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## Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

#### Waiting on wheat

June is the month that tests my schedule and patience as we await the start of wheat harvest. For years my replies to a variety of invitations and requests have always defaulted to something to the effect of, "That's June, so if we're harvesting wheat we won't be able to."

June is the one month out of the entire year where I fully exercise being noncommittal.

of tiredness that only occurs during wheat harvest.

But not this year. We are still quite energized at this point in the month mostly because we have had so much rain. The rain has essentially halted all work. From finishing up sovbean and sorghum planting to swathing hay and harvesting wheat, we have been unable to get into the fields simply because it's too wet. We generally have completed our wheat harvest by the Fourth of July, and I begin thinking about and planning some family activities we'd like to do with the kids before they return to school in August. But this year, that might be pushed back as there's a pretty good chance that we'll still be harvesting wheat in early July. I know the summer heat will soon turn up. I know that the Kansas winds will blow again. And I know that soon we will have dry fields and it will be "go time."

## **EXTENSION FOCUS**

Craig Dinkel, K-State Research and Extension, Crop Production and Horticulture Agent, Midway District

### Weed Control After Wheat Harvest

The 2025 wheat harvest is well underway, so it is time to think about weed control in wheat stubble. Weeds that have been suppressed by the canopy will grow rapidly once crop competition is removed. In addition, weeds that have emerged through the wheat canopy will be damaged during harvest and will quickly begin regrowth. Delaying control can result in lost soil moisture that could be used for crop production, as well as weed seed production which will cause difficulties in the future.

When thinking about weed control in wheat stubble, there are two priorities – controlling already emerged weeds and preventing later flushes. Making applications before weeds exceed 4 to 6 inches is necessary for good control of already emerged weeds. Residual herbicides are needed to reduce the number of herbicide applications needed to control multiple flushes of weeds.

Despite a growing number of herbicide-resistant weeds, glyphosate plus 2,4-D LVE and/or dicamba remain important for weed control in wheat stubble. However, these herbicides alone are not likely to provide adequate control of pigweeds or kochia, especially when applied in the hot, dry conditions that are common after wheat harvest. The following paragraphs list some herbicide options commonly used to control weeds after wheat harvest.

Paraquat (Gramoxone, others) is a Group 22 herbicide that can work well in place of glyphosate to control emerged pigweed and kochia. Paraquat is a contact herbicide, so spray coverage is critical. Spray volumes of 20 gallons/acre or higher are preferred, especially on larger weeds or denser stands. If sprayed at less than 20 GPA, flat fan nozzles are required. Paraquat needs to be applied with a non-ionic surfactant or oil concentrate to enhance the surface coverage of the plant foliage. Also, remember that there is a requirement for handlers and applicators to complete training every three years to use paraquat.

If planning to plant corn or sorghum next spring, a tank mix of paraquat with atrazine (Group 5) will enhance the control of emerged weeds and provide some residual weed control. Atrazine labels have recently changed so that the only noncrop uses of atrazine permitted are in wheat-fallow-wheat, wheatcorn-fallow, and wheat-sorghum-fallow rotations. In these rotations, it is still important to be aware of the total amount of atrazine you are applying to each field in a given year and stay below the maximum rate allowed for your field. Metribuzin is another Group 5 herbicide that can be used instead of atrazine to enhance control and provide some residual activity. There are two benefits of using metribuzin instead of atrazine. First, there are more options for crop rotation. Atrazine limits crop options to corn or sorghum in the next season, whereas metribuzin can be applied as a preemergence herbicide for soybeans or field peas. Second, metribuzin is likely unaffected by enhanced degradation associated with extensive atrazine use. One final note regarding paraquat. Limited research out of Australia sug-

gests applying paraquat 2 weeks after a glyphosate application will increase weed control. This is called a 'double knock' strategy. This information is included here not as a recommendation per se but to encourage careful thought about when you want to utilize contact herbicides in your fallow weed management system. If paraquat were sprayed with or before glyphosate, the rapid damage to leaf tissue will prevent uptake and translocation of glyphosate. However, if a glyphosate application partially controls weeds, there will be sufficient leaf area 2 weeks after application for paraquat to be effective.

Saflufenacil (Sharpen) is a Group 14 herbicide applied at one to two fluid ounces per acre is an option to provide postemergence and short-term residual control of Palmer amaranth, kochia, and other broadleaf weeds. Sharpen should be applied with glyphosate for grass control, and can be applied with other products labeled for use in wheat stubble, but do not apply Sharpen with Valor. Sharpen works best with the addition of methylated seed oil and ammonium sulfate. Good spray coverage is needed, so using 15 to 20 gallons/acre spray solution is important. Be sure to note crop rotation intervals for your situation, especially if using more than one fluid ounce per acre or applying to sandy or low organic matter soils. Tiafenacil (Reviton) is a Group 14 that is very similar to Sharpen in terms of weed control and adjuvant use.

Flumioxazin (Valor, others) is a Group 14 herbicide that can be added to burndown treatments at rates of one to four fluid ounces per acre for activity on emerged broadleaf weeds and some residual activity on broadleaf and grass weeds in wheat stubble. Flumioxazin can be mixed with glyphosate or clethodim (Select Max) for enhanced grass control. It can also be mixed with 2,4-D, atrazine, metribuzin, or paraquat. Wheat can be planted 30 days after two fluid ounces per acre or 60 days after three fluid ounces per acre if at least one inch of rain occurs between application and planting. Soybeans can be planted immediately after applying three fluid ounces per acre. Corn, sorghum, cotton, sunflowers, or soybeans can be planted in the spring after applying four fluid ounces per acre. Residual weed control with flumioxazin will depend on rainfall (0.25 inch) for activation, just as with pre-plant treatment in soybeans. Of the three Group 14 herbicides discussed, flumioxazin is the only herbicide with meaningful residual activity; however, saflufenacil provides greater kochia control than flumioxazin.

For more information, contact your local Midway District Extension Crop production Agent, Craig Dinkel. Dinkel can be reached by email at <u>cadinkel@ksu.edu</u>, or by phone at 785-472-4442, or 785-483-3157

The use of trade names is for clarity

Our June days are determined by whether the wheat is ready or not. If it's not ready, a last-minute invitation to have a friend over or spend a few hours at the city pool are possible. But if the wheat is ready, the day has already been intentionally made clear and our efforts are directed to getting the wheat out of the fields as quickly as possible ahead of any summer storms.

We generally have a pretty good idea of when our wheat harvest will take place on our farm based on history and memories posted on social media. Yes, some years we've started harvest earlier than normal, but we have established a "normal" harvest window give or take a few days based on the weather.

But there are exceptions, and this year is definitely one of those. We've passed the halfway point of the month of June, and with that, we have also passed our "normal" harvest window.

Normally we are in the thick of wheat harvest by this time of the month. I often joke that we will more often than not celebrate Father's Day with naps because everyone is experiencing a level The combines are ready. The trucks are ready. The workers are ready. And as soon as we can go, we will.

But until then, I've decided to extend my practice of being noncommittal into a portion of July as well. Afterall, our wheat harvest is turning out to be anything but normal this year.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service. to readers and does not imply endorsement of a particular product, nor does exclusion imply non-approval. Always consult the herbicide label for the most current use requirements.Information sourced from Sarah Lancaster K-State Research and Extension weed science specialist.

# Don't fall for fake KDOT traffic ticket demand scam

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is warning about a new scam circulating via text message. The texts falsely claim to be from KDOT and demand payment for outstanding traffic tickets.

KDOT does not collect money for traffic tickets and will never request or collect payments through text messages. These messages are not legitimate.

Do not click or open any links within these scam texts. Clicking on these links could expose your personal and financial information to scammers. Never share sensitive personal or financial details via text message or by clicking unknown links.

If you've received a scam message, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and/or the Internet Crime Complaint Center at https://www.ic3.gov/. Delete the text and report it as junk. If you've provided payment information at a fraudulent web site, contact your bank or credit card company immediately.

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