



## Field Notes for The Week Of

3-28-22

### Winter Annual Weed Control in Winter Wheat

The calendar says it's spring, but winter begs to differ! I consider this past week a very productive week for Adams County producers, with warm weather for the front half of the week, dry air, and little precipitation. The soil conditions are finally starting to firm up enough to get equipment on the land. Through my travels and farm visits I noticed many producers getting field work accomplished, fertilizer applications, manure spreading, moving hay, fence building, plowing, and many producers even took time to come to my bull buying school. Indeed, this week was very busy, through all the craziness I managed to scout a few wheat fields to take note of growth and spring green up. While scouting I have been not only amazed by the growth of the wheat, but the winter annuals too! Winter annual weeds such as chickweed, purple deadnettle, henbit, and many more have the same growth period as winter wheat. This makes it a challenge to get ahead of them in the spring due to its rapid growth when the soil warms up. Most of the winter wheat in the county is in growth stage Feekes #4-5, this is when the wheat leaf sheaths start erect growth. If the wheat is being used for forage, concerns of winter annual weeds are little to know but if wheat is being kept for grain, control is a must for optimum yield. With wheat prices hovering around \$10.50- \$11.00 a bushel, optimizing yield should be a priority. Herbicide application is the best means of controlling winter annual weeds in a growing wheat crop and there are many herbicide options available. Here are some factors to consider before applying herbicides to your wheat this spring.

- Timing is everything- Consider growth stages and match herbicides to growth stage to reduce risk of crop injury. Herbicides such as 2-4-D, clean sweep M, and Pulsar are very effective herbicides but can only be applied in a short window time frame. 2-4-D can be applied right now during growth stage 4-6, after jointing begins 2-4-D can considerably injure the wheat. Herbicides such as Huskie, stinger, and Orion can be applied up to growth stage 10 or full Jointing without risk of crop injury.
- Make sure water temperature is warm- Herbicide effectiveness is very dependent on coverage and water temps. Weeds should be actively growing and warmer water is absorbed by plants better than cold water.
- Be careful when mixing with fertilizer- To save time and number of passes across the field many producers will mix Liquid 28 or 32 with herbicides. Fertilizers can be a very effective carrier, but crop injury is a risk. Read the label of herbicides for mixing directions. Many rates need to be lowered when mixing with fertilizers.

