a somewhat warm day. Fortunately the spray will also have gotten the aphids that have been around quite heavily in some fields. Here's the potential problem this year however. The adults are likely still out there laying eggs so we need to keep an eye on the fields still. The alfalfa was a bit delayed getting going and cool weather is keeping its development slowed. As such, a second treatment for weevil may be needed this year. I'd wait a week to ten days after the first spraying and start checking those new leaves on the top of those plants. Then keep checking about every 3 or 4 days. If you start seeing a lot of holes, let me know and we'll figure out a plan to treat or mow early! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.