

As I See It

By Pat Goggins
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This might be a good fall to catch up with one of your worst enemies. Yes sir, Mother Nature, our government, and our people have tried to let you catch you up on a whole lot of things this year. I don't think any of us or anyone around the globe will ever remember a year like 2015 any better than this one with cattle prices and investments. We can't complain about our excellent market on feeder cattle, yearlings, cull cows, cull bulls, and lambs. Oh boy, has this been a catch-up year!

But there's an enemy out there... but you've got a chance this time, in my opinion, to catch up with it if you're in production agriculture, especially grass, hay, forage, crops of all kinds. What am I talking about? I'm talking about weeds. That's right; I'm talking about this being an opportunity, for most of the West and the North, to catch up on weeds. If you've got a farm or a ranch and you've been fighting Mother Nature to get a good crop of hay, grass, or anything else, you can bet your bottom dollar that probably your biggest enemy in that department is weeds.

I think it's just around the corner that Mother Nature is providing for all of us an opportunity to get a leg up on a lot of these noxious weeds, whether it's thistles or some of the bad users of your scarce moisture. The worst problem most of the time that you're going to have in production agriculture for crops and/or animal feed is the lack of production on hay, grass, and crops, and the reason will be because you have let the weeds get into your fields and pastures and they use more moisture in the course of a growth year than your crops and your cattle do.

We've had a very hot year in most of the country -- not all of the country, but more yes than no, and the long-term weather boys and the experts are predicting quite a change around the corner before long. So keep track of the predictors, the good ones and if they get to talking about a frost that's coming, here's what they are really telling you: "Here's a chance to play catch up!" Get that sprayer into a shed or garage where you'll be ready to go on short notice and get after this weed enemy. Get the chemical into your outfit, but don't leave it sitting outside because you don't want to freeze a line and ruin your sprayer. Then the day after your first killing frost, you be out in your fields in the morning glory patches, those thistle patches, etc., because if you spray on that frost and Mother Nature turns warm, she will pull that frost into that plant and take it right down to the roots. You will get the one and only kill that Mother Nature is going to help you with!

So pay attention to the weatherman, and have your equipment ready to go because when this weather turns around! Be ready I say. This is the kind of a year where circumstances could be right! If you've got too many weeds, Mother Nature and her first freeze will give you the opportunity to take care of this problem.